



**Covenant  
Health**

*Compassionate care led  
by Catholic values*

Office of the President and CEO

January 18, 2010

### **Villa Caritas Announcement**

Today, Alberta Health Services announced it has accepted the recommendations of the Alberta Hospital Edmonton (AHE) Implementation Team regarding the transfer of AHE's regional geriatric psychiatry program to Villa Caritas. Alberta Health Services also announced it will be withdrawing proposals to transfer 146 beds from the acute psychiatry and rehabilitation psychiatry programs at AHE to other facilities.

Today's announcement allows Covenant Health to proceed with the establishment of a geriatric mental health program at Villa Caritas, our new 150-bed facility on the Misericordia Community Hospital campus in Edmonton.

Villa Caritas will provide acute geriatric mental health services and specialized continuing care services to seniors. The program will address the mental health and medical needs of geriatric mental health patients and, when possible, return them to the most appropriate care setting in a timely manner.

Of the 150 beds at Villa Caritas, 106 beds will be transferred from AHE. The opening of Villa Caritas will result in an increase of 44 geriatric mental health beds in the city.

This is an exciting opportunity for Covenant Health—one that allows us to be of greater service to Albertans and to advance our vision to influence the health of Albertans by responding to the needs of vulnerable people in our society.

Villa Caritas will build on our organization's expertise in acute care mental health services—with geriatric assessment units in Edmonton and 100 acute mental health beds in Edmonton and Camrose—as well as specialized dementia care for seniors across the province.

We are also pleased to be supporting a vision for mental health services in Alberta focused on:

- removing the barriers to accessing services because of stigmatism
- ensuring integration with the rest of the system
- enhancing the continuing care, designated assisted living and assisted living options for seniors with mental illness
- supporting more effective transition to enhanced community service options
- augmenting the capacity for applied mental health research

In planning the transition to Villa Caritas, Covenant Health will work with Alberta Health Services and the team at AHE to consult appropriately with the mental health community and those we serve to improve quality and increase services to this vulnerable population.

Regards,

Patrick Dumelie  
President and CEO