

Victoria Hospitals Foundation recognized as national leader in corporate culture

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For Immediate Release



VICTORIA, B.C. – The Victoria Hospitals Foundation (VHF) has been named by Waterstone Human Capital as one of Canada’s 10 Most Admired Corporate Cultures of 2016 in the *Broader Public Sector* category. This prestigious national award annually recognizes best-in-class Canadian organizations that are at the forefront of best practices in organizational culture.

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation’s outstanding culture has made it one of the leading charities in Victoria and one of BC’s top 10 healthcare charities, raising up to \$10 million annually. Its team of 19 staff make it all happen through one commonly held belief: *Giving makes us all better*.

“Our work is about inspiring the very best in people,” Melanie Mahlman, President and CEO, Victoria Hospitals Foundation said. “We have focused on building a culture based on values that reflect the best in our conduct – integrity, gratitude and transparency. Our donors and medical teams deserve no less from us. That our employees and the board believe in and trust our culture is most important, but to be honoured as one of Canada’s Top 10 Admired Cultures is validation that culture, values and character matter and that we do it well. We are immensely proud.”

Starting from a vision of exceptional care through inspired giving, and a mission of championing a culture of philanthropy that transforms health care on the island, VHF’s effectiveness is tied to how staff, the board, and over 200 volunteers, interact and represent the organization.

“VHF is focused on relationships and the power of giving back. They grow each relationship from a base of extraordinary respect, trust and real gratitude,” said Dr. Brendan Carr, President and CEO, Island Health. “All this sets in motion a cycle of powerful positive feedback. In response, these relationships grow stronger and the Foundation’s success soars.”

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation was the only organization from western Canada to be recognized from the *Broader Public Sector* category. It was also the only company from Vancouver Island to be recognized from any category. Other notable recipients of the award include CIBC, Maple Leaf Foods and Free the Children.

The organization will be formally recognized in March at a reception and awards gala held in Toronto where winners are honoured for their outstanding achievements.

“Under the transformative leadership of President and CEO Melanie Mahlman, Victoria Hospitals Foundation has emerged as one of the most successful health care charitable organizations in Canada,” says Marty Parker, CEO, Waterstone Human Capital. “The culture of this highly motivated and effective team of staff and volunteers is driven by their unwavering adherence to a set of Team Guiding Principles resulting in fund-raising activities that support health services and contribute to the health and well-being of Vancouver Island communities.”

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Behind the mask: A quiet revolution in care

With its Fall campaign underway, the VHF is asking the community to help raise \$1.8 million for 72 pieces of advanced surgery equipment for the operating rooms at Royal Jubilee and Victoria General hospitals. These tools will benefit 14 different surgical specialties throughout 22 operating rooms at both hospitals – supporting 52,000 surgeries a year. A gift to this campaign will equip surgical teams with the equipment they need to perform revolutionary procedures and ensure patients have the best outcomes possible.

There are many ways to donate to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation including by mail, telephone or online. You can reach the Victoria Hospitals Foundation at 250-519-1750 or online at www.victoriahf.ca. Every contribution made to the Foundation’s campaign will support surgical excellence in local hospitals. Learn more about the campaign by visiting www.victoriahf.ca/surgery

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 more than \$6.5 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 over \$121 million to benefit our hospitals.

About Waterstone Human Capital

Waterstone Human Capital is a leading retained executive search firm specializing in recruiting for fit and cultural talent management for entrepreneurial-minded, high-growth organizations across North America. The Canada's 10 Most Admired Corporate Cultures™ and Canada's Most Admired CEO™ programs (canadamostadmired.com) are founded and presented by Waterstone Human Capital. These national programs, annually recognize best-in-class Canadian organizations and CEOs for fostering cultures that enhance performance and sustain a competitive advantage. Program winners will be celebrated at the annual Canada's Most Admired Summit and Gala, to be held on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at the Fairmont Royal York in Toronto (100 Front St W).

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