



Dr. Peter Centre, Canada's First HIV/AIDS Residence and Day Centre Opens

The long-awaited Dr. Peter Centre opens its doors today in downtown Vancouver as the first supportive housing development and day-health program for people with HIV/AIDS in Canada. The centre, named after Dr. Peter Jepson-Young who founded the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation, will provide needed comfort and care to people living with HIV/AIDS.



The new Dr. Peter Centre, which was made possible by contributions from the federal and provincial governments, the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation, the Ministry of Health Services, Vancouver Coastal Health, and the City of Vancouver, contains 22 studio units and two short-stay rooms with 24-hour nursing care. The first two floors house the day-health program, while the residence accommodates individuals who need medically complex palliative and respite care.

"We're working to modernize and strengthen services for people with HIV/AIDS, to provide the dignity and supportive care they deserve," said Premier Gordon Campbell. "This new centre is a testimony to the incredible legacy of Dr. Peter Jepson-Young, and the volunteers at the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation who've worked so hard on behalf of people with HIV/AIDS."

Research shows that people in the Dr. Peter Day Health Program reduced their hospital stays by 55 per cent, and residents by 98 per cent, within a year.

"The new centre is the continuation of Dr. Peter's legacy," said Maxine Davis, executive director for the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation. "AIDS is not going away. There are as many AIDS patients in hospital now as there were in the early years of the epidemic. The Dr. Peter Centre, with its expanded capacity, will be able to offer people a home instead of a hospital."