nova scotia
health authority

New palliative care unit opens at St Martha's Regional Hospital

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2018

ANTIGONISH, N.S. – A new palliative care unit at St Martha's Regional Hospital in Antigonish was officially opened today.

The renovation, which began in January, 2018, created a six-bed palliative care unit.

"This unit would not be possible without the vision of the former Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority leadership and strong community support," said Martha Cooper, Site Lead at St Martha's Regional Hospital.

St Martha's Regional Hospital Foundation contributed $600,000 for capital costs, while St Martha's Regional Hospital Auxiliary donated $150,000 in furnishings and equipment.

In addition to medical equipment and necessary staff space requirements, the new unit includes areas for families and volunteers. Amenities such as shower and laundry facilities allow families and friends to remain on the unit, close to their loved ones in care.

The patient rooms are equipped with new televisions, family space and pull-out couches for overnight stays. The new unit also has a full kitchen, computer room and quiet spaces throughout and reflects a person-centred, serene and homelike environment.

Take a tour of the new palliative care unit –https://vimeo.com/274015955

Palliative care provides physical, emotional and spiritual care with a focus to living fully in comfort and with dignity. Through a caregiving team of family, friends, health care professionals and volunteers, needs and choices are sensitively met. Palliative care can be provided in any care setting – at home, in hospital or in a nursing home.

Palliative care can include managing symptoms, planning for the future, and addressing the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of patients and their families.

-30-

Media Contact:
Annette Bourgeois-Bent
Nova Scotia Health Authority

Public Engagement and Communications
Phone: 902-867-4500, extension 4331
Cell: 902-870-0245
Toll free: 1-844-483-3344
annette.bourgeois-bent@nshealth.ca

About Nova Scotia Health Authority
Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) provides health services to Nova Scotians and a wide array of specialized services to Maritimers and Atlantic Canadians. NSHA operates hospitals, health centres and community-based programs across the province. Our team of health professionals includes employees, doctors, researchers, learners and volunteers. We work in partnership with community groups, schools, governments, foundations and auxiliaries and community health boards. Visit nshealth.ca for more.