

# Royal Columbian Hospital Redevelopment

March 2021 Project Update



## Construction of the new acute care tower has begun

Construction is now underway on the new acute care tower as the redevelopment of Royal Columbian Hospital moves forward. We celebrated the start of construction with a small groundbreaking ceremony on the hospital grounds.

“This project will increase the hospital’s capacity by approximately 50%, help ease congestion, introduce advanced medical technologies and enhance the working environment for health-care workers,” said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health.

This redevelopment phase will create a new tower with more beds for intensive care, cardiac intensive care, and surgical patients. There will be a new, larger emergency department with a satellite medical imaging unit, with two radiology suites, an ultrasound suite and a CT scanner. The tower will have four more operating rooms, including one for cardiac patients and three more cardiology suites. The new acute care tower also includes a two-level underground parkade and a rooftop helipad.

In January, Fraser Health announced the signing of a Design Build Agreement for phase two and a Construction Management Agreement for phase three of the project with EllisDon. To reach these agreements, there were multiple design submissions, two major interim contracts, three major financial submissions and hours of negotiations with the successful proponent.

The project experienced the unique scenario of advancing the design while still in the procurement process. COVID-19 added another layer of complexity and resulted in the majority of the design engagements being done remotely.

“When we layer all this effort, along with the completion on the phase one project, and a worldwide pandemic, this achievement is amazing,” said Sharat Chandra, Chief Project Officer. “It’s exciting to be able to move forward with phase two and start to see construction begin on site.”

The tower is expected to be complete in 2025.

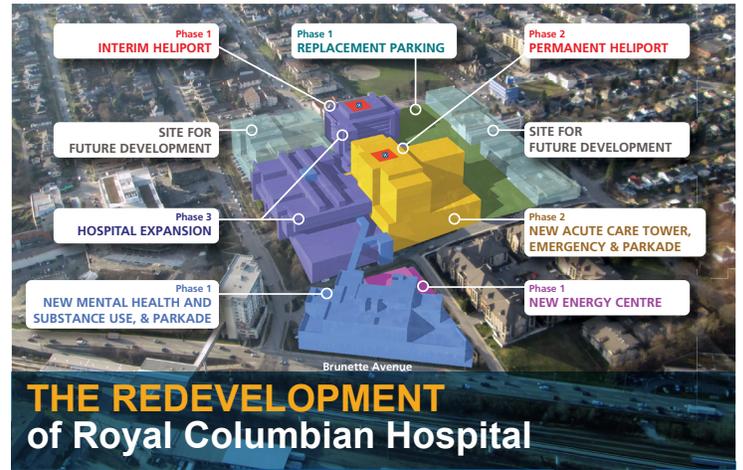


## NEW MENTAL HEALTH and Substance Use Wellness Centre

Our new Mental Health and Substance Use Wellness Centre opened for patients in Summer 2020. People with mental health and substance-use challenges and their families now have increased access to vital, culturally safe mental health and addictions care. The state-of-the-art centre has 75 inpatient beds, 45 of which are new. It also offers new or expanded outpatient clinics, including:

- An expanded reproductive psychiatry clinic to help women and their families who need support with mental health concerns related to pregnancy or post-partum
- An expanded adolescent psychiatry clinic for youth aged 13 to 17 diagnosed with depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
- A new addictions medicine and substance use clinic for people needing support with their substance use
- An expanded psychiatric urgent referral clinic for people who need urgent assessment but who don't need to be admitted to hospital
- A new electroconvulsive therapy clinic.

“The really important thing that we wanted to focus on was ensuring that this building is therapeutic and welcoming, so we have wide hallways, bright open spaces and outdoor patios,” said Dr. Anson Koo, program medical director for the Mental Health and Substance Use Program in Fraser Health. The new centre is an inviting and spacious sanctuary where patients can feel safe, respected and supported in their recovery. The centre features plenty of windows and natural light. Inpatient units include space for patients to be social or spend time alone, a lounge for visiting with family, friends and other patients, a secure outdoor patio and an exercise room. All of the patient rooms are private spaces with ensuite bathrooms. Over the past several months, we have worked through some remaining building deficiencies to ensure the comfort of patients and staff. Referrals to the centre are through the hospital or a mental health and substance use centre.



## THE REDEVELOPMENT of Royal Columbian Hospital

### Phase One 2016-2020

New mental health facility and infrastructure

- Add a 75-bed Mental Health and Substance Use Wellness Centre, new energy centre, IT communications hub, and a 450+ stall underground parkade (DONE)
- Upgrade the IT fibre optic and utilities pathway (DONE)
- Add temporary parking lots for visitors and staff (DONE)
- Move the heliport (DONE)

### Phase Two 2020-2025

New tower and Emergency Department

- Build a new acute care tower with:
  - More beds for intensive care, cardiac intensive care, obstetrical, and medicine/surgical patients
  - New, larger Emergency with 75 treatment bays and a satellite medical imaging unit
  - More and larger operating rooms, and more interventional radiology and cardiac suites on a surgical and interventional superfloor
  - A larger maternity unit, joined to the NICU and pediatric units
  - 350+ stall underground parkade, new main entrance and rooftop heliport
- Add more equipment, and IT technologies
- Add new mechanical building services and more equipment for the new energy centre
- Replace the old Sherbrooke Centre, power plant, main entrance, and laundry/maintenance buildings with site enhancements to support the new campus

### Phase Three 2023-2026

Expansion within existing buildings

- Convert most four-bed patient rooms in Columbia Tower to private or semi-private rooms
- Expand the pharmacy, laboratory, medical imaging, food services
- Add more MRI capacity
- Upgrade and move the cafeteria, administration offices and some ambulatory care services



## Storm Line Road Construction Complete

In Fall 2020, we installed a new storm line down the centre of East Columbia St. as part of the City of New Westminster’s storm line sewer separation program.

We had to close down much of East Columbia St. near the hospital and detour traffic to nearby streets. We engaged a traffic management consultant and added signs to help improve the flow of traffic through the neighbourhood.

This major disruption for the community was longer than expected because of delays due to poor soil conditions and unforeseen challenges attaching the new line to the City’s infrastructure.

We appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding during the road closure.

## Our New Main Entrance

Our new main entrance is now located at the Emergency Department. We had to relocate the entrance in November 2020 to prepare for construction of phase two.

Moving the entrance meant that we had to ensure we had a system in place for patients who come to the hospital regularly, such as for kidney dialysis. We also needed to make sure the entrance was big enough to maintain the physical distancing needed to manage COVID-19. We upgraded a separate staff entrance so there was enough room at the new main entrance for patients and visitors.

The change in entrance has been a big adjustment, but this will be our new normal for the next few years. Staff, patients and visitors will be able to enter from the Sherbrooke St. side of the hospital campus again once the new tower is open.



## Good-bye Sherbrooke Centre

The Sherbrooke Centre closed for good in October so that we could start to demolish the building in preparation for phase two. The aging building has had a long history on the hospital campus. Most recently, the centre was used for the hospital’s Mental Health and Substance Use program that is now in the new Wellness Centre. Shortly before the demolition, some members of the last graduating class of the Royal Columbian Hospital School of Nursing visited the building and reminisced about their time living and training at the Sherbrooke Centre.

“We still have reunions with our graduating class of 1978, and we stay in touch,” said Eileen Brown, who spent her entire nursing career at Royal Columbian before retiring a couple of years ago. “We went through some very intense times together, and those memories will be with us forever.”





Images on this page are preliminary artistic concepts only and may change



## The Redevelopment of Royal Columbian Hospital

### Room 'mock-ups' improve design

We began the detailed design of the acute care tower in August 2020 and have been working with our clinical partners to finalize the room placements, room design, and door and window placements for each floor. In October, we 'mocked up' 18 rooms by using drawings of each room on the floor along with pieces of improvised equipment. Doctors, nurses and other clinical staff walked through the "rooms" and provided feedback on the room design and layout of the equipment. We took their feedback to further improve the design. Virtual reality 'mock-ups' will take place this Spring to give users another chance to see what selected rooms will be like before we finalize the design.

Take a Virtual Video Tour  
of our new acute care tower  
[fraserhealth.ca/royalcolumbian](https://fraserhealth.ca/royalcolumbian)

Contact Us

### Thank you

Thank you to our Sapperton neighbours for your continued patience as we start on the next phase of the hospital's redevelopment.

### Learn more

Contact us at [RCHRedevelopment@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:RCHRedevelopment@fraserhealth.ca)  
Visit [www.fraserhealth.ca/royalcolumbian](https://www.fraserhealth.ca/royalcolumbian)

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