



**INSTITUT DE
CARDIOLOGIE
DE MONTRÉAL**

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate distribution

Excavation gets underway for the Montreal Heart Institute's operating theatre expansion project

Montreal, July 13, 2005 – Following health minister Philippe Couillard's May 2 announcement authorizing the expansion of the Montreal Heart Institute's (MHI) operating theatre, the MHI confirms that excavation work for this important project will begin in the first week of August, 2005. The new operating theatre will be located behind the Institute's main pavilion.

Duration and terms and conditions of the excavation work

The excavation work for the new operating theatre will be spread over a maximum three months. Because excavation involves fracturing the surface of the rock using dynamite, contractors are bound by precise and strict regulations in terms of methods used, maximum charge and detonation hours (from Monday to Friday, in the early morning, at the noon hour and in late afternoon). Every measure will be taken to ensure the safety of persons and the premises for the duration of the excavation work.

Although every effort will be made to minimize the inconveniences that go along with dynamiting and excavation work, minor tremors, noise and an increase in heavy-vehicle traffic around the MHI site are expected. Construction work on the new operating theatre will only begin in spring 2006.

For comments

The Montreal Heart Institute thanks people living near the institution in advance for their patience and understanding during the work. Persons who wish to comment may do so by calling (514) 376-3330, extension 3205.

Operating theatre expansion project: a reminder of the highlights

This large-scale project will make it possible to perform an additional 500 surgical procedures annually, for a total of 2,500 cardiac procedures per year. The new operating theatre will feature seven surgery rooms equipped with leading-edge technology. Five will be set aside for ongoing activities, one will be reserved for emergency cases, while the last will be used for research and the evaluation of new technologies, including robotic surgery. The new operating theatre is scheduled to open in July 2007.

About the Montreal Heart Institute

Founded in 1954, the Montreal Heart Institute is an ultra-specialized hospital centre dedicated to care, research, teaching, prevention, and the assessment of new technologies in cardiology; it is affiliated with the Université de Montréal.

- 30 -

Information: Doris Prince
Head of Communications and Public Relations
Montreal Heart Institute
(514) 376-3330, extension 3074
doris.prince@icm-mhi.org