

Boyle McCauley Health Centre Dental Clinic expansion provides valuable service in the community

Tarwinder Rai

The newly expanded Boyle McCauley Health Centre Dental Clinic (BMHC) officially opened on January 28. The expansion provides easy access to dental care for vulnerable populations and will continue to be a valuable hands-on learning environment for dentistry and dental hygiene students.

“Population demands have long created a need for an expansion of clinic space and services for the community and we are thrilled to open that expansion,” said Paul Major, chair of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry’s School of Dentistry. “We are able to provide

dental care to a population that often goes without adequate care. This clinic will not only enable better oral health for these underserved populations, but it will also help provide preventative care.”

Located in its new site in the Métis Capital Housing Corporation Renaissance Tower, the \$1.5 million expansion was made possible by the partnership between the School of Dentistry, The Métis Nation of Alberta, BMHC and Alberta Health Services (AHS).

Oral health-care services have been

provided by the BMCH since 1993 when the dental clinic was first established through the Student Health Initiative for the Needs of Edmonton (SHINE) program, and in the year 2000, a partnership between the Dental Hygiene (DH) program, its faculty, and its students was formed. This evolved into the DH students spending 2-days a week providing DH services with supervision of a DH instructor. This learning experience in the community has provided DH students with an opportunity to develop their understanding of culturally sensitive care and students have gained extensive



The newly expanded Boyle McCauley Health Centre Dental Clinic officially opened on January 28. School of Dentistry chair Paul Major, executive director of Boyle McCauley Health Centre Cecilia Blasetti, MLA for Edmonton-Centre David Shepherd and Ward 6 City Councillor Scott McKeen welcomed everyone to the new site.

experience working with people with varying complex needs.

“The dental hygiene program has always been grateful for the relationship we have had over the years with the BMHC dental clinic,” says Dr. Sharon Compton, director of the dental hygiene program. “The learning experience for the students has been a critical part of their development of understanding diverse patient needs and the inequities many people face when it comes to healthcare and oral health.”

Each year, more than 2,000 patients used to visit the clinic, which had only four operatory chairs. Needless to say, it had outgrown its current space. Thanks to this community partnership and the generosity of donors to the School of Dentistry, the new modern eight-chair clinic expects more than 3,000 visits per year. Moving the clinic from the basement of the BMHC and into a street-level facility at the Renaissance Tower will result in more families and children having access to care.

“We are very excited that our partnership with Alberta Health Services and the University of Alberta’s School of Dentistry has resulted in the expansion

of our dental clinic, making it possible for more members of our community to access comprehensive, affordable dental care,” said Cecilia Blasetti, executive director of the BMHC. “The expansion of our dental clinic has significantly increased our capacity to address this need.”

The BMHC dental clinic will now be able to accommodate more emergencies. In the 2017-2018 year alone there were 755 emergency visits to the dental clinic. Wait times for follow-up appointments will be reduced and the clinic will be able to accept more patients.

It is expected that the increase in services the clinic provides will lessen the load on hospital emergency rooms, allow for more preventative dental care and provide students with valuable experience as health-care providers serving vulnerable populations.

“I’m extremely pleased the Boyle McCauley dental clinic has expanded to care for even more Albertans. The support this clinic offers every day helps Albertans who may have difficulty accessing dental care to obtain this critical health service,” said Sarah Hoffman, Minister of Health.



Dental hygiene students, left to right: Marissa Tailleux, Kelsey Jakubowski, Anna Lamoine and Kirsten Rodacker

Errata

In our Summer 2018 notification on CRDHA-sponsored student awards presented at the convocation luncheon, we missed mention of the CRDHA Gold Medal Award, which was presented to Celine Dinel.

In addition, the CRDHA Margaret Berry McLean award was awarded to Rachelle Wild in July of 2018.

We congratulate Celine, Rachel and all award winners for their accomplishments.



Back Row L-R: Megan Rolfe, Braunty Pelchat, Celine Dinel, Madison Howey, Celina Ellingwood, Lisa Tran, Daniel Wong, Judy Clarke Front Row L-R: Breanne Moran, Samiha Rahman, Jamie Foisy