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MRI Campaign reaches $\frac{3}{4}$ mark with second \$1 Million Gift

Better Access - Shorter Wait Times - Faster Diagnosis

Richmond Hospital Foundation has now raised \$3 million of a \$4 million dollar goal for its **MRI Campaign** thanks to a second \$1 million dollar gift from the Milan and Maureen Ilich Foundation.

In recognition of their outstanding support to this campaign and over the past twenty years, the Richmond Hospital Foundation is proud to announce that the center will be named "**The Milan and Maureen Ilich Diagnostic Imaging Centre**" in their honour.

Milan Ilich, philanthropist & owner, Progressive Construction said,

"I'm pleased and proud to announce that I am making a second \$1 million donation to the MRI Campaign.

I'm an impatient person and anxious to have the MRI in operation as soon as possible.

A while ago a few Richmond Hospital doctors said that having an MRI in our hospital will save lives. I will always be thrilled to know I played a role in saving lives through my contributions.

I urge all Richmond business persons who I hope love Richmond and it's citizens as much as I do, to dig in and help make this event happen."

Lisa Westermark, Executive Director, Richmond Hospital Foundation said,

"We are so grateful to Milan and Maureen Ilich. We are truly fortunate to have such remarkable leadership from these long time Richmond residents and prominent business leaders who are willing and able to give in such a significant way.

Vancouver Coastal Health has committed to the operating funds of approximately \$1 million per year effective fiscal 2009/2010. Our expectation is that the MRI is fully operational April 1, 2009.

The hospital is the heart of the community. We can all see how fast our city is growing and we know the hospital must keep pace to ensure the high level of service we are accustomed to continues. MRI is a service a city our size needs and deserves in its hospital. We need everyone to pitch in to get our MRI here in our hospital."

Dr. Ian Dunn, chief radiologist, Richmond Hospital said,

“We can’t underestimate the importance of cutting wait times for MRI,” says Dr. Dunn. “Getting an MRI exam done sooner expedites diagnosis and treatment. Simply, it means less time in pain and a faster recovery.”

Dr. Martin Jenkins, radiologist, Richmond Hospital said,

“A picture saves a thousand words, in our business pictures are priceless -good pictures save lives.”

The Richmond Hospital Foundation’s goal is to raise \$4 million to fund an MRI and the specialized construction to house the state-of-the-art, highly sensitive equipment.

Every year over 1,500 Richmond residents are referred to a Vancouver hospital for an MRI exam. Most will wait weeks or months for this vital diagnostic test. Patients from Richmond, Delta and South Vancouver are referred to Richmond Hospital. The MRI will be available to patients throughout the lower mainland and for patients throughout BC who cannot be imaged elsewhere.

Unique Service - Open MRI - the only option for larger or claustrophobic patients

Traditional MRI is a long tube with as little as 10 cm between your face and the equipment - your entire body is inside the tube.

Richmond’s MRI features a short tube with a wide opening - your head and feet will be outside - more like a CT scan. This makes the test more comfortable for the patient and relieves feelings of being enclosed within the machine.

It will be the only publicly available MRI in the province that can image patients who are larger or claustrophobic.

The Last Missing Piece at Richmond Hospital

MRI is the last major diagnostic imaging tool missing at Richmond Hospital. It provides the most detailed look inside the body and a significantly better picture than any other medial imaging devise - without radiation!

Today, Richmond doctors often avoid sending their patients for this test because of the long wait times. With an MRI, Richmond Hospital patients will have access to the most appropriate test, significantly reducing the need for invasive examinations.

Established in 1987, The 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. The foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees who represent a broad spectrum of the community.