

**Notes of a Meeting between the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional  
Hospital District and Island Health Representative's  
Held on Wednesday, August 24, 2016, 11:00 am**

Regional District Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

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- DIRECTORS** Penny Cote, Chairperson, Electoral Area "D" (Sproat Lake)
- PRESENT:** Josie Osborne, Vice-Chair, Mayor, District of Tofino  
Keith Wyton, Electoral Area "A" (Bamfield)  
John McNabb, Director, Electoral Area "E" (Beaver Creek)  
Lucas Banton, Director, Electoral Area "F" (Cherry Creek)  
John Jack, Councillor, Huu-ay-aht First Nation  
Kirsten Johnsen, Councillor, Toquaht Nation (non-voting member)
- ISLAND HEALTH** Marie Duperreault, Director – Port Alberni/West Coast Community  
Dr. Wendy Johnsen, Medical Director – Port Alberni/West Coast Community  
Matt O'Rae, Corporate Director – Capital Management and Finance Projects  
Chris O'Sullivan, Director – Capital Planning  
Pam Rardon, Site Director – WCGH and Bamfield Health Centre
- STAFF PRESENT:** Russell Dyson, Chief Administrative Officer  
Teri Fong, Manager of Finance  
Shelli Lyle, Administrative Assistant

Introductions were conducted around the table.

**1. WCGH - Emergency Department Redevelopment – Update**

The 2000 square foot addition to the emergency room will increase space to address patient demand, improve the layout and provide a more visual line of sight. There will be a separate access with a flow functional perspective. The control desk will be able to see all treatment rooms. The project has been deferred from a construction perspective, once the money becomes available we will know the plan to proceed. The initial cost of the project was \$4 million it has been scaled down and is now \$2 million. Approval from VIHA is needed to proceed with the project and the cost sharing portion of 40% from the Regional District.

**2. WCGH – Overcapacity Plans**

Chris O'Sullivan, Director, Capital Planning reported receiving the ACRD correspondence in April and Pam Rardon, Site Director, WCGH and Bamfield Health Centre reported meeting with Mr. Frank Kruks. Since this meeting Island Health has recruited staff for the OR and are currently working on hiring more casual staff in order to cross train. Island Health finds they are often competing with other sites such as Oceanside and Nanaimo General Hospital. Island Health has

70 trained physicians, the rehabilitation staff has improved, an occupational therapist is on the team working in the hospital with outreach to communities, there is a need for temporary accommodations in this area. Island Health is working on a surge and overflow plan to keep patients out of lounge and dining areas to find more appropriate spaces, a solid plan in place for surgeon care needs is required. Island Health is looking at more partnerships for their Candy stripper program eventually job shadowing and potential employees. In April of this year Island Health hired 6.5 nursing positions to assist, 4 in Port Alberni and 2.5 on the West Coast, a nurse liaison role was provided 7 days a week, working at the hospital as well as the home and community care team. IH will be increasing the liaison position in Tofino to 7 days a week. Specific need is around housing often issues around stairs and general maintenance. The congestive heart failure program at home monitoring pilot project has showed great potential, will look to expansion for other chronic diseases.

Spring and summer found Alternate Level Care (ALC) patients waiting for residential care placement under capacity, acute needs were lower and there were empty rooms due to a combination of efforts. Trying to change the culture where people stay at home as long as possible. Currently the expected progression is go into the hospital and then long term placement. Need to increase support at home, elders are fearful of losing independence so often don't take the support.

### **3. Tofino General Hospital – Redevelopment – Update**

Projects on the list of major capital priorities, are to replace the Cowichan District hospital, install a new boiler plant and replace the ICU at NGH. Included in the top 20 is a replacement of Tofino General Hospital, it's on the radar but nothing in the near future, need dollars from the ministry. IH will continue to keep Tofino General Hospital functional, maintaining the facility, most recently a new generator was installed, some work in the entrance nurses station and added O2 for maternity emergencies.

### **4. Tofino General Hospital – Helipad – Update**

The funds have been identified, there are issues to the access of land and the adjacent trees. The best location for the helipad is adjacent to the hospital, the foundation has leased the land to build a long term care facility, if it does not proceed will look to the foundation to build the helipad at that site. Anticipating that might be the case planning around the adjacent trees, flight path concerns, trees nearby and Transport Canada regulations, identify what trees need to be removed or topped, a property owners meeting will be held this fall to explain the situation as approval will be needed from property owners.

### **5. Bamfield – Helicopter Landing – Update**

Island Health is not looking to build a helipad at the Bamfield Health Center, the current helipad was never registered. Island Health has no established practice to provide a helipad at acute care hospital sites. IH does have other helicopter landing site that are grandfathered, Port Alice heli landing is registered with Transport Canada, there are no issues with that site. In Kyuquot a

small helicopter can land on the dock, this is grandfathered and not registered with Transport Canada, Northern Health and Interior Health have similar practices, they rely on communities to fund heli landings, not controlled by a Health Authority. The private airstrip in Bamfield is the workable solution, hope to engage in conversations with the property owner to allow helicopter landings there. There are two gates at this airstrip, one of which is currently closed and has brush along the road, access is thru the other gate which crosses the tarmac which is not safe. Suggesting open the other gate and remove the brush at a cost of approximately \$3000.00.

Initiating a First Responder program with 7 or 8 people in Bamfield would allow the conversation with BC ambulance to meet with the First Responders to discuss an agreement where a decommissioned ambulance could be provided.

#### **6. Community Paramedicine - Update**

BC Emergency Health Services working with the Ministry of Health, regional Health Authorities, the Ambulance Paramedics of BC, the First Nations Health Authority and others to plan and implement the Community Paramedicine Initiative. The program objectives are to contribute to the stabilization of paramedic staffing in rural and remote communities and help bridge health service delivery gaps in the community, identified in collaboration with local primary care teams. Ucluelet and Tofino were chosen and there is a paramedical person in each community, they remain BC Ambulance employees and are part of the Integration Team.

In September 2017 a review of the communities will be conducted to build a pathway to bring the program to other communities. IH has received great reviews to date, this is another way to expand our ability to help people stay in their homes.

Island Health's Baby Bed Program that promotes safe sleep for infants is rolling out today. Partnership between First Nations and Public Health, based on the Finland program. Funded by both the foundation and the auxiliary all residents of Alberni and West Coast.