



SAINT JOHN
**REGIONAL HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR SURGICAL EXCELLENCE, RIGHT HERE AT HOME.

TOGETHER, WE WILL RAISE \$6.5 MILLION
TO ESTABLISH ATLANTIC CANADA'S MOST
ADVANCED HYBRID OPERATING ROOM.



YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES DESERVE THE VERY BEST CARE, **RIGHT HERE AT HOME.**

Health care across Canada is under immense strain, and New Brunswick is no exception. We are a growing and aging province with patients spread across rural and urban areas. Wait times are lengthening, demand is increasing, and competition for health care professionals is fierce.

And everyday, over one million people depend on the New Brunswick Heart Centre and the Saint John Regional Hospital for life-saving care.

That's why we are embarking on an immediate campaign to raise \$10.5 million to fund two transformational projects: \$6.5 million to establish Atlantic Canada's most advanced Hybrid Operating Room and \$4 million to create a state-of-the-art robotic spine surgery program.

Hybrid Operating Rooms are the centerpiece of modern surgical innovation and are critical in cardiac surgeries. It combines advanced imaging technology and minimally invasive techniques to deliver safer, more precise procedures. This cutting-edge technology will attract top medical talent to our Heart Centre and our region and provide New Brunswickers with the world-class care they deserve, right here at home.

This is our moment to shape the future of health care in our province. Together, we can bring the best technology in the country home to New Brunswick, to provide exceptional care today and in the years ahead.



PRIORITY

Hybrid Operating Room

\$6.5 Million

The addition of a Hybrid Operating Room (OR) at the Saint John Regional Hospital is an essential element in our ability to address growing waitlists and provide a modern standard of care to the people of New Brunswick.

A Hybrid OR is a very advanced surgical theatre combining a traditional operating room with an image-guided interventional suite. By placing the operating room together in the same space as permanent up-to-the-minute imaging devices (like C-Arms, x-ray tomography, and CT), surgeons can see much finer, smaller details while they work, such as the thin vessels in a heart muscle.

With the ability to see inside the body with such clarity, surgery is much less invasive. Many interventions can be performed through a few tiny cuts instead of larger incisions, leading to less trauma on the patient and faster recovery.

ENHANCING COLLABORATION FOR BETTER, FASTER PATIENT CARE.

Combining the best of a traditional operating room with 3D interventional radiology in one place creates many advantages, chiefly the ability for multidisciplinary teams to work together, with as many as 15 clinicians in one room. Enhanced collaboration means a faster response, which is critical to providing life-saving trauma care. Complex care can only be managed in a setting where all available expertise and resources are brought to the table simultaneously.

This combination also provides the immediate ability to convert a minimally invasive surgery to an open surgery if something doesn't go to plan. By locating all the necessary equipment in one space, we give personnel the capability to succeed.

A Hybrid OR is more than a place; it's also a philosophy of working together. Hospitals of the past, including our own, were designed in silos for a different time in medicine, in which diagnosis and treatment were separate modalities, and patients were either wheeled between departments or had to make multiple visits to receive comprehensive treatment.

As the province's Level 1 Trauma Centre and home of the New Brunswick Heart Centre, this technology is urgently needed at the Saint John Regional Hospital.

- 1 Hybrid ORs are the hallmark of leading hospitals (average size is 1,100 square feet).
- 2 A space is earmarked for a Hybrid OR as part of our hospital's redevelopment on the first floor: the perfect location at the centre of the hospital, close to the new intensive care unit and Department of Surgery.
- 3 Ours will be a 2,000-square-foot hub at the heart of the tertiary care area of our hospital, among the largest and best to be found anywhere in Canada.
- 4 It will include an operating room, control room, data room, equipment storage and a permanent robotic imaging system at the heart of the space.
- 5 This purpose-designed space will create something new and unique. By comparison, the Hybrid OR at QEII Health Sciences Centre that launched in 2022 is much smaller and is used only for vascular surgeries.
- 6 A Hybrid OR will increase the surgical capacity at the Heart Centre by 20%.
- 7 The most immediate impact is on cardiac surgery with future impacts to other fields.
- 8 It will be the most advanced suite to be found in Atlantic Canada and the only one equipped for both cardiac and vascular cases.



TRANSFORMING SURGERY AT THE NEW BRUNSWICK HEART CENTRE

While useful in many surgical disciplines, Hybrid ORs are critical in cardiac, vascular, and neurology surgeries. This investment is non-negotiable if the New Brunswick Heart Centre is to thrive.

Our Heart Centre, which is a national leader, is still the only tertiary care heart centre in Canada working without a Hybrid OR. Some of the nation's top heart surgeons can be found at our Heart Centre, performing 2024 procedures in surgical environments from the early 2000s.

In their own words, "We can't get a Hybrid OR soon enough".

Presently, teams looking to undertake highly complex, minimally invasive surgeries, must 'borrow' spaces in radiology, or use traditional operating rooms, often 'bumping' less critical patients and creating delays for more routine procedures. Today, the Heart Centre surgical team takes up around 20% of the catheter lab time available and up to two days per week of interventional radiology suite time to perform surgeries that should take place in a Hybrid OR. People are waiting two weeks for procedures they should have within two days, and the more this happens, the more the whole system falls behind.



A Hybrid OR is more than a place: It's also a philosophy, a way people work together. With a Hybrid OR, we can work in teams oriented around the needs of the patient.

Dr. J. F. Légaré

Physician Program Lead, Cardiac Care Program, Horizon Health Network



We live in an era of rapid advancements in cardiac technology and equipment. There is a greater need than ever before to ensure that our tertiary cardiology program remains current. Such advancements, placed in the hands of our skilled clinicians, are linked to greater efficiency, enhanced functionality, and improved patient outcomes.

Janine Doucet

Clinical Director, Cardiac Care Program and
the New Brunswick Heart Centre

The need for a Hybrid OR can't be overstated.

The Heart Centre does 4,300 cardiac interventions annually. At any point, there are 20 to 30 patients in hospital waiting for urgent surgeries that should be done in a Hybrid OR, with another 100 patients waiting at home. For non-emergency surgeries, waits can now be up to six months.

Teams are currently wheeling operating room equipment to and from the main operating room to perform the essential functions of a Hybrid OR with every case. Machines which are not meant to be moved are becoming damaged, decreasing the lifespan of this expensive equipment by as much as 50 percent. All of this is also causing delays in other areas.

Demands at the Saint John Regional Hospital will soon increase exponentially. A spring 2024 agreement will mean the hospital will provide services to patients in Prince Edward Island needing vascular surgery. After Nova Scotia decided it would no longer be able to care for those patients, a further 200,000 have been added to our service catchment area. With a Hybrid OR, we can easily absorb projected increases and provide better, safer, and faster care to everyone.

While the most immediate impact will be on cardiac and vascular surgeries, enormous utilization will emerge in many subspecialties longer term, including thoracic oncology (ability to image, biopsy, and operate on cancer tumours simultaneously, avoiding multiple appointments and procedures), as well as applications in lung surgeries, neurosurgery, and some spinal surgeries.



Advantages of a Hybrid OR

Patient safety and wellbeing:

Shorter recovery time due to less stress from multiple surgeries. **Shorter length of stay**, freeing up hospital beds faster.



Allows adaptability to attempt minimally invasive procedures that were once considered unsafe:

The ability to rapidly convert to an open procedure is not available in a traditional OR. Surgeons also have the ability to revise the original treatment plan, working in the same surgical suite on procedures requiring multiple interventions and modalities.



Improves staff efficiency:

Complex surgeries can be booked as one procedure instead of two or more separate procedures, saving time.



Reduces bottlenecks:

Freeing up space in standard operating rooms and interventional suites means cases that are less complex can move through other parts of the hospital quickly and efficiently, streamlining workflow and scheduling.



Reduces risk of complications:

With a higher degree of precision and accuracy comes a lowered risk of undesirable outcomes.



Saves money:

By improving patient outcomes and reducing patient recovery time, we'll see a reduction in costly long hospital stays.



A Hybrid OR has the capacity to transform care at the Heart Centre and the Saint John Regional Hospital. It is an essential investment to allow us to remain at the forefront of care and to continue to attract the best and brightest care providers, long into the future.

TOGETHER, WE CAN BRING THE FUTURE OF SURGERY HOME.

With your support, we can usher in a new era of surgical excellence, right here at home.

Philanthropy is at the core of our ability to provide state-of-the-art health care to New Brunswickers. Every contribution—a monthly gift, a leadership gift, or a gift in your will—is significant, and impacts the future of health care in our province.

Your investment in the Campaign for Surgical Excellence will ensure that we are here for you and your loved ones when it matters the most. With your help, we can provide our community with the very best standard of care, right here at home.

Let's bring the future of surgery home, together.

