



May 17, 2011

www.covenanthealth.ca

Chapel at St. Mary's Hospital Moving Forward

Camrose, AB

St. Mary's Hospital will have a new chapel by the fall of 2012. The overall structural design has been approved and work is now underway to develop the more detailed plans.

Cherylyn Antymniuk, Executive Director for St. Mary's Hospital, is pleased the project is finally coming to fruition. "When the hospital was first built in 1989, the chapel space was combined with a multi-purpose meeting room. Our hospital is a busy place and this meeting room is constantly booked so a quiet sacred space no longer exists in the facility," she said.

The need for a new chapel was identified over eight years ago, but circumstance and changes in the health care system prevented the hospital from moving ahead with the project. All approvals are now in place.

The news of the chapel development is especially exciting for the community and donors who have been raising funds for the project. According to John Howard, chair of the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, when the hospital began planning to redevelop the chapel in 2003, the foundation made it their priority and have been raising money ever since. "The Camrose community, and the many people in the area who use St. Mary's have been very generous and I am pleased that we are moving forward with the project."

In 2004, St. Mary's Hospital contracted Rockliff Pierzchajlo Architects & Planners to provide preliminary design and cost estimates for a chapel addition to the hospital. The architectural firm has again been retained to design the chapel based on the original plans.

The estimated cost of the chapel development is \$640,000 and will be totally funded by the hospital foundation. "We have raised \$340,000 in support of the chapel over the past eight years and we are committed to raising all funds necessary to complete the project," said Howard. "This project is very important to the community of Camrose. St. Mary's Hospital is such an asset to our city and we believe the chapel will benefit patients, families and staff with a much needed space for reflection and prayer."

Covenant Health is committed to serving people of all faiths, cultures and circumstances through a holistic approach to care by healing the body, enriching the mind and nurturing the soul. Antymniuk noted that the new chapel and enhancing spiritual care services is a priority for St. Mary's Hospital. "This project supports our mission and honours the legacy of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul who founded St. Mary's in 1924. It is also a testament to our foundation and the Camrose community who continue to raise money for the new chapel at St. Mary's. We are grateful for their ongoing support."



Antymniuk said the steering committee is currently consulting with stakeholders to determine a common vision for the use of the chapel that will best meet the needs of both the facility and the community now and into the future. Construction is slated to begin this fall.

-30-

Contact:

Cherylyn Antymniuk, Executive Director
St. Mary's Hospital, Camrose
W 780.679.6128

Rayne Kuntz, Media Relations Senior Advisor
Covenant Health
W 780.735.9930 C 780.246.2523

Covenant Health is Canada's largest Catholic health care organization with over 14,000 physicians, employees and volunteers serving in 12 communities across Alberta. As a major provider in Alberta's integrated health system, Covenant Health works with Alberta Health Services and community partners to positively influence the health of Albertans through a broad range of programs and services.