



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 5, 2015

**Surrey Hospital & Outpatient Centre Foundation to open urgently-needed
Child and Adolescent Stabilization Unit in 2017**

Surrey, B.C. – An urgently needed, state-of-the-art, 10-bed Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Stabilization Unit (CAPSU) dedicated to the treatment of children and adolescents with mental health disorders will open in 2017, providing specialized care close to home for approximately 1,000 young people each year.

Funded in part by Fraser Health with the support of generous contributions by Cloverdale Paint and Coast Capital Savings, this unit will be located in the old emergency department of Surrey Memorial Hospital (SMH) and will serve children and adolescents (aged six to 17) who are in crisis with acute psychiatric problems. Patients will be admitted for a short stay (5 to 7 days) stabilization period.

The motivation for this landmark development is the fact that the Fraser Health region has more young people than anywhere else in BC yet does not have a short-stay unit for children and youth in immediate need of psychiatric care. Hospital emergency visits in Fraser Health for young people with mental health problems have doubled over the past five years.

Fraser Health will cover \$4.7 million in capital costs plus an annual operating budget of more than \$4 million. The \$1 million donated by Surrey-based Cloverdale Paint, and \$300,000 by Coast Capital Savings will go toward ensuring CAPSU is a truly progressive and therapeutic facility with décor, components and furnishings designed to foster a calm and healing environment.

“With only six beds currently available in the province, it’s very difficult for young people to get the care they need. CAPSU will be BC’s largest and most progressive facility, tripling the province’s capacity to deal with children and adolescents in crisis. We are within \$500,000 of meeting our fundraising goal and are calling on other organizations and individuals to make donations to help achieve it,” said Jane Adams, president and CEO of the Surrey Hospital & Outpatient Centre Foundation.

Victoria Keddis knows too well the challenges faced by parents trying to find appropriate treatment for their children. Her son, now 20, suffered from a severe anxiety disorder from as young as one-year-old. She’s since leveraged her own experience and knowledge as a parent-in-resident for the FORCE Society for Kids’

Mental Health. In that role, she has sat in many emergency rooms, holding the hands of parents who were crying and overwhelmed by the suffering of their children.

“No parent should have to leave a hospital, knowing there’s nothing in place for their child. The arrival of CAPSU will make an immense difference in the health outcome of these kids at a very critical time,” said Keddis.

Only one in four young people receives specialized mental health care yet half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14 and 75 per cent begin by age 24. The onset of severe psychiatric disorders peaks between the ages of 12 and 26. Mental illnesses are surprisingly common in children and youth. About one in seven young people in BC -- or 14 per cent -- will experience a mental illness at some point. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 15 to 24 year-olds in BC, after motor vehicle accidents.

“Children in need of urgent inpatient care currently only have the option of going to BC Children's Hospital if a bed is available, to the pediatric ward at one of the Fraser Health hospitals or they are kept in the emergency department. Adolescents either go the adolescent psychiatry unit at SMH or to an adult psychiatric unit which is not ideal. The new CAPSU will offer the level of care they need when they need it, and in an appropriate and soothing environment,” said Stan Kuperis, Fraser Health’s director of clinical operations.

“Cloverdale Paint is excited to announce that we will be the lead donor for the Surrey Memorial Hospital CAPSU unit by contributing \$1 million to the facility. Cloverdale Paint is a family-owned business based in Surrey, BC and we have been supporters of the Surrey Memorial Hospital for many, many years. One of the core values of our company is a commitment to social responsibility and this unit is going to provide a facility where youth in our community who are struggling with mental health issues can get the assistance they need. The CAPSU unit is a facility that is extremely important to our community and we are very proud to be involved,” said Tim Vogel, CEO of Cloverdale Paint Inc.

“Coast Capital Savings’ community promise is to help build a richer future for youth in our community,” explains Don Coulter, president and CEO of Coast Capital Savings. “One focus area within that promise is helping build healthy minds. Through supporting the establishment of this important facility, we are making good on that commitment while making a meaningful contribution to helping young people and their families at a critical point in their lives.”

Established in 1992, Surrey Hospital & Outpatient Centre Foundation has raised more than \$75 million to purchase medical equipment, fund innovative programs, and support training and research. To make a donation for CAPSU: www.championsforcare.com.

-30-

Contact: Michele Penz
Calico Communications for Surrey Hospital & Outpatient Centre Foundation
cell: 778-888-2249
calicocomm@telus.net