



Background- The Toronto Rehab Foundation's *Everything Humanly Possible*: The Campaign for Toronto Rehab

The Toronto Rehab Foundation's *Everything Humanly Possible*: The Campaign for Toronto Rehab is the first major fundraising Campaign for the hospital since its creation in 1998. The Foundation's \$60 million campaign for hospital redevelopment, education and research has shifted from its successful quiet phase to its final and public phase with just over \$15 million remaining to be raised.

Toronto Rehab aspires to be an international leader in rehabilitation services and research and the hospital's \$60 million campaign, which is an unprecedented fundraising goal in support of rehabilitation in Canada, is critical to its capital redevelopment. Elements of the project supported by the campaign include: the expansion and renovation of the hospital's University Centre; the creation of iDAPT, a world-class centre for research and discovery; five endowed research chairs to further enhance research capacity; and major renovations to the hospital's Lyndhurst Centre, home to Toronto Rehab's Spinal Cord Rehabilitation Program, to make that facility more accessible and conducive for a range of specialized out-patient services.

David Kerr, director and past Chair of the Toronto Rehab Foundation, and his wife Sheryl, donated the campaign's first gift of \$1 million sending a powerful call-to-action to others who share their altruistic spirit. More recently, another long-time hospital supporter, Judith Ryrle (Billie) Wilder made one of the largest known personal donations to adult rehabilitation in Canada. Mrs. Wilder's \$5 million gift reflects a lifetime of family involvement and commitment to advancing rehabilitation. In honour of her father, Mrs. Wilder's gift will be recognized with the renaming of Toronto Rehab's Queen Elizabeth site at 130 Dunn Ave. to **The E.W Bickle Centre for Complex Continuing Care**.

In total, 170 corporate, foundation and individual donors have stepped forward at all levels during the quiet phase of the Campaign.

The goal of Toronto Rehab's capital campaign is to advance rehabilitation and enhance quality of life for the over 3.6 million (about one in eight) Canadians who have a significant disability. This number is expected to rise considerably in the next decade as Canada's population ages. The demand for rehabilitation services will also grow and with it the need to develop new and more effective treatments, and assistive devices and technologies to support people with disabilities and people as they age.

Everything Humanly Possible: The Campaign for Toronto Rehab is supported by a dedicated team of volunteers led by Barbara Stymiest, Chief Operating Officer, RBC Financial Group.

The capital redevelopment of Toronto Rehab

Although major capital projects are, in large part, funded by the provincial government, the Foundation has an important role to play in helping Toronto Rehab raise its share of the total cost. Toronto Rehab facilities will undergo an unprecedented multi-million dollar transformation. The creation of the \$36 million iDAPT research facilities complete with high tech laboratories and unique testing facilities is part of Toronto Rehabilitation's capital redevelopment. In addition to iDAPT, the hospital's redevelopment includes extensive infrastructure upgrades at three of the hospital's five sites.

- The transformation began several years ago with the construction of a new 128-bed long-term care facility at the Queen Elizabeth site. This was followed by a new front entrance at University Centre, and, over the past 24 months, extensive renovations to the hospital's Lyndhurst Centre that expanded and enhanced outpatient and day hospital services for patients with spinal cord injuries and disease.
- Next on the redevelopment agenda is the demolition of the southwest wing of the hospital's University Centre, which is scheduled to begin next winter, followed by construction of a new 13-storey tower in the summer 2008. This new tower will feature more spacious and private rooms for patients, on-unit therapy spaces, fully accessible patient gardens and balconies, expanded outpatient facilities including a therapeutic pool, and dedicated space for research and education.
- Also this fall, a \$10 million renovation of the hospital's complex continuing care facility, the Queen Elizabeth Centre, will get underway.
- Toronto Rehab's capital redevelopment also includes the creation of five endowed Research Chairs including the Toronto Rehab/University of Toronto Rehabilitation Science Research Chair; Saunderson Family Chair in Acquired Brain Injury Research; the Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Research Chair; Canada's first Chair in Sleep Apnea Research; and a Research Chair established in honour of *Everything Humanly Possible* Campaign Chair, Barbara Stymiest.