



Aug. 7, 2019

# Community Update

## New Penticton MRI service has started

Interior Health (IH) is pleased to announce that service on a new permanent MRI machine has started in the David E. Kampe Tower at Penticton Regional Hospital (PRH).

Patients from across the South Okanagan-Similkameen will benefit from this enhanced local service, with the number of scans performed in Penticton expected to increase to 5,000-plus scans each year once the service is fully operational. As local capacity builds, patients will see shorter waits and receive earlier diagnoses for a variety of medical conditions.

Penticton has the newest MRI machine in IH and the first MRI of its kind to be installed in a Canadian hospital. It's the latest version of Siemens' Sola MRI.

Expanding the number of MRI suites in Interior Health is a key part of the provincial diagnostic strategy. A total of 27,219 scans were performed across IH in 2018-19, an increase of more than 30 per cent from the 20,726 scans done in 2017-18.

*Note: The new MRI service was originally scheduled to begin at the same time as the opening of the David E. Kampe Tower at the end of April, but this was delayed due to issues with the flooring of the MRI suite. These issues have now been addressed and the new MRI service will benefit residents for decades to come. While floor repairs took place, Interior Health and contractor EllisDon secured a mobile MRI machine to ensure patients still had access to local testing. More than 650 MRIs were done on this temporary mobile machine over the last three months.*

### About MRI

MRI, or Magnetic Resonance Imaging, is a safe and painless test that uses a magnetic field and radio waves to produce detailed pictures of the body's organs and structures. MRIs are used to diagnose a number of medical conditions, including abnormalities of the brain, as well as tumors, cysts and soft-tissue injuries in other parts of the body. MRI scans are important diagnostic tools that do not use radiation; however, other types of diagnostic imaging – x-ray, ultrasound, or computed tomography (CT) – are more appropriate tools for many types of medical conditions.

### David E. Kampe Tower

The state-of-the-art David E. Kampe Tower opened at Penticton Regional Hospital (PRH) on April 29, 2019. The 84-bed modern tower has single patient rooms, each with its own washroom. A new ambulatory care centre has outpatient services, including cardiology, neurology, orthopedics, respiratory, pre-surgical screening and maternal clinics. Surgical services at the tower include five operating rooms, three minor procedure rooms, two endoscopy rooms and a cystoscopy room. The six-storey facility features a nuclear medicine program, rooftop helipad and space for the UBC faculty of medicine program to expand. The total project cost of \$312.5 million was shared between the provincial government,

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Interior Health, Okanagan-Similkameen Regional Hospital District, and South Okanagan Similkameen Medical Foundation. The permanent MRI is part of the legacy of the late David E. Kampe, who donated nearly \$8 million to the David E. Kampe Tower, including \$3 million for the MRI.

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