



## Media Release

### Provincial Employees Community Services Fund Donates \$6,200 towards Pediatric Care

September 23, 2015

For Immediate Release

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Victoria – The Provincial Employees Community Services Fund (PECSF) has donated \$6,200 to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation for Pediatric Care at Victoria General Hospital (VGH). This gift will help fund activity kits through the Child Life program that provide comfort and distraction to children undergoing medical treatment.

Last year, the Pediatric unit provided in-hospital care to more than 1,700 children. VGH is Vancouver Island's pediatric specialty hospital, where healthcare professionals called Child Life Specialists are available to help educate, prepare and reassure children and their families before, during and after hospitalization.

"An unexpected visit to the hospital can be scary and stressful for a young child," said Cathy McIntyre, Board Vice-Chair for the Victoria Hospitals Foundation. "Thanks to the support of donors like PECSF, the Child Life Team can provide children with toys and activities that keep them busy and ease the stress of their hospital experience."

PECSF, also known as the Community Fund, is an annual fundraising campaign that enables BC Public Service employees to support local charities throughout BC. During their fall campaign each September-November, public servants coordinate workplace events and activities to raise awareness about how easy it is to support charitable organizations through PECSF.

"The thought of a young child needing emergency care can be heartbreaking," said Gillian Henuset, Campaign Manager for PECSF. "We are proud to support the Child Life Team at Victoria General Hospital as they strive to offer children the best possible medical experience."

This donation is the first semi-annual installment of a three year pledge from PECSF that could total over \$36,000 for the Child Life Program at Victoria General Hospital.

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#### Media Contact

Susan Gee, Director of Development  
Victoria Hospitals Foundation  
250-519-1750 (office)  
250-893-1823 (cell)  
susan.gee@viha.ca

**About the Victoria Hospitals Foundation**

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation works in partnership with the 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 \$10 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 \$107 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 Provincial Employees Community Services Fund**

The Provincial Employees Community Services Fund (PECSF), also known as the Community Fund, was founded in 1965 by a group of public service employees whose vision was to facilitate provincial government employee contributions to local non-profit organizations. This was the beginning of the automatic payroll deduction to charity program for employees.

Over \$43 million has been raised by public service employees since the Community Fund started!

- 100% of donations are given to over 1000 charitable organizations.
- Government absorbs all administrative costs.
- Fund Support Pool donations stay within the local community.

The Community Fund is registered with the federal government as a charitable employee trust and is the only organization authorized to conduct a canvass of provincial government employees in the workplace.