

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2006OTP0149-001265  
Oct. 20, 2006

Office of the Premier  
Ministry of Health  
Vancouver Coastal Health

### **WORLD-CLASS HEALTH CENTRE OPENS IN VANCOUVER FIRST MAJOR HEALTH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP COMPLETE**

VANCOUVER – Premier Gordon Campbell today officially opened the Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre, an approximately \$95-million world-class out-patient care facility, as part of Vancouver General Hospital.

“The Diamond Centre will provide a wide range of medical services to over 600,000 patients annually – all in one location,” said Campbell. “These services include diagnostic testing, specialist visits and clinic visits. The centre will also allow hundreds of health professionals to work together in an academic centre. We are acting on our commitment to provide the best quality patient care.”

This is British Columbia’s first major health facility to be completed as a public-private partnership, through an agreement between Vancouver Coastal Health and Access Health Vancouver. Vancouver Coastal Health will maintain ownership, control and decision-making over the site and facility and will be responsible for the delivery of all health-care services. The private partner, Access Health Vancouver, assumed responsibility for the financing, design, construction, facility management and maintenance.

“This public-private partnership has provided best value for taxpayers’ dollars, while supporting innovation and quality in the creation of the centre,” said Campbell. “The integrated range of health services will make it much easier for patients to receive co-ordinated health care. By working with a private sector partner with expertise in health facility building, design, finance and property management, we are saving approximately \$17 million. Vancouver Coastal Health can move ahead on what they do best – provide expert health-care delivery.”

“The Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre offers patients an unprecedented level of ‘one-stop shopping’,” said Ida Goodreau, president and CEO of Vancouver Coastal Health. “This facility brings together 40 hospital clinics and programs, nine UBC Faculty of Medicine programs, 195 physician offices, and more than 1,000 staff, researchers and students who were previously spread throughout nine buildings. In this new environment, they are providing efficient, highly co-ordinated care that keeps the patient experience front and centre.”

“This new academic facility, with the support of hundreds of clinical teachers, will provide a wonderful opportunity for UBC medical students, postgraduate residents and other health professionals to receive an interdisciplinary education,” said Dr. Gavin Stuart, Dean of the UBC Faculty of Medicine. “This will help ensure we can deliver a team-oriented approach to patient care and make a difference to the health of British Columbians.”

The facility was formerly known as the Academic Ambulatory Care Centre and was renamed in honour of a \$20 million gift from Gordon and Leslie Diamond of Vancouver.

“We thank the Diamonds for their generous contribution towards supporting specialist care at Vancouver General Hospital,” Campbell continued.

“It’s a privilege to be a philanthropic partner in this world-class facility and stand side-by-side with the Premier for the benefit of the people of British Columbia,” said Gordon Diamond.

Vancouver Coastal Health is responsible for the delivery of \$2.1 billion in acute, residential and community care to over one million people in communities from Richmond through Vancouver, the North Shore, Sunshine Coast, Sea-to-Sky area, Powell River, Bella Bella and Bella Coola.

To participate in the “Conversation on Health,” visit <http://www.bcconversationonhealth.ca/>.

2 backgrounder(s) attached.

Media        Mike Morton  
contact:     Press Secretary  
               Office of the Premier  
               250 213-8218

Laurie Dawkins  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
604 708-5312

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province’s news feeds using RSS, visit the Province’s website at [www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca).