

### **For the Future of Riverview: The Coquitlam Health Campus**

- The Riverview Lands have a rich history of healing and caring dating back to 1904 when 1,000 acres of land was dedicated for a new provincial asylum, Essondale. In 1965, Essondale was renamed Riverview Hospital.
- The first of 75 buildings to open on the lands in 1913 was West Lawn, supporting 340 male patients. The patient population reached its peak in 1955 at 4,726, with an additional 2,200 staff onsite.
- The Lands' therapeutic value is fostered by the 1,800 unique tree specimens (some dating back to the early 1900s); its extensive natural areas that include forests and natural vegetation, streams and wetlands; and wildlife corridors and nesting/roosting zones.
- In the mid-1980s, 254 acres of the Riverview Hospital lands were sold, becoming what is known today as Riverview Heights. Colony Farms, which was once run by patients to provide fresh produce for the hospital, was transferred to the regional district in 1996, leaving only 244 acres for hospital use.
- The Hospital was gradually downsized over the past several decades and officially closed in 2012.
- Three tertiary residential care facilities, now operated by Fraser Health – Connolly Lodge (2002), Cottonwood Lodge (2005) and Cypress Lodge (2010) - were constructed on the lands and remain occupied today.
- In 2005, the Coquitlam Mayor's Riverview Task Force completed a comprehensive report – For the Future of Riverview. The report is based on extensive consultation in the community and focused on three key priorities:
  1. The land should remain publicly-owned to provide a sanctuary and residential treatment facility for people with mental illness;
  2. The heritage buildings, landscapes and arboretum should be protected and preserved; and
  3. Market housing is not an option that is supported by the City.

- The report also identified five key focus areas to support the priorities:
  - Support for a mental health care facility.
  - Maintain, and enhance research, education and innovation.
  - Critical to preserve botanical garden, arboretum, sanctuary/park area.
  - Historic value of the site.
  - Opportunities for economic development.
- In December of 2013, the City of Coquitlam retained Dr. John Higenbottam to translate its vision and 2005 priorities for the Riverview Lands into required programs, services and associated facilities based on a modern healthcare framework and the health needs of all British Columbians (local, regional and provincial).
- Anchored by an acute care hospital and a psychiatric hospital, The Coquitlam Health Campus would also consist of integrated clinical care, long-term residential and rehabilitation programs and services, education and training facilities, a health and wellness business park and public uses.
  - *Acute Care Hospital*: provide greatly improved access to acute care and emergency medical services for Coquitlam residents and surrounding communities. It will reduce the pressures on Royal Columbian Hospitals Emergency Department and support the on-site mental health uses.
  - *Specialized psychiatric hospital*: provide specialized treatment and rehabilitation capability. The hospital will be developed as a centre of excellence for treatment, research and education with seriously mentally ill and severely addicted and mentally ill (SAMI) people.
  - *Residential and rehabilitation facilities*: for clients requiring long-term supported residential living or an extended stay in a rehabilitation/recovery environment as a preparation to returning to community (similar to Connolly, Cottonwood and Cypress Lodges).
  - *Education and training facilities*: developed in conjunction with colleges and universities as a centre of excellence for education, training and research in mental health and addiction as well as rehabilitation and recovery.
  - *Health and wellness business park*: tenants could include private physical or addition rehabilitation facilities, laboratory and diagnostic services, health research units, diagnostic imaging companies, medical clinics and medical supply companies. This use produces an on-going revenue stream.

- *Public uses*: continued recreational access for those living or staying in a facility and the general public. Includes a small public recreational facility, retention of the tree collection and natural spaces.
- The land's tree collection and natural features along with its heritage and cultural values will be an integral part of The Coquitlam Health Campus, in order to leverage the therapeutic benefits and respect the land's history and community values.

To view Dr. Higenbottam's report, The Coquitlam Health Campus, or the 2005 Riverview Task Force Report, For the Future of Riverview, visit [www.coquitlam.ca/riverview](http://www.coquitlam.ca/riverview) .

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