



Manitoba Blue Cross Mental Health Assessment Unit Improves Dignity, Safety, And Access To Mental Healthcare



The need for mental healthcare and services in our community and across our province continues to increase. The number of individuals presenting to Urgent Care with a primary mental illness has more than doubled since 2022. In response to this growing need, Victoria Hospital Foundation invested in the Manitoba Blue Cross Mental Health Assessment Unit, which opened its doors in June 2022 thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

This dedicated space in Victoria Hospital's Urgent Care department is uniquely designed to provide specialized mental health assessments and care in a private and supportive setting, with Urgent Care and mental health teams

working in collaboration to meet an individual's needs. The Manitoba Blue Cross Mental Health Assessment Unit is the first integrated space of its kind in Manitoba.

The Manitoba Blue Cross Mental Health Assessment Unit features six bright and spacious treatment rooms and the Canada Life Reception Centre to enable individuals to benefit from frequent assessment, monitoring, and intervention as needed. This unique model of care helps to improve access to mental health care for those in urgent need of support, with a psychiatric liaison nurse now supporting Urgent Care around the clock. Additional training has been provided to all Urgent Care nursing staff and the Mental Health Crisis Response team that assists in-patient units to further build capacity and improve access to care.

"The environment provides access to personal rooms, common areas for socialization, accessibility to staff members, allows for increased privacy and personal freedom, as well as encourages dignity," said Kurt Pay, Director of Health Services, Mental Health.

Education and Professional Development Grants Changing Lives

Since 2003, Victoria Hospital Foundation has granted over \$200,000 in Education & Professional Development Grants to support staff education at Victoria Hospital, ACCESS Fort Garry, and Victoria Lifeline. The funds can be used to finance a variety of educational opportunities including continuing education, leadership training, conferences, and seminars. The Foundation is grateful to all the donors who make it possible for us to continue supporting and promoting staff education.

As a physician assistant at ACCESS Fort Garry's Primary Care Clinic, Mathew Christian saw the need for further training to better assess and treat the patients he sees. This is why he chose to complete a point-of-care ultrasound training program. Since completing the training program, Mathew has taken on the role of clinical site lead for the Department of Family Medicine specific to point-of-care ultrasound training at ACCESS Fort Garry.

Emmanuel Uwaebuka has been a nurse at Victoria Hospital since 2018. As a father of three and an immigrant from Nigeria, he has first-hand experience with the challenges international nurses face when they come to Canada. Emmanuel completed five years of study in Nigeria, obtaining diplomas in both General Nursing and Psychiatric Nursing.

As these diplomas are not recognized as degrees in Canada, Emmanuel applied for a grant from Victoria Hospital Foundation to pursue the completion of a Canadian Bachelor's degree in Psychiatric Nursing – his goal is to avoid a situation where his lack of Canadian education becomes a hindrance to his career growth.

Victoria Hospital Foundation's Education and Professional Development Grants enable recipients, like Emmanuel and Mat, to further their learning and opportunities, develop skills, and make a positive impact on patient care in our community.



Staff Wellness Initiatives Increasing Staff Morale at ACCESS Fort Garry



These days at ACCESS Fort Garry the staff are happier and more productive than ever. The reason for this can be attributed to a wellness program for employees, which was made possible by a grant from Victoria Hospital Foundation. Thanks to the grant, the Social and Wellness Committee at ACCESS Fort Garry is able to organize a range of activities for the staff that promote physical and mental well-being, fitness, and stress reduction. The activities include things like healthy snack days, outdoor yoga sessions, bowling parties, and staff barbecues.

Since the implementation of the staff wellness initiative last year, there have been significant improvements in workplace morale and notable increases in staff engagement. Staff are able to build relationships that will help them better assist patients and clients, for example, if a patient needs to be referred to a different department. There has also been a reduction in employee absenteeism. As a result, all these factors contribute to an improved experience for the members of our community who benefit from ACCESS Fort Garry's services.

"It gives staff something to look forward to, I have gotten feedback that said it's just about feeling appreciated. It's knowing that the managers here value them and appreciate them, that we understand what they're going through and what everyone has had to go through the past few years. I think they appreciate that there is some effort being made to try to brighten their day."
- Robert McLennan, a Team Manager at ACCESS Fort Garry

The Victoria Hospital Foundation is proud to continue investing in staff wellness at both Victoria Hospital and ACCESS Fort Garry!

Ted & Lynne Foreman



Ted Foreman generously established The Heather Foreman Miracle Garden Memorial Endowment to support the Victoria Hospital Miracle Garden, a space designed to nurture mental, physical, and spiritual health. Ted and Lynne Foreman stopped by the Miracle Garden this summer to see a new plaque recognizing this generous gift. Thank you, Ted!

Will & Mavis Tishinski



The Foundation was pleased to officially open the Will & Mavis Tishinski Tranquility Trail this summer. This innovative outdoor space was built to promote mental wellness and offer a space for unique activities for the mental health programs at Victoria Hospital.



Together, we surpassed our Giving Tuesday goal by raising \$16,465 for our mission to advance healthcare within our hospital and community!
Thank you to Impark for being our \$5000 Matching Donor this year.
Donate today to help change lives.

Transforming Care Through Community

Your generous contributions are invested in initiatives that enhance patient care and improve the health and well-being of our community.
Thank you for your support.

GIVE. INVEST. CHANGE LIVES.

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