

## Upper River Valley Hospital receives national award

WATERVILLE, NB, March 27 /CNW/ - Regional Health Authority B's Upper River Valley Hospital in Waterville, New Brunswick has been designated as the first full service hospital in Canada to be recognized as a leader in energy and environmental design. The hospital received a silver designation award from the Canada Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for New Construction.

"We are very proud of this accomplishment," says Donald J. Peters, President and CEO of RHA B. "As a health care organization, we are committed to the importance of a healthy environment for our patients and employees." He adds "the achievement of having an environmentally green facility minimizes the building's impact on the air and water quality, protecting the health of the surrounding communities both locally and globally."

The Upper River Valley Hospital was designed and built using LEED strategies to increase the quality of the building environment and reduce its operating costs. The LEED system rates projects based on a points system recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health. Upper River Valley Hospital received high marks for its commitment to sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation and design processes. LEED is the most recognized rating system for green building performance in Canada.

Dean Cummings, Executive Director of the Upper River Valley Hospital says the hospital takes advantage of natural slopes and solar orientation providing patients and staff with natural sunlit rooms, and a spectacular view of the surrounding site. Patient rooms are ventilated with 100% outdoor air which is a significant innovation in hospital design. "During the construction, only materials that did not add contaminants to the indoor air were selected. Overall the building creates a relaxing atmosphere for patients and a positive work environment for staff."

The new Upper River Valley Hospital is a modern, 70 bed state-of-the-art facility that provides primary and secondary care services to the western part of the province. It is one of 49 health care facilities, as well as 54 community-based offices/locations throughout the province administered by RHA B. It is also New Brunswick's newest hospital, which opened in November 2007.

For further information: Sonya Green-Haché, Regional Director Corporate Communications, Regional Health Authority B, 506.623.5523 or David Beattie, VP ADI International, 506.452.9000