

New Tertiary Facility Opens in Kamloops

The new South Hills Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre opened in Kamloops on April 4, 2003. With the official opening of the 40-bed facility, patients from the Interior are receiving the specialized services

they require closer to their home community. Of the 40 patients transferred to South Hills, half were from the region initially. The rest chose to go to the new facility because it provided the services they required in a smaller more homelike setting with stronger links to the community.



"This is the place where I will regain my sanity", said one patient on arrival to South Hills. After 40 years at Riverview, he is quickly settling in and enjoying his new accommodations in Kamloops. " This is the best move I've ever made stated another patient after two weeks at South Hills. " I go to the clubhouse and I've already made friends...". For another patient, the transfer to South Hills enables her to reunite with her son and daughter after decades of living apart.

The new facility has brought families together and has provided new opportunities for patients looking for a less institutional environment.

The South Hills Tertiary Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre is the third of its kind to open in British Columbia, as part of the Provincial Mental Health Plan which includes the Riverview Hospital Redevelopment Project.

Adult Tertiary Psychiatry refers to highly specialized mental health services designed for individuals with severe mental illness that have not responded to treatment. These individuals have experienced ongoing difficulty with managing their illness and living in the community. The goal of these programs is to provide high-level care, treatment, and rehabilitation in a flexible "deinstitutionalized" and interactive community environment, followed by return to their home community as soon as possible.