

Hamilton Health Sciences receives largest rebate in Ontario for energy-efficient upgrades



The Engineering Department has worked hard to create energy efficiencies at our hospital sites. Here, a few of the many staff members involved show off the rebate cheque and plaque from Horizon utilities. From left: Alan Olinyk, Director of Engineering; Dan Karschti, Site Manager, MUMC; German Parades, Project Supervisor, MUMC; Chris Cuthbert, General site Manager/Energy Manager.

After years of hard work, HHS' energy saving efforts are really paying off. On February 4, Horizon Utilities Corporation presented Hamilton Health Sciences with a rebate cheque for \$639,138, the largest Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program (ERIP) cheque ever presented in Ontario.

The Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program, offered by Horizon Utilities and the Ontario Power Authority, provides incentives for commercial, industrial, agricultural and

institutional customers who complete energy efficiency retrofits that result in reductions in energy consumption or peak demand for electricity.

Hamilton Health Sciences received the rebate for energy-efficient lighting, heating and cooling retrofits. These retrofits have reduced the hospital's average peak demand for electricity by 2,574 kilowatts to date – enough to meet the average demand of 1,300 homes for a year.

Currently in the process of completing a \$50 million energy retrofit and renewal program, HHS is combining energy-efficient upgrades with critical building enhancements, which will reduce HHS' environmental footprint and save \$48 million in utility costs over a ten-year period.

Alan Olynyk, Director of Engineering, and Chris Cuthbert, Engineering site manager at Hamilton General Hospital, said the project included making the change to energy-efficient lights, more efficient air-conditioning equipment, sensors that turn lights off in empty rooms, the installation of new boilers at Chedoke Hospital, a new medical gas delivery system that cuts water use, and upgrades to air handling systems.

“A lot of time and effort has gone into making our family of hospitals as energy-efficient as they can be,” said Lloyd Ferguson, Hamilton Health Sciences Board Member and Chair of the Planning and Building Committee. “On behalf of the Hamilton Health Sciences Board of Directors, we are quite proud of this achievement. We thank Horizon Utilities and the Ontario Power Authority for recognizing these efforts and awarding us with this very generous rebate.”