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PRHC Foundation donors invest \$3.55 million in PRHC Cath Lab, helping to “keep our hearts here”

Peterborough, ON: The PRHC Foundation has announced the successful completion of their \$3.55 million fundraising effort to replace and upgrade Peterborough Regional Health Centre’s (PRHC) two Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory (Cath Lab) suites.

Lesley Heighway, PRHC Foundation President & CEO, made the announcement today, sharing that construction on the state-of-the-art investment is complete, with both suites functioning at full capacity starting earlier this fall.

“After 14 years of supporting lifesaving treatment, we needed to reinvest in PRHC’s Cath Lab to ensure the future of cardiac care at our hospital,” said Heighway. “Otherwise, patients from across our region might have to be transferred to another hospital hours away at a time when every second counts.”

Dr. Warren Ball, PRHC Interventional Cardiologist and Head of Division, Cardiology, said that technology improvements are allowing his colleagues and him to perform minimally invasive cardiac procedures, better and more safely, using tools that did not exist when the Health Centre opened in 2008.

“The new suites have brought the latest in high-tech imaging right to our fingertips,” said Dr. Ball. “They provide the highest possible definition images to allow interventional cardiologists to accurately diagnose and treat coronary blockages and stop heart attacks, while delivering up to 75% less radiation than the older generation systems.”

Dr. Ball added, “The new suites also contain technology to seamlessly integrate multiple complementary imaging tools with bedside controls, dramatically shortening the time required to complete our most complex procedures.”

In the first month that both suites were operational, there were 324 Cath Lab patient visits, including 279 angiograms, and 117 cardiac stenting procedures performed – some while a heart attack was taking place.

“Access to cardiac care close to home not only saves lives,” said Dr. Ball, “it saves our patients the time, cost, and stress of travelling to a bigger city centre for cardiac services.”

Heighway said that the fundraising initiative asked supporters to help “keep our hearts here” and that the response was “phenomenal.” “Donors from across the region stepped forward with gifts of all sizes, making individual donations, corporate gifts and holding fundraising events in support of this effort.”

Dr. Peter McLaughlin, PRHC President & CEO, shared that PRHC has the tools, technology, and expert people it does today because of the incredible support of donors.

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“It’s so clear to me as a cardiologist and CEO here at PRHC that it really is the power of philanthropy that makes a vision come to life – in this case a vision of advanced cardiac care at PRHC, serving the patients of this community and this region. Thank you.”

Dr. Ball noted that donor support is also essential to PRHC’s ability to bring new cardiac healthcare professionals to our hospital.

“As our program grows and we build our Cardiac Centre of Excellence, part of that is recruiting new physician experts,” said Dr. Ball. “The best technology allows us to recruit and keep the brightest new minds that will be the leaders of tomorrow.

“We’re immensely grateful for the support of the community,” he added. “The Cath Lab at PRHC would not exist without you. Whenever PRHC has had a need, the community has been incredibly generous and has stepped up to help.”

Heighway also shared her thanks on behalf of the Foundation, adding that the hospital’s mission to provide world-class care close to home, and the Foundation’s mission to support it, have never been more important.

“Our world is changing, and health technologies and the needs of our region are evolving,” she said. “Thank you so much to our incredible donors for funding this leading-edge, lifesaving reinvestment. Together we’re paving the way for the future of patient care at your hospital, and keeping all our hearts here, close to home.”

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About the PRHC Foundation:

The PRHC Foundation works with donors from across our region to fund the equipment and technology that form the foundation of world-class patient care – fuelling innovation, bringing new lifesaving services to Peterborough Regional Health Centre, and helping our hospital attract and retain the best and the brightest healthcare professionals.

For more information, contact:

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