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The Pulse

of Richmond Hospital

A new era for Richmond Hospital

The history of Richmond Hospital is a story of leaders and champions who care passionately about local health care. We witnessed this again earlier this month, when Richmond Hospital achieved a major milestone as the Province announced that in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health and Richmond Hospital Foundation, planning is beginning on a new acute care tower.

After 50 years, the original hospital tower is obsolete and we thank the Province, and our local MLAs, the Honourable Teresa Wat, the Honourable Linda Reid and MLA John Yap for their hard work to help move us towards a new era of care. We also want to thank his worship Malcolm Brodie and all of City Council who have served as champions of this growing need and passed a resolution in Council in February of this year. Here to elaborate on the significance of the announcement is our Board Chair, Kyle Shury.

“It was close to 60 years ago that a group of people in this community—true leaders in their community—began the dialogue around the need for a hospital. Imagine then roughly 50,000 residents in the City of Richmond. No hospital. No facility for local health care on the island. That group started the dialogue. In 1962 there was a referendum on the need for a hospital and residents of Richmond voted overwhelmingly in favour of a hospital—with over 90% in favour—and they voted for an increase of property taxes with residents paying 35%, the provincial government paying 50% and the federal government paying 15%. But collectively everyone worked together and in 1966 Richmond Hospital opened its doors and a new era of local health care began.

Fast forward to today and here we are. Our population has more than quadrupled. Construction is booming all around us. But our hospital facility has not kept pace and is not reflective of the care that’s given here. That’s what we need to change.

I’ve had the great pleasure over the last six years of serving on the Foundation board

volunteering time to working with others in the hospital, getting to meet many of the people who work here but also getting to see firsthand our facilities.



Kyle Shury, Board Chair
Richmond Hospital Foundation

I myself have a growing family. I have three young children, and I have two aging parents who live in the community. I’d like to say we don’t use this hospital often, but it seems between the cuts and bruises and aging of my parents, that we use this facility more and more, and it’s such a critical element of our community.



In today’s environment, people may sit back and think that local health care is solely the responsibility of the government and that it’s not their issue. The reality is it’s truly everybody’s issue, and we all need to work together to help advance this.

Capital projects like this are significant. There’s competition from many different communities and jurisdictions across our province for dollars. But collectively if we work together, we will see a new acute care tower built and open. Everyone in our community will have a role to play in some capacity, at some point along the way as plans progress.

I’d like to thank the Province, Vancouver Coastal Health, the City of Richmond, the great physicians and other hospital staff, the members of the community, our volunteer board and our community of donors. It’s only together with you that we’re able to achieve this milestone now and we look forward to sharing many more important milestones on this significant project in the months and years to come.”