

COWICHAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Update for staff, medical staff, volunteers and community members.

Moving through procurement, making our way towards Bell McKinnon Road

After a busy stretch of work behind the scenes – against the backdrop of a global pandemic – the Cowichan District Hospital Replacement Project (CDHRP) is excited to take centre stage.

With government's approval of the business plan, the project is now in procurement which, once complete, will determine the proponent responsible for co-creating the final design and overseeing construction of the new Cowichan District Hospital. On March 25, Cowichan Tribes Councillor Albie Charlie joined Cowichan Valley Regional Hospital District Chair Aaron Stone and Island Health's President and CEO Kathy MacNeil for a small cultural ceremony to commemorate the land transfer for the new hospital.

As project partners, it was important to acknowledge the unceded traditional territory of the Cowichan people and set a positive path forward as we build on their ancestral lands.

The land purchase was the culmination of a site selection process initiated by the Cowichan Valley Regional Hospital District (CVRHD) and Island Health's capital planning team in 2013.



The CVRHD worked closely with Island Health and the community to locate and purchase a suitable site that was central to the region, large enough to grow with the population and able to remain functional after a natural disaster.

On April 1, Health Minister Adrian Dix hosted a [YouTube live event](#) to celebrate the land transfer, announce the two shortlisted respondents from the Request for Qualifications, and mark the first phase of a two-phase Request for Proposals process.

While the official design will begin to emerge early next year, we have already created the overarching vision for the new hospital.

With this vision comes hope for a facility that will enable staff and medical staff to deliver top-notch services and care in a space that is thoughtfully designed, culturally safe and inclusive, and suitably equipped to accommodate our community on opening day and into the future.

In this update, we invite you to catch a glimpse of where we've been, where we are now, and what's ahead for the new CDH project.

We always appreciate hearing from you. Please send your questions and feedback to the team at newcdh@viha.ca or visit us online at www.islandhealth.ca/newcdh.

Behind the scenes: Business Planning with the Maternity Working Group



Members of the Maternity Working Group gather input towards the future hospital while improving care in the current CDH.

Join Dr. Maki Ikemura (L), RN Sarah Byrne, and Physician Engagement lead Mona Kaiser (R) and the Maternity Working Group behind the scenes in their video, [Planning for Better Maternity Care Close to Home](#).

One of the most rewarding aspects of planning for the new hospital is the process of studying how services and care are delivered in our current facility, and exploring possibilities for improving the quality of these experiences in a new space designed to modern standards.

“It’s not just about adding beds, expanding the space and doing things the way we’ve always done them,” said Dr. Michelle Weizel, Executive Medical Director. “It’s about the appropriateness of our care interactions – examining them from different perspectives, clinical, cultural, emotional and locational. All of these factors have the potential to shape better experiences for those we serve and for the people with whom we work.”

The Maternity Working Group is one of 26 user groups which provided input into the business plan for the new hospital. While working with the Project’s clinical leads, they interviewed moms and families, talked among their unit staff, sought feedback from colleagues at other hospitals, and

studied their patient data to develop a new care model that helps families stay together during maternity care.

During this process, they discovered an opportunity to reconfigure an existing space at the current hospital into a special care nursery, with staffing and equipment that will enable some newborns needing extra care to remain at CDH and avoid a trip to Victoria or Nanaimo for these services.

The special care nursery will carry over into the maternity unit at the new hospital which will have capacity for 10 beds and include rooms large enough to ensure mothers can give birth and stay in the same room with their infants until they are ready to go home.

To join the Maternity Working Group behind-the-scenes, check out their video, [Planning for Better Maternity Care Close to Home](#).

Note: videography occurred during business planning, prior to the pandemic.

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Community Benefits Agreement

Construction careers and a respectful workforce

The new Cowichan District Hospital is being built under B.C.'s Community Benefits Agreement (CBA), which is implemented by BC Infrastructure Benefits (BCIB), a provincial Crown corporation. The agreement means local workers, First Nation, Métis, Indigenous workers, women, and other workers underrepresented in the skilled trades will receive priority hiring during construction. After construction, workers are eligible for priority hiring on other CBA projects.

The CBA guarantees apprentices opportunities to train on the job. If workers need upskilling, BCIB can connect them to training that helps them advance their career goals. BCIB is helping to recruit the next generation of skilled trades workers, create careers where people live, and support the growth of local businesses.

Together, BCIB and Island Health share government's commitment to creating respectful workplaces, where diversity and cultures are honoured, and where people feel safe to be themselves and do their best work. For more information, visit www.bcib.ca or email info@bcib.ca.



A place of healing: building relationships as we build a new Cowichan District Hospital

Those who have been following the project journey or working with our care teams will recognize how Indigenous participation in health care and service planning is positioned at the forefront of our work.

"The health disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations are preventable," noted Alice Gelpke, executive director, Cowichan Valley region. "Island Health remains committed to eliminating discrimination, increasing the cultural safety of our services, and improving health outcomes by working in partnership with First Nation, Métis, and Indigenous people, and taking actions to heal the impacts of colonization and systemic racism."

During recent milestone events, Cowichan Tribes Councillor and Elder

Albie Charlie shared how hospitals and institutions have been places where Indigenous people have felt unwelcomed and unsafe, drawing parallels to the Residential School experience, which eroded trust in these institutions.

"In the past, we experienced racism. We were set aside. [The Residential School system] took away a lot of our families and separated them from their children; some never came back," said Charlie. "But through this project, and the opportunity to participate, and through nautsa'maat (a Hul'qumi'num term meaning, 'working together with one common goal'), we are going to develop trust and reconciliation. Our people will now call this hospital, Hulitun Lelum ('Healing Home'), a place for healing, not a place of fear."

"Through this project, and the opportunity to participate... we are going to develop trust and reconciliation."

A place of healing (cont'd)

To deliver on our promise to create a place of healing, the Indigenous engagement manager for the project worked with the communities to convene an Indigenous advisory committee during business planning. The committee included Elders and other community leaders from Cowichan Tribes, Ditidaht, Penelakut, Halalt, Stz'uminus, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Lyackson, Malahat and Pacheedaht First Nations, the Métis Nation and youth and adult participants from Hiiye'yu Lelum – House of Friendship, which serves the urban Indigenous population in the region.

A research grant from Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council funded travel and participation for in-person meetings in Duncan; language and cultural education sessions with Cowichan Tribes Elders and knowledge holders; visits to each community (pre-pandemic); and a full-day virtual engagement session for Island Health staff in February 2021.

Through this foundational work, we continue to gain understanding around values and protocols for respectful engagement, health and wellness priorities for the communities and ways to improve our current and future services delivery and our workplace environments.



Video: Join Cowichan Tribes Councillor Albie Charlie, Cowichan Valley Regional Hospital District Chair Aaron Stone and Island Health President Kathy MacNeil at the land transfer ceremony for the new hospital.

Members of the Indigenous Advisory Council Committee and Indigenous staff will continue to inform key aspects of the project and local service delivery as we move forward on the hospital and Cowichan Valley Health and Care Plan.

Dovetailed with these activities is the commitment to ensuring everyone on the CDH Replacement Project is able to practice Cultural Safety and humility. Courses are available to all who are working on the build, from planners to architects and tradespeople, and external consultants hired to support the project, to ensure the build complements the ongoing cultural safety training underway across local care teams.

Reflecting on a conversation with Councillor Charlie and CVRHD Chair Aaron Stone during the land transfer ceremony in March, our President and CEO Kathy MacNeil summed up our vision for the future. "I truly believe if we follow the lead of Indigenous partners to create safe places of healing, we will improve health and care for everyone," said MacNeil.

"This process has been guided by a genuine desire to reconnect and an understanding that this connection is part of healing," said CVRHD Chair Aaron Stone.

"I truly believe if we follow the lead of Indigenous partners to create safe places of healing, we will improve health and care for everyone."

Staying connected, getting involved

As we move through procurement and work our way closer to the design and construction phase of the project, we will be looking to many community groups, local leaders and people with lived experience to provide input into various clinical and practical aspects of the project.

In addition to resuming quarterly updates, the team will be hosting virtual town halls and focused sessions via Zoom until it's safe to do so in person. To be notified of upcoming opportunities, ask questions or share feedback, please email us at newcdh@viha.ca and subscribe to our email updates or check out our updated website at www.islandhealth.ca/newcdh.

We've posted a [quick facts sheet](#) for this phase of the project (at right) and will continue to share news on Island Health's social media pages as things begin to take shape.

We recognize the success of this project is closely linked to the health and well-being of the entire community, and your participation and input will be essential ingredients as we refine the recipe for the new Cowichan District Hospital.

We wish everyone good health as the COVID-19 vaccine efforts continue in every community. We hope you will get involved as your schedules permit and look forward to virtual visits in the months and years ahead.



Thank you to Ms. Berry and her Grade 8 students at Quamichan School for lifting our spirits at CDH. We see you and appreciate your encouragement!

NEW CDH QUICK FACTS

Top things to know about your new Cowichan District Hospital.



1 OPEN FOR CARE IN 2026

2020: Procurement phase began
2021: Site prep work starts
2022: Groundbreaking and construction begins
2026: Open for patient care in the fall
Budget: \$887.4M (CVRHD funding \$282.6M)



2 201 BED CAPACITY

185 acute care beds will be operational on opening day, up from 134 in the current hospital. As with all new builds, some will be reserved for future population growth.



3 THREE TIMES MORE SPACE

At approximately 495,140 square feet (46,000 square metres) the new CDH is nearly three times larger than the current facility.



4 CULTURALLY SAFE SERVICES AND SPACES

Including areas for ceremony, quiet reflection, gathering space for larger families and ongoing cultural safety training for people involved in the build and day-to-day hospital operations.



5 ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FEATURES

The new CDH will be primarily powered by clean electricity. GHG emissions will be at least 75% lower despite it being 3x larger than the current hospital. It will also be approximately 30% more energy efficient and 60% more water efficient. We are also exploring ways to source locally grown foods and protect natural habitats.



6 BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF CARE FOR A COMMUNITY THAT CARES

By continuing to work in partnership with community-based service providers, people will receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time, improving health experiences and outcomes, and increasing capacity in our hospital. Our hospital will be integrated within the full continuum of health services available in the Cowichan Valley.



7 FREE PARKING, FREE WI-FI

Capacity for 800 parking spaces, fully accessible for all abilities with infrastructure for green transportation options. Free public Wi-Fi.



WWW.ISLANDEALTH.CA/NEWCDH
NEWCDH@VIHA.CA



How will you spend the cash when you win the next 50/50 draw? There are 1,348 local merchants who can help with that.

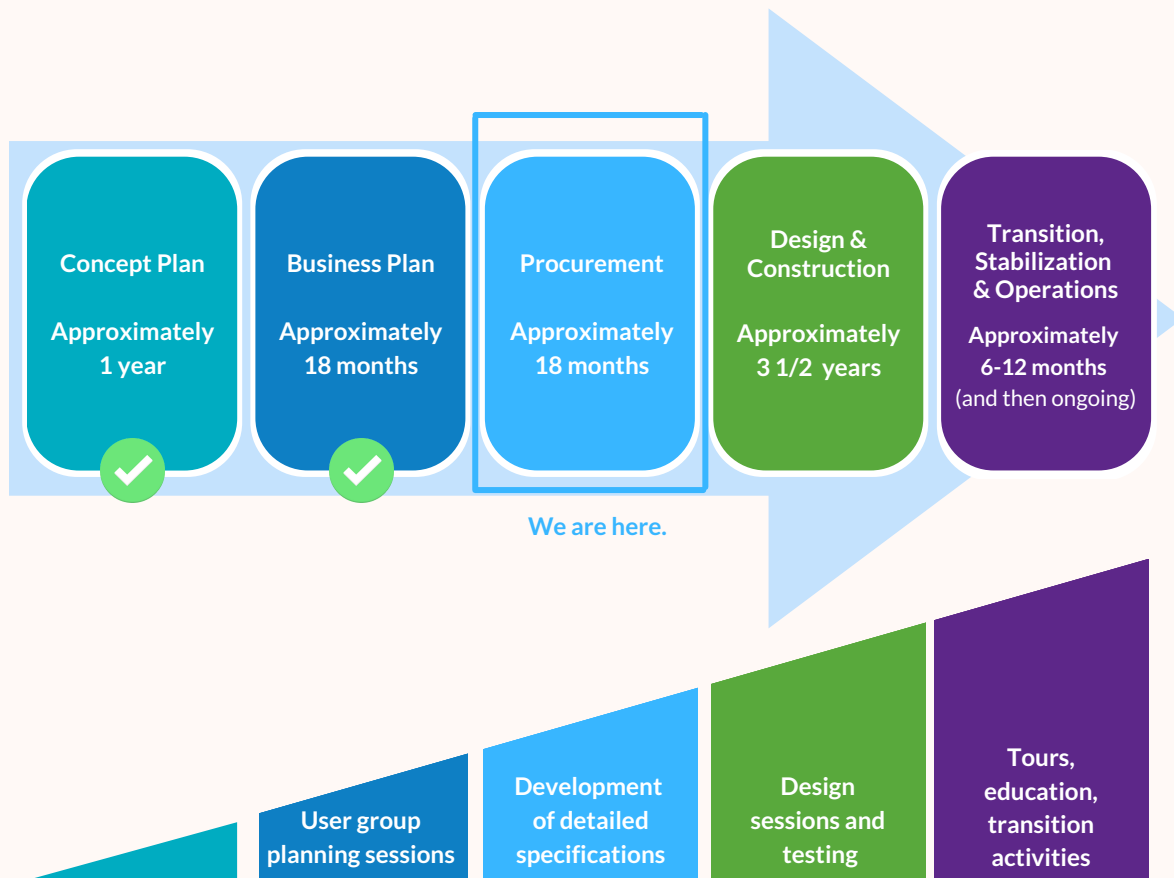
The Cowichan District Hospital Foundation 50/50 draw: half goes to building what will become BC's finest community hospital and half goes to you. And when you spend your jackpot locally, you'll make our Cowichan economy healthier too. Are you in? Get your ticket today! www.cdhf5050.ca

Monthly draws with an est. jackpot of \$10,000. **When you win, Cowichan wins!**



Actual odds depend on number of tickets sold. BC Gaming Event License #128046. Know your limit, play within it. Problem Gambling Help Line 1-8880-795-6111 www.bcresponsiblegambling.ca

Get to know the capital planning phases



Intensity and scope of engagement during hospital planning.