

**Delta Foundation Groundbreaking and Donor Recognition Ceremony
Minister of Health George Abbott
September 16, 2005**

Check against delivery

Thank you for the invitation to be here today. Regrettably, Premier Gordon Campbell was unable to attend – and I bring greetings on his behalf and that of the Province.

I am delighted to be here this afternoon joining a group of people who have accomplished something extraordinary. You've worked to provide your community with something that will benefit generations of Delta residents and the celebration today is the culmination of the tremendous effort undertaken to manage this major capital project.

The expansion to emergency room services is very important in this part of the province. We all know how critical emergency care is – especially when it comes to our families, our friends and our community. Increasing capacity means better access to emergency care for Delta residents.

At a cost of \$6 million it will nearly triple ER capacity at Delta Hospital. This will benefit the more than 23,000 patients who come into this ER every year. The changes being made will ensure all patients in Delta have the care they need, when they need it. As health minister, that's music to my ears.

So my first thank you goes to those of you who have laboured on the board, in administration, on the phones. I know you have lived and breathed this expansion, and you've done a fantastic job. I also extend thanks to the donors for their generous contributions that have made these renovations possible. Whether your contribution was large or small, you have made a long-term difference to the well-being of Delta residents.

I want to thank the volunteer board of the Delta Hospital. You have spent many hours attending community events to bolster the fundraising effort for this expansion and I know you have brought tremendous energy to this project over the past four years.

That energy often takes away time from work to attend board meetings, and leaves little for personal daily life. Most of you spent hours in planning and fundraising to help the Foundation meet its financial target. You have acted as ambassadors for Delta Hospital. By talking to colleagues, friends, associates, the Chamber of Commerce and community groups, you've created a buzz that has pushed this project to the forefront in the community.

For all of you, thank you for your hard work. It is said that it takes an entire village to raise a child and I think this ER expansion is very much a child of the community of Delta. Congratulations to all of you. This hospital will continue to be a credit to your community, your families and your friends.