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## Renovated wing at Taber Health Centre opens Monday

*Physician clinic and other health services now under one roof*

TABER — Community health care services in Taber are now conveniently consolidated at the redeveloped Health Centre following a two-year, \$9-million renovation to the hospital's vacated long-term care wing.

The 3,600-sq.-metre wing has been transformed to bring under one roof a number of local health care services, including a physician clinic.

The redeveloped community health services wing brings together:

- The Taber Clinic
- Family and Community Support Services
- Alberta Health Services programs and services, including:
  - Taber Health Unit and Community Health
  - Addiction and Mental Health services
  - Children's Allied Health
  - Home Care
  - Environmental Public Health
  - Alberta Health Living Program

"We're very excited to be opening this new site, together with Taber physicians, for the people of Taber," says Barb Lockhart, Director of Primary Care and Chronic Disease Management for the South Zone of Alberta Health Services (AHS). "Residents will enjoy the convenience of accessing multiple health services at a single site, and the beautiful design is an efficient repurposing of an existing space."

The project became possible when the Good Samaritan Linden View supportive living facility opened in 2011, and most of the residents in the hospital's long-term care wing moved there. Some long-term care residents remain at the Taber Health Centre but in another wing of the hospital that was recently redeveloped as a part of the renovation project.

"The physicians and staff at the Taber Clinic are excited to be working in the same location as other health care programs and services," says clinic manager Michael Brand.

"We see this as an opportunity for collaboration and efficiencies that are currently not available. It will be so much more convenient for our patients to come to one place for all their health care needs."

Grant Walker, Senior Operating Officer for Community Programs in AHS South Zone, says this model has proven successful in several other southern Alberta communities.

“Residents of communities with co-located health services appreciate the convenience of their health centre, where the hospital, physician clinic and community health services have been together for a number of years,” Walker says. “It’s a community model that just makes sense.”

The Taber Health Centre is an acute care and continuing care hospital with services including 24-hour emergency, obstetrics, palliative care, acute care and surgical.

Members of the public accessing community health services in the redeveloped wing can use free parking in the northeast lot accessible from 44 St.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Its mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans.

- 30 -

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