

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Bay hospitals move is successful

[January 30, 2011— 3 p.m.] The long awaited move into the new North Bay Regional Health Centre (NBRHC) has been successfully completed and the new health centre is open and in full operation. The old North Bay General Hospital's McLaren and Scollard sites and the Northeast Mental Health Centre's North Bay site on Hwy 11 North are now closed.

"By noon yesterday, 118 patients were moved from the Northeast Mental Health Centre to the new Regional Mental Health Centre and the Acute Inpatient Psychiatry Unit (AIPU) at the District Hospital," stated NBRHC President and CEO, Mark Hurst. "Today, 140 patients from the North Bay General Hospital's Scollard and McLaren sites were successfully moved by around 1:45 p.m. and all staff and patients seem to be settled in their new units."

"We are very proud of and especially thankful to our entire staff, physician and volunteer workforce and our move partners Health Care Relocations," added Hurst. "All have worked tirelessly over the past several months to ensure we were prepared and I am happy to say the patients moved without incident."

Last Baby and First Baby

The last baby born at the North Bay General Hospital arrived 9:18 a.m. Sunday morning to proud parents Krystal Minor and Mike Duquette of Mattawa. Mom and baby Kallie Duquette were also the last two patients to leave the North Bay General Hospital before its doors were closed. Kallie arrived weighing 7 lbs 7 oz. Mom and baby are doing well and resting comfortably in their new room at the North Bay Regional Health Centre.

As of 3 p.m. today we were still awaiting the announcement of the First Baby born at the new health centre.

C1A Crisis Designation

To decrease the number of patients it would move, the North Bay General Hospital declared a C1A Crisis in November.

"The C1A Crisis was approved by the NE LHIN (North East Local Health Integration Network) and the NE CCAC (North East Community Care Access Centre) and provided us with first priority to available nursing home beds in the district," said VP Medicine Care and 'receiving site' (NBRHC) Command Centre

Lead, Nancy Jacko. “So, we were able to move many of our ALC (Alternate Level of Care) patients to more appropriate settings prior to this move.”

The hospital also credits other community partners such as local retirement homes, P.H.A.R.A., CCAC, both the Mattawa and West Nipissing hospitals and patients’ families who have helped the hospital by taking patients who could be moved into these settings or taken home for a short leave of absence.

“While everyone has been working above and beyond, I would particularly like to thank the Social Workers and Discharge Planners who have been instrumental in helping us get many of our patients placed appropriately in the community prior to this move,” added Jacko.

NBRHC is going smoke free

NBRHC is a smoke free property for all with the exception of inpatients, some of whom are here for extended periods of time. Smoking cessation programs are being offered to staff, physicians and volunteers, and staff will provide education and smoking cessation for patients.

For those inpatients who smoke and who are able, two designated smoking areas have been located in back parking lots at each end of the facility. Once the health centre becomes a smoke free property these designated smoking areas will be closed.

NBRHC Parking

We are making changes to the parking lot designations and along with the cold weather have been having issues with its computer system. So, during our first month, parking will be free and gates will remain open. This also provides an opportunity for people to become familiar with the facility, grounds and the new ‘Pay on Foot’ parking system.

A big thank you!

“I want to take this opportunity to thank our community for its support as we prepared for and implemented this very successful move. We look forward to continuing to provide the high quality patient care in our new state-of-the-art health centre,” stated Hurst.

-30-

CONTACT:

Pat Stephens
Director, Public Relations
North Bay Regional Health Centre
705-495-8127
Cell: 705-471-3849