INNOVATIVE CARE, FLEXIBLE FACILITIES
2012-13 Year at a Glance

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WHAT WE HEARD

Patients, physicians and staff participated in consultation sessions to review designs and offer advice on the Dartmouth General Hospital and QEII Health Sciences Centre projects.

Key themes were:
- Improve accessibility to facilities
- Focus design on the patient experience
- Enhance cleanliness and safety
- Keep costs and expenditures in balance
- Use technology
- Build with sustainability in mind
- Improve service and communication

Overview

How do we encourage and support innovative, patient-centred care in flexible facilities with space designed to stimulate and encourage collaboration among staff? This is a pressing question that Capital Health is asking as we look for better ways to address today’s challenges.

The Innovative Care, Flexible Facilities project is the centrepiece of this conversation and is essential to achieving our mission to be a world-leading haven for people-centred health, healing and learning. It’s about being better, not bigger. It is also a significant step in improving health care for Nova Scotians and those in the Atlantic region.

Facilities Renewal

The provincial government announced its support for a feasibility study to define the best way to complete much-needed upgrades within the district over the next five years. Amid the many challenges we face in health care, this was encouraging news.

This study was the first step in the overall plan to concentrate inpatient specialty services at the Halifax Infirmary site of the QEII Health Science Centre and improve care to Nova Scotians and those in the Atlantic region. The proposed construction of a five-storey addition to the Halifax Infirmary will help address plans for the eventual demolition the 44-year-old Centennial Building, located at the QEII Health Sciences Centre’s Victoria General site.

The study also includes the planning and preliminary designs for the expansion and renovation of the Dartmouth General Hospital. This will improve patient flow at the hospital and increase access to care for Dartmouth residents and their community.

During this same timeframe, the then Capital Health Mental Health Program started preparing for the eventual emptying of the Purdy Building, built in 1958 on the Nova Scotia Hospital site, and the accommodation of staff and services in existing buildings within the program.

When Addiction Prevention and Treatment Services and the Mental Health Program started an administrative integration in December 2012, it presented a perfect opportunity to consider shared working spaces to enhance the consolidation of the two programs under the Capital Health Addictions and Mental Health Program (CHAMHP).

Although the first consideration in the overall infrastructure renewal for CHAMHP is the Purdy Building, infrastructure renewal is also closely tied to services in the Mount Hope Building on the same site, and the Abbie J. Lane in Halifax. Of interest is how these structures relate to other facilities in the district and potential synergies among staff and the expertise they provide to enhance patient, client and family care.

Innovation is our ability to bring fresh thinking to old problems and patients are already benefitting from what Capital Health has learned about designing facilities that best meet the needs of our patients, families and communities. All facilities renewal projects will help address Capital Health’s physical infrastructure challenges and promote innovation and collaboration throughout the district.

Capital Health is submitting its feasibility study and business case to the provincial government in June 2013 for review, along with a request for funding approval to move ahead with these projects.

To learn more visit www.cdha.nshealth.ca/about-us.