

# Making a difference ...

Spirit of the North Healthcare Foundation founding president Myron Sambad has seen a lot of change since the non-profit organization was formed 25 years ago.

His involvement in healthcare goes back further. He was a member of the Prince George Regional Hospital Board in the '70s and '80s. Generating more support at PGRH, was a motivating factor behind the establishment of the Foundation in 1991.

"My main goal in the hospital field in all of these years has been something a little different than all of the previous presidents of the Foundation," he said. "I was really interested in patient care. That was my reason for joining the board was patient care."

Spirit of the North raises funds to enhance healthcare within the service area of UHNBC. Working in cooperation with the Northern Health Authority, that philanthropic investment has led to improvements in the area of capital equipment, major renovation in a variety of departments and staff education throughout the region.

"It's a lot more sophisticated now because (the Spirit of the North) is looking after more than one hospital," Sambad said. With higher demands for services, increased funding has followed. Spirit of the North donors have provided funding for a variety of equipment and continue to embark on major capital campaigns throughout the region.

A few years back he and his wife Shirley, established a family endowment fund. This fund will reside invested in perpetuity so that as the fund continues to grow, the investment earnings will be directed towards the purchase of new equipment. "It is about leaving a legacy and being able to give back long after both of us are gone," said Sambad. "There will always be a need for healthcare dollars." He encourages others to think about leaving a legacy gift, in their estate, a life insurance policy, or take advantage of the benefits to offsetting income tax through a current gift.

"Healthcare is something that touches everyone. We have our challenges living in the North, but they are substantially lessened with contributions to Spirit of the North, who works collaboratively with Northern Health to bring the best of care closer to home in the North."



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 Thank you!

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