



PRESS RELEASE



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Richmond's First Hospice Opens Doors

RICHMOND, British Columbia, September 30, 2005 — Richmond's first freestanding, community hospice opened its doors today. The Salvation Army Rotary Hospice House, owned and operated by The Salvation Army, is a ten-bed, home-like facility providing quality end of life care to residents of Richmond and Vancouver.

Hospice care provides people in the final stages of a terminal illness with a home-like, community-based setting where they can be close to family and friends. It also provides an alternative for those people who are not able to stay at home or need the intense acute services of hospital palliative care.

"The Government of Canada is committed to investing in our communities, particularly to help those who need it the most," said the Honourable Raymond Chan, Minister of State (Multiculturalism) and Member of Parliament for Richmond, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing. "By working in partnership with the provincial and municipal governments we are able to see projects like The Salvation Army Rotary Hospice House come to life for the people of Richmond."

"Hospice care is about providing a commitment to the whole person — the physical, emotional, social and spiritual — and helping individuals who are dying to face their death with personal integrity in a way that makes sense to them," says the Honourable Linda Reid, Minister of State for Childcare and the MLA for Richmond East. "The Salvation Army Rotary Hospice House is the fulfilment of a vision that has been accomplished as a result of various levels of government and non-profit organizations coming together with the human resolve to make this happen."

The Salvation Army Rotary Hospice House is an innovative partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health to bring hospice palliative care to Richmond. The capital cost for this project is funded by The Salvation Army, the Rotary Club of Richmond, and donations from various community groups and individuals. Additional capital contributions were provided by the Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and the Province of British Columbia, through BC Housing, under the Canada-BC Affordable Housing Agreement. Vancouver Coastal Health will be covering a significant portion of the annual operating costs.

"This community hospice house demonstrates the value that partnerships between different agencies and stakeholders can have for the community," says Ida Goodreau, President and CEO of Vancouver Coastal Health. "The Salvation Army Rotary Hospice House is an important part of Vancouver Coastal Health's continuum of care strategy, and will enhance the high quality palliative care services already available to the people of Richmond."

"Everyone deserves to die with dignity, supported by family and friends, in an environment that allows them to live out their remaining days in peace and comfort," says Commissioner M. Christine MacMillian, Territorial Commander, The Salvation Army Canada & Bermuda. "The Salvation Army Rotary Hospice House supports the whole individual as he or she prepares to leave this life."

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The number of government-subsidized hospice beds in British Columbia has increased from 57 to 105 since 2001, with an additional 65 hospice beds in the planning stages.

The Government of Canada, through CMHC, will contribute \$130 million by 2008 towards affordable housing in this British Columbia. The provincial government, through BC Housing, will provide a minimum of \$34 million annually to subsidize the cost of units built under the Canada–British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement, as part of a larger strategy to provide a range of housing options for British Columbians in greatest need.

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Backgrounder

The Salvation Army Rotary Hospice House

The Salvation Army Rotary Hospice House, owned and operated by The Salvation Army, is a 10-bed, home-like facility providing hospice palliative care to residents of Richmond and Vancouver. This hospice provides physical, emotional and spiritual support for terminally ill individuals.

In March 1999, The Salvation Army and the Rotary Club of Richmond established a partnership to create capital and development plans for The Salvation Army Rotary Hospice House.

Located in a residential neighbourhood, many of the bedrooms at The Salvation Army Rotary Hospice House offer residents a view of a beautifully landscaped garden, pond and walking path. Each bedroom has a private washroom. In addition, wheelchair accessible bathing facilities and a therapeutic tub are available. There are also a number of common areas — a quiet area, lounge and chapel — where residents can spend time with their families and friends.

Facility staff includes an executive director, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and care aides, a volunteer co-ordinator, a social worker, chaplain, a housekeeper, a food preparation worker and an administrative assistant.

Partners and Funding

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Capital cost of the project: \$2,891,968 million

The Government of Canada, through CMHC, is contributing a \$300,000 capital grant through the Canada-BC Affordable Housing Agreement (Phase 1).

The Province of BC, through BC Housing, is contributing \$300,000 towards the capital costs of the development.

The Salvation Army is providing the total equity of \$543,968 consisting of \$329,000 land equity and \$214,968 cash equity.

Annual operating cost: \$1,111,908 per year.

Vancouver Coastal Health will contribute \$839,908 annually to the operating budget.

The Salvation Army will contribute \$180,000 annually.

Private and Foundation Donations totalling \$1,748,000 have been made to the project, including:

- Rotary Club of Richmond
- The Sutherland Foundation
- Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation Canada
- Chippendale Foundation
- Milan and Maureen Ilich Foundation
- Glentel Inc.
- Larkspur Foundation
- TCG International Inc.
- Vancouver Foundation
- BMO Bank of Montreal

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is the largest non-governmental social service agency in the province. It has vast experience in social service programs, including housing and shelter. The British Columbia Division's operating budget is \$75 million.

The Salvation Army has been a vital part of Vancouver since the city's birth. The first ministry opened on the edge of Chinatown in 1887. Today, the Army estimates that almost one-third of British Columbians have been touched in some way by its work.

Facts About Hospice Care

A hospice is a place outside the regular hospital environment where end-of-life care is provided to people who are in their final months or weeks of life and who need ongoing management of their symptoms. Hospice beds provide an option for dying people who do not require care in hospital, but who cannot be cared for at home or choose not to die at home.

Health authorities are developing hospice beds as part of improvements to end-of-life care services in their regions. Hospice beds may be located in a residential facility, as part of a housing project or an assisted living project, as a separate unit within a hospital or they may be operated as a freestanding facility.

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Hospice beds may be operated by a contracted service provider or within a facility owned and operated by the health authority.

The number of government-subsidized hospice beds in British Columbia has increased from 57 to 105 since 2001, with an additional 65 hospice beds in the planning stages.

In Vancouver, there are 37 palliative care beds in acute facilities, with four community hospices, one for children only. Richmond has 10 beds at Richmond Hospital that are designated as palliative care beds.