

## TCU

Thank you Minister Asagwara and the Manitoba Government for approving the project and providing financial support to make the Interlake Eastern Health Services TCU a reality.

Having worked for over 40 years in the Selkirk ER, I am fully cognizant of the increasing aging population, the escalating demands on healthcare providers and the need to improve patient flow through our regional Emergency Departments and acute care facilities. And so, I sincerely thank the Premier, Health Minister and Manitoba Government for providing additional funding to increase Health System Capacity and I congratulate the IERHA SLT for having the vision to open a 15 bed TCU in the Interlake-Eastern Health Services building, 100 Easton Drive, Selkirk previously known as the S&DGH.

The goal for the TCU is to provide a safe, welcoming and supportive environment for clients who no longer require acute care services but still, require care and assistance as they transition back to their own home, supportive housing, Government housing, Group home or PCH. The first 2 clients were admitted to the TCU on July 9<sup>th</sup>, to date 16 clients have been admitted, 8 have been successfully discharged to various new residences of their choice. While these numbers may appear low, opening the TCU has been a new beginning & a learning process. It is also important to remember that without the TCU, 16 acute care beds could still be occupied, the goal is to steadily increase patient flow through the TCU.

I feel very privileged to have been asked to Manage this pioneer project, but as English author John Donne said 'No man is an island, we are better together'; I was fortunate to work alongside an awesome group of people, I extend sincere thanks to every member of the amazing multidisciplinary team of professionals (Finance, HR, IT, Materials Management, Support Services, Nursing, Pharmacy, Admin. WPSH, Home Care) that have collaborated to make this project a resounding success, in a relatively short time frame of 14 weeks; each discipline being one piece of the greater alliance that worked toward our goal of opening a TCU. Special thanks to Glenn Shymko and his Facilities Management crew who worked many long hours.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the ongoing support of our Team Leader, Kate Hodgson, whose enthusiasm, positivity and encouragement made the job of transforming, 'this building into a functional healthcare unit, very easy. The TCU brings with it, new challenges, aspirations and expectations **and** new IERHA staff members, Director Krista Wilson and Manager Kim Nickel both bring a wealth of experience & knowledge from the WRHA, and are ready to provide guidance and leadership to the TCU staff, who will closely work with the IERHA multidisciplinary team to meet the often-intricate individual needs of the TCU clients, to ensure a safe & successful discharge to their new home.

The TCU has a bright future and will play an important role in improving patient flow throughout the region. Again, thank you to all who have championed this worthy project, I wish the team continued success.