

JOYFUL GIVING

FALL/WINTER 2025



**Expanding Care Through
Advanced Imaging**

**Richmond
Hospital
Foundation**
列治文醫院基金會
Joyful Giving. Joyful Living.

Donors Turning Vision into Impact

The path toward the Yurkovich Family Pavilion, new acute care tower at Richmond Hospital, is already improving the way the medical teams care for patients. We are seeing it through the early implementation of cutting-edge medical imaging technology. By bringing in advanced technologies ahead of its opening, health care staff are already training on new processes and leading-edge technology, enhancing care for patients today, while ensuring a seamless transition when the new acute care tower opens. Thanks to donors, the Richmond community is benefiting sooner, and will be even better prepared for tomorrow.

We hope this report brings you a deep sense of pride in how our community's generosity is helping elevate health care in Richmond.

With joy and gratitude,



Natalie D. Meixner, ICD.D, FEA
President & CEO
Richmond Hospital Foundation



Spencer Gall
Chief Philanthropy Officer
Richmond Hospital Foundation

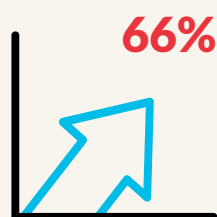
Meeting the Urgent Need for Heart Care

As Richmond's population grows and ages, the demand for cardiac care has risen significantly.

The new echocardiography machine is helping meet this critical need. Wait times for cardiac assessments have been significantly reduced, allowing patients to access diagnoses and begin treatment faster than ever before.

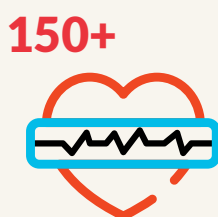
Advancements in Richmond cardiac care through donor generosity:

66% increased
capacity



for heart-related tests
at Richmond Hospital

150+ more scans
completed monthly



from 240 scans
to 400 scans

Reduced wait time by
5 months

-5 months



Patient waitlist shortened
from 9 months to 4 months

3D Imaging for Breast Cancer Care

In British Columbia, breast cancer touches more lives than any other cancer among women. Thanks to donor philanthropy, Richmond Hospital has been outfitted with 3D breast imaging technology for faster and more accurate diagnoses which can lead to earlier detection, treatment, and care.



Dr. Kelly MacLean, Radiologist, Richmond Hospital

With 3D imaging, we can see through layers of overlapping tissue that standard mammograms often miss. That means we can uncover hidden tumours earlier and help plan care for our patients sooner.

— Dr. Kelly MacLean, Radiologist
Richmond Hospital

CT Scanners: The First Go-To for Diagnosis

It was a clear call to action for Computed Tomography (CT) Supervisor James Chia. The patient's body was curled inward with one arm draped protectively over a swollen stomach. The team decided to do an interventional CT to drain the fluid from the patient's abdomen.

Just a month earlier, James and the medical imaging team at Richmond Hospital welcomed a new CT scanner made possible by donors, for a total of two CT scanners in Richmond.

More advanced real-time visibility during complex procedures, including CT-guided drainages, biopsies, and spine injections, is just one of the improvements the new CT scanners bring.

The launch of two new CT scanners at Richmond Hospital has been a game-changer. Now with more scanning capacity, the hospital can reduce wait times for outpatients in the community, handle more complex procedures, and respond quickly to urgent cases.

"When we're capturing images, we want to make sure there's little to no motion because that gives better image quality," James says. "A normal chest scan might be around 10 seconds on the previous scanner. The new scanner takes 5 to 6 seconds, so almost twice as fast with better image quality and less radiation."



New CT scanner and James Chia, Computed Tomography (CT) Supervisor, Richmond Hospital

The shorter scan offers less room for movement, reducing the likelihood of a repeat scan due to blurry images.

The previous CT scanner at Richmond Hospital had been in operation for 15 years and was used over 26,000 times annually, about 70% more than the industry benchmark for high usage. That speaks to the high demand for CT imaging in a growing community like Richmond. With a pair of state-of-the-art scanners now in place, the goal is to reach 40,000 scans a year, expanding access and enhancing the patient experience.

Q: Why is a CT scanner nicknamed the donut of truth?

A: Fast and accessible, a CT scanner is the first-line imaging test in outpatient clinics and hospital departments, including the Emergency Department. It helps diagnose many serious and often common conditions, such as stroke, cancer, appendicitis, kidney stones, and bowel blockages. No other imaging test covers such a wide range of prevalent illnesses.

MRI Vision: The Superpower to Faster Diagnoses

“The medical scare that got me to Richmond Hospital left me feeling both panic-stricken and immensely grateful,” Ms. Kam Fung Yung shares, recalling that frantic April morning. “There were no warning signs—nothing—when my heart suddenly started pounding fiercely. I was in my swimsuit, about to leave for my daily swim. Pain throbbed in my chest, and I was completely soaked in cold sweat. Thankfully, Richmond Hospital was only a short distance away.”

It was the new Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), made possible by donors, that revealed a hidden heart concern for Ms. Yung.



Dr. Tracy Chandler, Radiologist, Richmond Hospital

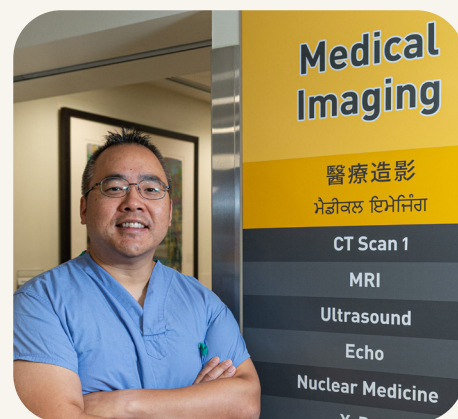
“MRI lets us see what X-rays can’t—soft tissues like the brain, spine, and organs,” shares Dr. Tracy Chandler, Radiologist at Richmond Hospital. “MRIs provide far greater detail of soft tissues than other imaging techniques such as CT or X-ray.”

Richmond Hospital’s new MRI features improved image resolution which provides sharper scan images, enabling radiologists to spot a wider range of health issues sooner and clinicians to plan treatments more precisely.

“When even subtle changes in a scan can signal the need for action, better imaging makes a real difference,” says Dr. Ian Wong, Radiologist at Richmond Hospital.

The boost in image quality is made possible by the same advanced technology and software that also speeds up scan times. In the past, those who struggled to lie still, such as elderly or chronically ill patients, had to forgo the MRI. Now, they can complete their MRI exams with greater comfort quickly.

That speed is benefiting more than just individual patients. Since the new MRI’s arrival, Richmond Hospital has increased scan volume by 25%, shortening patient wait times by up to two months. For many in the Richmond community, this means quicker diagnoses and the chance to return to daily life sooner.



Dr. Ian Wong, Radiologist, Richmond Hospital

Q: What is the difference between a CT scan and an MRI scan? How do clinicians decide when to use one instead of the other?

A: CT is faster and therefore often used in emergencies, especially for denser structures such as bones and lungs, while MRI shows more details of soft tissues and is often used for follow-up monitoring.

Looking Forward

Thanks to donor generosity, access to medical imaging for people in Richmond and neighbouring communities has already improved in remarkable ways. Patients are receiving faster diagnoses, clearer results, and more timely treatment.

And there is more to look forward to in the coming years.

The future Milan and Maureen Ilich Medical Imaging Centre, located in the Yurkovich Family Pavilion, will further expand access to advanced diagnostic tools and expedite care for individuals and families.



Current Milan and Maureen Ilich Medical Imaging Centre in Richmond Hospital



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