



*part of Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia*

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE

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### **B.C.'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL WELCOMES NEW ARRIVAL**

#### *Recently Completed Ambulatory Care Building Officially Opens*

Vancouver, B.C. – Today the Honourable Colin Hansen, Minister of Health Services, announced the official opening of the new Ambulatory Care building at B.C.'s Children's Hospital.

This addition to Children's is in line with the global trend towards increased and improved ambulatory care, which allows patients to receive the care and services they require without overnighting at the hospital. The bright, spacious new facility is specifically designed to meet ambulatory patients' unique needs.

"I am proud that we have this new resource for children and their families in British Columbia," said Minister Hansen. "This new treatment centre marks an important milestone on the road to high-quality, accessible and dependable health care for B.C.'s children."

"Ambulatory care offers the most efficient use of healthcare dollars while providing quality patient services," explained Wynne Powell, Chair of the Provincial Health Services Authority. "For children, it also means that families are not separated because a patient has to stay unnecessarily in hospital for care," he added.

"The new Ambulatory Care building is excellent news for B.C. families," said Sharon Toohey, President, B.C.'s Children's Hospital and Sunny Hill Health Centre. "Our clinics were formerly in a very small space. This addition allowed us to move clinics into larger areas and bring together many services. All our clinics now have adequate space to provide the care that our patients deserve."

The building is also good news for British Columbians who support B.C.'s Children's Hospital Foundation.

"Donors from every corner of the province responded generously and enthusiastically, contributing \$8 million to the Ambulatory Care building," said Stephanie Carlson, Foundation Chair. "The result is an incredible example of the good that comes from the community and government working together."

The new Children's Ambulatory Care building triples the number of clinic rooms available on site for patients and staff. The 5-storey, 10,555 square metre (113,600 square foot) building houses 24 pediatric specialty medical and surgical clinics.

Prior to construction, the area of the hospital used for children's ambulatory care clinics was only 9,600 square feet (893 square metres). It was inadequate for the volume of ambulatory patients Children's was seeing.

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The provincial government provided \$19.6 million for the building and B.C.'s Children's Hospital Foundation contributed \$8 million. The building's total cost was approximately \$28 million.

Children's received the assistance and guidance of BC Hydro to design an energy-efficient building and obtain a Federal Commercial Building Incentive Grant from Natural Resources Canada. The energy analysis and design reduced annual energy costs for the Ambulatory Care building by almost 40 per cent.

The Ambulatory Care building houses ambulatory clinics in the following areas:

- General Surgery
- Urology
- Dental
- Neurology
- Meningocele
- Neuromuscular
- Neonatal Follow-Up
- Biochemical Diseases
- Rheumatology
- Cystic Fibrosis
- General Pediatric
- Dermatology
- Infectious Disease
- Immunological Disease
- Audiology & Speech Pathology
- Ear, Nose & Throat
- Cleft Palate
- Gastroenterology
- Renal
- Multi-Organ Transplant
- Endocrinology & Diabetes
- Vaccine Evaluation
- Psychology
- Neurosurgery

Clinics are housed together in modules, which are marked with colors, numbers, and names to make them easy to locate. Modules contain mini-kitchens for patient and family use. There are storage lockers on the main floor, special change stations for neurologically impaired patients, and wheelchair accessible washrooms on each floor. In addition, the building was designed to incorporate as much natural light as possible, and supplies much needed office space.

Other resources and services accommodated in the building include meeting and conference rooms, a family resource library, a Telehealth communication facility, an expanded outpatient pharmacy, and a specimen collection lab.

British Columbia's Children's Hospital is the province's major treatment, teaching and research facility for child health. Each year, physicians and staff provide services for more than 150,000 patient visits. B.C.'s Children's Hospital is an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority.

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