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February 6, 2007

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Bridgepoint Health announces architects for redevelopment project

Construction set to begin in 2009

JOANNA LAVOIE
Feb. 5, 2007

Bridgepoint Health is wasting no time in moving forward with its redevelopment plans.

Having cleared one of the final hurdles - obtaining approval from the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) on Jan. 29 - the health care provider has announced that Stantec Architecture and Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg (KPMB) Architects will handle the planning, design and compliance aspects of its redevelopment project.

"The selection of a leading architectural team brings us one step closer to creating Canada's leading centre for treatment of people living with complex chronic disease and disability in Toronto," said Marian Walsh, Bridgepoint Health's president and CEO, in a release.

"The design will respect both the history of Bridgepoint Hospital and the Don Jail as a major feature in the Riverdale community and position Bridgepoint Health as a viable icon of positive change in the healthcare system in our city."

Walsh also said the new facilities would permit Bridgepoint Health to fulfill its teaching goals in partnership with the University of Toronto and that its redevelopment would help attract and retain the best health professionals in its quest to help improve the lives of people living with complex chronic disease and disability.

The release also indicated the improved complex care and rehabilitation hospital would offer special care to patients with diseases like multiple sclerosis, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, acquired brain injury, stroke, cancer, end stage kidney disease and other complex illnesses and disabilities. The facility would also provide better rehabilitation for hip and knee surgery patients and other treatments associated with an aging population.

Bridgepoint Health's master plan includes tearing down the existing half-round building on the site, located near Broadview Avenue and Gerrard Street, and replacing it with a 12-storey state-of-the-art complex chronic care and rehabilitation hospital as well as a second building with 169 long-term care beds. A community park is part of the project as are three new eight-storey office/residential buildings.

The historic Don Jail building will be used for administrative purposes and two other historically significant edifices, the Governor's House and Gatekeepers House, will also be retained.

Construction on the new Bridgepoint Health network is set to begin in 2009.

For more information about Bridgepoint Health's plan, visit www.bridgepointhealth.ca and click on the redevelopment tab.

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