

Nanaimo Regional Hospital District Update

The Nanaimo Regional Hospital District (NRHD) has confirmed its five major areas of focus for capital planning and advocacy are the patient tower replacement, new cancer centre, cardiac catheterization lab and a new high acuity unit, all to be located at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH), and a long-term care facility in the region.

“These five projects are vital to improving access to essential healthcare services for residents north of the Malahat,” said Ian Thorpe, NRHD Chair. “The NRHD is committed to funding its share towards these projects. To meet this commitment, we will consider many factors including residents’ ability to support the tax increases needed and advocate for the Province of BC to fund a greater share of the costs.”

The NRHD Select Committee will lead the development of an advocacy strategy for the projects. This will be an evolving and collaborative process, drawing on expertise from First Nations, stakeholders and community leaders. The strategy will highlight the stark difference in the standard of healthcare between the south island and the central/north island regions and why these projects need to be a provincial priority to close this gap. If the Province approves these projects, the NRHD will be ready to proceed.

While regional hospital district funding varies to some extent across the province, typically the Nanaimo Regional Hospital District, like other hospital districts, provides 40 per cent funding for capital equipment and capital projects for local health facilities. 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.

The NRHD will commit to 40 per cent of the capital costs of the NRGH patient tower replacement, cardiac catheterization lab, new high acuity unit and new long-term care facility, and advocate that the costs related to the cancer centre be paid 100 per cent by the Province. The goal is to accumulate reserves to reduce reliance on debt and prepare the NRHD to meet its partnership funding obligations for these priority projects that are urgently needed.

About the Nanaimo Regional Hospital District (NRHD)

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


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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.

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