

**Bell Let's Talk Donates \$20,000 Towards Mental Health at Royal Jubilee Hospital**

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For Immediate Release

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**Victoria** – The Victoria Hospitals Foundation is pleased to receive a \$20,000 grant from the Bell Let's Talk Community Fund for Mental Health Services at Royal Jubilee Hospital. This donation will support training for Island Health physicians to provide patients with a new form of mental health treatment called Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation.

Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) is a non-invasive method which uses magnetic fields to stimulate nerve cells in the brain. The treatment has been found useful for improving symptoms of depression for patients who don't respond well to or cannot tolerate psychiatric medications.

"The Victoria Hospitals Foundation is proud to partner with Bell Let's Talk to support mental health at Royal Jubilee Hospital," said Victoria Hospitals Foundation Board Secretary John Madden. "This grant will enable Island Health to send physicians to world-class training sites for intensive orientation to this highly specialized new form of treatment. We would also like to congratulate Bell for renewing Bell Let's Talk for another 5 years and its new funding commitment of at least \$100 million across the country."

Island Health will begin offering rTMS treatment in January 2016, adding another leading-edge component to Royal Jubilee's broad range of mental health services. The treatment will be used for clients in Psychiatric Emergency Services, Adult and Senior's Mental Health In-Patient units, and a variety of Outpatient and Community Outreach units.

"Bringing rTMS treatment to Vancouver Island will help treat neuropsychiatric conditions for clients where other treatment options have not worked," said Dr. Wei-Yi Song, Island Health rTMS Physician Lead. "Providing patients with this additional option for treatment will enhance access to mental health services, improve flow, increase quality of care and allow more personal choice of care for service users."

"Bell Let's Talk is very proud to support the Victoria Hospitals Foundation and mental health services at Royal Jubilee Hospital," said Mary Deacon, Chair of Bell Let's Talk. "The Bell Let's Talk Community Fund is supporting over 50 organizations this year, in every region of the country, all of which are making a difference in the lives of people living with mental illness, and the family and friends who support them. Over the last 5 years, the Bell Let's Talk Community Fund has invested more than \$5 million in hundreds of community programs and services that improve access to mental health care."

The Bell Let's Talk initiative promotes Canadian mental health with national awareness and anti-stigma campaigns, like Clara's Big Ride for Bell Let's Talk and Bell Let's Talk Day, and significant Bell funding of community care and access, research, and workplace programs. On September 22, Bell announced the extension of Bell Let's Talk for a further 5 years and an increase in total funding to at least \$100 million. For more information about Bell Let's Talk, please visit [bell.ca/letstalk](http://bell.ca/letstalk).

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**About the Victoria Hospitals Foundation**

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation works in partnership with Island Health to enable donations to Vancouver Island's two largest and most comprehensive hospitals: the Royal Jubilee and the Victoria General. Last year we raised nearly \$7 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 \$114.5 million to benefit our hospitals. For more information, call the Foundation at 250-519-1750 or visit [www.victoriahf.ca](http://www.victoriahf.ca).