

camh Connections

Largest redevelopment phase in CAMH history nearing completion

Queen Street Redevelopment

When the **Crisis & Critical Care Building** and the **McCain Complex Care & Recovery Building** opened for patient care in November 2020, it marked the most significant benchmark of the largest redevelopment phase in CAMH history.

The two new buildings, with 600,000 square feet of space and 235 inpatient beds, feature major enhancements to the CAMH Queen Street site:

- A new state-of-the-art **Emergency Department**. The Gerald Sheff and Shanitha Kachan Emergency Department is the only one in Ontario devoted exclusively to mental health treatment 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With CAMH ED visits having increased by more than 70 per cent in the past decade, the need for a modern ED equipped to meet the rising demand for urgent mental health care was critical. Twice the size of the previous ED on College Street, it will reduce current wait times in Ontario and provide improved intake, assessment and triage procedures for patients.

Final stages of redevelopment

As part of the completion of this current phase of redevelopment, we are beginning the demolition of our older 1970's era buildings (Unit 2 and 4, grounds building and old greenhouse) and completing the Strokes Street extension to Shaw Street over the next several months.

The demolition work is happening in stages, with estimated completion dates of May 21 for Unit 2, August 3 for the grounds building and July 2 for Unit 4.

Be sure to go to camh.ca/neighbours for up-to-date news about this and other local news.



Queen Street Redevelopment Continued...

- **Enhanced therapeutic recovery and healing environments inside and outside the new buildings.**

A new Tour de Bleu Therapeutic Neighbourhood provides a variety of structured and evidence-based recovery programming for patients, including a chef school culinary certificate program run by George Brown College. The Therapeutic Art Project, integrated into the design of both new buildings, features the work of visual artists with lived experience of mental illness. The new TD Commons features a lush diversity of trees, shrubs, plants and beautifully lit walking paths for patients and their visitors to access as part of their recovery. It also acts as a meeting ground where the CAMH community intersects with the surrounding West Queen West neighbourhood.

- **Consolidation of education and clinical care to one location.**

One of the major benefits of locating the CAMH education spaces adjacent to our clinical care services is that it will foster collaborative opportunities for knowledge exchange, discovery and learning that will improve care and advance knowledge.

“These new buildings will revolutionize mental health care by offering dignified spaces for CAMH patients to heal and recover, and provide a safe and generative space for CAMH staff to work,” said CAMH President and CEO Dr. Catherine Zahn. “They reflect a bold vision and are also a powerful symbol of CAMH’s move away from institutionalization towards community integration for the people we serve.”

The Final Frontier: A Vision for a World Class Research Centre

CAMH has been transforming the Queen Street site for more than a decade, fulfilling a vision where patients receive care and recover alongside a great many—researchers discovering new treatments and preventions, clinicians learning the caring skills of tomorrow, and community members and champions co-creating the mental health movement.

With three phases of redevelopment now complete, CAMH is moving forward with our vision for a fourth and final phase of redevelopment—a future research centre that would co-locate the majority of CAMH’s world-class research enterprise at the Queen Street site.

As Canada’s leading academic centre dedicated to mental health, CAMH is working to answer the most difficult questions about mental illness. Fewer new

preventions and treatments for mental illness have been advanced over the past decades than for other chronic illnesses with comparatively major impacts.

To accelerate progress, CAMH’s Redevelopment Project has long-envisioned a new, world-leading mental health research centre at the Queen Street site—a state-of-the-art facility custom-built for mental health research where the world’s best minds use the most advanced technologies, and where scientists, clinicians, patients and families build better tomorrows together.

While we are early in the planning stages, we hope to have more exciting information to share about this project in the near future.

“Almost every family in Canada has been touched by mental health or addiction challenges, and it is a cause that has long since been underserved. Our family now has three generations working to support mental health, and it is our way of showing solidarity.”



Auditorium overlooking Queen & Ossington in the McCain Complex Care & Recovery Building

Faces of Philanthropy: McCain family an enduring partner in mental health

Almost as long as the modern CAMH has existed, the McCain family has been an enduring and loyal ally. Specifically, the family has played a key role in helping CAMH fulfill its dream of transforming the Queen Street campus into a global hub of mental health care, research, education and innovation.

While costs related to direct patient care are government-funded, all hospitals rely on donations to enhance their mandates. Philanthropic support is crucial in supporting the construction of dignified spaces where patients can recover, while at the same time, funding cutting-edge research and discoveries to help save lives today and in the future.

That is where the McCain family has stepped in, time and time again. The recently opened McCain Complex Care

& Recovery Centre on Queen Street west was named after them, in honour of their outstanding commitment to CAMH.

“To me, the building symbolizes hope. I’ve always been an optimist, and this building is another step forward in achieving positive future outcomes,” says Michael McCain. The building represents a proud commitment of resources and furthering investment in knowledge that will benefit countless people. It is a sign for anyone who has experienced mental health challenges and addiction that they matter, and there is a bright future.”

This level of philanthropic support is especially significant for CAMH. Not that long ago, the level of stigma around mental illness prevented many people from publicly supporting mental health causes. When CAMH



Ground level of the McCain Complex Care & Recovery Building

recognized a generous gift from the McCain to support the Queen Street Redevelopment Project in 2009, it marked the first time in our history that a building had been named for a family, signalling an important shift in public attitudes towards mental illness and addiction.

“By supporting CAMH in the early days, when mental health wasn’t talked about as openly, and it was cloaked in more of a stigma, we wanted to encourage other families, businesses and leaders to come forward,” says McCain. “As a family, we believe mental health and addiction research and treatments are still materially underfunded. We hope we can continue to ignite the movement that is gaining momentum in broader society. If stigma is holding people back from speaking up about their challenges, it will only slow the progress required to make so many people’s lives better.

Ultimately, says McCain, what makes him most proud to be a supporter of CAMH has been the opportunity to see first-hand the work his philanthropy supports.

“Almost every family in Canada has been touched by mental health or addiction challenges, and it is a cause that has long since been underserved. Our family now has three generations working to support mental health, and it is our way of showing solidarity,” says McCain. “CAMH is a world-class institution, playing a unique role in creating hope for the prevention, treatment and eventual cures for mental illness. We are so proud to invest with CAMH, to continue inspiring innovation and progress.”



Dr. James Makokis



Dr. Renee Linklater

Introducing Shkaabe Makwa

Twenty years after a team of Indigenous social workers and an Elder formed CAMH's first team to support the unique needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis patients, CAMH has officially launched **Shkaabe Makwa**—a unique and integrated centre that aims to transform health outcomes through the advancement of research, training and innovative healing models that harmonize traditional knowledge and medical expertise.

Shkaabe Makwa translates to “Spirit Bear Helper” in the Anishinaabe language. “For some of us, we acknowledge the Bear as medicine, and others as a knowledge keeper, protector and healer,” explained Dr. Renee Linklater, Senior Director of Shkaabe Makwa. “We believe that culture is central to healing and wellness—and we are committed to bringing about change in ways that respect and honour traditional knowledge and community expertise.”

Dr. James Makokis, a nehiyô (Plains Cree), Two-Spirit physician from Saddle Lake Cree Nation is the first

Medical Director for Shkaabe Makwa. “I am excited about the opportunity to focus on our own Indigenous ceremonies, our own Indigenous medicine and our own Indigenous thought—as we work on infusing all of these components into what is done at the centre—especially as it relates to research and making research responsive to the needs of our people,” said Dr. Makokis.

As part of Shkaabe Makwa's commitment to promote health system transformation grounded in First Nations, Inuit and Métis knowledge and expertise, they have formed a new Leadership Circle of Indigenous leaders and experts in mental health and wellness. The Leadership Circle will help guide the work of Shkaabe Makwa and provide strategic advice on the needs of the health care system.

For more information, please visit camh.ca.

CAMH and OCAD Partner on Art Project

CAMH has partnered with OCAD University to present a retrospective of student work that highlights how students have been coping with COVID-19 as part of DesignTO.

Like many Canadians, a group of second year Industrial Design students faced adversity during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially when OCAD closed in March. Some students had to return home on international flights, and faced a lonesome two-week quarantine away from family. Others struggled with the idea of a socially distanced Fall semester. Countless others were

affected by the shooting of George Floyd and joined in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. This art project explores the many complex feelings and experiences of these students during unprecedented times.



The collection of works will be on display in the McCain Complex Care & Recovery Building at CAMH at 1051 Queen Street West, in March. It is free of charge to view, and meant to be seen from outdoors, in order to keep everyone safe from the pandemic. To see the works, please visit designwith.ca

Thank you!

This phase of the CAMH Redevelopment Project is almost complete.

Thank you for your patience and support.

We look so forward to welcoming you into our new buildings and celebrating the transformation of mental health care with you!

Continue the conversation online

camh.ca/neighbours redevelopment.feedback@camh.ca



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