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**Residents Moving Into a New Unit at Copper Ridge**

WHITEHORSE – Continuing care residents are transitioning into the remaining 12 beds at Copper Ridge Place, Health and Social Services Minister Glenn Hart announced today.

The 96-bed residential care facility opened the final 12 beds earlier this year and resident admissions have been taking place since mid-January.

“The addition of these 12 beds to continuing care will greatly benefit the residents, their families and the overall health care system,” Hart said. “These folks all require full-time care that was being provided either in the hospital, or at home by family members with the assistance of homecare staff.”

“Our ability to move them into this facility means that there is less stress on family members, less stress on the hospital which has been providing care services, and frees up our homecare staff to work with other clients who can remain in their homes,” Hart added.

The unit initially opened in 2007 but was closed in early 2008 because of staffing shortages. The facility was originally designed with additional units that could be opened as needs arose.

“Thanks to a vigorous recruitment campaign and human resource plan, we are pleased to say that we have been fully staffed since the beginning of January 2009, and are confident that we will remain so,” Hart said.

There are 151 residential continuing care beds in Yukon.

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