



THE
RICHMOND HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2007

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Maureen and Milan Ilich give \$1 Million to Kick-off MRI Campaign for Richmond Hospital

Richmond Hospital Foundation has embarked on a campaign to fund MRI (magnetic resonance imaging). Richmond Hospital is more than a community hospital – it provides a range of complex specialty services to a diverse and fast growing population. This generous \$1 million donation from the Maureen and Milan Ilich Foundation represents one quarter of the total campaign goal of \$4 million.

“We are pleased to give back. We wanted to help with this campaign because we need an MRI in Richmond. We are especially interested in this type of MRI, the open model, that is great for claustrophobic and larger people,” says Milan Ilich, owner of Progressive Construction Ltd.

“We are thrilled to have such a great start to this critical campaign. We are truly fortunate to have leadership from long time Richmond residents and prominent business leaders Maureen and Milan Ilich who are willing and able to give in such a significant way,” says Lisa Westermarck, executive director of the Richmond Hospital Foundation.

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. This campaign – the largest in the foundation’s history – is about more than funding vital medical equipment. As Dr. Ian Dunn, chief radiologist explains, it’s about providing full-spectrum care close to home for residents of Richmond, Delta and neighbouring communities.

“With an MRI, Richmond Hospital will be able to provide comprehensive, collaborative care to patients with everything from life-threatening conditions to sports injuries,” says Dr. Dunn. “We won’t have to refer patients to hospitals in Vancouver for this vital test and our doctors and surgeons will be able to work closely with the radiologists to determine the best course of action for a patient.”

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. Two out of every five will face waits that are longer than wait time benchmarks.

Bringing this technology to Richmond Hospital will dramatically improve access for residents of Richmond, Delta and beyond. Richmond's MRI will scan 4,500 people a year and increase the total number of MRI tests conducted within the Vancouver Coastal Health Region by roughly 25%.

“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.”

Richmond's MRI will feature a patient friendly design. With traditional MRI patients have to lie still – for up to an hour and a half – in a long tunnel with as little as 10 cm between their face and the equipment. Instead of a long narrow tunnel, Richmond's MRI features a “large bore” or a shorter tunnel with a wider diameter. 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 claustrophobic or obese.

MRI is the last major diagnostic imaging modality 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.