

Premier Gordon Campbell
Canuck Place Children's Hospice
June 15, 2004

Check Against Delivery

Every time we come to Canuck Place for an announcement it's a beautiful day out. I think that's partly the aura of Canuck Place. It's amazing to think what this facility has done for so many families over so many years.

As we gather here today it's important to recognize the contribution of the staff, the doctors and all of the people represented here. This facility is made up of walls and a roof, but without the people inside we couldn't offer the wonderful care and support. Canuck Place does such a great job serving families; offering the kind of time that they need to deal with their challenges in a way that's open, that's honest and that gives all of them a sense of support.

I want to recognize the kids that are with us here today. Coral is with us. Katrina is spending her morning smiling at me. I have Amanda here too. Amanda, you're still smiling. That's excellent. Sarah is here and Danielle is here, as well as Brett. I want to say to the kids how much I appreciate you all coming today and being part of this, because this is about you. Thank you very much for being here.

I do want to take a moment just also to recognize the contribution of the Vancouver Canucks. Arthur Griffiths came very early on when we had the Wlosinski family saying they were willing to give this house to the city. The city took on the house and provided it to Canuck Place for a dollar a year for 50 years. But, you know, without the heart of the Canucks and their team, it wouldn't be nearly the place that it is in terms of community outreach.

Last night we had an opportunity to roast Brian Burke. I can tell you that most of us relished that opportunity. But the really critical thing in that event last night was \$20,000 being raised for Canuck Place. That, again, reflects not just the spirit of the Canucks, but also the commitment and the contribution Brian Burke has made over the time he's been here. I just want to say how much I appreciate his leadership and his personal commitment to Canuck Place. It's what people do that makes a difference, and Brian has exemplified that. Thank you very much, Brian.

Since 1991, the Canucks and Canucks for Kids have raised over \$12 million in support of Canuck Place. That is an incredible contribution to the well being of the city and of our kids. I want to thank the Canucks organization for the incredible support you've given us.

No matter what you do in a building, it's the people that make a difference; the doctors, the nurses, the therapists, the counsellors, the support staff and wonderful, wonderful workers who provide so much specialized care. Three hundred volunteers do everything from gardening to driving the kids on community outings.

One of the things that you feel when you come into Canuck Place is you feel the love that's in the building, you feel the support that's in the building, and you feel from the children their sense of hope and opportunity as they face each day. I think that's enormous, and is largely due to the people in the building and what they do and contribute to those kids.

We do need to recognize that all of this work requires support from the community, and it does require financial assistance. Right now there's annual funding from the Ministry of Health of \$800,000 a year, and that's important.

Today, I am pleased to announce that we will be providing an additional \$250,000 grant for Canuck Place. That \$250,000 comes from the Ministry of Children and Families under the leadership of Christy Clark. I know that will make a big difference in the operations of Canuck Place.

Since 1995, hundreds of kids and families from all over our province have come to receive love and care here in Canuck Place. It's an outstanding facility with outstanding people, outstanding staff, outstanding professionals, incredible families and really great kids.

I want to say thanks to all of you again. Thanks to the parents, thanks to the staff and, again, a very special thanks to the kids. You're all great.