



MOUNT WADDINGTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT November 21, 2023 MEETING AGENDA

Following the Regional District of Mount Waddington Board of Directors Meeting
Board Room, RDMW Administrative Office, 2044 McNeill Road, Port McNeill, BC

Page **CALL TO ORDER**

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1 1. Adoption of November 21, 2023 MWRHD Meeting Agenda as Presented (Or amended)

B. DELEGATIONS & RECOGNITIONS - None

This meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Kwak'waka speaking peoples

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 2-3 1. Minutes of the MWRHD Meeting held October 17, 2023, as Presented (Or amended)

D. CORRESPONDENCE

- 4-8 1. Nanaimo Regional Hospital District Request for Support

Recommendation

THAT the Regional District of Mount Waddington Board of Directors provide a letter of support directed to Health Minister Dix for the Nanaimo Regional Hospital District Capital Projects including the new patient tower and cardiac catheterization to be located at the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital.

E. REPORTS

1. VIHA Verbal Report
2. Health Network Coordinator Verbal Report

F. BYLAWS - None

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

H. HEALTH NETWORK BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING – December 19, 2023

J. ADJOURNMENT



MOUNT WADDINGTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

October 17, 2023 Minutes

Following the Regional District of Mount Waddington Board of Directors Meeting
Board Room, RDMW Administrative Office, 2044 McNeill Road, Port McNeill, BC

Present: In Person: Andrew Hory (Chair), Dennis Buchanan, James Furney, Michelle Pottage, Kathryn Wykes
Via Zoom: Kevin Cameron, Pat Corbett-Labatt, Dennis Dugas, David Summers
Staff: Via Zoom: Nicole McDowell, Recording Secretary
Public:

Resolution No. **CALL TO ORDER Time 3:20 PM**
The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging that this meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Kwak'waka speaking peoples.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
038/2023 THAT the October 17, 2023 MWRHD Meeting Agenda be approved presented.

B. DELEGATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the MWRHD Meeting held September 11, 2023.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
039/2023 THAT the September 11, 2023 Mount Waddington Regional Hospital District Meeting Minutes be adopted as presented.

D. CORRESPONDENCE – None

E. REPORTS –

- Chair Andrew Hory:
 - o Chair Hory, Mayor Buchanan, Mayor Corbett-Labatt & Mayor Furney had a meeting with Island Health earlier in the week to review where things stand such as recruitment, activity, ER renovations in both Port Hardy and Port McNeill.
 - o Island Health has advised that there may be full closure of each ER (one at a time), while renovations are being completed and they would appreciate assistance with getting the message out to community that these are not permanent closures, but interim for repairs only.
 - o It is anticipated that there will be an information session upcoming to review these matters.

F. BYLAWS – None

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

H. HEALTH NETWORK BUSINESS - None

036/2023 **NEXT MEETING** – November 21, 2023 following the RDMW Board of Directors meeting.

CHAIR

SECRETARY

October 25, 2023

Mayor Pat Corbett-Labatt
District of Port Hardy
Box 68
Port Hardy, BC V0N 2P0

Re: Request For Support - NRHD Key Healthcare Priority Projects

Dear Mayor Corbett-Labatt and Council:

On behalf of the Nanaimo Regional Hospital District (NRHD), I write to share information about our advocacy work to advance a suite of priority projects in the region which will serve residents across the Central and North Island. These interrelated projects include a new patient tower, cancer centre, cardiac catheterization lab and high acuity unit to be located at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) and a new long-term care home in the region. It is our hope that the Council will consider approving a motion to write a letter to Minister Dix expressing support for this critical health infrastructure.

These projects were identified by the Province and Island Health in consultation with health care experts and are included in Island Health's major capital plan. Over the last two years, the NRHD has confirmed its commitment to these projects and has developed an advocacy focus and a financial strategy to see them realized.

Over time, there has been progress. In March 2023 the B.C. government approved the new high acuity unit (HAU) to be developed as part of the new intensive care unit at the NRGH, construction is under way. In May 2023 the Province also approved the concept plan for a new cancer centre to be located at the NRGH. Upgrades to the existing community oncology clinic at the NRGH have also been approved which will increase the number of treatment spaces and replace the current cancer outpatient pharmacy. Business planning for the cancer centre is underway. In October 2023 the Province announced its approval of a long-term care facility to be built in Lantzville, with construction to begin in 2025. The NRHD is grateful to the government for approving the HAU, the concept plan for the cancer centre and the long-term care facility to move ahead. However, there is still an urgent need for the other priority projects.

While we recognize that the Mount Waddington Regional Hospital District has its own priorities, we note that the NRGH is the designated tertiary hospital north of the Malahat, providing specialized services to patients not just within the NRHD region but also from across the Central and North Island. The Central and North Island have one of the fastest growing and oldest populations in Canada. In the past five years, the RDN's population has increased by twice the national rate and is growing faster than the population in the South Island. Beyond the RDN, the population and complexity of medical needs across the entire Central and North Island are also growing. The shortage of health facilities is at a critical point, leading to a lower standard of care and poorer outcomes for patients in the Central and North Island, as well as

high costs to the health system. For many patients this creates additional financial and transportation burdens associated with travelling to Victoria or Vancouver for treatment. Delaying these projects will only exacerbate the growing gaps in care, putting patients at increased risk and contributing to worsening health outcomes and greater inefficiencies.

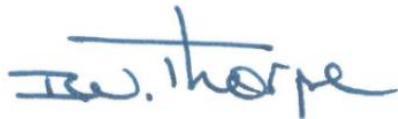
The NRHD is not asking for financial contributions from other municipalities or hospital districts for these projects. We have developed a long-term financial strategy and taken steps to support our financial contribution through a regional tax increase and we are prepared to borrow the difference. The NRHD priority projects will complement your own region's health infrastructure by providing new and enhanced health services, helping to ensure your residents get the care they need closer to their home community.

The NRHD has taken on a strong advocacy role and is committed to investing the resources and energy necessary to work with Island Health and the Province, First Nations, municipal and regional governments, regional hospital districts and other supporters to see these projects through to completion. It is our view that they align with the Province's priorities and will support the government in delivering on its commitments to improving health care for all British Columbians.

I enclose a draft motion and letter of support for the Council's consideration, as well as a fact sheet with more detailed information.

Thank you for your consideration. I am certainly available to provide clarification should you wish further details.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ian Thorpe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first few letters.

Ian Thorpe, Chair
Nanaimo Regional Hospital District
T: 250-713-9135 | Email: ian.thorpe@nanaimo.ca

Nanaimo Regional Hospital District Priority Capital Projects (Fact Sheet)

The Nanaimo Regional Hospital District (NRHD) is committed to advancing key health care infrastructure for the Central and North Island, including a high acuity unit, a new patient tower, a cancer centre and a cardiac catheterization lab to be located at the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) and a new long-term care facility.

The Projects

These projects were identified by the Province and Island Health in consultation with health care providers and experts and are included in Island Health's major capital plan. The NRHD is committed to advancing key health care infrastructure for the Central and North Island and we have confirmed our own commitment to these 5 projects as priorities for the region.

1. **New patient tower** (concept plan not yet approved) at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) will provide new patient rooms, surgical spaces, labs, and other programs and services to improve care and infection control.
2. **New Cancer Centre** (concept plan approved) at NRGH will provide more technically complex treatments, clinical trials, and research as well as other specialty clinics such as gynecology, dermatology, heredity, and brachytherapy. It will increase capacity for chemotherapy and add radiation therapy for residents of the Central/North Island. Business planning is underway and will determine the scope of the project.
3. **New Cardiac Catheterization Lab** (no mandate from Province) at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (planning not started) – provide cardiac catheterization (insertion of stents, balloons, etc.) plus coronary and cardiac angiography (diagnostic imaging).
4. **New High Acuity Unit** (under construction) at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (approved) – 12-bed facility developed as part of the new intensive care unit being built (construction start – June 2023) to provide care for critically ill patients.
5. **New Long-term Care Home** (pending update from Province) – provide public long-term care beds for seniors. The business plan has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

The Need

The NRHD is grateful to the B.C. government for approving the HAU and the concept plan for the cancer center. However, there is still an urgent need to address critical health service gaps, including the need for a new patient tower and cardiac catheterization lab at NRGH and a new long-term care home. The medical demands of the Central and North Island's will only continue to increase due to a rapidly growing and aging population. Given the positive progress on the HAU and new cancer center we urge the Province to commit to similar action on the other projects. According to our medical leaders, the demands are staggering and continuing to increase. The shortage of appropriate health care facilities and specialized services is reaching a critical point.

The RDN has one of the fastest growing and oldest populations in Canada, and these trends are expected to continue. Our population increased by 9.4% in five years, twice the national rate of 5.2%, and is growing faster than the population of the South Island. Nearly 30% of RDN residents are 65 years or older vs. just over 21% for B.C. overall.

Beyond the RDN, the population and complexity of medical needs across the entire Central and North Island are also growing. Our health system also serves the needs of many vulnerable populations, including 80% of the Island's Indigenous people, who often live in remote communities and experience increased barriers, poorer health status, and have unique health needs and considerations.

Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) is the designated tertiary hospital providing specialized services to patients from across the Central and North Island. The patient tower, built in 1963, is structurally and functionally obsolete, at high risk for system failure, and can no longer meet best practices and modern medical standards, including prevention of infectious diseases. Due to operating at overcapacity, patients are often cared for in inappropriate areas of the hospital.

The population served by NRGH (over 450,000 people) is the largest in Canada without a cardiac catheterization lab. Victoria is the only center on Vancouver Island with this type of facility. Central and North Island cardiac patients must travel to Victoria for heart care which is not available north of the Malahat. Patients might also be sent to Vancouver. Likewise, oncology services are under-resourced. While NRGH provides chemotherapy, Central and North Island cancer patients must travel to Victoria and/or Vancouver for radiation treatment.

With a significant shortage of long-term care beds in the region and long waitlists, many seniors end up in hospital who would be better cared for in facilities dedicated to their complex care needs.

The Benefits

These specialized and enhanced services are essential for providing Central and North Island residents with appropriate, patient-centred, and high-quality health care, when and where they need it. The patient tower will provide critical services to improve care for our patients, optimize wellness, and improve infection control. A cardiac catheterization lab would ensure timely diagnosis and access to interventional cardiology intended to address heart problems and prevent the need for surgery. A new long-term care home will enable local seniors to move out of hospitals, freeing up acute care beds at NRGH, and allowing seniors to age with appropriate care and dignity in or near their home communities.

Vital investments now into these services will benefit our communities for decades to come, improve the standard of care and help improve health outcomes north of the Malahat, as well as health system performance. It is critical these projects move to increase local health system capacity, reduce pressure on health services in other regions, free up beds at NRGH, and provide better value for public health care dollars.

Alignment with B.C. Government Priorities

These key projects will support the provincial government in delivering on its commitments to improving health care for all British Columbians, including strengthening our public health care system with new and modernized hospitals, improving cancer care, addressing service gaps and improving access to medical appointments for rural and remote communities, and delivering appropriate care for seniors through investments in new public long-term care homes.

NRHD's Funding Commitment

The NRHD has put in place funding mechanisms for its share of the project capital costs and is ready to proceed. We have committed to fund 40% of the NRGH patient tower replacement, cardiac catheterization lab, new high acuity unit, and new long-term care facility. Because these projects are vital for our region, we have developed a long-term financial strategy, taken steps to support our financial contribution through a recent regional tax increase, and are prepared to borrow the difference. We ask the province to prioritize the remaining projects and commit the necessary funding to ensuring they are built.

<Date>

Honourable Adrian Dix, MLA
Minister of Health and Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs
PO Box 9050 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Re: Letter of Support: Capital Projects for Nanaimo Regional Hospital District

Dear Health Minister Dix:

On behalf of the ____ Council I write to you to express support for the Nanaimo Regional Hospital District's (NRHD) priority capital projects, including a new patient tower center and a new cardiac catheterization lab to be located at the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH). These projects were identified by the Province and Island Health in consultation with health care experts and are included in Island Health's major capital plan. Over the last two years, the NRHD has confirmed its commitment to these projects and has developed an advocacy focus and a financial strategy to see them realized.

The Central and North Island have one of the fastest growing and oldest populations in Canada. Additionally, the complexity of medical needs across the entire region is also growing. The NRGH is the designated tertiary hospital north of the Malahat, providing specialized services to patients not just within the NRHD region but also from across the Central and North Island. The shortage of health facilities is at a critical point, leading to a lower standard of care and poorer outcomes for patients in the Central and North Island, as well as high costs to the health system. For many patients this creates additional financial and transportation burdens associated with travelling to Victoria or Vancouver for treatment. Delaying these projects will only exacerbate the growing gaps in care, putting patients at increased risk and contributing to worsening health outcomes and greater inefficiencies.

The NRHD has put in place funding mechanism for its share of the costs and is ready to proceed. The NRHD priority projects will complement our own region's health infrastructure by providing new and enhanced health services to the Central and North Island, helping to ensure our residents get the care they need closer to their communities.

We urge the Province to commit to the patient tower and cardiac catheterization lab in the NRHD region and to see the other projects through to completion.

Sincerely,

Name

Title