



# Provincial Health Services Authority

For more than 90 years, Riverview Hospital has played an important role in caring for people with mental illness. Its large buildings and green, treed acreage provided a safe, secure environment for patients in need of specialized care.

But today, through research and outcomes assessment, we know that patients with specialized mental health needs respond better to treatment provided in smaller, more homelike facilities, rather than in large institutions like Riverview.

The 1998 Provincial Mental Health Plan is based on a new best

practice standard that includes replacing Riverview Hospital with smaller, more appropriate facilities located in communities around the province. As these new tertiary facilities and services are created, appropriate patients will be transferred from Riverview to the facility closest to their home community.



The Riverview Hospital Redevelopment Project is lead by the Provincial Health Services Authority working collaboratively with partner organizations. Representatives from the hospital, the five geographic health authorities, and the Ministry of Health Services comprise the project steering committee.

## Points to Note

- A comprehensive transition plan that includes input from family members is developed for each patient who is leaving Riverview.
- Each patient leaving Riverview will be transferred to a new tertiary facility designed and staffed to meet his or her specialized mental health care needs.
- During the period of transition following each patient's transfer, mental health care teams at RVH will continue to work in collaboration with care providers in the receiving community facilities. This will help to ensure continuity of care for patients while they are adjusting to their new environment.
- A process has recently been put in place to allow Riverview employees to access community sector mental health jobs created in the five health authorities. This is a win-win situation for all concerned: RVH staff, health authorities and transferring patients, who will continue to benefit from this wealth of professional expertise.

Co-hosted by

