



**For Immediate Release
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Roof Goes on the New Royal Ottawa Hospital -- Construction Now Ahead of Schedule

OTTAWA – Construction of the new Royal Ottawa Hospital and the Institute of Mental Health Research is ahead of schedule by 14 days, and on budget, with not one cost over run or delay, according to an interim report delivered today by John Scott, Board Chair and Richard Patten, MPP for Ottawa Centre.

The report on the Royal Ottawa Hospital re-development project was issued to mark the completion of the roof on the new 400,000 square-foot facilities. The conclusion of the roof marks the end of an important phase of construction, the completion of the structural shell that now allows for the installation of windows, dry wall, and the mechanical and electrical systems.

“The construction schedule, and every detail related to the building of this new facility, has been detailed from beginning to end on a day-to-day chart,” said John Scott, chair of the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group Board of Trustees. “Construction began on December 17, 2005 and will be complete on December 17, 2006. The completion of the roof was originally scheduled for the first week of October, and so we are pleased to see such quality of construction moving at such a steady pace.”

Approximately 400 construction workers have worked for the last nine months in challenging weather conditions -- either extreme heat or extreme cold during the winter. The number of construction workers is expected to peak at just under 500 this fall, as the pressure builds to install all the brick and glasswork before the winter sets in. The entire facility is expected to be closed in by December.

The report was heard today at a ‘topping off’ ceremony on the construction site where all trade and construction workers stopped to recognize their dedication and commitment to the hospital and research institute project. Awards were presented to some of the workers for their adherence to excellent safety standards, and in recognition of an accident-free construction site.

“You can see the tremendous advantage a new hospital facility brings to patients and families,” said Richard Patten. “The space is efficient, natural light is abundant and the atmosphere will encourage recovery among those with mental illness. The Government of Ontario is very proud of the work that has gone into this successful project -- by the construction crews, and the Royal Ottawa Hospital management team. We are very proud to see the new research tower in place offering a true sign of hope for better management of mental illness.”

State-of-the-art practices and materials have been brought to the re-development project including an environmentally sound excavation process that had the limestone on site crushed and used for backfill, instead of bringing 700 truckloads of gravel to and from the site. New aluminum alloys were used to form the structure of the floors being erected so that concrete could be poured and steel work laid very quickly, compared to old practices.

“The biggest challenge for all involved in this project has been the coordination of extensive construction site activity while maintaining a fully functioning hospital on the same campus,” said Bruce Swan, CEO of the ROHCG. “We are very grateful to our neighbouring community who have been so supportive of the work crews, the staff and patients during this construction activity. Once again, the progress and success of this project is in a significant way due to the full endorsement of our community.”

The Royal Ottawa Hospital project is an innovative public infrastructure renewal program that has the capital costs of the new facility, and the operating costs of the non-clinical services, blended into a monthly lease over a 23-year partnership with The Healthcare Infrastructure Company of Canada. The deal includes the design, build, operation and maintenance of the new hospital and Institute of Mental Health Research.

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