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Interior Health opens final phase of new emergency department at Penticton hospital

PENTICTON – Interior Health is pleased to announce the largest phase of its emergency department renovation at Penticton Regional Hospital (PRH) is now complete and the full department is open to people needing emergency care in Penticton and the South Okanagan Similkameen.

“This is excellent news for Penticton and area residents,” said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. “We know the community is eager for this expansive project to be complete, and we’re proud to now be able to offer an enhanced and expanded emergency department to meet the growing needs of the region.”

The opening of the new care spaces signifies a major milestone in the David E. Kampe Tower Project and means a new, modern emergency department is now fully operational at PRH with more privacy for patients and enhanced working conditions for frontline health-care workers.

“This renovation was complex and I want to commend everyone involved in this project for their dedication. Maintaining emergency care, while renovating the department, is a credit to all the teams involved. We are thrilled to be able to open more new care spaces for people in the region,” said Susan Brown, Interior Health president and CEO.

The emergency department renovation is part of Phase 2 of the David E. Kampe Tower Project, which also included the opening of a new hospital pharmacy and renovations to various supply areas. The six-storey David E. Kampe Tower and associated parkade opened in April 2019.

The total project cost of \$312.5 million was shared between the provincial government, Okanagan-Similkameen Regional Hospital District, South Okanagan Similkameen Medical Foundation and Interior Health.

“We are grateful to each of our partners for their steadfast commitment to health services. This project will have a positive impact for this area for years to come,” said Brown.

The new care spaces opening today include a minor treatment area designed to be comfortable while people receive treatment. There is dedicated space for patients to receive private consultation and mental health and substance use treatment. There are also more exam bays open, and a new team care station, medication room, kitchen area, offices and utility rooms.

Work on the new emergency department has taken place in several phases while the department remained open to patients. Several areas of the emergency department were completed earlier this year, including a new waiting room, patient registration area, trauma rooms and exam bays.

A new ambulance entrance is also now operational, along with a new holding and canopy area, which will provide a private and covered area to make patient transfers safer and more private, and save valuable minutes when needed most.

There are still minor renovations ongoing as part of the project which are expected to wrap up in early 2022.