
Background

Western Manitoba Cancer Centre

The Western Manitoba Cancer Centre is being developed through a partnership between the Brandon Regional Health Authority and CancerCare Manitoba. The total project cost is approximately \$24 million.

The building is an approximately 22,250-square-foot, single-storey building with a partial basement and crawlspace. It is connected to Brandon Regional Health Centre via a tunnel. The building has been constructed in compliance with the Government of Manitoba's Green Building Policy. The following are some examples of the technology and building techniques that were used:

- geothermal technology,
- extensive use of natural light,
- heat-recovery systems,
- daylight and occupancy sensors, and
- low-flow toilets and infrared sinks.

The Western Manitoba Cancer Centre will house:

- a central waiting area and reception for all patients;
- a clinic area with four exam rooms, a central clinic control area, a multidisciplinary workroom, a group room and a rounds room;
- the expanded chemotherapy department including regular patient stations as well as a stretcher bay, phlebotomy chairs and a full isolation room;
- the radiation therapy department, with a waiting/change area, a CT simulator, a full treatment-planning department, a state-of-the-art linear accelerator and a nuclear electronics/physics lab;
- numerous rooms/areas that will help to enhance the patient experience including a Look Good, Feel Better room, a teaching room and a garden area; and
- space for volunteers, who provide valuable support to patients and staff.

There will be extensive use of information technology including:

- four permanent Manitoba Telehealth units to allow patients to have clinic visits with oncologists in Winnipeg, enhancing services that already exist in Brandon;
- treatment planning for radiation therapy patients will be directly linked to CancerCare Manitoba to allow for multidisciplinary consulting;

- introduction of tablet PCs for health-care workers to create efficiencies in workflow; and
- electronic patient check-in.

The bunker housing the linear accelerator will be built above ground, a first in Manitoba. It will also be door-free, another first for Manitoba. The linear accelerator will be capable of delivering radiation using the latest treatment techniques. The centre will also have a dedicated CT simulator equipped with all the latest technology.

This facility and program will lead to the creation of approximately 32 new positions, a combination of CancerCare Manitoba and Brandon Regional Health Authority staff.

In 2002, 257 patients from the Brandon and Assiniboine health regions had at least one course of radiation therapy and were required to travel to Winnipeg to receive this treatment. It is projected that between 300 and 400 patients per year will receive their radiation therapy in Brandon.

The Western Manitoba Cancer Centre will link current and existing resources such as chemotherapy, early detection and surveillance resources, self-help survivorship groups, volunteer activities, etc., with the new resources to help prevent gaps and disconnects for patients and families.