



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Renovations Complete at Royal Jubilee Hospital Emergency Department

VICTORIA, B.C. - The Emergency Department at Royal Jubilee Hospital has undergone renovations to make it more efficient and improve emergency care for the residents of Vancouver Island. The upgrades were made possible by a generous donation through the Victoria Hospitals Foundation and additional Island Health funding. Donors Peter and Sandra Powell of Victoria made a substantial gift toward the \$220,000 project.

“These improvements, made possible in part by a generous donation from the Powells, will make for a more efficient emergency department to help improve services for patients in this busy hospital,” said Health Minister Terry Lake. “The newly renovated emergency department at Royal Jubilee Hospital allows health professionals to continue providing life-saving treatment for patients for the years ahead.”

The Emergency Department at RJH sees more than 60,000 patients each year but was originally designed to accommodate only 40,000. On average, 160 patients receive care each day.

Dr. Chris Morrow, Division Head, Emergency and Trauma Care, Geography 4 at Island Health, was a driving force behind the renovations. “We have redesigned and repurposed an existing space to make it more efficient. Prior to the renovations the ambulatory area was cramped, with patients often experiencing a lack of privacy. We have altered the space to maximize patient flow— these improvements are a great example of intelligent design made possible by a donor’s generosity. By making these creative upgrades we have avoided a multi-million dollar renovation.”

Every patient who arrives to the RJH Emergency Department is assessed by a triage nurse who determines if they require critical, acute or ambulatory care. Critical care patients requiring immediate attention are taken to trauma rooms. Acute care patients are those who need a stretcher or bed for their care. Patients who are well enough to sit in a chair are cared for in the ambulatory area.



Highlights of the upgrade include:

- Additional procedure rooms (from 6 to 8)
- Additional treatment recliners (from 2 to 5)
- Additional waiting area chairs (from 13 to 28)
- Additional Acute Care beds (from 16 to 20)
- A new, designated ambulatory medication room which allows caregivers to access medication faster without losing a sightline to patients

Victoria Hospitals Foundation chair, John Madden, expressed gratitude to the Powell family for helping to make the renovations possible. "Many innovations in healthcare are made possible by the generosity of donors. The updated Emergency Department is a valuable asset in our community that will serve us for many years to come. We cannot thank the Powells enough for their gift. Their philanthropy has had an exceptional impact on healthcare in Victoria."

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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 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.

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