

**Premier Gordon Campbell  
Canuck Place Children's Hospice Announcement  
June 3, 2003**

*Check Against Delivery*

These are the days that you long for in government. As we were driving here today I was thinking back to when we were talking about whether we could save this building, whether the community would be in favour of it – and boy it's good when things work out well isn't it? This is just an exceptional facility, and it's exceptional because of the people – the professional staff, the nursing staff.

It's exceptional because of the literally hundreds of volunteers who come and serve their community in a very special and human way. It's exceptional because of the families that can take advantage of the services and it's exceptional because of the kids who come and share their lives with us. This is really a magnificent example of what we can do when we work together.

The Vancouver Canucks were very early partners in this. It's great to see Matt Cooke and his wife Michelle here. I know how much time the players put in to make sure that the quality of life for the kids here is enhanced and improved. My thanks to Matt and Michelle for taking time out of your day to come and join us today.

I recall when the Wlosinski family came and said they had this gorgeous building and they wanted to make a contribution to their community and do it in a way that would have lasting meaning for their family and for its legacy.

They made an extremely generous donation of this building to the city, and the city was then able to lease the building to Canuck Place for \$1 a year for 50 years.

Since it opened in 1995, hundreds of children and families from all over our province have experienced the wonderful care and love and support that is offered here at Canuck Place.

It's still North America's only freestanding hospice for children. It's a leader in the delivery of palliative care for children across our province. Forty percent of its children and families are from outside the lower mainland.

There is a team of doctors and nurses, therapists and councillors and support staff that offer truly wonderful and specialized care around the clock. None of it would be possible without the 300 volunteers who are constantly at work and sharing their love and attention to Canuck Place and the children who are here.

Without Canuck Place, whether it's gardening, driving kids to community outings, sharing a television, watching the hockey games, cheering, this wouldn't be possible, it wouldn't be successful.

Today I'm pleased to announce that the Ministry of Children and Families, under the leadership of Gordon Hogg, will be offering a grant of an additional \$200,000 to Canuck Place. The additional funding for this year will top up our annual \$800,000 operating funding from the Ministry of Health Services.

Like any non-profit service there are always ongoing needs for resources. Community partners like the Vancouver Canucks and many private donors to this program are critical to its long-term success and future.

Canuck Place is a community achievement made possible by families, corporate sponsorships, donors and individuals reaching out to one another and offering support.

It's something that we should all take great pride in and I'm pleased to be here today to celebrate a decade of success and service and to look forward to future years where we are offering the kind of quality care that British Columbians want for our kids.