



For Immediate Release

Perley Health Opens Secure Unit Dedicated to Veterans Living with Dementia

Rideau Veterans Residence unit helps meet increasing demand for Canadians living with dementia

Ottawa, March 27, 2023

Perley Health has opened a secure unit dedicated to the long-term care of Veterans living with dementia. Recently renovated, the unit in the Rideau Veterans Residence can now safely accommodate up to 25 Veterans living with dementia. Since its opening in 1995, Perley Health has prioritized the care of Veterans and provided secure accommodation to Veterans living with dementia.

“Today’s opening enables us to provide safe, compassionate, person-centred care to more Veterans living with dementia in a dedicated environment,” says Akos Hoffer, CEO, Perley Health. “Our ability to care for Canadians living with dementia has increased significantly in recent years.”

Perley Health’s other secure units can accommodate an additional 80 residents living with dementia. These include the 20-bed Specialized Behaviours Support Unit (SBSU), opened in 2017, and the only one in the region that provides short-term accommodation to people living with dementia who exhibit responsive behaviours. In addition, Respite House at Perley Health provides short-term respite care for up to 12 adults living with early- to mid-stage dementia.

“It’s comforting to know that the Veterans at Perley Health living with dementia can now be cared for in their own dedicated secure unit. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making this happen. I appreciate it and I know our Veterans and their families do too.” –The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence”

Given current demographic trends, Canada will need significantly more of this accommodation. According to a recent Alzheimer’s Society of Canada report, the number of Canadians living with dementia is expected to nearly double by 2030. Many people who live with dementia become disoriented, wander away from home and are unable to find their way back. To safely care for Veterans and Seniors living with dementia, Perley Health implements several strategies, such as creating secure units with camouflaged exit doors and training caregivers in specialized techniques known as Gentle Persuasive Approaches.

Funding for the renovations needed to renovate the unit within the Rideau Veterans Residence was provided by Ontario Health East, part of the Crown agency that oversees healthcare in the province, and by generous donations to the Perley Health Foundation.

-30-

Notes to Editors:

Perley Health is a unique and innovative community that empowers Seniors and Veterans to live life to the fullest. Home to more than 600 Seniors and Veterans in long-term care and in independent apartments, Perley Health provides a number of clinical, therapeutic and recreational services to residents, tenants and people from across the region.

One of the largest and most progressive long-term care homes in Ontario, Perley Health is also a centre for research, education, and clinical innovation. The Perley Health Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care™ conducts and shares the practical research needed to improve care. Future caregivers come here to study and to acquire hands-on skills and experience.

The Perley Health Foundation is the engine powering our mission to achieve excellence in the health, safety, and well-being of Seniors and Veterans. Every donation empowers us to provide exceptional care while pursuing the research needed to deliver transformative advances.

Media Contact:

Jay Innes
Director of Communications
jinnes@perleyhealth.ca
(613) 608-3497

www.PerleyHealth.ca