



June 6, 2018

File: H-G

Chair and Directors
Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital District

RE: Health Care Services - Quadra Island

I respectfully request the board's consideration of the following:

THAT the Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital District Board write to the Minister of Health and the Chief Executive Officer of Island Health requesting assistance in solving the impending problem on Quadra Island of the loss of two of the doctors, possibly the only Nurse Practitioner, and the loss of Campbell River Hospital lab services that are delivered on Quadra Island twice per week and the Mental Health outreach services;

AND FURTHER THAT a meeting of officials and community representatives take place at the earliest possible time at a convenient location.

Background

Unless some remedy is found Quadra Island Medical Clinic home to two doctors, a Nurse Practitioner (NP), and Laboratory and Mental Health outreach services will close in November 2018 when Dr. Boegel, who currently owns and runs the clinic, retires. The other doctor leaves in June 2018. The second clinic on Quadra Island does not have extra space to accommodate these services

So far, recruiting efforts have been unsuccessful in finding a licensed doctor who is willing to practice 'fee for service' and run the clinic. There is a suitable doctor who is willing to work part-time (but not run the clinic) but only if paid a salary. It seems that this is typical of doctors looking for positions nowadays. They want a salary and do not want to run a business. We are told that salaried positions are not available. Whilst both the NP position and Laboratory bring in some money this is nowhere near enough to run the clinic. Without some extra money, and someone to run it, the Clinic will have to close and Quadra Island could lose the NP, Lab and MHSU services as well as its doctors.

Impact

As approximately 1,000 Islanders will be unable to find a primary care provider on the Island and may well not find one in Campbell River, **the impact of the clinic closure on the Campbell River Hospital will be significant and costly.**

- Many more Islanders will end up in Emergency.
- Some inpatient stays will be longer due to lack of follow up care at home.
- Increased morbidity especially among the elderly due to lack of medical attention may lead to increased hospitalization.
- Procedures, follow-up and work with the terminally ill currently done by the NP would have to be done in the hospital.

- Loss of emergency care and out of hours services currently provided by Dr. Boegel will additionally burden the hospital. (No other doctor provides out of hours service on the Island.)

Possible solutions

Some alternative to a fee for service physician run clinic seems desirable.

- Clinic is funded and run by Island Health
- A **doctor** is recruited by offering a salary.

Respectfully,

J. Abram

Jim Abram
Director