



## News Release

### **Innovative treatment for Parkinson's disease available at Horizon's The Moncton Hospital**

**(MONCTON) Monday, June 10, 2024** – A new program at the Moncton Hospital will provide advanced, innovative treatment for patients with Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders.

Deep brain stimulation is a surgical treatment that involves implanting a device, sometimes referred to as a pacemaker for the brain. The device sends electrical impulses to specific areas of the brain that can alleviate symptoms of various neurological disorders and bring significant relief to patients.

"We know New Brunswickers need a health-care system they can count on, and we continue to take steps to deliver accessible health care to New Brunswickers," said Health Minister Bruce Fitch. "We are pleased to be committing to this treatment in New Brunswick for those with Parkinson's disease."

The \$250,000 cost of the equipment was funded by donors of the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation. The Department of Health is providing \$394,000 in annual operational funding.

"Equipped with this advanced technology, Moncton will be recognized as a leading centre for Parkinson's disease treatment for New Brunswickers and Prince Edward Islanders," said Greg King, the foundation's president and CEO. "Our donors significantly enhance patient care, and community support is more crucial than ever to advance our health-care services and help people live their best lives."

"We are incredibly grateful to the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation for their unwavering support and generous contributions," said Margaret Melanson, Horizon Health Network's president and CEO. "The neurosciences team at The Moncton Hospital is committed to innovative treatment options and this new deep brain stimulation equipment is an example of their dedication to advancing patient care and outcomes."

The equipment will be used this month for the first time during a procedure performed by neurosurgeon Dr. Antonios El Helou.

“The neurosciences team at The Moncton Hospital is committed to being on the leading edge to provide the best possible care for our patients,” said El Helou. “This new deep brain stimulation equipment is a testament to their dedication and the exceptional work they do every day.”

Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative condition that typically develops after the age of 55. Over 200 people in New Brunswick are diagnosed with parkinsonism, including Parkinson's disease each year.

-30-

For more information contact:

Kris McDavid  
Media Relations  
1-877-499-1899  
[media@horizonnb.ca](mailto:media@horizonnb.ca)  
[horizonnb.ca/news](http://horizonnb.ca/news)