



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Operating Rooms at BC Children's Hospital are in use

**Vancouver, B.C.** – The BC Health Coalition's charge that four operating rooms (ORs) at BC Children's Hospital, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), are "sitting idle" is wrong, according to Hospital President Sharon Toohey.

"We have eight operating rooms in the OR area and all of them are used," said Toohey. "Of these, five rooms are more flexible in terms of their set-up and equipment and are used most often. The remaining three rooms are designated for very specific purposes – open heart surgery, radiological urology procedures and neurosurgery. These rooms are adapted and equipped for these specialized types of procedures."

For example, the open heart surgery OR is booked for three days each week for elective procedures and is available at other times for emergency heart surgery. The neurosurgery OR is booked for two days each week for elective procedures and available at other times for emergency neurosurgery. The OR set up for radiological urology procedures has a specially-adapted operating table that includes an X-ray machine and cannot be used for other purposes.

In 2003/04, the surgical teams at Children's provided 8,805 surgical procedures in the hospital's operating rooms.

The coalition also criticized the PHSA for recently issuing an RFP for the delivery of general anesthesia services for 475 pediatric day surgery cases over five months. The funding to support these surgeries comes from the PHSA's share of the nearly \$21 million that the provincial government made available last month to improve patient access across the province and reduce wait lists.

"One of the reasons for the RFP was precisely because we do not want children to face unnecessary delays," said Toohey. "Locating, hiring, and orienting additional staff to work in the Children's ORs in order to provide more surgeries – would result in delays. By enabling Children's surgeons to perform these operations in private facilities over the next five months – we can utilize this funding to help children sooner and reduce our wait lists."

*BC Children's Hospital, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, provides expert care for the province's most seriously ill or injured children, including newborns and adolescents. For more information please visit [www.cw.bc.ca](http://www.cw.bc.ca).*

*The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) plans, manages and evaluates selected specialty and province-wide health care services across BC, working with the five geographic health authorities to deliver province-wide solutions that improve the health of British Columbians. For more information please visit [www.phsa.ca](http://www.phsa.ca).*

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