

BACKGROUND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SALT SPRING ISLAND HEALTH REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

Elderly Care:

- Improve physio and rehab services at Lady Minto Hospital to help seniors transition from hospital back to their homes and to other community based services.
- Explore opportunities for VIHA and the community to collaborate to find ways to keep seniors healthy and in their own homes for as long as possible. Strategies may include:
 - Increase and enhance rehabilitation services such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy
 - Increase and enhance home care and home support services
 - Consider home care nursing clinics to prevent hospital admissions and promote earlier discharges
 - Explore having visiting geriatricians and gerontologists
 - Involve Salt Spring Island's extensive volunteer base in supporting elderly people to remain functional in their homes.
- Establish research partnerships with institutions such as the University of Victoria's Centre On Aging to determine service models that would keep the Island's generally healthy elderly population functional in their community as they age.
- Initiate planning for future residential care requirements for the Southern Gulf Islands.

Mental Health Care:

- Improve services at Lady Minto Hospital by establishing mental health nursing to support care, discharge planning and continuity of care for mentally ill patients.
- Explore opportunities to increase integration between community services and VIHA in areas such as sharing data, creating a shared position and developing a shared information release form.
- Improve communication and continuity of care between mental health services on Vancouver Island and those on Salt Spring Island.

Operating Room, Surgery and Endoscopy:

- Cease surgery procedures at Lady Minto Hospital requiring a full operating room.
- Maintain endoscopies at Lady Minto Hospital through visiting specialists.
- Ensure Salt Spring Island residents have equitable and timely access to surgical services at other hospitals.
- Explore using Lady Minto Hospital to minimize endoscopy waitlists at other VIHA facilities.
- Ensure staff who support endoscopies receive appropriate training.

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- Maintain the minor procedure room and other required infrastructure for endoscopies.
- Reallocate resources previously used for surgery to other high needs areas at Lady Minto Hospital (e.g. mental health nursing, physiotherapy, rehabilitation).
- Re-purpose the post anesthetic recovery room and operating room for other functions.

Lady Minto Hospital Infrastructure:

- Address short-term issues by:
 - Identifying dedicated space for ultrasound services
 - Improving the psychiatric observation room
 - Creating a separate entrance to the extended care unit
 - Improving dedicated space for the birthing room
- Develop a medium-term space plan that considers:
 - Alternate uses for the operating and post anesthetic recovery rooms (e.g. expanding emergency department, medical imaging, creating a private room for families, expanding laboratory space and setting aside space for private psychiatric patient interviews.)
- Begin long-term planning for a new replacement facility that considers:
 - An integrated hub of hospital and community services that might include physician and primary health care clinics, outpatient services and community services.

Health Human Resources:

- Develop strategies to improve primary health care delivery and sustainability. Strategies may include:
 - Developing integrated primary health care models that build on existing successes (e.g. Integrated Health Networks, Divisions of Family Practice).
 - Creating a Nurse Practitioner position.
 - Advocating to include Salt Spring Island in the rural general practitioner locum arrangement.
 - Reviewing the Lady Minto Hospital staffing model to ensure knowledge and skills of staff are optimized.
 - Support targeted education and training that aligns with the hospital's core roles, functions and services.
- Work with the community to explore improvements to recruitment and retention of staff on the Island, for example through creating staff accommodation and shared staff models.

Miscellaneous:

- Improve partnerships between Lady Minto Hospital and other VIHA services, particularly those not located on Salt Spring Island.
- Improve information sharing and engagement with the Salt Spring Island community.
- Review feasibility of providing telehealth services to Island residents and care providers.
- Explore opportunities to increase involvement of Salt Spring Island's volunteer base to support senior's care.

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