



Tehshakotitsén:tha Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre

Established 1905

KMHC opens final remaining Long-Term Care bed, officially completing Expansion Project

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 25, Onerahtókha/April 2024) Tehsakotitsén:tha Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre (KMHC) is pleased to announce that the final bed in the Long-Term that had never been opened since the expansion/renovation project was completed is now ready for occupation. While the physical expansion work had been completed in 2019, circumstances intervened that prevented the operation of all 58 Long-Term Care beds until today.

“As the community is no doubt aware, the COVID-19 pandemic affected the KMHC in so many ways,” said Director of Nursing & Community Care Robin Guyer. “We had to make adjustments to accommodate a ‘COVID unit’ at the same time as we were in the expansion process. Additionally, in the aftermath of the pandemic, health care facilities have been facing staffing challenges – and we were no exception. Late last year we opened the final few Short-Term Care beds and now we have finally reached the point where we are comfortable to open the remaining five Long-Term Care beds. Today, we are extremely pleased to be formally opening the very last bed.”

The recent addition of a Nurse Practitioner in the Unit has facilitated the opening of the final bed.

“It has been fifteen (15) years since the Expansion/Renovation project agreement was signed between Kahnawà:ke and Quebec,” stated KMHC Executive Director Valerie Diabo. “Today, we celebrate the conclusion of the long process that began with the original announcement in 2009, the awarding of the construction contract in 2015, to the completion of the physical aspects of the project five years ago.”

“There are many people to thank, including our previous executive directors and boards of directors, our building committee, the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke – our political partners, the provincial and federal funding agencies, and everyone involved in the construction work,” Ms. Diabo continued. “Of course, we must acknowledge our hard-working staff who patiently worked through the construction throughout the facility, and the community – who have shown such support throughout this time. While we had an open house when the worst of the pandemic was behind us, this final step marks an historic day in the KMHC’s long history. Niawehnkó:wa!”

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For further information on this release please contact:

Valerie Diabo, Executive Director

450-638-3930 ext. 2202, Valerie.diabo.kahnawake@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Other info/background:

- *Initial announcement of expansion was made in 2007.*
- *Construction contract signed March 4, 2015.*
- *Long Term Care (LTC) had originally consisted of 32 beds (31 permanent and one respite) prior to expansion.*
- *When we were able to move into the new building from the temporary facility we brought the 32 residents with us. We had to make some rooms into double rooms to accommodate all of our residents while work was still being done on the new facility.*
- *In January 2019 access was open to all of the “new” LTC beds. We moved the residents who were sharing rooms and admitted 14 new residents (46 LTC in total). The Short Term Care (STC) unit was in use by Outpatient Clinic at that time, so STC stayed within LTC using 10 beds.*
- *STC moved into their unit February 2020 only to be moved back a month later when the Pandemic was declared in order to make space for a “COVID unit.”*
- *November 2022 STC was able to return to their unit again. This freed up the remaining LTC beds.*
- *LTC finally has all 58 beds (57 LTC and 1 respite) available for clients, as originally envisioned in 2007.*