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February 24, 2004 (**Feb. 19 Board Meeting**)

### Presentations

The board received a presentation from **Dr. Gavin Stuart, Dean of the University of British Columbia (UBC) School of Medicine**, on the expansion of the medical school. Currently, there are 128 first year spots available for medical students at UBC. With UBC's expansion and new medical schools coming on stream at the University of Victoria and the University of Northern British Columbia, by 2010 there will be a total of 192 first year spots available at UBC, and a further 32 first year spots in each of the Victoria and Northern BC schools.

The Provincial Health Services (PHSA) Board Brief summarizes the board meetings of the PHSA. It is sent to PHSA agencies, government, media and other stakeholders to keep them informed about the activities of the PHSA.

### CEO Update

With funding support from the BC Children's Hospital Foundation, Children's Hospital is launching a **Child Health Advocacy Program** aimed at developing a provincial strategy to raise awareness and contribute to policy change about health issues that place a significant burden on the wellbeing of children, their families, the workplace and the provincial economy. The program will focus on early childhood dental cavities, immunization and childhood obesity.

BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre is moving ahead with implementation of an integrated **provincial tertiary perinatal services program** and the Provincial Specialized Perinatal Services Network – initiatives aimed at working with health care partners to improve maternity care across BC.

As part of the **Riverview Redevelopment Project**, 80 patients have now transferred from Riverview Hospital to new facilities in Prince George, Victoria and Kamloops. Approximately 80 more patients are expected to transfer to new facilities in the Fraser, Northern and Interior Health Authorities later this spring. Operating funding for the new beds opening in regional health authorities is transferred to those authorities as the patients are transferred.

The wait list for **open heart surgery** has decreased from a high of 855 patients in May 2003 to 593 patients at the end

### Media Conference Call with Board Chair and CEO

PHSA board chair Wynne Powell, and CEO Lynda Cranston will be available to answer media questions related to the PHSA board meeting through a conference call on Thursday, Feb. 26 from 10 to 10:30 am.

Phone Communications at 604-675-7474 before 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 25 for details on how to register for the call. A 1-800 number is available for the conference call throughout B.C.

of December 2003. The PHSA has provided funding for an additional 68 open heart surgical cases to be completed before the end of the fiscal year. PHSA is also working on plans to increase the number of cases performed annually in order to effectively manage the waitlist.

More renal patients will have the option to move to **independent dialysis options** in the months to come, leading to better health outcomes and savings to the system. A multidisciplinary committee is establishing a provincial structure to support local implementation of independent dialysis options such as self care in renal units and home-based therapies.

Health Services Minister Colin Hansen launched an **organ donor registration campaign** with the BC Transplant Society at the Legislature on January 13, 2004. The event marked the kick-off of the Transplant Society's provincial campaign to raise awareness and ensure the public is better informed about the process for registering as a potential organ donor.

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) has proposed to partner with the federal government and offer the resources of the BCCDC to fast-track the creation of a **National Centre for Disease Control**. The BCCDC is Canada's only comprehensive centre for disease control, and offers highly integrated services in such key areas as epidemiology, laboratory science, infectious disease prevention and control, and environmental health.

## **Board Committee Reports**

The **Audit and Finance Committee** reviewed the report on Operations for Period 10. PHSA's financial plan projects a deficit for the 2003/04 fiscal year, which will be covered by the surplus achieved last year to achieve a balanced budget over the 2002/03 and 2003/04 fiscal years. PHSA operated on budget in periods 9 and 10, maintaining the favourable variance established earlier in the year. PHSA now projects a year-end deficit of \$8.5 million, which is \$1.8 million better than budget.

The **Audit and Finance Committee** recommended and the Board approved revisions to the Signing Authority Policy to improve the clarity in the wording of the policy. The policy is effective April 1, 2004 and will be communicated in the coming months and posted on the PHSA website.

The **Audit and Finance Committee** also recommended and the Board approved a Capital Policy, which sets out authority and responsibility for capital asset governance. The policy is effective April 1, 2004 and will be communicated in the coming months and posted on the PHSA website.