



Stabilizing health-care services in North Vancouver Island

Significant financial investment to stabilize health services in North Vancouver Island

On January 27, 2023, Adrian Dix, Minister of Health announced an investment to stabilize northern Vancouver Island health-care services. This investment, in addition to previous investments, is supporting new recruitment and retention strategies, mental health and substance use service enhancements, increased physician supports, expanded core staffing, facility investments, expanded long-term care and more. We wanted to take some time to highlight achievements and provide a progress update on key initiatives .

Increased Staffing in NVI

There has been a significant increase in the number of staff hired to work in NVI. A few highlights include ten new Protection Services Officers (PSOs), ten Registered Nurses/Registered Psychiatric Nurses, eight Licensed Practical Nurses, twenty-six Patient Care Aides, and eight Inter-Facility Porters to name a few.

Sobering and Assessment Services Expansion

Sobering and Assessment services have expanded by six beds in Port Hardy through our contracted service provider the Salvation Army. Significantly, these services are also now available 24/7. For more information on these expanded services please view [this video](#).

Regional Shuttle Service

In mid-April, a local and regional shuttle service was launched to support patients and families to access care in the North Vancouver Island region. September 2023 saw the highest usage to date with 83 patient (& support people) and 16 staff transported along the various routes. Since its roll out, the shuttle service has transported 294 patients (& support people) and 28 staff. Significantly, the shuttle service created eight new staff positions that have been filled.



New transportation service drivers, from left, Laurel MacNeil, Julia Rundle, Clifford Roper and Bob Cadwell.



Capital Projects - including new equipment

Capital projects are in various stages of development. Most notably, the pad to house a mobile computed tomography (CT) scanner is now underway at Port Hardy Hospital. The pad for the scanner is expected to be completed in November 2023 and the mobile CT scanner, a Siemens SOMATOM go Top, is expected to be delivered in late fall. Following delivery, testing and staff training, the mobile CT scanner will be ready for its first visit to Port Hardy in winter 2023. The mobile CT unit will also be used at Victoria General Hospital where a similar pad is currently being constructed.

Island Health has partnered with K'awat'si Construction Company to build the pad for the CT scanner. The name 'K'awat'si' is a homage to the rich cultural heritage of the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations, and refers to the *kawat'si* (painted bentwood box), used by families and communities for generations to safeguard their treasures and most prized possessions. It is symbolic of the value and care the company invests in every construction project they undertake.



Construction is underway for the mobile CT pad at the Port Hardy Hospital

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP!

As you can see there has been a significant amount of work and progress achieved over the past eight months. We are committed to providing future updates to ensure that local residents, First Nations communities and community leaders are aware of the progress and results of this important investment.

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.

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure stable, accessible and timely health-care for all North Vancouver Island residents.

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To learn more please visit:

[North Vancouver Island Sustainability Initiative](#)

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