

# Catholic Health Care in Prince George

November 15, 2023

More people in Prince George will have access to long-term care as Providence Living and Northern Health prepare to build a new care home with 200 beds.

Providence Living was created to address long-term care needs by Providence Health Care, a Catholic health care organization formed from combining several hospitals in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island that were originally founded by religious congregations of sisters.

Providence Living has signed an agreement with the Northern Health Authority to build a long-term care home that will add 200 beds in Prince George. The Diocese of Prince George has agreed to provide land at 6500 Southridge Avenue to Providence at nearly no cost. The details of the agreement--including the space to be used for Providence's project--are currently being finalized.

This is the first new long-term care facility to be built in Prince George in 15 years. Construction is expected to start in fall 2024.

“Providence will work in close collaboration with Northern Health to bring to life a vision for long-term care that will utilize a world-class living environment alongside a unique style of care that is infused with compassion and tailored to the unique story of each resident,” said Mark Blandford, president and CEO, Providence. “Our new home will offer private rooms within a community setting where residents can enjoy everyday activities and interactions that respect their individuality and ensure each day is a day well lived.”

The new care home will include single-bed rooms with private washrooms and designed in a residential household concept with groups of 12 rooms with shared living and dining rooms for social interaction and recreation. There will also be indoor and outdoor spaces for social and leisure for residents and family, as well as amenities for cooking meals on site.

“This agreement marks a significant and exciting step in our work to bring much needed long-term care capacity to the North,” said Ciro Panessa, president and CEO of Northern Health. “I am grateful to Providence Living for their part in this partnership, and to our healthcare and support workers across the North for the compassionate care they provide to seniors in our communities.”

Long-term care homes provide care for people with complex care needs who can no longer live safely and independently at home, and who require 24-hour nursing care through a range of services delivered by well-trained staff.

On behalf of everyone in the diocese, Bishop Stephen Jensen thanks Providence Living for its work continuing the apostolate of Catholic healthcare in our community.

**Learn More:** For information about Providence Living, visit: <https://providenceliving.ca/>