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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Health  
BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre

### **\$2.5-MILLION EXPANSION TO IMPROVE MATERNITY CARE**

VANCOUVER – A healthy start for newborns and their parents is the goal of the expanded Single Room Maternity Care Unit at BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre, opened today by Health Minister George Abbott and Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services and Minister responsible for Seniors' and Women's Issues.

The \$2.5-million renovation project increases the number of single-room care units at BC Women's by nine – for a total of 17 units.

“More mothers will have the opportunity to experience single-room maternity care with their newborn thanks to these renovations,” said Abbott. “This allows women to go through labour, delivery and post-birth care all in the same room, making the experience more comfortable and allowing families to spend more time together. This is part of our government's commitment to providing the best health-care services to all British Columbians.”

“Women everywhere in B.C. deserve to experience birthing in the safest, most comfortable environment possible,” said Chong. “As Minister responsible for Women's Issues, I am committed to continuing to advance the health care of women in this province.”

“The first hours with a new baby are a very special time for any family. Comprehensive, family-centered maternity care in a comfortable and private setting provides mothers and their partners with a sound basis for parenthood,” said Dr. Elizabeth Whynot, president of BC Women's.

The newly renovated unit will accommodate approximately 2,200 births per year.

“Research has shown that, for low-risk births, single-room maternity care offers many benefits,” said Pam O'Sullivan, vice president of Acute Perinatal at BC Women's. “This new unit features all the comforts of home, such as private bathtubs and beds for the partner, plus leading edge equipment and technology is on hand, should it be required. These features combine for a welcoming and well-supported birthing experience.”

To support this renovation, donors to the BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre Foundation contributed more than a million dollars to the Best Beginnings Campaign for equipment in the new rooms, including First Hour of Life units, doptone monitors, bassinets, powered birthing beds, televisions and other amenities, to ensure mothers, partners and newborns are as safe and comfortable as possible.

BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, provides service for pregnant women, newborns and women with specialized health needs from across the province. For more information, please visit [www.bcwomens.ca](http://www.bcwomens.ca).

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) plans, manages and evaluates selected specialty and provincewide health-care services across B.C., working with the five geographic health authorities to deliver provincewide solutions that improve the health of British Columbians. For more information, please visit [www.phsa.ca](http://www.phsa.ca).

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