



St. Boniface Hospital Foundation seeks to raise \$1.6M for Hospital's Mental Health Initiative

Long-serving McEwen Building needs extensive renovations to aid healing, recovery for those with mental illness

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winnipeg, April 10, 2019 – St. Boniface Hospital Foundation has launched a \$1.6 million fundraising campaign for renovations and improvements to the McEwen Building, in which the Hospital provides dedicated inpatient and outpatient mental health services for thousands of Manitobans annually.

“We want to create a space that does not feel like a hospital ward,” said Dr. Michael Phillips, Director of Inpatient Care, Mental Health, St. Boniface Hospital. “Patients appreciate privacy and a comfortable environment. The process of recovery is often difficult, but we hope providing a physical space that is amenable to healing will help facilitate this part of the journey for patients and their families.”

The McEwen Building was originally a residence for medical students – in the 1980s, the building was converted to house the Hospital's Mental Health Program. Since then, it has been home to mental health services ranging from psychiatric care to occupational therapy for adult patients with mental illnesses.

Now, the Foundation is asking donors for help: the building is in need of vital upgrades to ensure all patients continue to receive optimal care in a healing environment.

“We know that the public is as inspired and excited as we are to see this happen,” says Vince Barletta, President and CEO, St. Boniface Hospital Foundation. “Time and again, our community has rallied for a cause and made life-changing progress for patients at the Hospital. We are once again reaching out to Manitobans to help the Hospital create the best healing environment possible for mental health patients.”

Each year, 1 in 5 Canadians will personally experience a mental illness, and by age 40, about 50 per cent of the population will have, or will have had, a mental illness.

- The inpatient program has 34 beds and admits more than 300 patients annually.
- The outpatient program sees more than 14,000 visits annually.
- A Hospital-wide Critical Incident Stress Management Program for staff is coordinated through the Mental Health Program, serving more than 4220 staff annually (including casual employees).
- The average patient stay is 25 days; some patients are admitted for fewer than three days, and some are treated as inpatients for more than a year.

To donate to this urgent initiative, visit stbhf.ca/donate or call the Foundation at 204-237-2067.

St. Boniface Hospital's Mental Health Program provides multidisciplinary professional psychological and psychiatric services to adults of all ages. The Program has 17 psychiatrists, 35 nurses (a combination of Registered Psychiatric Nurses and Registered Nurses), and 15 support staff. McEwen is one of the main teaching sites for residents and medical students. The team works together to treat patients with: Anxiety, Depression, Dementia, and Schizophrenia.

St. Boniface Hospital Foundation was founded in 1971 and is the primary fundraising organization for St. Boniface Hospital. The Foundation is dedicated to making possible the many innovations in health research and patient care taking place at the Hospital. St. Boniface Hospital is a leader in patient care excellence, delivered with genuine compassion. Research at St. Boniface Hospital is where medical discoveries are made: science is translated into practices that improve human health, and today's best minds are shaping tomorrow's advances in health care.

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