

Football Great Bobby Singh Helps Out In Unique MRI Machine Unveiling

RICHMOND – B.C. Lions Guard and former NFL player Bobby Singh helped Richmond Hospital mark the grand opening of the Milan and Maureen Ilich Medical Imaging Centre, a facility which now boasts the first publicly available “oversize” MRI in the province.

At 6’3” and 320 lbs, the 2000 Superbowl Champion and 2006 Grey Cup Champion was the perfect candidate to demonstrate the open and patient-friendly design of Richmond’s new MRI.

Singh, whose three children have all been born at Richmond Hospital, and has received multiple MRI scans during his 10 year football career, was amazed at how comfortable he felt in the machine.

“I’ve always had trouble physically fitting into an MRI machine because of my size,” Singh said. “In this MRI, I did not feel cramped or uncomfortable.”

The only hospital in Western Canada with an open bore MRI, Richmond Hospital is the first in British Columbia capable of imaging larger patients (up to 550 lbs) as well as patients who suffer from claustrophobia. The \$2.5 million MRI not only delivers unprecedented high-quality diagnostic images with no radiation, it can also accommodate patients who have issues with pain and mobility, and those dependent upon medical equipment.

The \$4 million MRI campaign was the largest fundraising campaign to-date for Richmond Hospital Foundation. With the help of generous gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations, and major gifts from local philanthropists Milan and Maureen Ilich, the campaign came to a successful finish in just two years. Doctors at Richmond Hospital now have access to technology that they have been longing for. It enables them to identify disease at an earlier stage and intervene sooner.

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