

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

July 25, 2011

**Local Blueberries Great for Health and our Hospital**

**Richmond, BC** – Blueberries are often recommended for their great taste and nutritional benefits. Since 1979, Canwest Farms Ltd. has been operated by Sukhbir Kallu and his family at their farm on Blundell Road. As local Richmond farmers, the Kallu family is dedicated to promoting the importance of health and the benefits that blueberries have for their consumers.

Kallu's son, Humraj has grown up helping on the farm and has become the Operations Manager for the business. When he is not working on the farm with his father or studying at BCIT, Humraj has been looking for ways for the company to give back to his community. As a Richmond resident, Humraj strives to support health related issues in his local community. Canwest Farms is taking their dedication to health one step further with their support of Richmond Hospital.

Humraj was introduced to the Hospital Foundation by long time supporter, Amit Sandhu of AM-PRI Construction, who had invited him to participate in the River Green on the Green Golf Tournament on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. "I thought the event was great and the cause really interested me." stated Humraj, "People often don't realize that there is a cost for the great health care available to us, and it was eye-opening to see how much the Foundation helps to provide the latest medical equipment." On Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, Humraj presented a check of \$5,000 in support of the Richmond Hospital Foundation.

Giving to the community has its similarities to blueberry farming. A seed, with proper care can develop into a bountiful crop, enjoyed by many. In comparison, a donation to Richmond Hospital leads to investment in new medical equipment with improved services provided to the community. Every small seed or donation helps generate significant benefits for a great deal of individuals.

"By donating to the Richmond Hospital Foundation, we can support our customers who have helped our company grow over the years," said Humraj, "We farm solely in Richmond and plan to be here for the years to come. This is a great opportunity for us to give back." The Kallu family is proud to call Richmond their home and hope that other businesses and individuals will consider making a similar contribution.

Canwest Farm's donation will be put towards Richmond Hospital Foundation's \$5.5 million Operating Room (OR) Campaign to renovate and equip two new OR suites with state-of-the-art technology for Minimally Invasive Surgery. At the same time, the Post Anesthetic Care Unit will be expanded to accommodate the additional surgery patients. These expansions will allow Richmond Hospital to better serve its community.

***Richmond Hospital Foundation** is a registered charity that is committed to raising money to fill the gap between government funding and the greater needs of our hospital. Last year, over 85% of newly purchased medical equipment of Richmond Hospital was funded by the Richmond Hospital Foundation.*

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**Humraj Kallu in front of Richmond Hospital's Emergency Department**