



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### The Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation Reaches Goal for the 2014 Campaign,

*Let's not miss a Beat*

Success means better technology for SMH

A new *Cardiac Monitoring System* will be purchased for the Sackville Memorial Hospital's Emergency Room (ER). Thanks to the generosity and support of its donors, the SMH Foundation's 2014 Campaign, *Let's not miss a Beat*, raised just over \$100,000 reaching the ambitious goal set last March.

Campaign Chair Elaine Smith says, "Thanks to a recent \$2,800 donation from a Sackville Save- Easy fundraising initiative, we are able to announce that the Foundation has achieved its target."

A new *Cardiac Monitoring System* is urgently needed and will replace an existing one which is over 14 years old and has passed its life expectancy. A modern system will strengthen our medical professionals' ability to provide the best emergency care to patients in our community. The *Cardiac Monitoring System* is a critical component in the ER as this technology displays a patient's vital signs including heart rate, pulse and blood pressure. Monitors can detect arrhythmias and any other significant cardiac developments as early as possible. Many situations in the ER are time sensitive. It is crucial for our medical team to have the ability to diagnose a patient's condition quickly and accurately, as in some instances, the patient may need to be transported to

another facility for more advanced care. The Cardiac Monitoring System is used on patients in the ER who may be experiencing a heart attack, heart failure, unstable heart arrhythmia, abnormal heart rhythm, pneumonia and other cardiac related diseases and conditions.

The SMH assists on average 4 patients a day in the ER who require cardiac monitoring; in total over 1,450 patients per year make use of this vital piece of technology. The new system is expected to be on site and operational in late 2014. It consists of 4 monitors; 3 of which are at each bedside in the ER observation room. The other is in the trauma room. All monitors are connected to the main monitor in the ER nurses station. The system's actual cost is \$135,000. The balance of funds will come in part from the Horizon Health Network and from donations previously received. The system will be in place in early 2015.

Smith expressed gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the campaign. *"We are very fortunate to have the continued support of many loyal volunteers, donors and staff as well as corporate partners in the community."*

A number of local volunteers have worked diligently to support the campaign. The many fund raising efforts included direct mail, staff campaign, special events and face-to-face canvassing. Donations are still being accepted for the campaign. If you would like to make a gift, you can contact the Foundation at 364-4204, drop by the hospital, or visit [www.smhf.ca](http://www.smhf.ca) to donate on-line. Additional funds will be used on the hospital's other priority needs. **Our Hospital. Our Health Care.**

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