

## The Montreal Heart Institute enters its second quarter-century

The Montreal Heart Institute entered its second quarter-century this year, with significant achievements to its credit.

Plans for the Institute first began in 1951, when Dr. Paul David, head of the Cardiology Department of the Maisonneuve Hospital in Montreal, submitted a proposal for a "heart institute" to the Community of the Grey Nuns, owner of the hospital. The proposal was accepted and one floor was made available to the Institute, which opened in 1954. The Institute soon outgrew its quarters and in 1966 moved into its own building.

It was at that time that the first heart transplant in Canada took place, attracting world attention to the Institute. Another first had already taken place in 1958 when Dr. Edouard Gagnon performed the first successful operation assisted by a heart-lung machine on a human being, in Quebec. The Institute's influence grew again when a new surgical technique for relieving *angina pectoris*, developed in Cleveland, Ohio, was brought into use at the Institute in 1969. The research department evaluated the effects of this surgery in all aspects. The research findings were published and the quality of the publications enhanced the international reputation of the Montreal Institute.

### Expansion of the Institute

Construction on the Institute was finished in 1977 and new services opened in

1978 included a coronary care service, three catheterization labs and three operating theatres. The construction also made room for expansion of the outpatient department, setting up of a nuclear medicine department and expansion of the radiology department and the clinical laboratories.

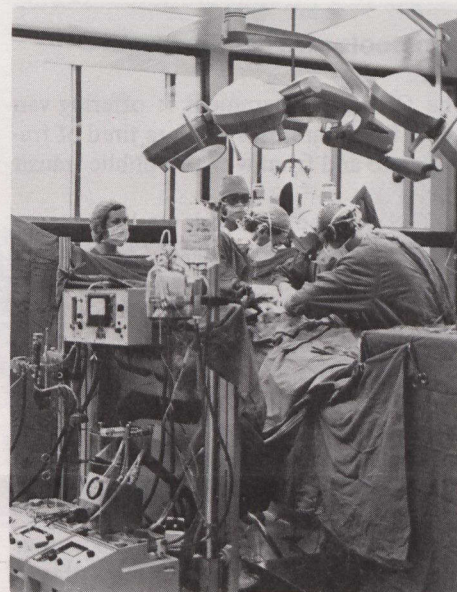
At present, the 140 beds and the research department are served by 42 full-time doctors, 70 consulting physicians and 500 professional, administrative and auxiliary personnel. When the Institute opened, it had four full-time doctors.

The Institute is also a university hospital, affiliated with the University of Montreal, and young resident doctors can complete their training in the following fields: cardiology, cardiac surgery, radiology and anesthesia.

### The future

On the occasion of the Institute's twenty-fifth anniversary celebrated last year, Professor Paul David, founder of the Institute, wrote:

"In order to reach the three major objectives of the Institute — care, teaching and research — we believe that we must not grow beyond 200 beds. It is important for a highly-specialized hospital seeking to maintain a top-quality scientific and human character to accept limitations on growth that foster excellence. A rehabilitation service should complement all of

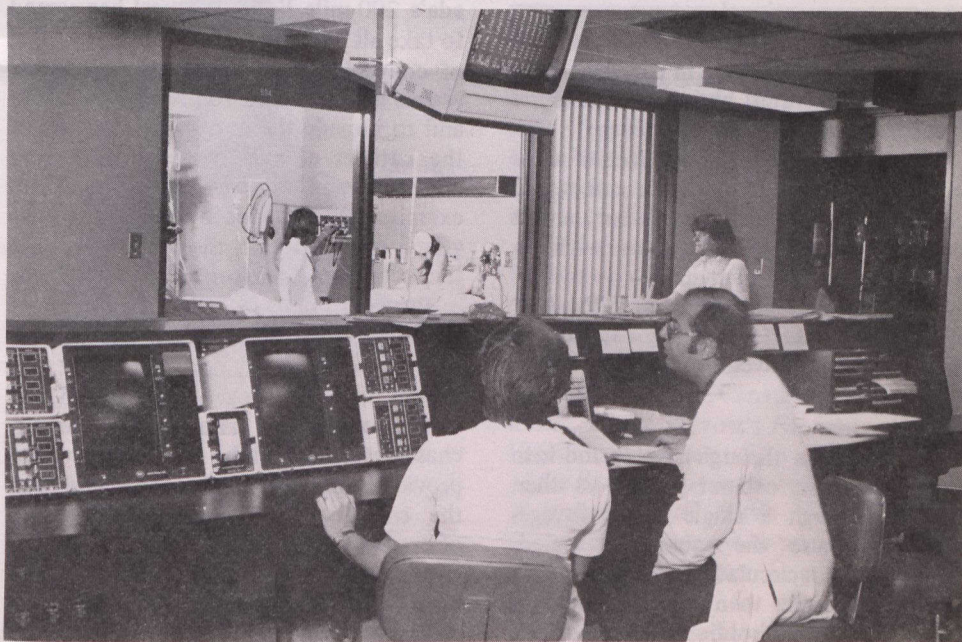


*One of the operating rooms at the Montreal Heart Institute.*

the Institute's other services. Numerous studies have shown the urgent necessity of developing this sector so that, after their medical or surgical treatment, patients can remain active citizens, useful to their families and to society....

"Internationally, the Institute's co-operation has been sought in the formulation of a number of projects, and many delegations have toured the Institute and received documentation from us on the organization of our services. Agreements, backed by the government authorities, have enabled medico-administrative teams from the Institute to work with their colleagues in other countries on setting up surgery units (Santo Domingo, Madrid and Liège) or to co-operate on common projects (Lyon, Washington). Lastly, the participation of our doctors and researchers in important conferences, congresses and symposia, as well as the publication of scientific works in journals of high renown, have enabled the Institute to gain a special place of leadership in international cardiology.

"Competent and enthusiastic young people are joining the team, and so we have no fears for the future. Rather we can predict another steady and dynamic quarter-century...."



*A coronary unit used to monitor heart patients.*

**Alberta** will raise its minimum wage by 50 cents to \$3.50 an hour, effective May 1. When the new rate is imposed, Alberta will have the third highest minimum wage in Canada following Saskatchewan and Quebec who have rates of \$3.65 an hour.