WE ARE NOT HEROES. BUT WE DO THE HEROIC. WE CARE ABOUT YOU AS MUCH AS WE CARE FOR YOU WE ARE AT OUR BEST WHEN WE HELP YOU GET WE ARE NOT CONTENT THE SIDELINES. FDUCATE & INSPIRE WE ARE HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS.

WE'VE GOT THIS WE'VE GOT YOU



### At some point in their lives, all Atlantic Canadians will be touched by the QEII Health Sciences Centre.

In 2017-2018, patients visited the QEII from across the region.

#### TOTAL QEII VISITS **1,136,286**

1,113,097

**11,477**NEW BRUNSWICK

9,459

2,253
NEWFOUNDLAND
AND LABRADOR

**QEII Health Sciences Centre -** As the largest adult health sciences centre in Atlantic Canada, the QEII Health Sciences Centre is more than just 10 buildings on two sites. It's thousands of people delivering exceptional care, every day. From the operating room to the research lab, and everywhere in between, the most advanced care in our region is within the walls of the QEII. In addition to being the specialized care centre for heart health, cancer care, neurosurgery and organ transplantation, the QEII is the leading research centre and training facility for tomorrow's healthcare professionals.

**QEII Health Sciences Centre Foundation - Transformed health. Transformed lives.** This is our vision. For more than two decades, the QEII Foundation has been advancing health care at the QEII by funding new technologies, medical research, innovation and professional education that contribute to life-changing moments experienced every day by patients and their loved ones. With incredible support from the community, together we are transforming the QEII for Atlantic Canadians.



## The moments here are about as real as they get...

"But the moments can be beautiful. And patients know that 'we've got this; we've got you." These are some of the words we heard when we sat down with physicians and staff and asked "what makes the QEII a special place?".

The cover of this year's Annual Report reflects those conversations - how healthcare providers feel about the passion and teamwork that makes the QEII tick, the support for patients and families facing some of the most challenging moments of their lives, and the exceptional, advanced care that is provided every single day.

And this advanced care is possible through the generosity of donors and volunteers who share our vision of transformational change.

The stories in this publication are just a sampling of how donors are helping advance care at the QEII. And while there are challenges in health care, it's really important that we take the time to acknowledge and celebrate the extraordinary moments that take place within the walls of all 10 buildings of the QEII Health Sciences Centre.

Big changes are coming to the QEII. These transformational changes are being described as a once-in-a-generation opportunity here in Atlantic Canada. The QEII Redevelopment Project will impact how and where care is delivered to the over one million patient visits at the QEII each year.

We, at the QEII Foundation, are excited for these changes. We know that in order for change to happen, you need to first dream big and have bold aspirations. That is what we do - dream big and push to make the greatest impact we can on advancing health care, fueled by our generous donors, and dedicated volunteers.

To each and every person who has joined with us on this journey, by financially contributing or volunteering time to advance patient care at the QEII, you have our sincere appreciation.

President & CEO
QEII Foundation

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## When "thank you" doesn't feel like enough

Amid multiple health challenges, Bill McKelvie is taking on his 80s with a smile. Living with COPD and heart failure, Bill is no stranger to the QEII's emergency department. As a world-leader in COPD and the advanced heart health centre in Atlantic Canada, the QEII is here for patients like Bill in those moments.

Bill arrived at the QEII by ambulance in April 2017 after experiencing difficulty breathing. When his heart attack hit, he was in the emergency department.

We've been very fortunate. I know we have a shortage of doctors, but the ones we have are excellent."

"The emergency team is fantastic," Bill says. "When they're looking after you, you feel completely comfortable. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be here. "J"

Grateful for life-saving care, Bill made a donation in honour of his care team.



### \$119,448 in tribute gifts

Every year, donors from across Atlantic Canada make gifts to the QEII Foundation in honour of a loved one or to recognize a special QEII physician, healthcare professional or care team.

Together, donors like Bill and PremaBae contributed \$119,448 to advance care at the QEII in 2017 - funding vital medical equipment, technology, research, and education. Tribute gifts have supported areas of greatest need, cancer care, heart health, neuroscience and urology, among other care areas.







# When medical experts access innovative technology, magic happens.

The QEII's neurosurgery and neurology teams work together to help epilepsy patients get better. When these patients reach the QEII, they want answers. What causes their seizures? Will they ever live seizure-free? While many patients manage their symptoms through medication, sometimes brain surgery is the best option.

The QEII is now home to the StealthStation Surgical Navigation System. The most advanced of its kind, this software guides surgical planning for patients living with epilepsy. Dr. David Clarke, head of the division of neurosurgery, is already seeing the results of this innovation.

This technology has an immediate, direct impact on patients and their families. Patients are treated sooner and spend less time on the operating table, and surgeons have access to the technology to guide pre-operative planning for these surgeries. There are many Atlantic Canadians that we have yet to treat. That's where the big impact is – we'll help more patients find answers and improve their quality of life by reducing or, in many cases, eliminating their seizures. We wouldn't have access to this technology without community support.

It is what separates a place that can do good work from a place of excellence.

Dr. David Clarke

### Connecting to what matters most

Since the Stay Connected Mental Health Project began five years ago, coordinator Debbie Phillips (right) and her team have implemented new guidelines and principles into daily practice, trained peer support workers like Tanaka Shumba (left), and worked closely with Halifax's five universities to provide students with better access to mental health care.

Growing up in Zimbabwe, mental health was not talked about. So when I arrived in Halifax for university two years ago, my own experience was very unexpected. I was on my own for the first time, half a world away from my family, adapting to a new culture and very immersed in my studies. It all became very stressful. After receiving the help I needed, I became very passionate about mental health and applied to become a peer support worker with the Stay Connected Mental Health Project. It's been a very rewarding experience, providing a safe space, a listening ear and support to my fellow students.

Tanaka Shumba

# **\$150,000** for Stay Connected

In 2017, Fred and Elizabeth Fountain renewed their commitment to the **Stay Connected** Mental Health Project program with a gift of \$150,000 in recognition of Canada 150. Their generosity is allowing the program to continue its transformative work, providing better access to mental health services for young adults during a critical time in their lives.

Donors like Fred and Elizabeth provide vital support for life-changing and life-saving treatments and programs across all areas of care within the QEII.





# **\$607,913** raised through *Ride for Cancer*

On September 30, 2017, Ride for Cancer powered by BMO Bank of Montreal did something BIGGER for cancer care in our region. With 475 riders, over 200 volunteers. valued sponsors, and supporters, our Ride community raised \$607,913 net. These critical funds will provide advanced therapy equipment to double capacity and shorten wait times for cancer patients at the QEII, fund local research unlocking new treatments for leukemia patients, and support patients and families through our partnership with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada.

## Giving back to QEII patients through *Ride for Cancer*

As a program manager at the QEII's Nova Scotia Rehabilitation and Arthritis Centre, Joanne Comeau's focus is on the treatment and care provided to people with spinal cord injuries and neurological issues, helping patients regain as much of their independence as possible. Her dedication to QEII patients stems far beyond those she sees every day.

Ride for Cancer doesn't necessarily impact the majority of patients in my work area but it does impact QEII cancer patients. We all know patients, co-workers, family or friends that have cancer and that's why it is important for me to give back. As a healthcare worker or administrator, we all strive to provide the best care possible to our patients. That's the goal of Ride for Cancer – improving cancer care in our region. If I can volunteer my time to help QEII patients, why wouldn't I?

My volunteer role at the Ride was as the lead contact for first aid. I remember the energy and excitement on event day from the other volunteers, spectators, and of course the riders. It was an amazing experience that I think everyone should get involved with. No matter how big or small your part is, we are all working together to improve patient treatment and care at the QEII.

#QE2GotThis

Joanne Comeau

### A home run for cancer care and research

In February 2016, the community of Kennetcook, N.S. and the local baseball community were devastated when cancer took the life of 23-year-old Anthony Miller. Two years later, both communities look forward to coming together each Thanksgiving to celebrate his life at the Anthony Miller Memorial Lob Ball Tournament. Taking an innovative approach to supporting QEII patients, Dawson White (second from left), Caitlin Parks (right) and Emily White (second from right) collaborated with Anthony's family to develop a successful tournament in his memory.

We came up with the idea for the tournament while sharing stories about Anthony around the barbecue. He knew a lot of people and this was a way for everyone to remember him. Seeing everyone come together for Anthony is awesome and it's helping support others on their cancer journey.

Dawson White

#### \$384,747 raised through community events Community events, like the Anthony Miller Memorial Lob Ball Tournament, are organized and managed by volunteer groups, organizations and individuals who are passionate about supporting care at the QEII. Whether stepping up to bat, entertaining hundreds or hosting an intimate gathering, these community events raised \$384,747 net in 2017-2018.





#### More than \$1.9 million invested in research

In 2017-2018, thanks to the generosity of donors, more than \$1.9 million was invested in QEII research projects. We continue to support excellence in healthcare research through commitments such as \$300,000 for QEII Foundation Translating Research Into Care (TRIC) grants and \$200,000 as part of the inaugural Maritime Heart Centre Innovation Fund for heart health research.

These grants, like the fibromyalgia study, fuel physicians and researchers to advance treatment and improve patient care, providing critical research funding that would otherwise not be available.

### Fueling mind over matter **breakthroughs**

A common condition with no known cause or measurable physical symptoms, fibromyalgia is very challenging to diagnose and relentless for patients who live with it.

Fibromyalgia causes widespread chronic pain and tenderness that varies in intensity and can even travel to different parts of the body. A new research study at the QEII will examine the brain's response to pain sensitivity and perception. Funded by a gift from the estate of Abe Leventhal, this leading-edge research aims to improve the diagnosis and treatment of fibromyalgia.

Lead investigators, Dr. Javeria Hashmi (left) and Dr. Mary Lynch (right), are optimistic about the innovative study's potential to impact those living with fibromyalgia, here, in Atlantic Canada and around the world.

One of the central issues surrounding chronic pain is the question, 'is it all in your head?'. Our study uses brain imaging and cognitive testing to understand how the brain contributes to pain sensitivity in fibromyalgia patients. The goal is to establish whether fibromyalgia is associated with a dysfunction in the brain's systems that control pain intensity in response to expectations – and, ultimately, maximize patients' capacity for managing their own pain and healing.

Our research is very new and very cutting-edge; donors should feel proud about what it could mean for patients living with this condition. **!!** 

Javeria Hashmi

### QEII Cardiac Cath Lab D treats first patients

When inserting a coronary stent or implanting a pacemaker, high resolution images of a patient's heart are critical. That's why a community of donors rallied behind phase one of our *From the Heart* campaign – funding the rebuilding and reopening of the QEII's Cardiac Cath Lab D. Treating its first patients in December 2017, the unparalleled imaging quality and capability of the QEII's newest cath lab is already improving patient outcomes and reducing wait times for vital heart health procedures.

QEII cardiologists, Dr. Hussein Beydoun (left) and Dr. Tony Lee (right), are part of the world-class team responsible for affairs of the heart.

When Cardiac Cath Lab D - one of four QEII catheterization labs - was closed due to aging equipment and infrastructure, our team immediately lost 25 per cent of our operating capacity. Our wait lists are always foremost on our minds as lives literally hang in the balance.

Donors stepped up and not only funded the rebuilding of the space so we're back at full capacity but also ensured the new lab was equipped with the best imaging technology available. In its lifetime, the new Cardiac Cath Lab D will treat about 25,000 patients and, without a doubt, it will save countless lives.

Dr. Hussein Beydoun

# **\$4.5 million** raised for heart health

Phase one of our *From the Heart* campaign saw more than \$4.5 million raised to transform cardiac and vascular care at the QEII.

This includes a \$1-million gift from the Joseph Shannon Family to establish the Joseph Shannon Family Cardiac Catheterization Suite in tribute to their late wife, mother and grandmother, Ruth Shannon. Take a virtual tour of Cardiac Cath Lab D, funded 100 per cent by donors: bit.ly/qe2cathlab.

With a \$5-million goal for phase two, From the Heart donors will bring the Maritimes' first hybrid operating room to the QEII and fuel cutting-edge heart health research.





# **\$2.4 million** received in estate gifts

In 2017-2018, the QEII Foundation received estate gifts from the following visionary donors:

Earle Frederick Brannon **Constance Edith Cochrane Everett Hartley Connell** Lily Grace Coolen Sharon Ann Corrigan Dennis H. Covill Sheila Agnes DeLory Reginald C. Fenerty Donald C. Freeman Constance B. Hall Priti Jana Nora Matilda Joudrey Kenneth Martin Kakaraza Marianne Joy MacLean **Arthur Gordon MacNeil** Raymond Lewis McGill Joan Marie Mitchell John Moore J. Keith Mutch Helen I. O'Halloran Janet Elizabeth Servant Robert U. Thomson

### Creating a lasting impact

Leaving a gift in your will is an opportunity to support the health of your community into the future. In 2017-2018, funds received from these gifts supported areas such as cancer care, heart health, COPD, MS research, palliative care and areas of greatest need. For QEII Foundation donors like Anjna Majhail, arranging a gift in her will means leaving a lasting legacy and carrying on a family tradition.

My grandfather used to donate 10 per cent of his earnings and I inherited that tradition from him. The greatest need is in health care and it gives me pleasure to know I am doing something for the health of future generations.





# 2017-2018 VOLUNTEER BOARD OF TRUSTEES The QEII Foundation is proud to introduce our volunteer Board of Trustees who through their leadership, help make the Foundation a strong, successful organization.

We've got this. We've got you.



When a group of dedicated, passionate individuals come together with a shared mission, significant change is made possible. As Chair of the QEII Foundation, I have the opportunity to work with an outstanding and committed staff and volunteer Board, meet QEII healthcare champions who are leaders in their field, and observe the difference donor generosity can make. Thank you to those who continue to give their time, talent, support and resources to advance health care.

As we prepare for major transformation at the QEII over the next several years, I am inspired by how much we can achieve when we implement our common vision of transformed health, transformed lives.

Victor J. Goldberg, QC
QEll Foundation Chair

#### **Honorary** Trustees

The QEII Foundation is proud to introduce our Honorary Trustees. These individuals are former Trustees and community leaders who continue to support the Foundation to help advance health care at the QEII.

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#### Thank you.

Your compassion and generosity make a difference for the hundreds of patients, and their families, arriving at the QEII every day. By donating to the QEII Foundation, you are investing in the health of your community, helping to ensure the right care is available when our loved ones need it most.

The individual and corporate donors listed on the following pages gave a gift to the QEII Foundation of \$250 or more between April 1. 2017 and March 31, 2018. Some are identified as being part of our Members' Circle, a special annual donor recognition program. Please call Doralin Fredericks at 902 334 1546 to find out how you can be a part of this special giving program.

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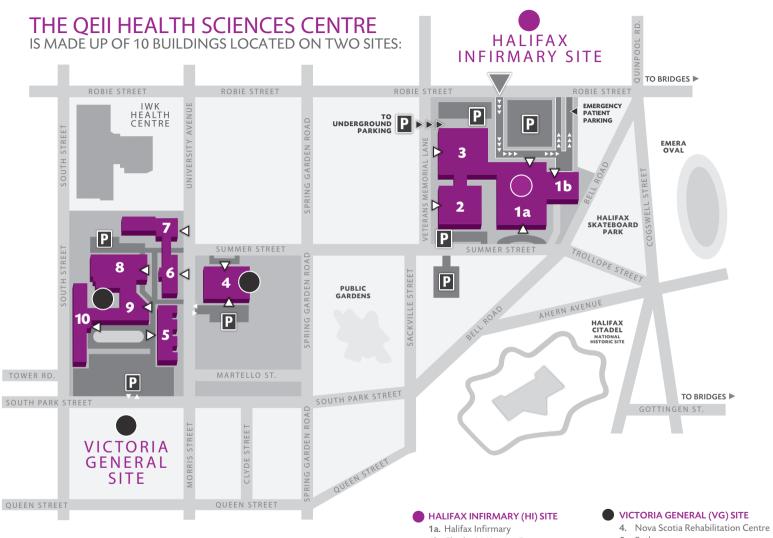
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