



\$10 million donation launches campaign to build The HOpe Centre for Mental Health and Addictions

NORTH VANCOUVER- MAY 25 2011 – West Vancouver resident and philanthropist Robert H.N. Ho and his wife Greta have made the largest donation in Lions Gate Hospital Foundation’s history and the largest to a North Shore institution.

"Mr. and Mrs. Ho’s exceptional donation of \$10 million will help us realize our goal of building a state-of-the-art mental health centre at Lions Gate Hospital," said Clark Quintin, Lions Gate Hospital Foundation board chair. "Their donation gives mental health and addictions the attention and focus it deserves," said Quintin. "We are deeply grateful for their commitment and delighted to name the new facility **The Greta and Robert H.N. Ho Centre for Psychiatry and Education (The HOpe Centre)** in their honour."

Judy Savage, president of the Foundation said at today’s press conference "I want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Ho for their visionary philanthropy. Their leadership gift will not only significantly enhance the provision of mental health and addiction services on the North Shore, it will also inspire others to participate in our fundraising campaign."

Mr. Ho said "Greta and I have toured the inpatient psychiatric unit at Lions Gate Hospital and seen first-hand the physical limitations of the aging facility, and the resulting compromise to the safety, comfort and treatment of patients. We were very concerned to learn that mental illness affects 1 in 5 Canadians regardless of their age, gender or background. We are residents of the North Shore. It is a community that has been very good to us and we are pleased to have this opportunity to give back to improve the lives of others, particularly those struggling with mental illness."

Earlier this month, Minister of Health Michael de Jong announced the Province’s support toward the \$62 million Centre. Today’s announcement of Mr. and Mrs. Ho’s \$10 million donation officially launches Lions Gate Hospital Foundation’s community-wide fundraising campaign to raise \$25 million to complete the project funding. To date, with the Ho’s contribution and donations from other individuals and organizations, the Foundation has raised \$16 million toward its goal.

The new four-storey HOpe Centre will be constructed on the south east corner of the Lions Gate Hospital campus replacing the current Activation building which was built in 1929 and no longer meets the needs of an acute care psychiatric facility. The new building will provide state-of-the-art mental health and addictions services including a 26-bed inpatient psychiatric floor. Also included in the Centre is dedicated teaching space for the UBC faculty of

medicine to increase educational opportunities for medical school students and residents; and a dedicated, permanent home for BC Ambulance Service in North Vancouver. It will also include parking, and additional shelled-in space for future expansion.

Construction of the HOpe Centre is expected to get underway by early fall, 2012 with completion targeted for the end of 2013. The new building will incorporate wood as much as possible, following the province's "wood first" policy. It will be built to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold standards.

Lions Gate Hospital Foundation is a registered charity raising funds to support the highest quality health care on the North Shore through the purchase of medical equipment, improvements to patient care areas, research, and staff education. To that end, it has raised more than \$70 million over the past eight years. Recent fundraising projects include \$8.5 million to build the North Shore's first free-standing hospice and \$15.5 million to expand the hospital's Emergency Department.

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BACKGROUNDER

Background on Mr. Robert H.N. Ho

Born in Hong Kong, Robert H.N. Ho is the grandson of Sir Robert Ho Tung and Lady Clara Ho Tung, and the son of General Ho Shai Lai and Hesta Ho Hung Ki Fun. Mr. Ho obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree at Colgate University and his Master of Science degree in Journalism at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University in the United States. He received honorary doctorate degrees from Hong Kong University in March, 2009, and from Colgate University in May 2011. Mr. Ho spent his career in journalism and in managing his family's property and investment businesses. As a journalist, he worked for the *Pittsburgh Press* and *National Geographic Magazine* where he became a White House correspondent. After he returned to Hong Kong, he became chief reporter and publisher of the family newspaper *The Kung Sheung Daily News*. Since his retirement, he has focused on philanthropy, through personal gifts as well as through his Foundations, The Tung Lin Kok Yuen Canada Foundation and the Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation.

Some of Mr. Ho's charitable contributions include:

- 2009: CAD\$15 million to Vancouver General Hospital for the Robert H. N. Ho Research Centre (opening in September, 2011)
- 2009: GBP1,5 million to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London England to establish the first permanent gallery of Buddhist art and sculptures in the United Kingdom.
- 2008: US\$5 million to Stanford University to establish the Ho Center for Buddhist Studies at Stanford University.
- 2006: CAD\$4 million to UBC to establish North America's first Buddhism and Contemporary Society program.
- 2006: CAD\$4 million to University of Toronto to create a network of international Buddhist Studies programs.
- 2005: CAD\$500,000 to VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation for the purchase of Canada's first dedicated cardiac CT scanner.
- 2004: US\$27 million to Colgate University in New York to establish the Robert Hung Ngai Ho Interdisciplinary Science Centre and the Ho Tung Visualization Laboratory.
- 2000: HK\$15 million to Hong Kong University to finance the Centre of Buddhist Studies.