



For Immediate Release

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Technology upgrade offers museum visitors new insights into the past

(KINGSTON, ON) – The Museum of Health Care now offers free public Wi-Fi and a new online collections database.

As part of a 2016 technology upgrade, wireless internet is available free to visitors at the Museum of Health Care, located in the Ann Baillie Building National Historic Site. “The introduction of free public Wi-Fi is another step in the right direction for the Museum,” says Museum Manager and Program Director Jenny Stepa. “We are keeping current with technology, making it possible to engage with our visitors in new ways.”

“Public Wi-Fi service will enhance the experience of Museum visitors by allowing easy access to our online content. Visitors will be able to go to our website, search our collection, download our apps, share their experiences on social media, the list goes on,” says Curator Maxime Chouinard. “This makes the Museum of Health Care more functional for all our visitors and staff members, and assists in providing a higher level of satisfaction and visitor experience.”

Other features Wi-Fi offers include “checking-in” to the Museum on Facebook, posting photos of their favourite exhibits on Instagram, and interacting with the Museum by using the Twitter handle @MuseumofHealth.

The Museum’s other significant technology upgrade is a new online collections database.

“We have upgraded our artefact cataloguing software from 1999 to 2016 and now have a much more appealing, powerful online database showcasing our unique medical collection,” says Kathy Karkut, Collections Manager of the Museum. “Visitors to our online collections database can use their various devices, such as tablets and smart phones, to view our collection. The new website allows visitors to obtain more data, images and records, directly ask the museum a question about the artefact they are viewing, and easily share the information and images on social media—from all over the world,” she adds.

Although the Museum’s previous online catalogue was publically accessible, the software platform was being phased out. “The new database offers a simple and intuitive public interface” says Karkut.

Of particular interest to researchers and scholars of all ages, the online catalogue is free for anyone to use at www.mhc.andornot.com.

This project was funded in part by the Department of Canadian Heritage and Innovative Medicines Canada.

This technology upgrade is part of a series of community-building and capacity-building initiatives for the Museum of Health Care's 25th Anniversary. More information about the Museum's 25th Anniversary Celebrations is available at www.museumofhealthcare.ca/25

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