


ECHO Extra

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1 year GIC
Min. \$50,000
2.00%
*Rates are subject to change

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DUNDEEWEALTH



19 Wing unveils new Health Services Centre

By Michael Briones
Echo Staff

The new Health Services Centre at 19 Wing is now open for business.

The \$27-million medical building, which has been under construction since 2010, was officially unveiled to the public last week during a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by Member of Parliament for Vancouver Island North John Duncan, Comox Mayor Paul Ives, Cumberland Mayor Leslie Baird, 19 Wing commander Colonel Jim Benninger, commander of 1 Health Services Rebecca Patterson, and MP for Parry Sound-Muskoka Tony Clement. A smudging ceremony - First Nations traditional ritual - was also conducted by Daryle Mills of the Wachiy Friendship Centre.

Visitors and guests were given a tour of the new health facility that will serve the approximately 1000 military members based at the Wing and also their families.

The 4,100-sq. metre state-of-the-art health facility offers a range of services that include general medical care, dental care, a pharmacy and mental health counselling.

"The opening of this new health services centre really shows a commitment for our men and women in uniform by the government and Canadian Forces that health is important," said Benninger. "Not just physical health but also the investment in mental health in this wonderful facility."

The new facility is fully compliant with the current clinical model and caters to a full-service, primary care capability. The health clinic is a national model for the provision of standardized health care across the Canadian Forces. It also provides for a variety of diagnostic and therapeutic services in support of primary care.

First line mental health responders, by way of a psychosocial department as well as a general mental health capability, are also intrinsic to the new facility. An operations and training element is also available, as is a preventive medicine



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department.

The dental detachment fully complies with the CF Dental Services philosophy of design and provides for full general dentistry and oral

hygiene functionality. Additionally, the dental detachment is constructed in such a manner that specialist services can be delivered in-house, thus making service delivery more

efficient for the client population.

Duncan said an infrastructure project like this is a big boost not only to 19 Wing but also to the economy of the Comox Valley region.

"This project has sustained roughly 250 jobs," said Duncan, who added that many professionals, trades people, construction workers and local suppliers "all benefited from it. This is really a good news story for everyone involved."

Mayor Paul Ives said that the health centre is a significant addition to the base and also to the Town of Comox.

"Anything that improves the base facilities is a good thing for the town of Comox," said Ives.

"Obviously this is a huge investment of infrastructure by the federal government and it's really important that the base has all the amenities and facilities to serve their members, many of who live in our community.

"So what makes them happy makes the town happy."