The Screening Mammography Program has replaced its mobile film mammography fleet with three brand new digital mammography coaches that will travel to rural and remote communities in BC. The mobile service helps to improve and increase access to screening mammograms for women across the province.

With these state-of-the-art vehicles, women are able to step onto the mobile coach and have their screening mammogram in the vehicle, making for a more comfortable and private experience. The new vehicles include a reception area, dressing area, and mammography examination room. The vehicles are also equipped with a wheelchair lift and are designed to fit on all BC Ferries.

The new coaches offer digital mammography which allows for greater efficiency in sharing of images. Technologists are now able to see their images right away to ensure image quality, rather than waiting for the films to be developed when they return to the reporting centre. Digital imaging also allows for easy storage and retrieval of images, and allows radiologists to manipulate and examine the images in detail.

The mobile service was first piloted in BC in February 1990, and now visits over 120 rural and remote communities across BC, including over 40 Indigenous communities annually. About 10 per cent of all screening mammograms performed in BC are done on the mobile units.

Learn more by visiting: www.screeningbc.ca/breast
BC Cancer Agency Digital Mammography Coaches

The Facts

• In 2014, SMP performed 259,341 screening mammograms.
• The majority of exams (66%) are performed for women between the ages of 50 to 69.
• There were 1,404 breast cancers reported in 2014 as of July 15, 2015 (5.4 per 1,000 exams).
• The 2014 overall cancer detection rate increased compared with 2013, from 4.8 to 5.4 cancers detected per 1000 women screened.
• The overall cancer detection rate is highest on both first and subsequent screens for women who reported a family history (mother, sister, and daughter).
• The proportion of cancers detected increases as women age.

Screening Mammography Program

The Screening Mammography Program (SMP) is a population-based screening program operated by the BC Cancer Agency. The goal of SMP is to reduce breast cancer deaths by finding cancer at an early stage through routine screening.

SMP operates 37 fixed screening mammography clinics across the province, and three mobile mammography coaches that serve communities in rural BC.

Booking a Screening Mammogram

BC women between the ages of 40 and 74 with a primary care provider (doctor, nurse practitioner or naturopath) can book a screening mammogram directly through the program without a doctor’s referral by calling 1-800-663-9203 or 604-877-6187.

To find the closest fixed SMP screening centre, or to find out when the mobile mammography service is visiting your community, use the SMP clinic locator on the program website: www.screeningbc.ca/breast