

**For immediate release**

## **OH BABY, LOOK WHAT'S COMING TO SUNNYBROOK**

### ***Sunnybrook's new home for Women & Babies will change the face of birthing in Canada***

**Toronto, ON (September 2, 2010)** - Sunnybrook held an official 'Welcome to Bayview' ceremony today for the Hospital's Women and Babies program, that will be making the move to new, state-of-the-art facilities on the Bayview Campus on Sunday September 12, 2010.

The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, MPP, Don Valley West, joined hospital staff and donors to unveil the new facility, which will forever change the standard of care provided to mothers and babies.

Specializing in high-risk and multiple births and neonatal intensive care, the brand new, two-floor, 120,000 square foot Women & Babies Program will deliver approximately 4,250 babies every year. Of these deliveries, one quarter are considered high risk and the teams at Sunnybrook will care for one of every five babies born in Ontario who weigh less than three pounds.

"Our staff are thrilled with this new facility," said Dr. Barry McLellan, President and CEO, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. "This is the premier facility for high-risk births and neonatal intensive care in the country. It was designed with patients, families and staff, who came together to create an incredible environment to bring new life into the world. The research and clinical advancements that will be made in this facility will invent the future of care for women and babies."

Sunnybrook's Women & Babies Program offers many unique features, which have received international acclaim for their leading-edge design. Patients will be greeted by open and modern spaces, painted in soothing spa-like colors. Low-risk women can labour, deliver and recover all in the comforts of one room without ever having to move.

High-risk women will also receive care in rooms that feel more like home than the hospital. For those who have complicated deliveries where their babies require additional and immediate care, mothers and birthing partners have the option of watching staff help newborns on a closed circuit television. The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit has a separate room for each baby, as well as separate entrances for parents and staff. There are also specially equipped rooms in the NICU for multiple births.

"What's also wonderful about the design is that there is plenty of room for parents and families to visit and offer their love and support," said Dr. Andrew Shennan, Program Chief, Women & Babies. "We know how precious it is to welcome a new life into the world, and being able to share that with those you love is something Sunnybrook is proud to offer."

As well as birthing and a new NICU, the Unit also houses a neonatal follow-up clinic, which will be the most comprehensive and progressive program of its kind in Canada. Sunnybrook's team of specialists will monitor the development of premature infants born here until the age of 6 years, providing care and intervention when needed.

Toronto philanthropists Aubrey and Marla Dan donated \$8 million to this new program, helping launch the new Aubrey and Marla Dan Program for High Risk Mothers and Babies. "When our daughter Alyse was born over 18 years ago, she weighed only one pound, six ounces," said Aubrey Dan. "Today, she is a healthy and vibrant teenager. This world-class team of experts now has an appropriate world class facility."

Sunnybrook's Women and Babies Program will open its doors officially for births and neonatal intensive care on September 12, when it will move from its current location at 76 Grenville St. Take a virtual tour of the new unit at [sunnybrook.ca/tour](http://sunnybrook.ca/tour)

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Quick Facts**

- 4,250 babies will be born here every year
- The program will be housed in the impressive 120,000 square foot, 2-storey addition atop the M-Wing of Sunnybrook's Bayview Campus
- Sunnybrook will deliver 1 in 5 babies weighing less than 3 pounds in Ontario
- Total project cost for the new facility is \$197 million
- Sunnybrook's new Women & Babies Program will officially open on Sunday, September 12, 2010
- With an international reputation for excellence in caring for women with high-risk pregnancies Sunnybrook is a referral centre offering specialized prenatal, birthing and neonatal services to women across Ontario

### **Features of the new facilities include:**

- A total of 20 Labour, Birthing, Recovery and Postpartum Rooms, where women with low-risk pregnancies and deliveries will journey through labour, to delivery and finally, recover in the same room as their babies
- A 25 Bed Maternal and Newborn Unit, providing care for new families and the birth of their baby
- A 23 Bed High-Risk Pregnancy Unit, for women who have pregnancy complications and require inpatient care
- There are three Operative Birthing Rooms for women to have Caesarian sections, where mothers can watch their babies being cared for immediately after delivery on closed circuit television
- A Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) with capacity for 41 babies, providing around-the-clock care for a projected 1,200 babies a year

### **General Information about Sunnybrook**

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre is inventing the future of health care for the one million patients the hospital cares for each year through the dedication of its more than 10,000 staff and volunteers. Internationally recognized leadership in research and education and a full affiliation with the University of Toronto distinguish Sunnybrook as one of Canada's premier academic health sciences centres. Sunnybrook specializes in caring for Canada's war veterans, high-risk pregnancies, critically ill newborns, adults and the elderly, and treating and preventing cancer, cardiovascular disease, neurological and psychiatric disorders, orthopedic and arthritic conditions and traumatic injuries.