

### **Nanaimo Regional Hospital District Update**

The Nanaimo Regional Hospital District (NRHD) acclaimed a Chair and Vice-Chair at the March 8, 2022, meeting of the NRHD Board per provincial legislation. Ian Thorpe takes on another term as Chair of the NRHD and will chair all NRHD Board meetings. Returning Acting Chair, Erin Hemmens, fulfills the role of the Chair when the Chair is unavailable.

“I am honoured to have the support of the NRHD Board as we advocate for new facilities and improved access to healthcare for residents. Our continued collaboration with regional partners to create a strong and unified voice on behalf of our community is vital as we work towards our long-term healthcare goals.”  
Ian Thorpe, Chair, NRHD

“I appreciate the opportunity to serve as Acting Chair again and to support Chair Thorpe. We have much work ahead of us as we strive to bring a higher level and broader scope of healthcare to our communities.”  
Erin Hemmens, Acting Chair, NRHD

In addition to the NRHD Board election, the NRHD adopted a budget of \$21 million for 2022. The 2022 budget includes \$3.2 million for capital equipment and minor projects, \$0.1 million for administration expenses and \$4.8 million for debt servicing on major capital projects. It also includes current budgeted capital projects that are planned or underway including a boiler plant upgrade, endoscopy equipment, a new Intensive Care Unit, SPECT CT Scanner, and a Meal Assembly and Delivery System at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH).

A new patient tower, cancer centre, cardiac catheterization lab and high acuity unit at NRGH as well as a new long-term care facility in the area were identified as potential future priority projects. As the Board evaluates the NRHD’s financial participation in this plan, a tax levy of approximately \$31.17 per \$100,000 of assessed property value in 2022 is needed for a contribution of \$13.2 million into reserves. This is an increase of \$10/\$100,000 over the year prior. The goal is to accumulate reserves to reduce reliance on debt and prepare the NRHD to meet its partnership funding obligations for large priority projects that are urgently required in the region.

While regional hospital district funding may vary to some extent across the province, typically the Nanaimo Regional Hospital District (NRHD), like other hospital districts, provides 40 per cent funding for capital equipment and capital projects for local health facilities, and the Province, through Island Health, provides the remaining 60 per cent of the capital funding. Island Health is responsible for delivering healthcare services on Vancouver Island. Island Health pools both Provincial and NRHD funding, along with other sources such as charitable foundations, to maintain, improve and build healthcare facilities.

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### **About the Nanaimo Regional Hospital District**

The NRHD is an independent entity, and its sole purpose is to provide capital funding (which includes equipment, land and physical structures) to Island Health in support of five local healthcare facilities under the [Hospital District Act](#). These facilities are Nanaimo Regional General Hospital and Dufferin Park Lodge in Nanaimo, Trillium Lodge and Oceanside Health Centre in Parksville and Eagle Park Health Care Facility in Qualicum Beach. The NRHD has its own budget and is governed by a Board of Directors while sharing the same boundaries, directors and administrative staff as the Regional District of Nanaimo. Hospital Districts are required to approve a provisional budget on or before December 31 each year and adopt, by bylaw, an annual budget on or before March 31 each year. More information about the NRHD can be found online at: [rdn.bc.ca/hospital-district](http://rdn.bc.ca/hospital-district).

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