



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Sunny Hill presents 20<sup>th</sup> international seating symposium**

*Focus on leading edge research, technology to aid people with mobility limitations*

**Vancouver, B.C.** – Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children and the University of British Columbia Interprofessional Continuing Education present the 20<sup>th</sup> International Seating Symposium March 4 to 6, 2004 at Sunny Hill and Vancouver's Westin Bayshore Resort and Marina.

The symposium is the only international conference of its kind, bringing together more than 600 professionals from as far away as Australia, Scotland and Japan, as well as many local experts, to focus on expanding the range of seating and mobility services and products available for people with disabilities.

"In planning the Seating Symposium, we focus on enhancing people's ability to be active and mobile as much as possible," says Sunny Hill's Associate Director of Therapy and Conference Chair, Lori Roxborough. "The symposium brings together designers, researchers, clinicians, manufacturers and wheelchair users to share new ideas. These solutions can mean the difference between comfort or discomfort, and independence or dependence, to the millions of people around the world faced with mobility issues."

Program highlights include a keynote address from former Premier Mike Harcourt entitled "Towards International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries and the Accessible City".

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There will also be hundreds of leading edge mobility technologies on exhibit, including such devices as all-terrain wheelchairs and the new self-balancing iBOT wheelchair. The iBOT incorporates the same technology that was later applied by inventor Dean Kamen in designing the Segway.

Instructional sessions cover a wide range of subjects, including wheelchair sports, challenges in third world countries, transportation safety, handcycling, specialized pediatric solutions, and many other topics.

For two decades Sunny Hill has played a key role in organizing this symposium. In addition to spurring research and device development, this conference has sparked international collaborations, such as the International Wheelchair Standards Committee which is meeting in Vancouver after the symposium.

For more information, including a detailed conference program, please visit [www.seatingandmobility.ca](http://www.seatingandmobility.ca).

Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, offers specialized services to children with disabilities and their families from across the province. Sunny Hill serves children from birth to age 19. For more information please visit [www.cw.bc.ca](http://www.cw.bc.ca).

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