Construction of new Pediatric Critical Care Unit at McMaster Children’s Hospital begins

The new PCCU space is about double that of the existing unit. To lend a hand in the start of construction in the new unit is, from left: McMaster Children’s Hospital president Dr. Peter Fitzgerald, PCCU manager Barb Jennings, PCCU nurse Fil Canci, 7-year-old Will Huttman with his father Brett and mother Kirsten (Will spent 101 days in the PCCU when he was extremely ill in 2008 with Wilm’s Tumour), PCCU lead physician Dr. Cynthia Cupido, and chief of Pediatrics Dr. Lennox Huang.

The children in this region with the most intensive medical needs will have access to a new Pediatric Critical Care Unit (PCCU) at McMaster Children’s Hospital.

Construction has begun on the new unit and is expected to be complete this winter. The new unit features about twice the physical space of the current Pediatric Critical Care
Unit, and will focus on privacy and family-centred care, in addition to continuing its exemplary standard of compassionate health care for this region’s sickest children.

The new PCCU is representative of the growth within McMaster Children’s Hospital. Another major construction project currently underway within the children’s hospital is the new Children’s Emergency Department, to be completed in 2012.

The PCCU project is part of $29.7 million in construction within McMaster University Medical Centre, which will see redevelopment of many adult day treatment services, such as endoscopy, operating areas, and diagnostic imaging (X-rays and ultrasounds). Some of these projects are already underway and all are to be completed within the next few years.

McMaster Children’s Hospital Pediatric Critical Care Unit:

- Regional centre for Pediatric Critical Care for children ages 0 -17, serving about 600,000 children living from Niagara to Kitchener, and Brantford to Oakville.
- In 2010, the unit admitted 759 children
- Length of stay in the unit ranges from less than 24 hours to more than 100 days, with 5.1 days being the average length of stay in 2010.
- Provides intensive care for complex, rapidly changing medical, surgical and traumatic disorders. Wide range of issues treated, such as: severe traumatic injury; life-threatening diseases; critical care post-operative neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery.
- Critical care involves: ventilators, round-the-clock continuous life- support monitoring
- Staffed by a specialty team of pediatric intensivists, specialized children’s critical care nurses, respiratory therapists, social workers, child life specialists, chaplains, physiotherapists, dietitian, pharmacist, pharmacy tech and occupational therapists.

New unit – opening this winter

- 13,840 square feet (roughly double existing space)
- 12 private rooms with space for families to visit bedside and have privacy
- Family overnight room
- Family waiting room with kitchenette

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