

## **Province Announces Expanded Cancer Care in the Regional District of Nanaimo**

The Nanaimo Regional Hospital District (NRHD) Board thanks the Province of British Columbia for their announcement of concept plan approval of a new cancer centre at the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH). While NRGH has a community oncology clinic providing chemotherapy to outpatients, demand in our region is growing for this vital cancer treatment, forcing residents to travel for care. Central and North Island residents must also travel to Victoria and Vancouver for radiation treatment. A new cancer centre at NRGH will improve access to critical cancer care in our region.

“A cancer centre in our region is desperately needed to shorten wait lists, reduce travel to other regions for treatment and provide patients with more cancer care options closer to home,” said Ian Thorpe, NRHD Chair. “The Province’s commitment to a new cancer centre in Nanaimo provides hope for better health outcomes to the roughly 3,500 residents north of the Malahat who are diagnosed with cancer annually.”

The concept plan identifies and addresses the needs of the community. The project’s scope and budget will be determined in the business planning phase, which is underway. The new cancer centre is expected to include radiation therapy, a new radiation treatment space, an outpatient ambulatory care unit and a net new PET/CT machine.

The Province also announced hospital upgrades which include the renovation and expansion of the existing community oncology clinic at NRGH. The upgrades will increase the number of treatment spaces and exam rooms and replace the current cancer outpatient pharmacy.


The Nanaimo Regional Hospital District continues to advocate for other major capital healthcare projects at NRGH that are urgently needed for the Central and North Island, including a new patient tower and cardiac catheterization lab, as well as a new long-term care facility in the region. Approval of the NRHD’s other priority hospital project, a new High Acuity Unit at NRGH, was announced by the Province in late March.

Collectively, these interrelated healthcare projects will address the critical shortage of appropriate healthcare facilities and specialized services necessary to meet the medical needs of Central and North Island residents. For more information on the priority projects and the Nanaimo Regional Hospital District, visit [rdn.bc.ca/hospital-district](http://rdn.bc.ca/hospital-district).

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### **For more information, please contact:**

Rebecca Taylor  
Communications Coordinator  
Regional District of Nanaimo

 250-390-6502

 [rtaylor@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:rtaylor@rdn.bc.ca)

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