



Westman Lab Redevelopment Milestone Departments Move into Lab's New Extension

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Diagnostic Services of Manitoba's (DSM) Westman Laboratory (WL) facility has reached an exciting milestone in its redevelopment with the move of several laboratory departments into new space in the facility's extension. This officially marks the completion of Phase I of the project.

"It is very exciting to see this significant and tangible progress," said Dr. Jim Dalton, DSM Chief Executive Officer. "Staff have been very much anticipating this move and will be better equipped to manage a growing volume of diagnostic testing. The modernization of Westman Lab is integral to its viability and will be an asset in attracting and retaining staff."

"The staff of Westman Lab are to be commended for their patience and tolerance, working for years in space that was intended for test volumes from the Westman Region, but in fact, services have been provided for most of the province," said Carmel Olson, Brandon Regional Health Authority Chief Executive Officer, who was very instrumental in seeing the project to fruition.

Specimen Management, Hematopathology, Chemistry, Transfusion Medicine, Microbiology, Media and Glasswash relocated during a two-week staged move which began May 10. Diligent planning between the lab and Brandon Regional Health Centre (BRHC) departments ensured a smooth move and uninterrupted services throughout and following the move.

Enhanced workstations allow for improved workflow and efficiencies. A pneumatic tube system for sending samples from the hospital to the lab, vented tissue-storage units to ensure the biological safety of specimens and state-of-the-art analytical equipment are among the upgrades which will contribute to making Westman Lab among the most modern diagnostic facilities in Canada. New office space, record storage and training space are also part of the redevelopment.

The project is targeting LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification. In accordance with the new 'Green Building' requirements from the Manitoba Government, materials and construction techniques used will minimize environmental impact now and into the future. The new space has many green features including improved temperature management, ventilation and lighting efficiencies, such as light tubes to direct outside light, and daylight and occupancy sensors.

Now underway, the project's second phase will focus on renovating the existing space. The project is on track for a late 2010/early 2011 completion.

Ground broke on the \$12-Million Redevelopment Project in June 2009. The Expansion and redevelopment of Westman Laboratory will better position the facility as a major referral centre for Manitoba. DSM acknowledges the support of the Manitoba Government in recognizing the importance of Westman Lab and in moving the redevelopment project forward.

"This is an important milestone for staff, for Diagnostic Services of Manitoba and the Brandon Regional Health Authority as we follow through on our commitment to Westman Lab," said Health Minister Theresa Oswald. "Once complete, this lab will be the most modern diagnostic facility serving rural and northern Manitoba and an excellent example of Manitoba's strategic health care investments."

As part of DSM's provincial diagnostic network, Westman Laboratory is a point of access for BRHC in-patients to a comprehensive range of laboratory services, including Biochemistry and Genetics, Hematopathology, Immunology, Microbiology, Transfusion Medicine, Surgical Pathology, Autopsy and Cytology, for the purpose of diagnosis, pre and post operative testing and treatment monitoring. WL is also a referral center serving medical clinics, nursing homes and other health service centres within the Brandon Regional Health Authority as well as for 117 rural facilities across Manitoba.

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