



# Stabilizing health-care services in North Vancouver Island

## Island Health Board in North Vancouver Island

On July 3 and 4, the Island Health Board and executive team were very pleased to visit the North Vancouver Island communities of Port McNeill, Port Hardy, Port Alice, Alert Bay and 'Namgis Nation, the latter two communities located on Cormorant Island. The two-day engagement included a public forum on the evening of July 3, followed by site and community visits throughout the day on July 4.

The public forum was a significant opportunity to meet with community partners and area residents to share about the ongoing efforts to stabilize health-care services in local communities and hear directly from residents. In addition, attendees learned more about the Mount Waddington Health Network and its ongoing efforts to support residents with their health and wellness. A recording of the public forum is available [here](#).

Board members and executive met with community partners for a breakfast Thursday morning to discuss the importance of upholding, nurturing, and progressing relationships with local First Nations communities. These relationships are of upmost importance to Island Health, particularly in North Vancouver Island where nearly 30% of the population identifies as Indigenous.

Following the partnership breakfast, Board members broke into smaller groups and visited staff and toured facilities including Port McNeill Hospital, Port Hardy Hospital, Port Alice Health Centre, and Cormorant Island Health Centre. Two community-based services in Port Hardy, the Salvation Army Centre of Hope and New Beginnings, were also visited.

Island Health Board and executive appreciated the warm welcome from local community leaders and are committed to ongoing partnership and collaboration to ensure health services are accessible and meeting the needs of residents.

Recent achievements include:

- [Two new Port Hardy physicians ready to accept new patients](#)
- [Port Hardy Primary Care Centre welcomes new physician to the care team](#)
- [Island Health and 'Namgis First Nation housing partnership aims to attract health-care staff to Cormorant Island](#)
- [Increased Access](#) (click on drop down menu)



## \$30 MILLION INVESTMENT IN NORTH VANCOUVER ISLAND



1



**PHYSICIANS**

**5 New Physicians**

- Recruited since January 2024
- Practicing in Island Health facilities & private clinics
- 3 starting at Port McNeill Hospital in September

**Added Capacity in Port Hardy**

- 3 Port Hardy physicians completed orientation
- Will add capacity to Port Hardy Hospital ED and inpatient unit, and community primary care clinic

**New Chief of Staff**

- Dr. Evan Rogers will fill a critical leadership role at both Port Hardy and Port McNeill Hospitals

2



**HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

**16 New Nurses**

- Recruited since January 2024
- 7 at Port Hardy Hospital
- 5 at Port McNeill Hospital
- 4 on Cormorant Island

**50 New Staff from Outside Island Health**

- Recruited since January 2024
- Dietician, Care Aid, Porter, Food service, Laundry, Ambassador
- Lab. Radiology and X-Ray Techs
- Environmental and Relational Service Officers
- Long-term Care, Community Health Services, MHSU, Public Health

3



**MORE SUPPORTS**

**April 2023 - April 2024**

- New connector bus transported more than 1,000 patients (and support people) and 173 staff between sites
- New mobile CT scanner serving North Vancouver Island at Port Hardy Hospital
- Staff accommodations under construction to help with housing challenges
- Planning underway for major capital upgrades to Port Hardy Hospital and Port McNeill Hospital

Information current as of July 2024

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP!

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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**To learn more please visit:**

[North Vancouver Island Sustainability Initiative](#)

[Island Health Magazine - Spring 2023](#)