

**DR. STEPHEN DUCKETT  
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES**

**CHAMPIONS OF THE STOLLERY – A DONOR RECOGNITION EVENT**

**4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR ATRIUM  
WALTER C. MACKENZIE HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA HOSPITAL  
8440 112 ST  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2009  
5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.**

- **Hello everyone, and thank you for inviting me to join you today. It is my pleasure to be here to help honour all those who have donated to the Stollery, as well as to talk a bit about Alberta Health Services.**
- **One of my top priorities is to keep Albertans apprised of what Alberta Health Services has accomplished so far, the challenges that lie ahead, and our overall plan for the health care system.**
- **So today, I hope to leave you with a sense of what we have been able to complete to date and how we want to work with Health Foundations to help us reach some of our goals.**
- **Since health care is such a complex issue, I imagine you all have several questions to ask. I would appreciate it if you wait until the end of my speech to ask them. I'll be happy to answer them at that time.**
- **As you know, over a year ago the Minister of Health and Wellness, Ron Liepert, announced the reorganization of the health care system – the merger of 12 health entities into what we know today as Alberta Health Services.**
- **Since that time, we have adopted a new governance model, appointed key leaders, developed a clear, streamlined organizational structure and announced our Strategic Direction, which includes clear targets to improve performance.**

- **And while we make fundamental changes to the system we need to ensure the whole operation continues to run smoothly. What does that involve?**
- **102 acute care hospitals, with 6,800 beds, receiving 1.9 million emergency department visits per year, performing 247,000 surgeries and delivering 50,000 babies.**
- **That's over 80 community health centers, delivering hundreds of thousands of immunizations; nurses taking 900,000 calls at HealthLink; and home health care workers spending 10 million hours in the homes of people needing support to recover from illness or injury, or to be able to live as independently as possible.**
- **It is a huge job, to be sure. Thankfully we have the single most important element of success: 90,000 dedicated staff and physicians, along with over 18,000 volunteers across this province and who keep the system operating under incredible pressure.**
- **And of course, we are fortunate enough to have the support of donors, Health Foundations and Trusts throughout Alberta.**
- **At present, there are 75 Foundations and Trusts supporting Alberta Health Services. 55 of these are based in rural areas, with the remaining 20 in urban centres.**
- **More than 600 volunteer Trustees currently serve with the 75 Foundations and Trusts across the province – and thousands more volunteer their time to assist these organizations in the important work they do.**

- **And now we get to the numbers that reflect the valuable contributions these organizations make to the health and well-being of Albertans – the dollars these Foundations and Trusts raised in 2007/2008 alone.**
  
- **For that time period, we gathered financial data from 70 per cent of Alberta’s Foundations. They showed a total gross revenue of a whopping 156.9 million dollars, with total endowment funds across the province reaching 209 million dollars.**
  
- **The amount of money raised by these organizations is considerable – and this only represents 53 out of the 70 Foundations. These funds go a long way toward ensuring the sustainability and quality of our health system, including hospitals such as the Stollery.**
  
- **Highly-skilled child health professionals from around the world have made the Stollery Children's Hospital a well-recognized centre for specialized pediatric services.**
  
- **The Stollery is western Canada's referral centre for pediatric cardiac surgery and national leader in organ transplantation. With a referral base of more than 1.7 million, the Stollery cares for children from northern and central Alberta, as well as parts of Manitoba.**
  
- **The Stollery is well-known for its many firsts, including:**
  - **The first children’s hospital in Western Canada to have an Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation program—a last resort, life-saving device that acts as**

a child's external heart and lungs.

- **Stollery biomedical engineers and technicians hold the patent on the SAINT (sub-arctic intelligent neonatal transport), a mini intensive care unit that safely transfers critically ill infants in sub-zero temperatures.**
- **The First in Canada to deliver a baby during open-heart surgery and one of only a handful of documented cases in the world.**
- **The First in Western Canada to replace a valve in a child's heart without surgery.**
- **North America's first "reference centre" for the world's most successful pediatric mechanical heart, the Berlin Heart.**
- **The first pediatric thrombosis program in Western Canada.**
- **Home to the only Pediatric Centre for Weight and Health in Canada.**
- **The first pediatric auto-islet transplant in Canada.**
- **And finally, the Stollery performed the first pediatric intestinal transplant in Western Canada.**
- **This is a very impressive list, to say the least. The groundbreaking work is essential in advancing the quality of pediatric care across the province.**
- **And I think it is safe to say the work done by the Stollery's Children's Hospital Foundation played a role in these firsts, along with many other initiatives.**

- **Some of the services and projects supported by the Foundation include:**
  - **Child Life Services,**
  - **development of the Family Room, which offers families a quiet environment with a place to relax, take care of personal business and learn more about childhood diseases,**
  - **development of family lounges within inpatient services, allowing the family to remain close with their loved ones, and**
  - **completing the capital plan that resulting in the renovation of the entire Stollery Children’s Hospital.**
  
- **The Stollery Children’s Hospital Foundation’s ongoing commitment to research, education, and fundraising for state of the art equipment has been critical in supporting the work of the hospital.**
  
- **Now, you all have heard that ER facilities across Alberta have seen an increase in the total number of patients they receive. The pediatrics ER facility at the Stollery is no different.**
  
- **In fact, they have seen the total number of ER patients more than double, increasing from 11 000 to 24 000 per year. Numbers are also expected to increase later this year, as cases of Influenza and other viruses tend to increase during the winter months.**
  
- **To help alleviate the strain, the Stollery set up a tent to handle the less acute cases – but this is only a temporary**

**measure. To truly address the problem, an ER expansion is needed.**

- Like everything nowadays, this expansion comes at considerable financial cost. As you know the Government put this development on hold in this year's budget. I had already visited the tent and knew its inadequacies. I revisited the hospital to judge for myself whether there was an alternative to redevelopment, there was not. So I advised Government that redevelopment of the Stollery Emergency Room was my highest priority.**
- That was an easy story here but not as welcomed when I repeated the same line elsewhere in the province. But working with staff here we realized we could do some trimming that would not affect the core of the project.**
- Secondly, I am happy to acknowledge the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation's efforts in raising 5 million dollars towards the ER expansion, which is over 20 per cent of the estimated cost.**
- This made it easier to get this project over the line. Alberta Health Services also reallocated monies from other projects and the rest is history. But back to the foundation.**
- To see that level of financial support coming from the community is, simply put, amazing. The board and staff at the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation never hesitate to ask "What can we do to help?"**
- And in turn, Foundations couldn't be able to offer this support without its donors – which is why we are all here**

**today, to thank all donors for their impressive contributions.**

- **To thank people like John and Jane Holmlund, whose company, Focus Corporation, raised over 1.4 million dollars through its annual radiothon earlier this year, and have been involved with the Foundation since 2005.**
- **Or organizations like ATB financial, who have supported the Foundation for over 20 years. Since its inception, their Teddy for a Toonie program has raised over 1 million dollars for the Foundation.**
- **And of course, there are the countless other organizations and individuals who have donated their time and money over the years. Let's take a moment to give all the donors, volunteers, and past and present board members a well-deserved round of applause. Their commitment to supporting pediatric care is unmatched.**
- **As we are building a system that is focused on the needs of Albertans, we recognize how important public feedback regarding health care service delivery truly is. If we want to meet the needs of the public, we need to have them fully involved.**
- **Organizations such as the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation are vital in gathering community support and developing partnerships across the province. Your commitment to helping build excellence and innovation within our system will go a long way towards ensuring its success.**

- **Alberta Health Services has identified engagement as one of its core values. Stakeholder engagement, including feedback from Foundations and Trusts, has been made a priority of the organization. The development of the Community Engagement Portfolio indicates our commitment to this priority.**
  
- **This portfolio is responsible for supporting the operations of Foundations such as the Stollery, as well as the Health Advisory Councils.**
  
- **A healthy relationship between Alberta Health Services and Foundations is essential in delivering quality health care to Albertans.**
  
- **Enhancing the relationships between all parties will help us reach our goals of quality, access and sustainability – along with our commitment to be transparent to the public.**
  
- **To ensure these relationships remain viable, the Community Engagement Team of Alberta Health Services will:**
  - **Seek ways to continually strengthen the relationships between Alberta Health Services and Foundations,**
  
  - **Ensure Foundations are aware of the goals and strategies of Alberta Health Services so they may align fund-raising initiatives and maximize success in health service provision, and**
  
  - **Work in collaboration with local staff and community leaders to establish Community Engagement as a resource for Alberta Health Services operational leaders and Foundations so that they may excel as**

**fundraisers and stewards of community donations.**

- **One concern we have received in the past from some Foundations is a lack of clarity in local fundraising priorities from year to year. It is essential that fundraising efforts be aligned to the priorities identified by key operational contacts in Alberta Health Services.**
- **Over time, we expect that solidifying already-established relationships will allow fundraising goals and priorities to be clearly outlined at the start of each fiscal year.**
- **Alberta Health Services is committed to working with Foundations to develop processes that result in increased communication about local health service needs and priorities.**
- **Speaking of local health service needs, one of the concerns I keep hearing is “How do I know the funds I donate will go to my area?”**
- **To be very clear, *local funds will stay local*. They won’t be randomly distributed to some other area of the province.**
- **So for example, 100 per cent of the money donated to the Stollery Children’s Hospital Foundation will be used to benefit the Stollery Children’s Hospital.**
- **That money won’t be used to develop a program in another community, or new equipment for a health centre elsewhere. The money donated to a local Foundation will stay within that community or area. Period.**

- **Our Community Engagement team has contacted all of the Foundations and Trusts in Alberta to better understand the operations, goals and needs of organizations like yours across the province. Please take the time to engage with us in this dialogue so we can better work together to improve the health and well-being of Albertans.**
- **Please continue the outstanding work you have been doing over the years. Your contributions as trustees, staff members and donors are essential to the success of the health care system.**
- **To close, I would like to thank you for your attention, and of course, for inviting me to be here with you today. I now welcome any questions you may have.**
- **Thank you.**