



MEDIA RELEASE

March 9, 2010

VICTORIA GENERAL HOSPITAL ACHIEVES \$1 MILLION GOAL FOR MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY PROGRAM

Winnipeg, MB – The Victoria General Hospital Foundation will announce at an 11 a.m. press conference today that their \$1 million goal to outfit two surgical suites with state-of-the-art minimally invasive surgery technology has been achieved. This goal marks a major step forward in the Vic's Medicine & Miracles campaign, which is raising funds for the hospital's large scale redevelopment project.

“We are so grateful for our many supporters whose commitment to our hospital has made this 100% donor-funded project possible,” says Victoria General Hospital Foundation Executive Director Charlene Rocke. “We would like to extend a special thanks to the Martin Bergen family, whose generous gift put our goal within reach. The commitment of all of our supporters to ensuring high quality health care is available for our community is truly inspiring.”

The surgical suites will receive their first major facelift since they were designed over 35 years ago. The renovation will include the addition of high definition cameras, flat-panel monitors, and lights attached to mechanical arms mounted on the ceiling.

“As impressive as these technological upgrades are, the benefits for patients will be even more remarkable,” says Victoria General Hospital President & COO Francis LaBossière. “Our patients will experience less pain and scarring, fewer complications, less risk of

infection, and a significantly reduced recovery time. These upgraded suites will keep the Vic at the forefront of minimally invasive surgery in Canada and allow us to continue providing our patients with high quality care.”

One of the new pieces of equipment that has been generously donated for the minimally invasive surgery suites is the Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgery (TEM) system. TEM is a minimally invasive surgery technique used for the removal of polyps.

The Vic is the third site in Canada to use this groundbreaking technology, and patients are booked for this procedure every OR day for the next several months, resulting in the Vic being dubbed the “gold standard of care” for minimally invasive surgery. This new piece of equipment allows for polyps to be removed using natural orifices with no incisions. This minimally invasive surgery can be performed as a day procedure and therefore patients will experience fewer complications and faster recovery times.

The Vic’s \$23 million redevelopment project also included the completed Buhler Cancer Centre and a spacious new Emergency Centre that is currently under construction.

The goal of the Medicine & Miracles campaign is to raise \$9.5 million in support from private and corporate donors for the Victoria General Hospital redevelopment project. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of donors, the Foundation has raised over \$8.8 million to date with just \$700,000 remaining.

Completion date for the project is pending final planning and design.

WHO: Victoria General Hospital Foundation

WHAT: Announcement of \$1 million goal for minimally invasive surgery program achieved

WHERE: Victoria General Hospital – Front Entrance

WHEN: Tuesday, March 9, 2010 – 11 a.m.

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