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# The **Pulse**

*of Richmond Hospital*

## **Acute Care Tower a priority for Richmond**

With summer now officially upon us, the school year over and summer vacations about to begin for many, we have Canada Day to look forward to. This year, July 1 takes on special significance as we celebrate 150 years of Confederation and reflect on the virtues of our country: a peaceful land with a respect for fairness, diversity and concern for others.

Among the many values we hold in common, what also stands out is the high regard we have for health. Health care is a cherished Canadian value. It's something that we want for ourselves, our loved ones, our friends and our neighbours. We want it to be there now and we want to ensure it is there for future generations.

On Canada Day, Richmond Hospital Foundation looks forward to marching in the Steveston Salmon Festival this year. We are proud to celebrate our great country and the local health care we have in our own community.

On this note, it's my pleasure to re-introduce you to someone who has raised his voice before to speak about local health care and the needs we have here in Richmond. Dr. Ken Poon is one of our talented urologists at Richmond Hospital and for the last two years, he has also held the leadership role as Head of the Department of Surgery. Although he will remain here at Richmond Hospital and continue his regular surgical practice, he will step down from his two-year term and a colleague will take up the charge to lead the Department as Head of Surgery. We wish to thank Dr. Poon for his leadership while serving in this important role. He has been a passionate champion and advocate for a new Acute Care Tower at Richmond Hospital:



Dr. Ken Poon

"As one of my final duties as Head of Surgery, it is an honour to express on behalf of all of my colleagues at Richmond Hospital the deep gratitude we have for the tremendous support from our donors, our community leaders, our hospital champions and the many patients and families grateful for the care they receive here.

"We are buoyed by the fact that a new Acute Care Tower at Richmond Hospital garnered incredible attention during the recent provincial election and became a matter of public policy with solid support across the spectrum.

"Health care truly is a cherished value for us in Canada. But here in Richmond it's also a matter of great urgency. We need a new Acute Care Tower now. The original hospital tower is now over 50 years old. That's one third the age of our country! It is seismically unstable, meeting only 17% of seismic standards, and it's at an extreme risk of collapse even in a moderate earthquake. The infrastructure is obsolete and severely deficient. Our operating rooms, where my many talented colleagues and I work many hours, are half the size of modern operating rooms. They are far too small to easily accommodate today's medical equipment. Our ORs also lie below the flood plain and they are at risk of flooding in an earthquake or a tsunami.

"Richmond is growing exponentially, and we have the fastest growing population of seniors in the entire province, who will place high demands on our ability to provide care. The number of hospital beds needs to keep pace. The original tower needs to be replaced and the time is now.

"I grew up in Richmond and it's an honour to continue to serve our community and provide care here. Health care is a value I hold in my heart. On Canada Day, let's celebrate this together. Please continue to be a champion for Richmond Hospital. Let's keep local health care a priority and ensure Richmond Hospital gets a new Acute Care Tower."