



November 16, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Asian community raises more than \$467,000 for Peter Lougheed Centre.

CALGARY – Starting at 7am, when the doors to the RED FM radio station opened, members of the South Asian community began arriving and the phones started ringing. The celebration held on Monday, November 14, recognizes the birth anniversary of the pioneer of the Sikh faith, Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

In its third year, the RED FM Radiothon received overwhelming generosity from the community despite the tough economy. The event has resulted in more than \$467,000 for Peter Lougheed Centre and Calgary Health Trust.

The station was a hub of activity all day with hundreds of people dropping in, many with their families, in order to make their very special donation. Volunteers manned the phones as every line was lit up with people eager to help out – all with the same generous spirit.

“The celebration of Guru Nanak Dev Ji teaches us about three key principles: to work hard, to give and to meditate. I am so happy to see our community following that philosophy with such generosity despite the difficult times many of them are facing. It is with a very grateful heart I would like to thank our community,” said Kulwinder Sanghera, President RED FM.

Donations will support the completion of the ‘Mai Bhago’ Women’s Triage Area, which will be the epicentre of the new Women’s Health unit and the first point of contact at the Peter Lougheed Centre for expectant mothers and their families. The triage area will also be used as an obstetrical emergency where expectant mothers are assessed and treated for a variety of reasons, including possible complications during pregnancy and emergency C-sections.

In its inaugural year, donations to the RED FM Radiothon supported the expansion of the Peter Lougheed Centre’s neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) with the development of the ‘Mata Tripta’ NICU Pod, named in honour of the Guru’s mother. This unit is nearing completion and expected to be opened in Spring 2017.

“It is once again a great honour to be part of this incredible celebration. The community has yet again showed how dedicated and committed they are, and we are so grateful for the opportunity to be involved.” said Jill Olynyk, CEO of Calgary Health Trust.

Responding to the growing needs within Calgary and across Southern Alberta, the ‘Mai Bhago’ Women’s Triage Area is an important part of a larger expansion of the women’s health area at Peter Lougheed Centre. This new space will go a long way in supporting the urgent needs of expecting women and is expected to see 1,000 more babies born each year.

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About Calgary Health Trust

Calgary Health Trust fundraises for health care. The incredible generosity of our donors has helped to raise more than \$412 million for health care since 1996. Funds raised benefit Foothills Medical Centre, Peter Lougheed Centre, Rockyview General Hospital, South Health Campus and many community health programs and 12 Carewest care centres in our community.

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