



MEDIA RELEASE

New Catheterization Laboratory Officially Opened

October 18, 2010, St. John's, NL - Eastern Health and the Health Care Foundation today officially opened a new cardiac catheterization (cath) laboratory, at the General Hospital in the Health Sciences Centre, St. John's.

Participants in today's ribbon-cutting ceremony included Frank Fagan, Chair of the Health Care Foundation; Louise Jones, Senior Vice-President and Chief Nursing Officer, Eastern Health; Keith Hutchings, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and Community Services; Hon. Edward Roberts, Honorary Chair of the *Give From the Heart* Campaign; Dr. Barry Rose, Clinical Chief of Cardiac Care; Dr. Neil Pearce, Cath Lab Director; and Darren Rideout, Cath Lab Manager.

"Today is a milestone day for cardiac care in Newfoundland and Labrador," said Mr. Frank Fagan, chair of the Health Care Foundation. "This new, advanced cath lab will benefit cardiac patients throughout our province and help meet the increased demand for cardiac services. Our province has the highest incidence of cardiovascular disease in Canada, so it is critical that we have the best tools available to diagnose and treat this disease."

Funding of the new cath lab was made possible through the *Give from the Heart* cardiac campaign, with donations from the provincial government and corporate and individual donors. The campaign, launched in June, 2009, will raise a total of \$10 million to purchase leading-edge equipment and technology for Eastern Health's Cardiac Care program, which is the provincial referral centre for all cardiac surgery and invasive cardiac diagnostic and interventional procedures. Two existing catheterization labs will be completely replaced and will become operational in 2011.

"The provincial government recognizes the critical role Eastern Health's Cardiac Care program plays as one of the most utilized services in our province's healthcare system," said the Honorable Jerome Kennedy, Minister of Health and Community Services. "It is for this reason that when the Health Care Foundation launched its *Give from the Heart* campaign last year, we were fully supportive of this major fundraising initiative and were pleased to invest \$4.5 million to help raise money for medical equipment and to advance the technology used to treat cardiovascular disease."

Eastern Health's Cardiac Care program is one of the most utilized services in our province's health care system. In an average year, it will perform approximately 600 surgeries, conduct more than 6,000 stress tests and 60,000 ECGs; and carry out more than 4,000 procedures in the cardiac catheterization labs. It is truly a provincial program, as more than 60% of its cardiac patients originate from outside the St. John's area.

"This generous investment from the provincial government as well as corporate and individual donors will enhance our Cardiac Care program with additional state-of-the-art resources," said Louise Jones, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer of Eastern Health. "These custom-designed laboratories will place us at the forefront of catheterization procedures and provide our staff and physicians with the technology to both diagnose and treat our cardiac patients more efficiently and effectively."

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About the Health Care Foundation

The Health Care Foundation is the official fundraising organization for the adult acute care hospitals in the greater St. John's region, governed by Eastern Health. The Health Care Foundation raises funds to purchase vital medical equipment and technology, funds patient comfort items as well as health research and education, for the General Hospital, St. Clare's Mercy Hospital, Waterford Hospital, Dr. Leonard A. Miller Centre and the Dr. Walter Templeman Health Centre. www.healthcarefoundation.ca
www.givefromtheheart.ca

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About Eastern Health

Eastern Health is the largest, integrated health authority in Newfoundland and Labrador employing almost 13,000 dedicated employees and serving a population of more than 290,000 people. The authority has an annual budget of over \$1 billion and offers the full continuum of health and community services including public health, long-term care, community services, hospital care and unique provincial programs and services. Its geographic boundaries extend from St. John's west to Port Blandford including all communities on the Avalon, Burin and Bonavista Peninsulas. www.easternhealth.ca