



## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release  
May 27, 2009

### **VIHA BOARD CONFIRMS AGREEMENT REACHED ON TWO HOSPITALS IN COMOX-STRATHCONA**

NANAIMO – The Board of the Vancouver Island Health Authority has today approved a modified plan to build two new state-of-the-art acute care hospitals in Campbell River and in the Comox Valley.

This modified plan follows discussions with the Comox-Strathcona Regional Hospital District (CSRHD), health care providers and community leaders that have been ongoing since the two-hospital model was first proposed by VIHA in late January. The CSRHD has also passed a motion in support of the modified plan.

“We are extremely pleased we were able to reach an agreement with the CSRHD that will be providing significant funding to this project,” said Jac Kreut, Chair of the VIHA Board. “This brings us one step closer to building these much needed hospitals.”

Under the agreement, the Campbell River Hospital would have 90-95 beds, which would include a projected 10-15 inpatient Mental Health and Addictions beds. Campbell River would also receive enhanced access to outpatient kidney dialysis services and a minimum of 40 additional community based transitional/residential care/assisted living beds. These will offset the capacity challenges and high inpatient volumes at Campbell River Hospital.

“As we have said all along, there will be no loss of current hospital service in either community – all current services will continue to be provided in these new state-of-the-art facilities,” said Kreut. “In addition, VIHA has agreed that the new hospital in Campbell River will be located on the current Campbell River and District General Hospital site.”

In addition to preserving existing services, the new hospital in the Comox Valley will provide enhanced regional health services, benefiting all residents of the North Island. A location for this hospital will be selected in the coming months in consultation with local governments.

VIHA will begin work immediately to develop a detailed business plan and capital cost estimate for submission to the Province for consideration later in the year for funding and approval.

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**Attachment (1):** Backgrounder

# BACKGROUND

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May 27, 2009

## PROPOSED NORTH ISLAND ACUTE CARE STRATEGY SERVICES AVAILABLE BY FACILITY

- VIHA, with the support of the CSRHD, is proposing two new hospitals be built on the North Island. One hospital would be located in Campbell River, the other in the Comox Valley.
- Combined, the two hospitals would have about 250 beds, a total increase of 80 beds for the area.
- Both new hospitals would continue to provide the same acute care services currently delivered, as follows:

### Campbell River

- New 80-bed hospital delivering the same services currently provided at Campbell River General Hospital.
- This is an addition of 20 beds to the current bed base at Campbell River General Hospital.
- The new Campbell River Hospital will be built at the currently owned site at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, subject to site and planning approvals.
- Services currently provided which will also be provided in a new hospital:
  - Primary Care
  - Outpatient Services
  - Diagnostics
  - Transitional Care
  - 24/7 Emergency
  - Day Surgery
  - Inpatient Surgery
  - Inpatient Medicine
  - Maternity
  - Paediatrics
  - Intensive Care
- Additional Services to be provided in Campbell River:
  - North Island Regional Centre for Mental Health and Addictions will be located at the new hospital site and include 10-15 beds and ambulatory services. The Centre will have a particular focus on the provision of culturally sensitive and appropriate services to the Aboriginal population on North Island.
  - Ambulatory Kidney Dialysis Services will be provided either at the new hospital site, or in a community-based setting. The number of dialysis stations will be determined following a detailed analysis and discussions with the Provincial Health Services Authority.

- Between 40 and 50 additional residential/transitional care beds and assisted living spaces to be built and operating prior to the opening of a new acute care facility. VIHA and the CSRHD will be discussing a potential partnership to fund the capital costs associated with the new residential care beds.

## Comox Valley

- New hospital delivering the same services currently provided at St. Joseph's General Hospital, replacing the 110 beds at this facility.
- Services currently provided that will continue to be provided:
  - Primary Care
  - Outpatient Services
  - Transitional Care
  - Diagnostics
  - 24/7 Emergency
  - Day Surgery
  - Inpatient Surgery
  - Inpatient Medicine
  - Maternity
  - Paediatrics
  - Intensive Care
  - Psychiatry
- In addition, the Comox Valley hospital would have 40-50 beds for regional hospital programs, serving all residents of the Comox-Strathcona/Mt. Waddington area. These services, which are currently not available on the North Island, include:
  - MRI
  - Trauma Level 3
  - Renal Services
  - Cardiac Medicine
  - Enhanced Cancer Care
  - Specialized maternity and nursery
  - Enhanced Seniors Care

## St. Joseph's Hospital

- St. Joseph's Hospital is operated by the Archdiocese of Victoria through an Affiliate Agreement with the Vancouver Island Health Authority.
- St. Joseph's Hospital has its own Board of Directors. VIHA funds, but does not 'own', St. Joseph's Hospital, and its staff and physicians are not VIHA employees.
- A future role for St. Joseph's Hospital would be determined with the St. Joseph's Hospital Board of Directors.
- Limited discussions have taken place with regards to a future role for St. Joseph's Hospital providing community-based services. These services could include:
  - Palliative Care
  - Residential Care

- Assisted Living
- Primary Care
- Day Programs

– 30 –

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