

College of New Caledonia



NEWS RELEASE

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CNC opens Med Rad lab, raises \$71,000 for endowment fund

CNC officially launched its endowment fund campaign Thursday for the Medical Radiography Technology program, by inviting the media to tour its new Med Rad Lab.

The two-year MRT diploma program prepares students to become technologists, who provide images to specialists in hospitals and private imaging clinics.

“Tuition for this program is one of our highest at close to \$18,000 for the two years. To help our students ease the financial burden, CNC has created the Dr. Chong Lim Endowment fund, which will provide scholarships and bursaries for the life of the program,” said Randall Heidt, CNC Director of Communications and Development. “Dr. Lim has been the premier radiologist in northern B.C. for more than 46 years and we are delighted to be associated with such an impressive and prestigious doctor.”

Dr. Lim started his solo practice as Director of Radiology at the University Hospital of Northern B.C. in October 1965. The medical imaging area now has six full-time radiologists, two visiting radiologists and more than 40 technical and clerical staff.

The medical community in northern B.C. got a sneak peek at CNC’s MRT lab Wednesday night as part of a fundraiser, which brought in more than \$21,000 for the Dr. Lim Endowment fund. “We are ecstatic that we received such exceptional support from the local medical community,” Heidt said. “Dr. Lim donated more than \$50,000 in stocks to the college, which takes us to \$71,000. We are now asking the public to help us reach our goal of \$100,000 by donating online at www.cnc.bc.ca”

Heidt explained supporters can buy puzzle pieces online and put their family name, company name or the name of a loved one on the pieces, which will be permanently displayed at the entrance to the MRT lab. “It’s a great way to honour someone who has spent time in the medical system or to get that perfect, unique gift for someone who is impossible to buy for,” Heidt said. “All donations over \$20 are tax deductible and puzzle pieces can be purchased from \$100 to \$1,000.”

Heidt explained CNC can also accept donations of stocks and bonds, which allows donors to receive even greater tax savings.

CNC's medical radiography technology program opened its doors to a full complement of 16 students in September, 2011. Students are trained in the college's MRT lab, which includes three X-ray suites, which feature everything from the latest digital technology, to some of the more dated equipment seen in smaller hospitals.

The lab had to undergo extensive renovations, including 10 inches of concrete and led-lined flooring as well as led-lined walls and doors, special radiation-proof viewing windows, electrostatic flooring and more.

The lab also features a computerized simulation room, which allows students to practice imaging on avatars, rather than people.

The provincial government provided CNC with nearly \$2.7 million in one-time funding to establish the MRT program. The province will also provide \$591,000 in ongoing annual operating funding once the program is fully enrolled with 32 students, 16 of which will be at the college, while 16 will be learning in hospitals and clinics.

The college's partners include the provincial government (Ministries of Advanced Education, and Health Services), Northern Health, the Northern Medical Society, Interior Health and BCIT, which provided the program model.

Under the guidance of a medical radiologist, the medical radiographer plays a vital role in the diagnosis and treatment of many injuries and illnesses through the use of X-rays. The technologist produces X-rays in either digital or film form and the radiologist interprets them to aid in medical diagnosis. In hospitals, medical radiographers work in the medical imaging department, the Emergency department, the operating room, and at the patient's bedside. Career advancement opportunities in the hospital include management, mammography, interventional radiography, and clinical teaching.

There is a severe shortage of radiography technologists in northern B.C. and across the province. There is also a national shortage of technologists.

To donate, contact Annette Stevens, CNC's Fundraising and Alumni co-ordinator, at 250-562-2131 ext. 5313 or e-mail, stevensan@cnc.bc.ca.

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