

For Immediate Release
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LIONS GATE HOSPITAL CELEBRATES THE OPENING OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE NEW \$24.33 MILLION JIM PATTISON EMERGENCY CENTRE

NORTH VANCOUVER – Patients at the Jim Pattison Emergency Centre at Lions Gate Hospital will gain access to the new emergency department entrance, expanded triage and wait rooms, resuscitation rooms and a decontamination area as the second and largest phase of department's expansion opens on September 8th.

"Expansion of the emergency department at Lions Gate Hospital will double the size of the existing emergency department to increase comfort for patients, safety, privacy and accessibility for those requiring emergency care," said Joan McIntyre, MLA for West Vancouver–Garibaldi, who spoke on behalf of Health Services Minister George Abbott and attended the event with MLAs Katherine Whittred and Ralph Sultan. "The generosity of so many community members combined with the hard work of the Foundation have played critical roles in helping make this expansion a reality."

The expansion features a three-bay resuscitation area with built-in digital x-ray, along with a three-bed section for patients no longer on the critical list, but who need a high-level of care. Additionally, there will be a new ambulance entrance plus a decontamination room for patients that may have been exposed to hazardous materials. There is also a new public entrance to the Jim Pattison Emergency Centre with a bright, comfortable wait room. The triage area, where patients are assessed, is larger.

The \$24.33 million expansion was jointly funded through the Lions Gate Hospital Foundation, Vancouver Coastal Health and the Ministry of Health Services.

The community, through the Lions Gate Hospital Foundation, contributed more than \$15 million, exceeded the original fundraising target of \$10 million. "The campaign to expand and renovate the emergency department was launched in June 2005 with the announcement of Jim Pattison's matching donation of \$5 million," says LGH Foundation President Judy Savage. "Since that day, more than 7,500 individuals participated in the campaign, which is the largest in the Foundation's history."

The third and final phase of the Jim Pattison Emergency Centre is expected to open in the spring of 2009 and will feature an improved and expanded first-aid area to allow the fast-tracking of non-urgent patients. There will also be a separate mental health assessment area with a seclusion room.

"When this project is complete, we will have 29 additional treatment spaces for a total of 50, allowing our staff to better care for our patients," says Karin Olson, VCH Director, Acute Services (Lions Gate Hospital). "The Jim Pattison Emergency Centre currently cares for 42,000 patients a year, a figure that is increasing annually. This expansion will enable us to provide quality care in a more efficient and patient-focused environment."

VCH is responsible for the delivery of \$2.8 billion in community, hospital and residential care services to over one million people in communities from Richmond through Vancouver, the North Shore, Sunshine Coast, Sea to Sky corridor, Powell River, Bella Bella and Bella Coola.

Lions Gate Hospital Foundation raises funds to support the highest quality health care on the North Shore. To that end, it has raised \$30 million over the past three years.

- 30 -

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