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**SANDRA  
SCHMIRLER**  
FOUNDATION

## Media Release

### Victoria Hospitals Foundation Raises over \$100K to purchase Incubators for NICU at Victoria General Hospital

April 8, 2013

For Immediate Release

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VICTORIA - The Victoria Hospital Foundation today raised \$111,656 at an all day radiothon, to purchase three incubators for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Victoria General Hospital immediate past board chair, Rod Dewar announced today. The event was kicked-off with a special and very generous \$60,000 from the Sandra Schmirler Foundation, a group dedicated to raising funds across Canada for the care of premature and critically ill babies.

"We're very honoured The Sandra Schmirler Foundation has once again chosen to contribute to the care of our community's tiniest, most fragile patients," said Rod Dewar, immediate past Board Char, Victoria Hospitals Foundation. "Since 2007, the Sandra Schmirler Foundation has given \$114,000 to purchase leading-edge equipment for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Victoria General Hospital. Their generosity has helped thousands of babies grow strong and healthy."

Chris Atchison, Vice Chair Sandra Schmirler Foundation Board, was at the Hotel Grand Pacific to present the cheque during the broadcast. "Our commitment to giving directly to Neonatal Intensive Care Units in smaller communities like this, helps ensure that premature and seriously ill babies born here receive the best care possible. Instead of having to be transported to bigger hospitals in the Vancouver Lower Mainland, the parents of these tiny vulnerable babies can remain close to home and their family and friends. We are so pleased and proud to be making a difference for families in this community."

The event was brought to life by two local radio stations who broadcast simultaneously - 100.3 The Q and 91.3 Zone FM. Several Royal Bank employees volunteered their time during the day to answer phones and record donations.

Throughout the afternoon a number of community groups came forward with generous gifts including:

- Royal Bank of Canada - Victoria - \$1,000
- Golf for Kids - \$1,000
- Peninsula Coop - \$5,000
- Sidney Shriner's Club #42 - \$10,000
- Telus - \$12,500
- Children's Health Foundation - \$12,500

The specialized NICU at Victoria General provides high-level care to about 500 premature or critically ill newborn babies every year from all over British Columbia. It is the only high-level Neonatal Intensive Care Unit outside the Lower Mainland.

The phone lines are closed but there is still time to give. You can give online by visiting the Victoria Hospitals Foundation site at [www.victoriahf.ca](http://www.victoriahf.ca) or calling our office at 250-519-1750.

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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 approximately 40 per cent of capital equipment purchases for these hospitals. Last year we raised \$8.4 million for urgently needed medical equipment and special projects that help these two hospitals provide care to all 765,000 residents of Vancouver Island. Since 1989, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation has raised nearly \$90 million to benefit our hospitals. For more information, call the Foundation at 250-519-1750 or visit [www.victoriahf.ca](http://www.victoriahf.ca).

**About the Sandra Schmirler Foundation:**

The Sandra Schmirler Foundation was created in January, 2001 as a legacy to three-time world curling champion and Olympic gold medalist Sandra Schmirler, in recognition and celebration of her love of family. This was a collaborative effort between the Canadian Curling Association, Scott Paper Limited, Sandra's family and friends. The Sandra Schmirler Foundation is a registered charity established in honour of Sandra's lasting legacy as a loving mother and the skip of Canada's first Olympic gold medal curling team. Recognizing that "Champions Start Small", the Foundation raises and donates funds across Canada for the care of premature and critically ill babies and to help develop future champions through direct funding to junior curlers.

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