

BACKGROUND

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SALT SPRING ISLAND HEALTH REVIEW PROCESS

- The comprehensive formal review into health services on Salt Spring Island began in November 2009. This followed a general community discussion that had been underway since 2008 when the general surgeon retired.
- The review was undertaken for several reasons, including:
 - The departure of the general surgeon from Salt Spring Island and Lady Minto Hospital in June 2008;
 - Challenges around recruiting a new surgeon and ensuring safe, high quality surgical services given a relatively low surgical volume;
 - A new, but relatively underused surgical suite (operating room);
 - Limited capacity of family physician practices on Salt Spring Island and inability of these practices to accept new patients;
 - No recent comprehensive health needs assessment for Salt Spring Island in existence and a need for this in order to plan for future health services.

Review Process:

- Extensive and detailed data was developed for Salt Spring Island that included current and expected future population demographics; health status of the population; health services utilization patterns and services provided by Lady Minto Hospital.
- Consultation was undertaken with an extensive list of over 15 community stakeholder groups in order to better understand health services issues and priorities of the community. Between November 2009 and April 2010, over 30 meetings took place with stakeholders that included the Islands' Trust representatives, Community Midwifery, Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, Extended Care Friends and Family Council, Salt Spring Island Mental Health Advisory Committee, Salt Spring Island Community Services, Physicians (GPs and specialists), Save Our Surgery Committee, Greenwood's Eldercare Society, Capital Regional District Salt Spring Island representative, Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary, School District 64; Lady Minto Hospital staff, VIHA managers and other leaders, Seniors' Wellness Program, the Salt Spring Island Hospital Foundation and Salt Spring Island Foundation.
- In addition, a community forum was held involving senior VIHA staff on June 1, 2009.

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