



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

March 31, 2016

The Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation Launches Focus on Patient Care Campaign 2016

The Sackville Memorial Hospital (SMH) Foundation has launched its **Focus on Patient Care Campaign 2016**. The goal is to fundraise and invest **\$100,000** into a number of items to improve the comfort, care and safety of patients.

The SMH has, for decades, been the heart of the community, providing quality and compassionate care for our loved ones. There is not an area in the hospital that hasn't been touched or impacted by our donors. Campaign Chair Elaine Smith says the public is being asked to once again consider a gift. *"We never know when one of our family members, friends, neighbours or even ourselves will access the services at SMH. During a time of illness, no matter how brief or long term it may be, we all want the most advanced equipment, treatment and healthcare environment possible,"* says Smith.

On the campaign list for the Radiology Department are two **high-tech wireless electrocardiograms (ECGs)** at a total cost of \$35,431 which will replace the current ones that are quickly becoming obsolete. An ECG is a painless, non-invasive test to check the problems with the electrical activity in the heart. Wireless technology allows ECG results to be transferred immediately into the system so that a physician in Moncton can determine diagnosis and treatment.

Six **modern hospital beds** will be added to Brunswick Unit (21 bed inpatient area) which will increase patient safety and comfort and reduce injuries to staff. The new beds, which will make it much easier to transfer and manoeuvre patients, have the option of putting the head lower than the feet to help with certain medical issues, such as hypotension (low blood pressure). In addition, one of the new beds will have a weight scale, reducing the amount of movement a bedridden patient has to suffer. These beds will replace the last of the older models that have become obsolete on Brunswick Unit. Each bed costs \$4,145; \$4,845 for the one with weight scale.

The **shoulder instrumentation tray**, which costs \$12,510, houses a wide array of innovative shoulder instruments to allow surgeons to perform difficult procedures with ease through a scope. Currently, Day Surgery is equipped with only one set. A second set is essential when more than one shoulder surgery is being performed at a time. An additional tray will allow for two or three shoulder procedures to be performed back to back without having to borrow and transport instruments from The Moncton Hospital. The various instruments in the shoulder instrumentation tray are designed for specialized work on the shoulder that allow surgeons to grab, manipulate tissue, pass sutures and tie knots to rejoin tissues separated by surgery or trauma, all doing so through small portals. Four orthopedic surgeons performed 58 shoulder surgeries at the SMH last year, an increase from previous years. The most common shoulder surgery is a rotator cuff repair.

Three new **overbed tables** at \$435 each will be purchased for the Emergency Room (ER). They will increase comfort and safety as the base fits underneath the stretchers. This will permit patients with decreased mobility better access to the trays. At the moment, patients who cannot sit up, eat with the table at an awkward side angle.

Twenty-five thousand dollars will pave the way for an **electronic card access system in both the Laboratory and the Operating Room (OR)** to enhance privacy and the overall level of security for patients and staff. Card access will ensure patient confidentiality, and the safety and security of the staff, while restricting access to medications (OR), chemicals, biohazards (Lab), as well as safeguard patient information and test results from visitors or unauthorized personnel in both the Lab and OR. Installation of the electronic card access system will ensure that the Lab and OR meet the accreditation standard for security and access.

“These new purchases for our hospital will greatly improve patient safety and comfort allowing the staff more opportunities to provide better care,” says Emilie Doucet, Nurse Manager, Brunswick Unit and ER.

If you would like to make a donation, you can contact the Foundation at 364-4204, drop by the hospital, or donate securely on-line at www.smhf.ca/donate.

If the the campaign goal is exceeded, the additional funds will be used on the Hospital's other priority needs. **Our Hospital. Our Health Care.**

-30-

For more information contact:

Julie Thebeau, CFRE
Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation
smhfoundation@horizonnb.ca
(506) 870-2699