

Centre for Mental Health and Addiction

The 105-bed Centre for Mental Health and Addiction (CMHA) will be a cornerstone in the continuum of specialized care and treatment provided through BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services (BCMHSUS). This state-of-the-art, purpose-built facility will house clinical programs, enable research and provide virtual care for people with serious mental health and substance use challenges from across the province.

Space for Recovery

The centre will be built on a foundation of evidence-based design principles and a client centered philosophy of care. Located on the Riverview lands, the facility will have seven units, each serving up to 15 clients. The building design incorporates natural light, wood, stone and warm colours that align with its unique environment and site history. The design, including furniture and types of fixtures selected, will maximize client comfort and safety. Clients can personalize their rooms and open windows and blinds to allow in fresh air and natural light. There are spaces for therapeutic social, recreational and vocational programs and activities.

Privacy and Independence

Privacy is an important element in the recovery of clients with severe mental health and substance use challenges. The facility provides private bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms and showers, design features within the units and on the grounds offering quiet places to relax, and dedicated visitor areas on each unit where clients can spend time with friends/family.

Community Connections

Each unit has direct access to outdoor space where clients can relax and connect with nature. The grounds are integrated with the broader community and include gardens, trees and other natural elements. Features include a basketball court, spiritual care space, two therapeutic gardens, and two outdoor gazebos. Located on the ancestral lands of the Kwikwetlem First Nation, the centre will have a number of Indigenous elements, such as art and glass etchings and spaces for Indigenous ceremonies and gatherings.

Efficiency and Collaboration

All units follow a standardized design so staff can work in different units and understand the layout and location of client services and supplies. Work spaces are designed to facilitate safety, efficiency and collaboration.

Leading Edge Technology

The building features leading-edge technology to accommodate research, education and knowledge exchange. This includes rooms equipped with video recording and broadcast capabilities; wifi connectivity; telemedicine to enable consults and provide specialized support to health authorities; and virtual care, including evidence-based e-Mental Health tools. Individualized access cards will enable clients to move through the facility according to their pass levels.

