



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE WEST ISLAND PALLIATIVE CARE RESIDENCE'S GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY
MARKS BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA IN PALLIATIVE CARE**

KIRKLAND, June 15, 2018 – Today was a defining moment in the West Island Palliative Care Residence's (the Residence) future as dignitaries, board members, employees, volunteers, donors and special guests gathered to celebrate the start of construction to consolidate its two separate locations into a single, expanded facility housing all of its 23 beds. The 30,000 square foot extension of its original building on André-Brunet Street onto an adjacent tract of land represents a transformation of the Residence that will also be the home of its new branch, the recently launched Montreal Institute for Palliative Care (MIPC).

A team of medical, nursing, and supportive care staff together with volunteers collaborated in the planning of the new consolidated building which will see annual operational cost savings of approximately \$400,000 for the Residence. Designed with the goal of maintaining a home-like environment, the new building will offer a more efficient, medically relevant floorplan. Importantly, the new building will bring all staff and volunteers together so that patients and families will benefit from the consistent and seamless approach to care and services. A centrepiece of the new building will be an Education and Training Centre for the MIPC's programs and activities.

The Residence publically launched its *Caring & Sharing – Under One Roof* capital campaign in April to raise the \$12.5 million necessary to consolidate its two facilities in order to optimize its provision of care and to share best practices with the creation of the MIPC. With the generosity of its donors and the hard work of its staff and volunteers, the Campaign has raised just over \$7.5 million to date!

QUOTES:

"This new facility is the beginning of a new era for the West Island Palliative Care Residence and for palliative care in Canada. Over the years, we have grown and evolved to meet the changing needs of the community. To now consolidate our beds under one roof allows us to assure continuity of care and that in turn allows us to share our best practices and expertise, now that we launched the Montreal Institute for Palliative Care last month. I would like to express our deepest gratitude to our lead donors whose confidence in our plans enabled this dream to become a reality (in alphabetical order): Anne Myles Brown, the Doggone Foundation, Elsie Watson, Eric T. Webster Foundation, Fondation Famille Bertrand, the Molson Foundation, National Bank of Canada and the Rossy Family Foundation."

Teresa Dellar, Executive Director and Co-Founder, West Island Palliative Care Residence

"The care of our patients and families has always been second to none, and will always remain our first priority. This is the driving force behind wanting to expand the reach and relevance of the Residence and to expand the capacity of palliative care here in our community and beyond our four walls. The consolidated facility will benefit our patients, our families, our staff and volunteers. The significant annual operational cost savings is crucial for us as it means we can direct more funds towards caring for our patients and their families."

Allen Van der Wee, Chair of the Operations Board of the West Island Palliative Care Residence



“This new space will allow us to adapt to ever changing needs and will also house the activities of the new branch of the Residence, The Montreal Institute for Palliative Care and all its potential to make a difference in not only how palliative care is delivered but also in how the public and individual patients and family members understand what good quality palliative care at the right time, in the best way, can do for the terminally ill.”

Rhonda O’Gallagher, *Chair of the West Island Palliative Care Residence Foundation Board*

“This groundbreaking is a culmination of efforts by many people and is a testament to how a community can work together to achieve great success. We are heartened by the commitment of our *Caring & Sharing - Under One Roof* Campaign Cabinet and Honorary Patrons and are inspired by the generosity of all the donors whose support offers great promise to extending the benefits of best-in-class palliative care to as many Canadians as possible.”

Luc Bertrand, *Capital Campaign Co-Chair and Vice-Chairman, National Bank of Canada* and **Erin O’Brien**, *Capital Campaign Co-Chair and Senior Director, Jarislowsky Fraser, Limited.*

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Currently, the Residence provides its vital services in two separate locations in Kirkland and Pointe-Claire: the original facility on André-Brunet St. (9 beds) and a dedicated floor rented in a nearby long-term care facility on Stillview Avenue (14 beds).
- The original facility will be expanded by almost 30,000 square feet onto an adjacent tract of land and will allow for annual operational cost savings of approximately \$400,000.
- The new consolidated building will house the Montreal Institute for Palliative Care, a new branch of the West Island Palliative Care Residence.
- The Residence is seeking to raise \$12.5 million in order to consolidate its two separate locations into a single facility and to establish the MIPC. To date just over \$7.5 million dollars has been raised.
- The consolidation project is made possible through lead donations from (in alphabetical order) Anne Myles Brown, the Doggone Foundation, Elsie Watson, Eric T. Webster Foundation, Fondation Famille Bertrand, the Molson Foundation, National Bank of Canada and the Rossy Family Foundation.

– 30 –

About the West Island Palliative Care Residence

The West Island Palliative Care Residence is an independent, non-profit organization that provides services free of charge to patients and their families. The Residence receives one-third of its annual operational budget from the Quebec government and relies on community support and fundraising activities to raise the balance of more than 3.5 million dollars each year. With its 23 beds, the Residence is the largest freestanding palliative care facility in Canada and is recognized as a leader in its field. For more information, go to www.residencesoinspalliatifs.com/en.

SOURCE: West Island Palliative Care Residence

Information: Alben Petkova, 514 693-1718, Ext. 314 or 514 570-5395 (cell.) or apetkova@wipcr.ca