

## **Victoria Hospitals Foundation launches Fall Campaign for the Patient Care Centre at Royal Jubilee Hospital**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Victoria, BC** – This morning the Victoria Hospitals Foundation launched its Fall 2013 campaign to fund the remaining leading-edge equipment for the Patient Care Centre at Royal Jubilee Hospital as part of the *Building Care Together* Campaign. Alan Lowe, VHF Board Chair, and Dr. Amy Spink, a Hospitalist with Island Health, made the announcement along with former broadcaster and community leader, Mel Cooper, who recently stayed in the hospital as a patient.

Dr. Spink explained how leading edge equipment is key to delivering good care. “I’m a Hospitalist, a family physician who works out of the hospital, so I work with patients in every area of care, from Mental Health to Cardiac Care. You can imagine the difference in the healthcare I can deliver when I have the best tools possible to do my job. I know how important having a state-of-the-art hospital is to treatment and recovery, and we are very lucky to have this world class facility right here in Victoria to serve all Vancouver Island communities.”

Earlier this year, Cooper found himself admitted to the Patient Care Centre after suffering breathing difficulties during a special radio broadcast in memory of his friend Joe Easingwood. “I was diagnosed with a massive blood clot on my lung,” said Cooper. “I am grateful that I received the critical diagnosis and treatment that saved my life. I also experienced first-hand the difference leading-edge equipment in a hospital like the Patient Care Centre makes to recovery and comfort.” The Foundation is asking the Vancouver Island Community to help purchase a variety of equipment that supports patients in all areas of care in the Patient Care Centre. Some of the leading-edge equipment includes:

- Bedside vital signs monitors that help cardiac and post-surgical patients by allowing doctors to monitor respiratory and heart rates, track vital signs overnight or intervene if vital signs change
- A specialized telemetry system that helps patients feel safe knowing their doctor or nurse will be alerted immediately if their heart rate or rhythm changes

**- more -**

- Wireless nurse-to-patient communications that allow patients to speak to their nurse, no matter where their nurse is in the hospital
- Smart Beds that help all patients heal, whether they are receiving kidney care or getting the mental health treatment they need

Donations to the campaign are being matched by Jim Pattison, as part of a *Community Matching Gift Challenge*. Every donation made will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$5 million.

“Now is the time to join together with the community and be a part of something that will positively impact all of us for generations to come,” said Lowe. “We have only \$4 million more to raise to reach our \$25 million goal.”

The campaign launches this week throughout Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Donations can be made by returning the direct mail letter residents will receive at home, by contacting the Victoria Hospitals Foundation at 250-519-1750 or online at [www.victoriahf.ca](http://www.victoriahf.ca).

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**About the Victoria Hospitals Foundation:**

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation raises funds for priority medical equipment and special projects at Royal Jubilee Hospital and Victoria General Hospital – Vancouver Island's largest and most comprehensive health care facilities. The generosity of our donors helps us contribute to better patient care, faster diagnosis and more efficient treatment for the more than 765,000 residents these hospitals serve. Every year, Victoria Hospitals Foundation purchases hundreds of important pieces of diagnostic and treatment equipment that make a real difference in every patient's daily life and quality of care. The Victoria Hospitals Foundation is the leading healthcare charity on Vancouver Island. Together with our community, we have raised nearly \$97 million for our hospitals since 1989. For more information about how giving makes us all better, visit [www.victoriahf.ca](http://www.victoriahf.ca).