

PRESS RELEASE
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CP donates over \$18,000 to CK Hui Heart Centre for revolutionary new LUCAS chest compression device that helps save doctors and patients alike, optimizes COVID-19 treatment whilst prone

EDMONTON, AB—Canadian Pacific recently donated \$18,000 to the Royal Alexandra Hospital’s CK Hui Heart Centre for the purchase of a new LUCAS automated chest compression device. The device performs consistent, mechanical CPR which has proved effective in assisting COVID-19 patients, reducing risks for care providers, and removing delays in the resuscitation process. Experts with the Royal Alex have already published research on how to use the device to optimize treatment of patients in the prone position, the first to study the use of the LUCAS in the prone position.

Staff at the Royal Alexandra Hospital expressed their appreciation for CP’s gift.

“Thank you CP! Your commitment to the CK Hui Heart Centre is inspiring,” said Dr. Benjamin Tyrrell, Director of the CK Hui Cardiac Catheterization Lab, Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. “The automated chest compression device which was purchased thanks to your support will protect our staff and help save lives.”

“It is very important to CP that we invest in the communities we operate in and through, and we are honoured to have donated over \$18,000 to support the purchase of an Automated Cardiac Chest Compression Device for the CK Hui Heart Centre,” said Adam Smith, CP Superintendent Operations, Alberta North.

According to the medical community, COVID-19 patients oxygenate better in the horizontal, belly-down (“prone”) position, so it has become more common for them to be nursed in this position. However, extended treatment in the prone position can also carry with it an increased risk of cardiac arrest and deterioration, compared to the horizontal, belly-up (“supine”) position.

So, many patients are treated in a supinate-first approach, meaning they are turned over to the supine position for resuscitation treatment. In the context of a contagious, aerosolized virus, this can increase risk of COVID-19 exposure to the attending physicians, and of course takes time, energy, and staff.

Located in the CK Hui’s Catheterization Lab, the new LUCAS device essentially works by performing consistent chest compressions on a patient—even if the patient is prone—freeing up a healthcare professional who would otherwise be performing manual compressions, and reducing delays, risks of exposure, and more.

“This donation will ensure the Royal Alexandra Hospital continues to provide the very best care possible to Edmonton and area,” said Smith, whose organization is a longtime supporter of heart health. “Since 2014, CP Has Heart has helped raise over \$23.3 million for cardiac causes across North America, including right here in Edmonton.”

It will indeed, as researchers have already used the new device to develop new techniques aimed at better fighting COVID-19 and treating patients.

In a recently published, peer-reviewed study entitled, “Prone mechanical cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR): Optimal supine chest compression metrics can be achieved in the prone position,” lead researcher Matthew Douma, Clinical Nurse Educator with the Royal Alexandra Hospital) summarizes the benefits saying, “In short, these devices may allow for less rescuers, less delay and less risk than a supinate-first approach.”

“Not only has the LUCAS device protected staff from contracting COVID-19 multiple times per week, it has allowed the Royal Alexandra Hospital to make an impact in the COVID-19 scientific knowledge base, using it on patients who are placed in the prone position, (belly-down) in order to oxygenate better,” Douma said of the gift.

Additional staff from the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation shared their appreciation, citing the donation as great news for doctors, patients, and fellow donors alike, as it is sure to make an impact in improving the care of Albertans.

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ABOUT THE ROYAL ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Established in 1984, the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation is committed to supporting improved health care outcomes for the hundreds of thousands of people who seek treatment at the Royal Alexandra Hospital every year. The Foundation funds advanced education, cutting-edge research, next-generation technologies and facility enhancements. It also supports a growing number of specialized centres of health care excellence located at the Royal Alexandra Hospital campus, including the CK Hui Heart Centre, the Lois Hole Hospital for Women, the Orthopedic Surgery Centre and the Eye Institute of Alberta.