

NEWS RELEASE

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Sadlon Health and Wellness Centre opens at Barrie Campus

Georgian students and members of the wider community are the winners with the opening of Georgian College's new \$62.5-million Sadlon Centre for Health and Wellness at the Barrie Campus Aug. 31.

Dedication of the structure, the largest building project in Georgian College history, opens a new era in health care education.

The majority of Georgian's health and wellness programs are now clustered here. It provides students and the community with state-of-the-art labs, classrooms and clinics. It also brings innovative opportunities for students and faculty from various programs areas to share ideas and experiences.

Members of the public gain access to health care right on their doorstep, through an on-site nurse practitioner-led clinic, as well as community-accessible teaching health care clinics. These include an oral health clinic offering basic dental care and other clinics offering massage therapy, optical services, and, opening in January, a spa and esthetics clinic and speech, language and hearing services.

While the public enjoys the use of these clinics, health and wellness students gain valuable clinical experience.

"It isn't hard to imagine all the opportunities that students will experience here, and what it will mean to our community. The future is certainly bright for all who will occupy this spectacular educational facility," said Charlotte Wallis, Chair of the Georgian College Board of Governors.

Paramedic student Garrett Hookey represented all health and wellness students at the opening.

"My main priority is to obtain a job in an area that I am passionate about – paramedics; and I know that Georgian is the best college to help me accomplish that goal," said Hookey. "Now, with the Centre for Health and Wellness, I am more convinced than ever, that Georgian is well-positioned to be an educational leader in the health care field for some time to come. "

Space in the new building will permit enrolment in health and wellness studies to double from current numbers, helping to meet the region's booming demand for health care professionals.

Enrolment in Georgian's health and wellness programs has tripled over the past 10 years. Without construction of the Centre for Health and Wellness, Georgian would have run out of space within the next two years. The new facility will accommodate a total of 3,000 students.

"The added capacity provided by this building will allow the College to double our enrolment in health and wellness studies from current numbers, helping to reach the region's booming demand for health care professionals," said Georgian President and CEO Brian Tamblyn. "Without construction of the Centre for Health and Wellness, Georgian would have run out of space within the next two years."

A new Aboriginal Resource Centre is also part of the Centre. It features a semi-circular classroom and a tipi external to the centre. It also includes an outdoor patio with a stone garden and enclosed flame to be used for ceremonial gatherings.

Funding for the Sadlon Centre is provided by the federal and provincial governments through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program (\$20 million each) together with \$14.5 million raised by Georgian's *Power of Education* campaign. This includes donations from the County and Simcoe, municipalities and individuals and businesses from throughout the region.

An additional \$8 million was provided by the provincial government to support the second phase of the campaign, helping to cover the cost of renovating existing space on the Barrie and Orillia campuses previously occupied by health and wellness programs.

The Centre will provide 400 new full- and part-time jobs for staff and faculty, bringing an increase to the Georgian payroll of \$16 million. Economic impact of the construction alone is approximately \$98 million, equivalent to the effect of a mid-sized corporation moving to Barrie.