

Providence Health Care History – Key Milestones and Contributions

1894

1894
St. Paul's Hospital, built by the Sisters of Providence, opens.



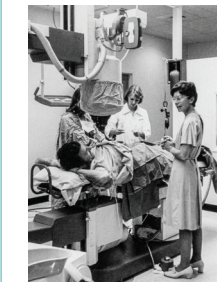
1920s

1920
St. Paul's is the first hospital in BC to use radium to treat cancer patients.



1940s

1959
Dr. Doris Kavanaugh-Gray is St. Paul's first female cardiologist, and serves as department head for 30 years.



1960s

1962
The most advanced X-ray unit of the time is installed at St. Paul's.



1969
Youville Residence, home to 42 residents as well as a specialized mental health unit for older adults, opens.



1980s

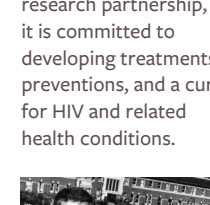
1982
The UBC Division of Respiratory Medicine is the first university division to be located at St. Paul's.

1983
St. Vincent's: Brock Fahrni opens and becomes home to 148 residents, many of whom are armed forces veterans.



1990s

1991
Drs. Julio Montaner, John Ruedy, and Martin Schechter found the Canadian HIV Trials Network. A Canada-wide research partnership, it is committed to developing treatments, preventions, and a cure for HIV and related health conditions.



1994
Holy Family Hospital builds Easy Street, a simulated community used by patients undergoing physical rehabilitation. It is the first of its kind in Western Canada.



1998
Canada's first provincial renal agency opens at St. Paul's, with Dr. Adera Levin appointed as director.



2000s

2002
Dr. Anson Cheung successfully installs the first mechanical heart pump in Western Canada, enabling a patient in desperate need of a transplant to stay alive until a donor heart could be found, which was nearly a year later.



2005
Dr. John Webb pioneers the TAVI procedure, allowing more than 250,000 people in over 40 countries to have heart valves replaced without open-heart surgery.



2007
The Inner City Youth program (now Foundry BC) opens. An innovative, one-stop integrated care centre for at-risk youth, Foundry now has seven centres across BC, with more on the way.



2009
The All Nations Sacred Space, used for Indigenous ceremonies and to treat members of the Indigenous community and others who are in spiritual distress, opens.



2010s

2010
Angel's Cradle, a safe place for a mother to leave her newborn baby if she feels that she cannot properly care for it, opens. St. Paul's cradle is the only one of its kind in Canada.



2017
The BC Centre on Substance Use, a world-class research centre developing innovative, evidence-based approaches to treating substance use, opens with Dr. Evan Wood appointed as director.



2018
Ranked first in Canada and second in the world for COPD research, Dr. Don Sin is appointed director of the Centre for Heart Lung Innovation.



2018
St. Paul's Renal Program completes a record 193 kidney transplants, making it the busiest program in all of Canada.



2019
The business plan for the new St. Paul's is approved. The new St. Paul's is expected to open its doors in 2026.



2021
PHC establishes its sister organization – Providence Living – to create a focus on radically improving the environment and experience of seniors living in long-term care settings.



2022
Providence becomes the region's first fully electronic health organization, completing the implementation of CST Cerner that began October 2019.



2023
BC government announces building of St. Vincent's: Heather, a new 240-bed long-term care home. The 13-storey facility includes 20 'households' and accommodate 12 residents each in single-bed rooms, each with its own washroom.



2023
In a unique partnership with Fraser Health, PHC opens the 216-bed refurbished seniors home Chichenstway, with PHC operating 110 beds and Fraser operating 106 – all of them single-occupancy rooms with their own washrooms/showers and other amenities.



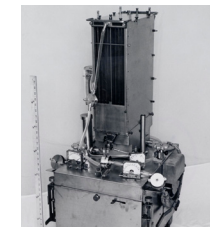
2023
The BC government approves PHC's \$638M Clinical Support and Research Centre (CSRC) – a world-class research centre and innovation hub connected with a sky-bridge to the new St. Paul's Hospital.



1918
Surgery patients receiving cold ether often went into shock, so Sister Charles Spinola invents a machine that warms ether gas before it's administered, making receiving anaesthesia more comfortable.



1944
Mount Saint Joseph Hospital opens.



1960
Dr. Harold Rice builds a heart-lung bypass machine, making coronary bypass operations possible.

1960
St. Paul's is the first hospital in Canada to computerize its laboratories.



1966
Canada's first ICU opens at St. Paul's.



1977
St. Paul's opens the Pulmonary Research Laboratory with Drs. James Hogg and Peter Paré as principal investigators. Now known as the Centre for Heart Lung Innovation (HLI), it's a world-class research powerhouse.



1984
St. Paul's medical staff are among the first in Canada to attain their Fellowship in Emergency Medicine, enabling St. Paul's to become one of the leading emergency departments in the country.



1990
St. Vincent's: Langara, a complex care residential facility, opens.



1994
The Providence Health Care Heart Centre opens at St. Paul's. A unique resource in the province, it provides complete care for British Columbians with all kinds of heart disease.



1996
Dr. Julio Montaner develops highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART), which renders HIV levels undetectable and therefore non-transmissible.



1998
CHÉOS, a multi-disciplinary health research centre, is established.



2005
PHC opens Providence Crosstown Clinic to care for patients suffering from opioid dependence.



2005
Providence Health Care Research Institute (PHCRI), which finds solutions to questions that arise from PHC care settings, opens.



2008
St. Vincent's: Honoria Conway, an assisted living residence for seniors who are able to make decisions on their own behalf, but require help with day-to-day activities, opens.



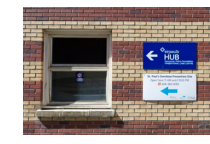
2010
The Providence Breast Centre at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital opens. It cares for about 20 per cent of breast cancer patients in all of BC.



2013
St. John's Hospice, the first community hospice on Vancouver's West Side, opens.



2017
The Rapid Access Addiction Clinic opens, changing the way this patient population receives treatment and care at St. Paul's.



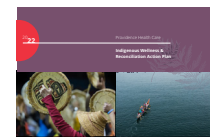
2018
The HUB is launched at St. Paul's. A first-of-its-kind health care model in Canada, it provides wraparound services to support mental health and substance use patients.



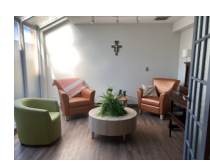
2018
PHC forms a partnership with First Nations Health Authority and commits to cultural safety and humility in our journey towards reconciliation.



2020
PHC quickly and creatively adapts to COVID-19 pandemic. Among many changes, it created virtual walk-in clinics and overhauled its COVID testing lab to direct air straight outside and not elsewhere through the hospital.



2022
In response to the In Plain Sight report, PHC develops and launches its IWR Action Plan to address systemic anti-Indigenous racism in the healthcare system, and advance Indigenous Wellness, Reconciliation and Human Rights.



2023
The 6-bed Downtown Eastside hospice, May's Place – a haven for individuals grappling with mental illnesses and substance use disorders – transitions to being operated by PHC.



2023
PHC launches Road to Recovery, an innovative, multi-phased approach to transform substance use care in BC, by providing a separate and integrated system of care that seamlessly supports patients through treatment and recovery.



2023
With a \$4.2M BC government investment, PHC's Mount Saint Joseph Hospital is announced as the home of the only non-cancer Phase 1 Clinical Trials Unit in Western Canada, enabling the testing of new proposed drugs or treatments in human volunteers.