UNLOCKING THE NEW FUTURE FOR HEALTHCARE

Bridgepoint Health is ready to unlock a new future for healthcare in Toronto, after keys for its new hospital were presented March 6. To mark the occasion, an oversized golden key was presented to Marian Walsh, Bridgepoint president and CEO, and Deb Matthews, minister of health and long-term care. The key was presented by Plenary Health, which built the new Bridgepoint Hospital.

"Today, we celebrate the success of an incredible partnership between our design firms, our construction teams, project partners and the government of Ontario," Walsh said. "Together, we built a hospital that sets the new standard of treating patients with complex chronic health conditions, a hospital that will be the model of how future hospitals are built not only in Ontario, but throughout the world."

The 680,000-square-foot, 10-storey facility is the first Canadian hospital built to treat, manage and research complex chronic disease. The hospital presents a new world of possibilities for people living with multiple chronic health conditions.

Surrounded by gardens and greenery, and filled with natural light and therapeutic space, the new Bridgepoint challenges the traditional hospital environment.

"Bridgepoint's new facility will provide improved access to health-care services for Ontarians, enhancing the quality of life for patients with complex chronic conditions," Matthews said.

As part of Bridgepoint’s $1.2 billion transformation, the former Don Jail was restored and redeveloped to house the hospital’s administrative offices and teaching arm, the Bridgepoint Collaboratory for Research and Innovation. The building is connected to the hospital by a glass catwalk.

The LEED-certified facility has 472 beds, with more living space for patients, as well as more space for outpatient and community programs.

Construction on the project started in 2009, following years of planning.

"Reaching today’s milestone is the result of the tireless work of our dedicated staff, volunteers and the generous support of our donors and the government of Ontario," said Ted Freedman, chair of Bridgepoint’s board of directors. "Moving into our new hospital confirms our commitment to achieving our goal of transforming the world for those living with complex health conditions."

Staff will begin moving into the hospital April 6, with patients following April 14. The hospital’s official opening will be celebrated in June.

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