Vision

A place
Designed to serve the unique and diverse healthcare needs of women through the life cycle, newborns and families on their journey of health, hope and healing

A place
To advance care, through excellence in research and education, to enable and support caregivers in their quest for safe, effective, innovative, compassionate, and holistic care while being sensitive to women’s lived experiences

A place
That is welcoming, respectful, calming, and peaceful

Guiding principles

Women & Family Centered Care; Functional Effectiveness; Centre of Excellence; Safety and Security; Sustainability; Welcoming and Accessible; Positive Neighborhood Integration

What’s being planned?

Welcoming, calming and restful environment
Respectful of cultural and spiritual diversity, birthing options, patient needs
More privacy
Separate areas for “back-of-house” activities, such as supply delivery
Designated space for spiritual care including ceremonial room for smudging
Casual seating areas, waiting rooms and family lounges throughout hospital

Accommodations for low-risk and high-risk births, gynecological and palliative care experiences to be more comparable
All single patient rooms with private washrooms and windows for natural light
Medical equipment stored away and easily accessible when required to accommodate all levels of care

Accommodations and resources for partners and support people
Designed to be family-centered and child-friendly
Family zone in each patient room with sleeping area for one support person
Access to food and retail services and rest areas

Ability to connect with nature
Lots of windows, natural light throughout
Open atrium, outdoor patio and rooftop gardens
Sustainable design
Convenient parking and proximity to range of relevant services
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to be located in new hospital
Accessible to HSC Children’s Hospital, critical care and other services via tunnel/bridge
Underground public parking and short-term parking and drop-off at front entrance

Enhanced safety and security
Information desk at main entrance and security available 24/7
Security solutions for patients, staff and visitors including infant protection system
Decentralized workstations so healthcare professionals are closer to patients

Environment that supports staff
Design based on best practices for enhanced patient care
Design based on best practices for efficient work flow and enhanced technology
Areas for rest and rejuvenation, teaching and learning opportunities and team areas

When is the new Women’s Hospital expected to open?

The contractor has indicated that substantial completion of both the interior and exterior of the building in on track for the spring of 2016. Like any major capital project, completion projections are always based on design, tendering, and construction schedules that are often subject to significant variability.

Substantial completion will be followed by a commissioning process before the building is ready for occupancy, which is anticipated to be the spring of 2017. HSC is planning a 12-month commissioning and occupancy process given the size of the building and scale of changes to how staff will deliver care in the new environment.

Commissioning and occupancy will involve, among other things, deficiency review and resolution, building-system readiness, installation and training on new technologies, systems and workflows, hiring new staff, transitioning current staff, and ensuring the people working in the new space are operationally ready to provide care.

How has the scope of the project changed since it was first announced?

The original concept focused simply on replace old birthing facilities with new birthing facilities. However, following significant and comprehensive public consultations into the design of the new hospital, the project was expanded to accommodate all private rooms large enough to accommodate patients’ families as well as state-of-the-art specialty newborn care and a large increase in the number of beds to meet patient needs for years to come.

What are some of the features of the new Women’s Hospital?

- The new hospital will have six levels and 397,000 sq. ft. of space (compared to 86,000 sq. feet on five levels in the current facility);
- The facility is connected to the HSC campus by way of an overhead walkway and below-ground tunnel;
- All private rooms with private bath;
- Family-centred mother and baby units including fetal assessment, obstetrical triage and labour, delivery and recovery rooms;
- An expanded, state-of-the-art neonatal intensive-care unit and intermediate-care nursery (both featuring private rooms as well as rooms for multiple births) for newborns requiring specialty care and monitoring;

- A women's surgical centre and inpatient gynecological unit;

- Expanded isolation rooms to ensure infection control and patient safety;

- Improved accessibility with a convenient patient drop-off area and underground parking;

- The new hospital design won a national award of excellence from Canadian Architect Magazine in 2010, which recognized the innovative and warm design efforts that are being used.

**Noteworthy design features**

*Cladding on the side of the building*

Winnipeg has the largest remaining urban Elm forest in North America with approximately 150,000 trees, although the city loses approximately 4,000 a year. Residents and visitors have always been fascinated with the green archways that grace our city streets imprinting them with their unique character. The striking Elm tree canopies provide shade in the summer and magic in the fall with their filtered sunlight.

The architects wanted to pay tribute to the Elm tree and raise awareness to protect them by creating an impressive mural-like Elm-tree façade along Sherbrook Street and Elgin Avenue. The solution is a curtain-wall system with digitally printed glass. In total there are 503 panels installed around the building.

*Natural light*

As the building has been designed with LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Silver certification in mind, sunlight has been taken into very serious consideration wherever possible. Large windows on all sides of the building will provide the benefits of sunlight to many clinical care areas.

*Elevator access*

There are seven elevators in the building (as compared to the current Women’s Hospital with two). There will be three service elevators designated for patient, supply, and equipment transport, plus four elevators for patients/visitors.

**Is there a total bed estimate for the new hospital compared with a total bed estimate now?**

There will be approximately 170 beds to provide for the needs of the hospital in addition to numerous outpatient clinics for specialized women’s healthcare. This represents an increase of more than 25 per cent over the current capacity.

**Major milestones**

January 2008: First round of public consultation meetings held leading up to the design of the new building.

2008-2010: Functional design development; architectural design development.
March 2010: Teardown begins of the old Weston Bakeries at Elgin Avenue and Sherbrook Street to make way for the new hospital.

June 2011: Sod-turning ceremony takes place.

November 2012: Work onsite begins.

2013: The shell of the building begins to rise from the ground.

2014: Building exterior is finished and the building is topped out.

2015: Work is ongoing across all levels. Site visits and staff tours specific to each clinical area begin.

About Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg
Health Sciences Centre (HSC) Winnipeg is the largest healthcare centre in Manitoba. We are an interdisciplinary team of nearly 8,000 staff and volunteers who serve people in Manitoba, northwestern Ontario and Nunavut. HSC is the designated Trauma Centre for Manitoba, as well as the centre for transplants, burns, neurosciences and pediatric care. Our highly skilled teams of professional staff provide acute care and continuing care. As an operating division of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, we provide comprehensive diagnostic, outpatient (ambulatory) and inpatient services that support the physical, medical and emotional needs of the people and communities we serve. Visit www.hsc.mb.ca for more information.