

KGH \$1.4 Million Away From Cardiac Completion

KELOWNA, BC – The fundraising campaign to acquire a lifesaving cardiac specialty is nearing completion. The total amount raised is **\$5.6 million** of the \$7 million required to open a state of the art Electrophysiology Lab at Kelowna General Hospital.

The KGH Foundation publicly announced the campaign in February 2019 under the headline, “Right Here at KGH.” The Interior Health Cardiac Science program spans all 23 hospitals in the region, and is centred at the largest acute care facility, Kelowna General Hospital. While the program has grown considerably since 2011, one lifesaving service is not available, meaning patients must travel to for treatment.



Example of how the Electrophysiology Lab will look once complete

For those experiencing arrhythmia, or heart rhythm abnormality, the risk of cardiac arrest is significant. The proper diagnosis and treatment, such as an implantable defibrillator (or ICD), is essential. Currently, such patients are forced to wait for a bed to become available in Victoria, Vancouver or Calgary and then travel hundreds of kilometers for treatment.

“It’s important for the public to realize that while our cardiac program has the best outcomes in the country, it is not yet complete,” explains Doug Rankmore, CEO of the KGH Foundation. “The public has responded in a big way. I’ve had many conversations with donors on the effect cardiac health has had on their family. And I’m hopeful that soon we can make a pretty big announcement on behalf of everyone who has been working so hard.”

Rankmore is referencing the completion of a \$7 million campaign, which would see a new Electrophysiology Lab open by the summer of 2020. Once the lab is open, over one million residents in the BC interior will have access to a full suite of cardiac services with no need to travel further than Kelowna.

“Our hospital has been performing open heart surgery since 2012 and yet this service is not available for the people of BC – it’s time for that to change.”

For more information on the campaign or to donate, visit www.kghfoundation.com.

The KGH Foundation is an independent, volunteer-driven charitable organization committed to enhancing the delivery of healthcare to the patients of Kelowna General Hospital and its associated facilities.

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