
Fair Healthcare for All

VANCOUVER ISLAND

**North of the Malahat
shouldn't be South of the Standard of Care.**



**The distance
is killing us.**

FAIRCARE 
ALLIANCE

WeNeedHealthcare.ca

Our Mission

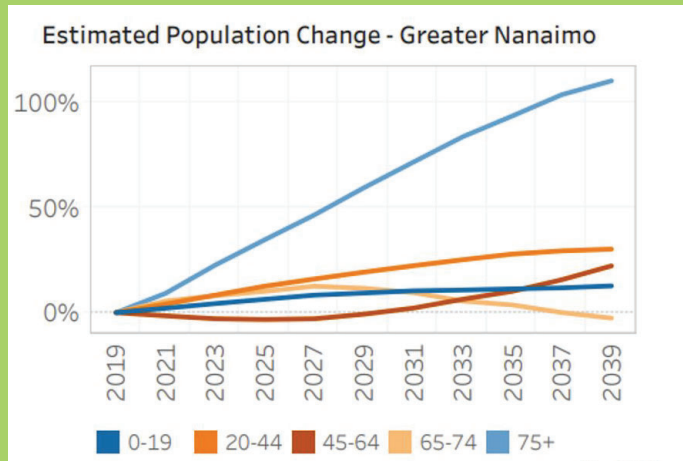
To ensure that all people North of the Malahat have access to culturally appropriate and comprehensive, tertiary healthcare in Nanaimo on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

Our Vision

NRGH is expanded to become a comprehensive, tertiary hospital with an integrated approach to care and wellness that benefits all people north of the Malahat.

Excellent care for everyone, everywhere, every time.

Central + North Island Growth by the Numbers



- 460,000 (vs 445,000 in South Island)
- Nanaimo is 2nd fastest growing city in BC*
- Nanaimo is 5th fastest growing city in Canada*
- The greater Nanaimo population expected to grow by 13.4% to 134,504 by 2028
- Central Island has the oldest population in Canada driving high acute care demands
- 80% of the Island's First Nations are in the NRGH catchment area

**2022 report*

Our Healthcare System is NOT PREPARED

- NRGH is the **busiest ER on the island**
 - We are regularly treating over **400 inpatients in a 346 bed facility**.
 - We **don't have close to enough beds** to service those most in need.
 - Our **hospital is 61 years old** and has **failed seismic testing** and multiple other key infrastructure requirements.
 - **1 on-call Internist for a 400+ patients hospital.**
-

Our Current Heart Healthcare Reality

- We are **not meeting the appropriate standard of care for heart attacks or cardiac care.**
 - 2 Cardiologists at NRGH vs. **22 in Victoria.**
 - 2 Cath Labs in Victoria vs. **0 in North/Central Island.**
 - Largest population over 400,000 **without a Catheterization lab in Canada.**
 - **Greater burden of every form of cardiac disease** compared to South Island.
 - Patients with heart disease **can't get access to the care they need and many suffer poorer outcomes sometimes fatal.**
-

Our Current Cancer Healthcare Reality

- **No Oncologists at NRGH** for Central and North Island versus 40 in South Island
 - 3,360 new Cancer diagnosis in 2023 in Central and North Island versus 3,215 in the South
 - 2,472 people living with Cancer in 2021 in Central and North Island versus 2,192 in the South
 - **53% of Cancer cases occur north of the Malahat.**
 - The good news is a **new Cancer Center** is in the works for Central Island
-

Report on State of NRGH

In 2010 a 386 page report commissioned by VIHA shared the following results

“Grossly Inadequate and Outdated Inpatient Care Units. *The existing inpatient care unit designs are now over 50 years old in the original 1963 nursing tower. They are extremely outdated in supporting and addressing today’s care programs, patient safety, and infection control issues* due to the high number of multi-bedded rooms. They contain grossly undersized, totally inaccessible two fixture washrooms, sometimes shared between two rooms. The units require long staff in-flight travel distances from care stations to patients. In addition, **the units have totally inadequate support space, which results in hallways that are lined** with linen carts, housekeeping carts and medication carts.”

An Island of Haves and Have nots

We have one complete tertiary program at present – Nephrology (kidney).

Services that should be in Nanaimo but are not or are incomplete at present:

Pediatric Psychiatry
Critical Care HAU
General Internal Medicine
Cardiology
Gastroenterology
Oncology

Infectious Disease
Hematology
Palliative Care
Endocrinology/Pediatric
Endocrinology
Neurology
General Pediatrics

Geriatrics
Wound Care
Vascular Surgery
Interventional Radiology
Stroke Care
Trauma

We're the forgotten half.



Half the island population gets 1/5 of the health resources.

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Number of specialists in these areas

	Nanaimo & Central Island/North Island	Greater Victoria
Hospital Size	346 - (400+ inpatient beds regularly)	RJH-500 / VGH-344
Cardiologists	2	22
Catheterization Lab	0	2
Endoscopy	3	9
Gastrointestinal	3	16
Geriatrics	3	7
Hematology	1	6
Infectious Disease	4	8
Internal Medicine	10	26
Interventional Radiology	0	5
Nephrology (Kidney)	7	8
Neurology	3	15
Oncologists	4	40
Psychology, Adult	18	80
Psychology, Pediatric	1	13
Rehabilitation Medicine	6	10
Respiratory	5	10
Thoracic Surgery	0	4
Vascular Surgery	0	7

“Our families need this healthcare, already provided to other families in South Island and elsewhere in BC”

Concerned Parent

What We Need Now: A Full Service Hospital Tower

- **Commitment for a New Patient Tower and necessary tertiary programs**, serving as both a diagnostic and treatment centre adding approximately 255 beds, bringing NRGH up to 600 beds.
 - **Without the new patient tower and programs** NRGH can not become the tertiary hospital that Central and North Vancouver Island requires.
 - **Currently our hospital is structurally unsafe** and we cannot deliver care safely or efficiently.
 - **Patients WILL get the proper care**, at the proper time, from the proper people, in the right place.
-

“As someone who has personally dealt with heart problems, I cannot stress enough the urgency of addressing the critical lack of cardiac care in Central and North Island. Lives are at risk due to the absence of a Cath Lab, leaving patients vulnerable and families burdened with the financial strain,”

*Snuneymuxw Chief
Mike Wyse*

What We Need Now: A Catheterization Lab.

The population served by NRGH (over 400,000 people residing North of the Malahat) is **the largest we know of in Canada without a cardiac catheterization lab.**

Currently Central and North Island **cardiac patients must travel to Victoria**, or further, for cardiac catheterization, which puts them at significantly increased risk of poorer outcomes.

The proposed cardiac catheterization lab at NRGH will serve approximately half the Island's population and ensure proper treatment of acute heart attacks for 90% of the Island population.

We Deserve More Than Healthcare in a Hallway

“ *We need to be able to properly look after our acutely ill patients or we have failed in our main duty of care and we need the people, resources and facilities to do so. With our growth and demographic we will see many more very ill patients at NRGH in the future at our current standard of care.”*

- **NRGH Medical Team Lead**

***We are demanding
that the Standard of
Care Change NOW
for People residing
North of the Malahat***

What we are doing:

- Enrolling and educating our entire community on this issue.
 - Executing a multifaceted campaign that will include:
 - Newspaper, radio and billboard ads
 - Public rallies including our doctors, patients, political leaders and all citizens.
 - Social media content that is easily shareable
 - Neighborhood coffee parties
 - We have already enrolled the media and they are behind us in sharing our advocacy efforts.
 - Having more conversations like these... many times over
 - Compiling signatures of everyone residing North of the Malahat to tell the government we won't be ignored anymore.
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What Happens When We Demand Change.


NANAIMO NEWS BULLETIN f X @


News More Contests Shop E Editions Classifieds Autos Jobs

Home - Local News

Stakeholders make plea to B.C. government for cardiac cath lab in Nanaimo

Better cardiology care needed to serve aging population in central and north Island, advocates say

 [Karl Yu](#)
Aug 8, 2023 3:20 PM
Updated Aug 8, 2023 3:27 PM



Dr. Hesam Keshmiri, Nanaimo Regional General Hospital lead cardiologist, front, addresses the media on Tuesday, Aug. 8. He is flanked by Dr. David Coupland, NRGH medical staff president, left, Donna Hais, community health care advocate, and Nanaimo Mayor Leonard Krog. (Karl Yu/News Bulletin)

Stakeholders are pleading to the B.C. government for assistance in establishing a hospital unit to aid people in the Nanaimo region who suffer heart attacks.

An advocacy group, including doctors, community leaders and concerned citizens, held a press conference in Nanaimo Tuesday, Aug. 8, stating that a cardiac catheterization lab and cardiology services for the central and north Island are needed, especially given aging demographics. The nearest such facility is in Victoria.

CTV NEWS

VANCOUVER ISLAND NEWS VIDEO SHOWS ABOUT LOCAL

VANCOUVER ISLAND | News

Doctors and community leaders decry lack of cardiac care in central and northern Vancouver Island

Global NEWS Watch World Canada Local Politics Money Health

HEALTH

Nanaimo urgently needs cardiac unit, stakeholders say: 'The inequality is obvious'

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Health-care workers raise cardiac care inequity on Vancouver Island

Posted: Aug. 8, 2023 6:36PM | Last Updated: Aug. 8, 2023 6:43PM

TIMES COLONIST

NEWS OPINION EVENTS LIFE & ARTS FEATURES CLASSIFIEDS OB E-EDITION

People suffering heart attack up-Island are getting substandard care, doctors say

For patients in central and north Island, there is no catheterization laboratory where doctors can perform procedures common since the early 2000s

 [Cindy E. Harnett](#)
Aug 8, 2023 5:45 AM



Part of the cardiac unit at Royal Jubilee Hospital. ADRIAN LAM, TIMES COLONIST

How you can help make Healthcare Fair for All

www.WeNeedHealthcare.ca

LEARN

- Read up on the issues
- Follow our social media
- Talk to your neighbours, friends, and entire community

SHARE

- Set up community talks to share this presentation
- Share regularly on social media
- Ask candidates about healthcare issues and the new hospital

ACT

- Sign the letter on our website
 - Donate to the Fair Care Alliance today
 - VOTE in the Provincial Election this Fall
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