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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2020PREM0035-001215  
July 2, 2020

Office of the Premier  
Ministry of Health  
Vancouver Coastal Health

### **Expanded Richmond Hospital plan delivers bigger tower, more services**

RICHMOND – A new state-of-the-art emergency department and intensive care unit at Richmond Hospital will bring more services and better care for people in this growing community.

Featuring double the amount of floor space, the new emergency department will be among a suite of added facilities and services to the new nine-floor tower, including a fully equipped medical imaging department, intensive care unit and pharmacy. The new concept plan also includes renovations to the existing South Tower to create new inpatient psychiatry and psychiatric emergency units.

“People have been calling for a new tower at Richmond Hospital, and our government took decisive action to make it happen,” said Premier John Horgan. “That’s why we’re proud to give the green light for a bigger, bolder plan for Richmond Hospital that will bring the facility into the 21st century and deliver the care Richmond needs, while creating thousands of jobs to help get our economy back on solid ground.”

Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, said: “During the business planning stage, it became clear that the fast-growing community of Richmond needs a bigger patient care tower with more services. The renewed and expanded concept plan reflects our government’s ongoing commitment to the people who live and work here, ensuring that timely, quality public health care will be there for them, now and into the future.”

The initial concept plan for the acute care tower was approved in March 2018.

Detailed business planning for the expanded plan is underway. Completion is expected in September 2020. The project will then proceed to procurement and construction.

Redevelopment is required to address the critical needs and deficiencies of Richmond Hospital's original tower, the North Tower, including outdated patient-care delivery areas. A structural assessment of the original tower determined it to be at a high risk of widespread damage or structural failure after an earthquake.

Richmond Hospital opened in 1966 and has 240 beds, serving Richmond, South Vancouver and Delta, as well as people using Vancouver International Airport and BC Ferries.

The original six-storey North Tower has 108 beds and is home to surgical suites, in-patient units, a mammography clinic, cancer care, medical imaging and a pharmacy, as well as administrative, academic and support services.

**Quotes:****Dr. Penny Ballem, board chair, Vancouver Coastal Health –**

“Vancouver Coastal Health is grateful to the Ministry of Health and the Richmond Hospital Foundation for supporting our vision for an innovative and modern acute-care facility that meets the growing needs of our Richmond community. Taking bold steps now to increase access and expand services will allow us to better serve Richmond patients and clients for years to come.”

**Natalie Meixner, president and CEO, Richmond Hospital Foundation –**

“Our community of philanthropic leaders will be ecstatic to learn about the additional services that will be included in the new acute care tower and the opportunities for innovation that an expanded project scope will bring to Richmond. People across our vibrant and diverse community have made commitments to help us reach 88% of our \$50 million goal, and we look forward to even greater philanthropic support and involvement from our donors in the future.”

A backgrounder follows.

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## BACKGROUND

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Ministry of Health

### **Provincial health-care investments**

The Province has announced 13 major health capital projects since 2017 to replace outdated facilities and meet the needs of growing communities, including:

- Richmond: Richmond Hospital tower expanded concept plan (July 2020)
- Fort St. James: Stuart Lake Hospital business plan approval (January 2020)
- Surrey: new Surrey Hospital concept plan approval (December 2019)
- Burnaby: Burnaby Hospital redevelopment (September 2019)
- Williams Lake: Cariboo Memorial Hospital (July 2019)
- Quesnel: G.R. Baker emergency department and intensive care unit (ICU) (March 2019)
- Vancouver: St. Paul's Hospital (February 2019)
- Trail: Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital pharmacy and ambulatory care (February 2019)
- Nanaimo: ICU for Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (November 2018)
- North Shore: Lions Gate Hospital (September 2018)
- Cowichan Valley: new Cowichan District Hospital concept plan approval (July 2018)
- Dawson Creek: Dawson Creek and District Hospital (July 2018)
- Terrace: Mills Memorial Hospital (February 2018)

As of June 2020, 17 urgent and primary care centres have been opened around B.C., including Surrey north, Surrey-Newton, Kamloops, Kelowna, Vernon, Quesnel, Westshore, Vancouver REACH), North Vancouver, Vancouver city centre, Prince George, Nanaimo, Burnaby, Ridge Meadows, Castlegar, James Bay (Victoria) and Abbotsford.

Primary care networks are improving access to team-based care in communities throughout the province. This includes three in Burnaby, four in Fraser northwest, one in Prince George, three in Richmond, two in Ridge Meadows and one in south Okanagan Similkameen.

The first nurse practitioner-led primary care clinic under the Province's primary care strategy opened its doors in June 2020 to serve people and families in the greater Nanaimo region, with more on the way.

The provincial government has made possible tens of thousands more MRI exams by boosting the number of MRI machines, and keeping them running longer, so people can have their diagnoses and access care faster.

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