

7.0 Design Rationale

The first stage of the Master Plan encompassed within the Rezoning consists of two types of buildings. First, the 2 small-scale buildings built along the perimeter of the site, whose massing and character should respect the residential and institutional buildings adjacent to the site. Second, the new Acute Care Centre, which will be built at the centre of the site, and whose massing and character will reflect the programmatic requirements of creating an exceptional health care facility and the long-term vision for the new Children's and Women's Health Centre.

The building layout of the Master Plan is intended to break down the overall massing into legible parts that help to reduce the scale of the building and identify the key components, entries and internal organization of the Hospital. The ACC will be the first component of this process, and will eventually become the focus of the "Children's" portion of the hospital campus. The design of this building needs to take into account not only its relationship to existing buildings on the site, but its eventual role in the Master Plan.

The building is comprised of a 3-storey low-rise "podium" and a mid-rise 8-storey tower, with the higher portions deliberately broken down into distinct parts which are reflective of the functional floor plates sizes needed for inpatient units. This articulated upper portion is formed as two separate sections "hinged" and rotated about a central connection point. These will relate to future sections which will create a "necklace" of similarly scaled parts that wrap around the center of the site, above the lower "podium". Each part will be shifted in axis from its neighbour so that the overall building form of the Master Plan can respond to the various axes of arrival and street connections. In this way the buildings also create a visually more dynamic and interesting form.

The lower three floors of the development provide a continuous base to the upper articulated "necklace" and house the primary shared clinical support functions for the Hospital. This "podium" level creates a strong base line for the complex and protrudes beyond the upper "tower" portions to provide a suitable scale at the ground plane. This "podium" will be further articulated to reduce the impact of this large building with canopies at building edges and entry points.

