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CAMH Connexions Special Edition Oct 2005

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Alternate Milieu (AM) Bed Building, Rendering by: C3-Community Care Consortium: Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects, Montgomery Sisam Architects Inc. and Kearns Mancini Architects Inc.

Great News: The Transformation has Begun

Province Announces Funding for CAMH's Site Redevelopment

The transformation is beginning at CAMH's Queen Street site, following an announcement made by David Caplan, Ontario Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal on September 9, 2005 of a major investment in CAMH's redevelopment project.



Left to right: Judith Tompkins, CAMH Chief of Nursing Practice and Professional Services, Executive Vice President, Programs; the Hon. David Caplan, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal; Paul Garfinkel, President and CEO, CAMH; Joan Piscopo, Chair of the Client and Family Reference Group; Jamie Anderson, Chair of the CAMH Board of Trustees; Karen McGrath, CEO, Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario; David Kelly, Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Mental Health and Addiction Programs and Hilary Short, President and CEO of the Ontario Hospital Association.

"We are very excited. The government's investment will let us create facilities that support client dignity, recovery and transition back into the community, while integrating the best in clinical care, research, teaching, health promotion and policy at one site," says Dr. Paul Garfinkel, CAMH President and CEO.

The government's announcement means we can now proceed with the first phase of our redevelopment. This consists of a new and innovative approach to care-the Alternate Milieu (AM) bed project-for the care and recovery of our clients in a homelike setting. While receiving specialized hospital care, clients will have the opportunity to develop or redevelop the skills necessary to have a successful transition to the community. It is anticipated that construction will begin in 2006 with a completion date in the Fall/Winter 2007.



Left to right: Joanne Campbell, Vice President, Communications and Community Relations, CAMH; David Kelly; Karen McGrath and Minister David Caplan.

"The government of Ontario continues to make the investments needed in the mental health and addiction sectors that will ease the transition from hospital care to community-based services. The government has recognized the need to make capital investments at CAMH to support acute care services for mental health and addiction in Ontario. We hope this will improve access and better utilization of hospital services," said David Kelly, Executive Director, Ontario Federation of Mental Health and Addiction Programs.

The remainder of the first phase, to begin construction in 2008/2009, consists of modernized core bed buildings to support our [Geriatric Mental Health Program](#) and [Child, Youth and Family Program](#). This will include the first 12 beds in the city to serve youth who have both addictions and/or mental health and addictions problems. There will also be a new outpatient and administrative building.



Minister David Caplan and Paul Garfinkel.

"This is fantastic news! We have waited a very long time for this to happen," says Joan Piscopo, Chair of CAMH's Client and Family Reference Group for the Redevelopment. "Many patients, clients and family members struggle tremendously with the stigma that mental health and addictions sadly bring, causing unnecessary shame or embarrassment to receive treatment. This Redevelopment Project will help to integrate treatment services into the community and create an environment that is both pleasing and healthy for all."

CAMH's 10-year multi-phased project will eventually bring together programs and services from our three other current sites to the Queen Street site as the hub of our operations. The 27-acre site will be transformed into an urban village with neighbourhood streets extended through the property. This will integrate CAMH into the surrounding community and contribute to the revitalization of the neighbourhood.

Former Toronto Mayor and current President of the Canadian Urban Institute, David Crombie, says, "CAMH's redevelopment will link formerly isolated lands with the surrounding vibrant Queen West community, turning it into a functioning, energetic and wonderful part of the city, and at the same time, transform the way CAMH delivers research and care for those affected by mental illness and addiction. I believe it will be a powerful and effective solution to the challenge of addressing institutional stigma in an urban environment."

The redevelopment is consistent with the government's plans to develop a comprehensive, integrated health care system driven by the needs of patients and their families.



Dr. Joe Beitchman, CAMH Clinical Director, Child Youth and Family and Professor and Head of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Toronto.

"People with mental health and addictions will be well served through this project to improve CAMH's facilities. We're excited to see the government is continuing to invest in building a continuum of care from community to hospital settings, because that is what is needed to truly support recovery," said Karen McGrath, CEO, Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario.

For more info:

www.camh.net/news_events/redevelopingqueensite.html

or contact us at 416-535-8501 ext. 1650,

or by e-mail at redvelopment_feedback@camh.net

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