



## The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre to Deliver New Level of Healthcare Under Special Partnership

Friday, October 27 - Ottawa, Ontario

An innovative partnership promises to improve the quality of healthcare delivered to elderly patients recovering from short-term illnesses – like the flu – as well as surgery and accidents. The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre (Perley Rideau), The Ottawa Hospital (TOH) and the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) today announced the launch of a pilot project known as the SAFE (Sub-Acute care for Frail Elderly) unit. Under the pilot project, eligible patients who no longer require hospital care but are not well enough to return home will recover in a special 20-bed unit at the Perley Rideau.

"SAFE represents an important innovation for the region's healthcare system – one that I'm confident will improve patient outcomes," says Dr. Jeff Turnbull, TOH Chief of Staff. "Patients will get the medical care and rehabilitative therapies they need to recover at the Perley Rideau. The move will free up hospital beds for patients who need acute care."

SAFE addresses a significant problem for the region's healthcare system. Patients admitted to hospital for acute care (usually due to illness, surgery or accident) remain in hospital even after their conditions have stabilized. They no longer require acute care, but they are not well enough to return home. The risk is that they decondition and are unable to return to their home or retirement home. At any given time, TOH has approximately 60-70 patients in this situation.

The SAFE unit represents an entirely new level of care – one that takes advantage of the Perley Rideau's many attributes, such as an expert and experienced staff, and many on-site therapists and access to medical specialists. To accommodate the SAFE unit, the Perley Rideau will complete renovations, add advanced diagnostics and renovate a 20-bed unit while training staff to deliver specialized care for unstable patients. The Champlain LHIN and Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will invest \$1 million to fund the transition. Once fully implemented, the SAFE unit is expected to save the healthcare system approximately \$700,000 each year.

"We're proud to partner with The Ottawa Hospital and the Champlain LHIN to improve patient outcomes," says Akos Hoffer, the Perley Rideau's Chief Executive Officer. "The Perley Rideau is determined to increase its value not only to Veterans, but also to the wider community, the long-term care sector and the region's healthcare system."

"This innovative partnership will benefit patients, their families and all Ontarians," says John Fraser, Member of Provincial Parliament for Ottawa South. "SAFE is about providing the best possible care in the most efficient way possible. I expect that this pilot project will generate valuable lessons that can improve healthcare across the province."

The Perley Rideau expects to welcome the first patients to the SAFE unit in January 2018. The partners will monitor costs, patient outcomes and other indicators of the pilot project's performance.

### Quotes

**“** Thanks to the support of our partners, the SAFE model of care will allow us to realize the untapped capabilities of our staff and our beautiful facility to help achieve our strategic goal of becoming a Centre of Excellence in frailty-informed care. I applaud the Champlain Local Health Integration Network, The Ottawa Hospital and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for the confidence they have placed in us and for allowing us to innovate to meet the care needs of the region's seniors.”

- Akos Hoffer, Chief Executive Officer,  
The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre

**“** We are excited about the opportunity to work with the Perley Rideau in the creation of a program that focuses upon the unique needs of the frail elderly. This initiative will provide the best care possible to support individuals in their recovery in an effort to allow them to return home in a safe and effective manner.”

- Dr. Jeff Turnbull,  
Chief of Staff, The Ottawa Hospital



## Perley Rideau

The Perley and Rideau  
Veterans' Health Centre

### Quotes

“ This new program means that seniors can continue their recovery in the setting that best supports their healing process. The program will also help free up hospital beds for those who need them the most. We congratulate The Ottawa Hospital and the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre on their collaboration. The SAFE unit is not only innovative, it's also an excellent example of how health providers can work together to build a more coordinated, integrated and accountable health system that puts patients and families first.”

- Chantale LeClerc,  
Chief Executive Officer, Champlain LHIN

“ We're expanding access to care where people need it the most - in their own homes and communities. This investment in Ottawa and the great partnership between the Perley Rideau and The Ottawa Hospital will provide support for those who need additional care when transitioning from hospital to home.”

- John Fraser,  
MPP for Ottawa South and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care

### Quick facts

- Located adjacent to TOH's General Campus, the Perley Rideau provides long-term care to 450 people, including 250 Veterans. The Perley Rideau's 25-acre campus features eight medical-specialty clinics, 139 independent-living apartments for seniors and a wealth of amenities, including a pharmacy, pub, cafeteria, hair salon, chapel, arts studios and gardens. The Perley Rideau has a staff of approximately 800 and a corps of 400 regular volunteers.
- The Ottawa Hospital, the only acute-care centre in Eastern Ontario, has a total of 1,122 beds spread over three campuses.
- The Champlain LHIN plans, funds and coordinates health services, and delivers home and community care services to meet the needs of the 1.3 million residents of eastern Ontario. The LHIN works with and funds approximately 120 health-service providers that offer some 240 health programs in a range of settings, including hospitals, community health centres, and long-term care homes.

### Associated links

- [The Ottawa Hospital](#)
- [Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre](#)
- [Champlain Local Health Integration Network](#)
- [Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care](#)

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