

**Victoria Hospitals Foundation Issues Warning  
About Fraudulent Phone Solicitors**

**June 24, 2011**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Victoria, BC** –The Victoria Hospitals Foundation has been notified of a fraudulent phone solicitor, requesting donations on behalf of the Foundation, Executive Director Melanie McKenzie announced today.

“We want to send a very clear message to the people of Victoria,” said McKenzie. “The Victoria Hospitals Foundation does not engage in phone solicitation. Thankfully one of our donors let us know they had received a fraudulent call, so we can now alert the public. We are extremely dismayed to learn of this activity and ask the media to publicize this story immediately.”

Those living in the capital region should beware of callers who say they will take donations over the phone for the Foundation on account of the ongoing postal strike. The Foundation is currently running a direct mail campaign to raise funds for critical neurosurgery equipment at Victoria General Hospital.

If anyone receives a call from someone claiming to represent the Victoria Hospitals Foundation and soliciting funds, they are encouraged to notify the Better Business Bureau in Victoria at 250-386-6348.

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**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 we fund 40 per cent of capital 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 \$76 million to benefit our hospitals. For more information, call the Foundation at 250-414-6688 or go to [www.victoriahf.ca](http://www.victoriahf.ca).

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