

**For immediate release
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Yukon artist creates lasting impression to bring comfort and cheer at the hospital

Whitehorse – A colourful and whimsical mural by a local artist will be installed at Whitehorse General Hospital to help create a more comfortable and healing environment for patients and visitors.

The mural by recognized local artist Chris Caldwell that depicts Yukon landscapes, wildlife and culture will be displayed outside directly across from WGH's maternity unit on an exterior wall of the hospital's new two-storey wing. That's because part of expansion now blocks the south-facing view from several patient rooms.



A compilation of artwork by local artist Chris Caldwell. These four Yukon-inspired designs will be arranged in a horizontal line to create the new mural outside the maternity unit at WGH.

“We are fortunate to build a new, modern health care facility and keep the flow of natural light into the hospital, but we wanted a creative solution to maintain the inspiring view and get the community involved in the expansion project,” says Jason Bilsky, Yukon Hospitals’ CEO. “Every minute of every day, a Yukoner is going through a significant life experience while in our care. We feel Chris’ work is something that will provide comfort and cheer in a way that improves this experience.”

The mural is a compilation of several different pieces created by Caldwell. Her work was chosen after a call to the arts community last year. Caldwell says she combined several of her existing works to bring the viewer into the heart of the Yukon experience.

“Being at the hospital can be a happy time, but it is often stressful and lonely. I believe that a nice view out the window keeps you connected to the outside world and is helpful whether you’re pacing the corridor during labour or visiting a family member,” she says. “Happy thoughts are a really important at this time, so I chose art that conveyed positive feelings while reflecting the uniqueness of the Yukon.”

Caldwell adds that she's thrilled to have her artwork on display in such a special place at the hospital.

The mural is scheduled to be installed in spring 2017 as part of WGH expansion and will also be seen from a new windowed-corridor connecting the existing hospital to the new building. The new two-storey hospital wing will be home to modern emergency department, critical care observation area as well as shelled space for future use. The state-of-the-art facility is designed to meet high standards for infection control, safety, comfort and security, which will create an improved healing space for our patients and enhanced work environment for our health care teams. The project is funded by Yukon government.

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The latest information about the project, including news, photos and FAQs is available at yukonhospitals.ca/WGHexpansion.