



September 10, 2012

Holy Cross Manor and St. Marguerite Manor

Covenant Health wants to recognize the rich history of Catholic health care in Calgary through the names of buildings on its new continuing care campus in the northwest community of Evanston.

Holy Cross Manor honours the hospital of the same name established by the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, (Grey Nuns) in 1891. The second campus building honours St. Marguerite d'Youville, the founder of the Grey Nuns and the first Canadian-born Saint. The Grey Nuns are one of Covenant Health's founding congregations, forming a strong historical connection between the organization and health care in Calgary.

History of Calgary's Holy Cross Hospital

- The Holy Cross hospital was founded by four Grey Nuns. They travelled to Calgary from Montreal at the request of Bishop Vital Grandin. He asked the Sisters to consider founding a hospital in the frontier town of 3,500 residents. The Grey Nuns arrived in Calgary on Jan. 30, 1891 with \$73.75 to build the hospital.
- The hospital had a very modest beginning. The Sisters opened a four-room hospital in April 1891, which was replaced in 1892 by a larger, three-storey building on the present site. Through the decades, more buildings were added to the complex.
- The Holy Cross Hospital was a vital institution in Calgary's inner city (Cliff Bungalow-Mission). The hospital cared for the most vulnerable, and helped the city cope with epidemics such as measles, diphtheria, typhoid, smallpox and the Spanish flu. The hospital was also a health-care pioneer, becoming southern Alberta's centre for cancer treatment in 1957, and southern Alberta's cardio-vascular centre in the early 1970s.
- The Holy Cross School of Nursing saw the graduation of 2,400 nurses between 1907-79.
- After serving the city for 105 years, the Holy Cross Hospital closed its doors in 1996. It is now operated as a private health care facility called Holy Cross Centre.

About the new Calgary facilities

Holy Cross Manor and St. Marguerite Manor will include:

- A home-like design, with three types of rooms to meet different needs of the residents.
- The ability for residents to bring in their own furniture.
- Couple suites, where one member may need care and the other may not.
- Comfortable common spaces for dining, social interaction, recreational activity or worship.
- An innovative approaches to ensuring a safe environment while promoting choice and independence.
- Future growth options based on community needs. The land can also accommodate an additional 120 units.



Holy Cross Manor:

- \$27.5 million – including a grant contribution of \$17 million from the Government of Alberta
- Accommodation for 100 residents
- 68 studio suites
- 24 dementia suites
- 8 one-bedroom suites for couples
- Includes a small café, lounge, chapel, and two large multi-purpose spaces for the residents

St. Marguerite Manor:

- Approximately \$36 million
- Accommodation for 129 residents
- 94 studio suites
- 24 dementia suites
- 11 one-bedroom suites for couples
- Includes a small café, lounges and chapel

Covenant Health a leader in care for seniors

Covenant Health is recognized as a leader in the care of seniors in Alberta—building on a 153-year legacy of service and operating 18 hospitals and continuing care facilities with over 1,300 continuing care beds across Alberta. This makes Covenant Health one of the largest providers outside of Alberta Health Services, operating 6.5% of the provincially-funded continuing care and supportive living spaces in Alberta.

As Catholic health care providers, we champion the need to heal the body, enrich the mind, and nurture the soul. This is especially important for care of seniors where society has often over-medicalized aging. Covenant Health carries on a rich history and tradition of responding to the needs of seniors with compassion, respect and innovation.

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