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For immediate release

PHILANTHROPIST DONATES \$6 MILLION TO BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL **Largest individual donation in the Hospital's history**

VANCOUVER, BC, November 3— BC Children's Hospital will undergo a 50,000 square foot redevelopment, thanks to a \$6 million donation from businessman and international philanthropist, Djavad Mowafaghian.

Mr. Mowafaghian, an Iranian/Canadian, made the donation based on his desire to give something back to the community that welcomed him and his family 18 years ago. After touring the cramped and tired outpatient cancer clinic and other clinics in the Level 1 North area of Children's Hospital, he concluded that this was where he could make the biggest difference.

"It broke my heart to see the crowded, rundown conditions the children had to endure while undergoing painful and difficult treatments. I just knew I had to do something to improve the comfort and ease the suffering of the children and their families," he said.

"This is the largest donation from an individual in the history of Children's Hospital," said David Podmore, Chair of BC Children's Hospital Foundation. "Thanks to the incredible generosity of Mr. Mowafaghian, sick children will be able to receive critical treatment in greater comfort and safety."

The redevelopment will encompass several clinical areas that include oncology, ECG (brain scanning), allergy and respiratory, sedation, audiology, and physical and occupational therapies.

In Phase I of construction, the oncology clinic will be redeveloped and will result in:

- doubling of the size of the outpatient unit;
- enhanced space to work with patients;
- areas for caregivers to talk about treatment with families in privacy;
- private space for kids who aren't having a very good day;
- better and more staff space for doctors, nurses, nutritionists and other caregivers.

"The redevelopment project has been identified as an urgent priority for years," said Sharon Toohey, President of BC Children's Hospital "but until Mr. Mowafaghian came forward, the Hospital did not have sufficient funding to proceed. This is wonderful news for our patients and caregivers."



Construction on the oncology area is scheduled to begin immediately with completion targeted for Summer 2005. The redevelopment of the other clinics should be complete by Fall 2006.

Mr. Mowafaghian, 77, President of V1500 Holdings Inc., a real estate investment development company in North Vancouver, has also committed the expertise of his staff and office to ensure the successful completion of the project.

With a deep commitment to children, education and health, Mr. Mowafaghian's philanthropic endeavors over the years include:

- supporting numerous charitable organizations throughout the Lower Mainland;
- equipping an operating room in a major heart surgery centre in Iran, making possible more than 3,000 heart surgeries to date;
- building more than 50 homes for poor families;
- establishing 16 schools from kindergarten to grade 12 in rural areas in Iran;
- establishing eight trade and technical schools in Iran;
- establishing a school and providing a dormitory for the visually impaired in Iran;
- funding the construction of four "pressure rooms" for bone marrow transplants in Geneva, Switzerland;
- awarding more than 70 scholarships for international students in London, England.

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