
NEWS RELEASE

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'CHILD HEALTH CENTRE' OPENS IN RICHMOND

RICHMOND – Children and families in Richmond and Delta now have better access to pediatric medical care thanks to the construction of a dedicated ambulatory care unit at Richmond Hospital.

"The Child Health Centre, officially opened today, significantly builds on the health services available to Richmond families," said Linda Reid, Minister of State for Child Care and MLA for Richmond-East. "Having all of these services under one roof will benefit children's health, and provide convenience and peace of mind for families."

The establishment of the Child Health Centre was made possible thanks to \$800,000 in funding from Child Health BC, a province-wide network launched earlier this year after receiving a \$20 million pledge from the Overwaitea Food Group.

The Child Health Centre, located on the ground floor of Richmond Hospital's Westminster building, consolidates three programs:

- General Pediatric Clinic - providing consultation and treatment to children referred by family physicians and the Emergency Department, as well as follow-up care for infants discharged from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- Early Childhood Mental Health Program – providing interdisciplinary mental health services to children age five years and younger
- Noakes Primary Care Maternity Clinic – providing newborn and maternal family practice services

"Along with offering family-centred pediatric services, the new space provides a teaching centre for medical students and bolsters Richmond Hospital's partnership with BC Children's Hospital and the UBC School of Medicine," said Dr. Jeff Coleman, Chief Operating Officer, Richmond for Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH).

The space is bright and child-friendly. Four exam rooms are equipped with medical gas, and another examination room allows psychiatrists and parents to watch as children interact with care providers or other family members. Doctors offices, a sound proof dictation room and a waiting area round out the centre.

"This new Child Health Centre improves health services for children and youth in Richmond and Delta, and supports the ongoing development of pediatric health care

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skills for healthcare providers - important goals for the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) and BC Children's Hospital," said Sharon Toohey, President BC Children's Hospital and Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, agencies of the PHSA.

Child Health BC is a network of health authorities and health care providers dedicated to excellence in the care of infants, children and youth in British Columbia. It was initiated by BC Children's Hospital, an agency of the PHSA.

"Child Health BC has made steady progress in expanding services across BC in the past year," said Director Dr. Robert Peterson. "Establishing permanent pediatric care facilities in communities across BC is an important component of the work we're carrying out."

"Richmond Hospital Foundation is extremely grateful to Child Health BC for the generous support that allowed us to create child friendly clinic space where health care providers can care for their youngest patients and clients," said Lisa Westermark, Executive Director, Richmond Hospital Foundation.

VCH is responsible for the delivery of \$2.4 billion in community, hospital and residential care services to over one million people in communities from Richmond through Vancouver, the North Shore, Sunshine Coast, Sea to Sky corridor, Powell River, Bella Bella and Bella Coola.

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For media enquiries, please contact:

Viviana Zanocco
Vancouver Coastal Health
Tel: 604-708-5282

Marisa Nichini
BC Children's Hospital/Provincial Health
Services Authority
Tel: 604-875-2301