



VICTORIA HOSPITALS  
FOUNDATION

*Giving makes us all better*

MEDIA RELEASE

## Victoria Hospitals Foundation Announces New Board of Directors

October 13, 2009

For Immediate Release

Victoria, B.C.— The Victoria Hospitals Foundation announced today that its new board of directors for the 2009-10 term includes five new members as well as a new chair.

Dwane Ford (RBC Dominion Securities), Alan Lowe (former mayor of Victoria), Terrance Swan (Jones Emery Hargreaves Swan), Dr. Dorothy Williams (Vancouver Island Health Authority), and John Williams (hotelier, retired) begin their one-year terms immediately, and Starr McMichael (Starrboard Enterprises) will serve as chair.

"It is an honour to chair the board of the Victoria Hospitals Foundation as we work towards our goal of enhancing patient care at Victoria General and Royal Jubilee Hospitals," said Ms. McMichael. "I am excited about the calibre of all our board members and the skills the new members bring, and I am confident this outstanding leadership will enable us to continue helping support our doctors and health care providers with the tools they need to do their best for patients in hospital."

Also serving on the board are: Lance Abercrombie, Burkett & Abercrombie (treasurer); Rob Cooke, Focis Consulting (past chair); Rod Dewar, Island Savings Credit Union (secretary); Walter Creed, FCA, retired; Joe Murphy, Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA designate); Gary Sorenson, Thrifty Foods; and Bill Thomson, Sierra Systems (vice chair).

### About the Victoria Hospitals Foundation

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation works in partnership with the Vancouver Island Health Authority to enable donations to Vancouver Island's two largest and most comprehensive hospitals: the Royal Jubilee and the Victoria General. Every year the Foundation funds 40 per cent of capital medical equipment purchases for these hospitals, and last year this amounted to more than \$6 million for urgently needed medical equipment and special projects that help these two hospitals provide care to all 752,000 residents of Vancouver Island. Since 1989, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation has raised more than \$70 million to benefit Royal Jubilee and Victoria General Hospitals. For more information, please call 250-414-6688 or go to [www.victoriahf.ca](http://www.victoriahf.ca).

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## BACKGROUND

October 13, 2009

Victoria Hospitals Foundation

### VICTORIA HOSPITALS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009-2010

#### EXECUTIVE

**Starr McMichael** is the new chair. Ms. McMichael is president of Starrboard Enterprises, a service organization in event planning, marketing, and marine hospitality. She is the Chamber of Commerce's designate for Tourism Victoria's destination marketing committee, and past vice-chair of both Tourism Victoria and the B.C. Restaurant and Food Services Association.

**Rob Cooke**, past chair, is managing partner of Focis Consulting Inc., a management consulting firm, and co-author of the bestselling business book *Shared Services: Mining for Corporate Gold*. He has been a Victoria Hospitals Foundation board member since 2004.

**Bill Thomson**, vice chair, is executive vice president, western region, and Victoria market lead for Sierra Systems Group. He has extensive experience in the health care industry and was special advisor to the Greater Victoria Hospital Society and B.C. representative of the federal Advisory Council on Health Infrastructure.

**Rod Dewar**, secretary, is president and chief executive officer of Island Savings Credit Union. Previously he was senior vice president and chief operating officer for BCAA and a vice president of Canadian Airlines International. Board involvement includes Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Cancer Society, Manitoba.

**Lance Abercrombie**, treasurer, is a partner with Burkett & Abercrombie Chartered Accountants and a former senior manager at KPMG Victoria. Mr. Abercrombie is vice chair of the board of advisors to the Faculty of Business, University of Victoria, and past treasurer for the Victoria Arthritis Society.

#### MEMBERS

**Walter Creed** is a retired partner of Grant Thornton, a member of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, and a fellow of the B.C. Institute of Chartered Accountants. Board involvement includes the B.C. College of Physicians and Surgeons, Sovereign Order of St. John, and Downtown Victoria Community Alliance.

**Dwane Ford**, new to the board, is vice president and branch manager with RBC Dominion Securities. His volunteer experience includes involvement with the University of Victoria mentor program, United Way, Help-Fill-a-Dream Foundation, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

**Alan Lowe**, new to the board, is former mayor of Victoria. He was the youngest person to hold this position when first elected in 1999 and became Victoria's longest-serving mayor. He is a recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and among the Top 100 Most Influential Chinese Canadians.

**Joe Murphy** is vice president, operations and support services for the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Mr. Murphy serves on boards for United Way, HealthPro, and Oak Bay Lodge. He joined the Victoria Hospitals Foundation board as its VIHA designate in 2006.

**Gary Sorenson** is vice president, retail operations for Thrifty Foods, responsible for 22 stores across Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. Prior to that, he was a senior director for Sobeys West in Edmonton. Mr. Sorenson joined the Victoria Hospitals Foundation board in 2006.

**Terrance Swan**, new to the board, is a partner with the law firm Jones Emery Hargreaves Swan. He is a past president of the Victoria Estate Planning Council and the Union Club of British Columbia, and served as a lieutenant colonel in the Canadian Forces' Reserve Judge Advocate General Branch.

**Dr. Dorothy "Sam" Williams**, new to the board, is vice-chief of Geriatric Medicine for the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA), chief of staff for the South Island region, and chair of the South Island Medical Advisory Committee. She is the board's medical staff representative for VIHA.

**John Williams**, new to the board, recently retired after a 47-year career in the hotel business, most recently as executive vice president of operations for Fairmont Raffles Hotels. He is a former general manager of the Empress Hotel and board chair of Tourism British Columbia.

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