

**Premier Gordon Campbell  
Jim Pattison Pavilion Announcement  
May 8, 2003**

*Check Against Delivery*

This is a day for celebration. It's an exceptional time when we are able to open a facility like this, and this particular facility is even more exceptional because of its history.

There is no clearer symbol than this building of why we are faced with the challenges and changes we're dealing with in our health care system today.

The idea for this building was first passed through zoning before I was even elected to city council for the first time in 1984. Construction started in 1988 and the shell was completed in 1991, but it stood as an empty shell for years. Because of the way government used to do things, we forgot that actually having a hospital shell isn't very helpful to patients.

But now we are finally opening the fourth to the sixteenth floors today – albeit 15 years after construction started.

Without the dedication of literally dozens of architects and professionals, health care givers who I'm sure have gone through various stages in their careers, we wouldn't be here today opening this exceptional facility that will provide 459 new beds.

It's going to integrate many of the Vancouver General Hospital's in-patient services for people and it is important to note that this hospital is actually for people across the province – one out of every 12 British Columbians depends on VGH's services.

There are 159 new beds to be opened and we are going to have double bedrooms on trauma floors. You'll see as you go through they are bright and spacious patient care units. They're patient rooms that wrap around an essential service core to increase visibility.

The corridors are designed with storage alcoves to eliminate the carts that you sometimes see in the hallways and every patient room has an overhead lift, which is part of the equipment upgrades available through our \$15-million commitment under the 2001 nursing strategy.

Just downstairs we have the Centre for Excellence for Surgical Education and Innovation, one of the first sites in the world to use state-of-the-art technology in health-care delivery and education.

This facility will be a new and important part of this health campus. We're right next door to the \$90-million Ambulatory Care Centre, which will provide outpatient care for 600,000 patients annually.

This is a very important day for patients in British Columbia. It's great that we get to open a building like this, and it's great we have citizens like Jimmy Pattison who are willing to commit to improving the quality of life of British Columbians in every single corner of this province. We should never forget that it was Jimmy's leadership gift that actually allowed us to move towards this day.

Again, on behalf of everyone – the health care professionals, the province and most importantly the patients of the province – Jimmy, I want to say thank you for your generosity.

We have lots to do in British Columbia to improve the quality of health care for patients.

We have provided for 1,800 new nurse-training spaces in the province. We are also almost doubling the number of medical school. In September 2004, there will be 25 additional graduates at UBC, 24 additional graduates at UNBC and 24 more graduates at the University of Victoria.

Again, that program is designed to meet the needs of all British Columbians just as this building is. I'm very proud to be here today to say thank you to the professionals who spent years of their lives creating this facility.

Many of them faced frustrations, and in many ways this cost more than it had to because of the processes that we went through. But we're here today, and as you go through this building you will see that there has been thought put into how we care for patients, how we can make sure the professionals who work here can provide the quality of service that is necessary, and how we can be at the leading-edge of health care provision in Canada.

To all of you who were part of it, particularly the professionals who went through this for the last fifteen years, I want to say thank you for the commitment all of you have made.