



Patients, staff thrilled with new dialysis centre at St. Mary's

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St. Mary's Hospital officially unveiled a new kidney dialysis unit Wednesday.

It took two years to complete the \$5.5 million renovation.

The hospital says \$700,000 came from the St. Mary's charitable foundation, while the remainder of the funds for the state of the art unit came from the Quebec government.

The central area has 24 hemodialysis stations.

It is divided into a main room with 19 individual treatment stations.

Dr. Johana Eid, the hospital's director of nephrology, said it is a vast improvement.

"We have tripled our surface area," said Eid.

"Now we have this feeling that we are in a space that is really functional."

Good news for patients, staff

The new unit is a welcome change for patients like Vi Bray, who suffers from kidney disease and needs dialysis three times per week.

She had become used to getting her treatments in the basement of the hospital, just past the laundry and storages rooms.

"It's cold and dark and dreary and there are no windows," said Bray.

Nurse Mary William said the former treatment area was depressing for both patients and staff.

"Down in the basement, if you work a long shift, you go in (to the hospital) in the dark and you go home in the dark -- so you really don't see the sun at all," William said.

Both women were pleasantly surprised when the new facility was unveiled.

"I can't believe it -- how big it is! Look at the windows! Beautiful windows, gorgeous," said Bray.

William also feels the large windows are the most stunning feature.

"It feels so uplifting. Just having the windows, bright light, clean areas, new state of the art equipment -- it's going to be amazing to come to work again," she said.

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