



Stabilizing health-care services in North Vancouver Island

Increased support to local Nations in NVI

Island Health continues to support the Kwakiutl, Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw, and Quatsino First Nations through a challenging time related to losses in life - particularly among younger Nation members. Our thoughts continue to be with the people and communities that are working through this difficult time of loss.

The response to these challenges continues to be led by the Nations, with Island Health and the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) responding to the Nations' requests.

Island Health's response to date includes:

- Provided \$10,000 in funding to each of the three Nations to support evening/weekend and overtime shifts for staff.
- Circulated an expression of interest to identify Mental Health and Substance Use staff and resources that could be re-deployed as required. Staff were identified and re-deployment was pending.
- Engaged with local Nation leadership to provide information and updates on existing programs and services.

Island Health, in collaboration with FNHA, will continue to be responsive to the Nations' requests.

Two new family physicians in Port Hardy

In March 2024, Island Health was pleased to welcome two new return of service (RoS) physicians to the Primary Care Clinic in Port Hardy.

Dr. Hadi Hmoud and Dr. Ramiz Alhadi will support primary care in Port Hardy as well as provide additional capacity to the local emergency departments.

Both physicians have completed their onboarding and the additional physician capacity is set to benefit local residents in Port Hardy and surrounding areas.

Please contact the Port Hardy Primary Care Clinic at 250-902-6008 and speak with a Medical Office Assistant if you are in need of a family physician, or for more information.



The front-door view of the Port Hardy Primary Health Care Centre located at 9140 Granville St.



Capital Modernization Projects

On January 31, Island Health staff provided updates to local elected officials on the planned capital modernization projects at both Port Hardy and Port McNeill Hospitals.

The event was well attended by local leaders and partners, and provided an opportunity to outline the proposed plans and offer a high level overview of priority work.

The capital modernization project team has initiated next steps in the project lifecycle; design development, contractor procurement and moving into construction, as well as establishing and finalizing timelines and communications (to both the staff and public).

Anticipated construction timeline for the modernization phase will begin in Fall 2024, with estimated completion in 2027. This timeline will be influenced by Contractor availability and supply chain.

Healthcare Excellence Canada - Grant Funding

The primary healthcare team in Port Hardy was one of 20 teams across Canada to secure an up to \$50,000 grant to support expansion of virtual care services in NVI. For more information visit [here](#).

Additionally, the rural and remote coordinators based out of Port McNeill, Comox and Port Alberni received funding from Healthcare Excellence Canada to support innovation in recruitment and retention of the health workforce. For more information visit [here](#).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP!

Significant progress and work continues in North Vancouver Island. We are committed to providing future updates to ensure that local residents, First Nations communities and community leaders are aware of the ongoing progress and results of this important investment.

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding any of the initiatives and progress outlined in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact us, as we would be more than happy to discuss further.

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