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MEDIA RELEASE – For Immediate Release

Calgary Firefighters Burn Treatment Society gives \$1.44 million to burn care

CALGARY – Calgary Health Trust is pleased to announce it has received \$1.44 million from the Calgary Firefighters Burn Treatment Society (CFBTS) which will go towards the Burn Treatment Unit at Foothills Medical Centre.

“It is a great privilege for us to be presenting a cheque for over \$1.4 million that we have raised for Calgary’s Burn Treatment Centre in the last few years,” said Jim Fisher, President of the Calgary Firefighters Burn Treatment Society, “Being Firefighters we choose this profession because we want to be in service to the community, because we want to help people. But, as Firefighters we also are witness to some hard and unfortunate situations where the very thing we are fighting and trying to prevent has the ability to change someone’s life in the blink of an eye.”

One person who has been impacted by the Society is burn survivor Don Adamson. Don was in his car in 2005, when a short in the electrical system caused the vehicle to burst into flames. Suffering burns to over 50 per cent of his body; it took Don almost two years of surgeries and rehabilitation for his life to return to some semblance of normalcy. “The support of the CFBTS has meant everything to my treatment, my recovery and where I am today.”

This most recent donation is the result of three years of fundraising and building burn injury awareness by the Calgary Firefighters. Over the past 40 years, they have contributed more than \$8 million to the ongoing treatment, education and research that creates world-class care for burn victims. The funds will go towards the purchase of new equipment and the ongoing improvements to the Burn Treatment Centre. The Centre, located at Foothills Medical Centre, was also named in honour of the Calgary Firefighters Burn Treatment Society in recognition of their dedication to the advancement of care for those who need it.

Their hard work has been recognized by many people in the community. This past Tuesday, the Calgary Firefighters Burn Treatment Society received the AFP Calgary and Area’s Generosity of Spirit Award for Philanthropic Group at the National Philanthropy Day luncheon. This award is bestowed upon groups such as service clubs, associations, employee groups, or people who have joined together to help change their part of the world.

“We are so pleased to be a part of CFBTS and the work they are doing in burn care. They are true stewards of our community,” says Jill Olynyk, CEO of Calgary Health Trust. “CFBTS is an organization involved at every level of fundraising and dedicated to making a difference to the lives of Calgarians.”

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.

Established in 1978 by Calgary firefighters, the Calgary Firefighter Burn Treatment Society has now contributed more than \$8million to the Burn Treatment Centre at Foothills Medical Centre. Proceeds support the burn centre with equipment upgrades, leading-edge technology, supplies for burn survivors, professional development opportunities and many other enhancements.

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