



MEDIA RELEASE

Celebrating Our Community Our Health – Partnering for an \$8 Million Capital Campaign

For Immediate Release

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Kentville – As partners for a shared vision Valley Regional Hospital Foundation and Valley Hospice Foundation today launched *Our Community, Our Health* Campaign, a new Capital Campaign to raise funds to expand healthcare services at Valley Regional Hospital and to build the first Hospice/Palliative Care Centre in the Annapolis Valley.

The Foundations *are* seeking to raise \$8 million to pay for redevelopment projects at Valley Regional Hospital to enhance healthcare for all residents, and to build, equip and furnish an 8-bedroom Hospice connected to Valley Regional Hospital to care for palliative patients and their families in a peaceful, comfortable, home-like environment.

"*Our Community, Our Health* is what this campaign is about, said Diana Patterson, Chair of the Valley Hospice Foundation. "It is about us, the residents of the Annapolis Valley, taking ownership of and connecting to our healthcare services in our communities across the Valley, said Ms. Patterson.

The expansion to services started in 2006 with the purchase of AVH Chipman Building in the Annapolis Valley Industrial Park, and the opportunity to create appropriate spaces for Mental Health and Addiction Outpatient Services. It continued with an increase of 21 surgical and medical beds at Valley Regional Hospital, relocation of Ambulatory Care and Medical Services, new equipment and a greatly expanded Emergency Department completed in the fall of 2009.

Ms. Patterson said the establishment of the Hospice has taken years of planning and hard work. The Hospice is not only a centre for in-patient care, but also an enhancement of community-based palliative care. It will serve to provide community and professional education, information, resources, caregiver support and bereavement counseling. "It is time that the vision of a hospice in the Annapolis Valley becomes a reality" said Ms. Patterson.

"Redevelopment, along with the creation of the Hospice facility, has already captured the hearts and minds of the Valley community members, leaders and organizations," said Sandra Snow, President of the Valley Regional Hospital Foundation.

A number of generous lead gifts and pledges have already been received from individuals, businesses and service clubs, including: Valley Credit Union, Kings Mutual Insurance Company, Municipality of Kings, Town of Wolfville, Kentville and Wolfville Rotary Clubs, RBC Royal Bank, Scotian Gold, Robert Pope Foundation, Jordan's Home Furnishings and Scotiabank.

Physicians, staff and all Healthcare Foundations and Auxiliaries throughout the Annapolis Valley Healthcare District have demonstrated their support. Their generosity and commitment is significant in leading the way for commitment to this campaign.

“To date, just over \$4 million dollars has been raised towards our goal – we are now halfway there”, said Ms. Snow. “We are calling on each resident, business, group and organization to join us and become part of this exciting project and a long held dream”.

Janet Knox, CEO of Annapolis Valley District Health Authority, expressed her appreciation for the partnership of the Foundations in their support of healthcare in the district. “The closer we work together, the more we can respond to the needs of our communities to provide the best healthcare possible, said Ms. Knox.

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