



The attached briefing notes provide an overview of the key Island Health service areas.

The briefing notes describe:

- each service area,
- how the services are currently delivered,
- the facilities and equipment involved,
- the extent to which the CSRHD is currently involved in the service areas, and
- potential opportunities for the CSRHD.

CSRHD history and background

The Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital District is established through provincial government authority under the Hospital District Act, adopted in 1967 and provides for capital cost sharing between rural and urban areas. At the time, hospitals were the main focus of the cost sharing arrangement. While the Hospital District Act is in need of updates to reflect 21st century needs, the legislation provides regional hospital districts with the ability to partner with Island Health to respond to local needs. Some of the purposes of a regional hospital district as outlined in the legislation are:

- to establish, acquire, construct, reconstruct, enlarge, operate and maintain hospitals and hospital facilities, and
- to grant aid for the establishment, acquisition, reconstruction, enlargement, operation and maintenance of hospitals and hospital facilities.

The Act defines hospitals as, in part, an institution or facility in the health field designated by the minister as a health facility.

The CSRHD's current mandate is to provide 40% capital funding support to Island Health for acute care facilities. The CSRHD also contributes \$5,000 annually towards six smaller community health centres and clinics in the North Island. The Board also recognizes the important role that municipalities and regional districts can play in advocating for health care services and programs in their communities.

In 2020 the CSRHD requisitioned \$17 million as follows:

- \$10.74 million for debt servicing primarily for the North Island hospitals in Campbell River and Courtenay.
- \$1.88 million for health care grants,
- minor operating expenses, and
- the remainder as a reserve contribution (at the end of 2020 the reserves totaled just over \$22 million).

The CSRHD Board reduced its requisition for 2021 to eliminate reserve contributions with a focus on COVID-19 relief to ratepayers. The requisition could be increased in future years as priority projects are identified. Debt servicing on the NI hospitals ends in 2028, which at that time could be wholly or partially re-allocated to other health care priority projects.

The CSRHD Board seeks to explore its mandate through a strategic planning process and to explore a broader range of capital funding for health care facilities for CSRHD and Island Health partnerships.



Acute and in-patient care

In broad terms what is this service?

Acute services include all promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative or palliative actions, whether oriented towards individuals or populations, whose primary purpose is to improve health and whose effectiveness largely depends on time-sensitive and, frequently, rapid intervention. It includes Emergency, Urgent Care, Trauma Surgery, Medicine, Mental Health, Critical Care.

Inpatient care is the care of patients whose condition requires admission to a hospital. Patients enter inpatient care mainly from previous ambulatory care such as referral from a family doctor, or through emergency medicine departments.

How are these services currently delivered?

These services are provided by Island Health (administration, management, capital facilities and equipment) and independent and contract physicians and health care employees.

What facilities and equipment are involved in this service?

Facilities include:

- Hospitals: Comox Valley Campus & North Island Campus (new facilities completed in 2017)

To what extent is the CSRHD currently involved in this service?

The Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital District (CSRHD) provides capital funding to Island Health operated acute care facilities.

Capital funding is cost-shared with the provincial government, with the CSRHD providing 40 per cent of the funding.

\$600M total budget, 40% or \$240M was CSRHD funded. \$150M funded by reserves/cash flow through, \$90M through a 10 year borrowing bylaw. Debt servicing \$10.8M until 2028;

Other annual costs include \$30,000 to primary care facilities and annual grant of \$1.5 million for minor equipment upgrades.

What are the opportunities in this service area?

No significant capital projects are planned in the immediate future by Island Health in acute and in-patient care.

Some small capital improvement projects will be proposed annually. As the facilities age, mechanical and other IT upgrades will increase however these are not expected to be outside of annual allocations.



Home and Community Care

In broad terms what is this service?

Community health services provide support across a range of needs and age groups but are most often used by children, older people, those living with frailty or chronic conditions and people who are near the end of their life. Community services often support people with multiple, complex health needs who depend on many health and social care services to meet those needs. They therefore work closely with other parts of the health and care system, such as GPs, hospitals, pharmacies, and care homes. The increasing numbers of people living with long-term conditions means that more people are likely to need support from community health services in the future.

Home and community care services provide a range of clinical and support services focused on individuals living in their own homes, or in home like settings. Services include professional care such as nursing, rehabilitation therapy and social work; services unique to the community setting such as home support and adult day programs; and a variety of health services provided in specialized accommodations such as assisted living and residential care facilities.

How are these services delivered currently?

These services are currently most often delivered by Island Health through staff or contractors and in partnership with other parts of the health and care system, such as GPs, hospitals, pharmacies, and care homes.

What facilities and equipment are involved in this service?

Facilities include:

- Island Health operates a range of services at various locations.
- Private or not for profit facilities.

To what extent is the CSRHD currently involved in this service?

CSRHD is not currently involved in these services – no capital funding goes to these services at present.

What are the opportunities in this service area?

Some capital improvements are anticipated as a result of lease consolidation for services, including Home and Community Care, in Campbell River and the Comox Valley.



Primary care, community care-rural facilities

In broad terms what is this service?

Primary care services are predominantly provided by approximately 3,500 GPs out of the 5,220 GPs across the province. GPs operate in either solo practices, or more commonly, small group practices. In addition, there are a range of other health professionals providing primary health care services including nurse practitioners, pharmacists, nurses, physiotherapists, chiropractors and massage therapists as well as a range of alternative health care providers providing naturopathy, traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture. There are also 37 categories of medical specialists who provide specialized diagnostic and medical care for a range of illnesses, many of which are linked to chronic disease management.

How are these services currently delivered?

These services are generally provided through private practices or not for profit clinics or similar facilities. Island health provides primary care Health Centres in remote locations.

What facilities and equipment are involved in this service?

Facilities include:

- **Island Health facilities:** Kyuquot Health Centre, North Quadra Urgent and Primary Care Centre, Tahsis Health Centre, Zeballos Health Centre
- **Not for profit clinics:** Quadra Island Medical Clinic operated by the Quadra Island Health Society (QIHS), Cortes Health Centre Owned and operated by the Cortes Community Health Association, Denman Island Health Centre owned and maintained by the Denman Community Health Centre Society, Sayward Primary Health Care Clinic, operated by the Sayward Community Health Society,
- **Private clinics**

To what extent is the CSRHD currently involved in this service?

- In 2019 CSRHD, and in many years prior, provided unconditional grants of \$5,000 to each of the following Health Centers:
Cortes Health Centre
Gold River Health Clinic
Kyuquot Health Centre
Sayward Health Centre
Tahsis Health Centre
Zeballos Health Centre

What are the opportunities in this service area?

No significant capital projects are planned in the immediate future by Island Health in primary care, community care-rural facilities.



Rehabilitation services

In broad terms what is this service?

Special healthcare services that help a person regain physical, mental, and/or cognitive (thinking and learning) abilities that have been lost or impaired as a result of disease, injury, or treatment. Rehabilitation services help people return to daily life and live in a normal or near-normal way. These services may include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, cognitive therapy, and mental health rehabilitation services. Facility based Restorative Care services provide care that has traditionally been within hospital settings.

How are these services currently delivered?

These services are provided by both Island Health and through private practice services.

What facilities and equipment are involved in this service?

Facilities include:

- Island Health operates a range of services at various locations.
- Private or not for profit clinics
- There are no facility based restorative care community spaces within North Island.

To what extent is the CSRHD currently involved in this service?

- CSRHD is not involved in funding except where they take place within an acute care facility.

What are the opportunities in this service area?

No significant capital projects are planned in the immediate future by Island Health in rehabilitation services.



Mental health and substance abuse

In broad terms what is this service?

A variety of mental health and substance use resources and services are offered across the healthcare continuum in both acute and community settings, including educational resources, prevention programs, early intervention initiatives, and recovery and treatment options.

How are these services currently delivered?

These services are provided through Island Health, private practice, and not for profit services.

Island Health provides a single point of assessment and access for individuals seeking help for Adult Mental Health and Substance Use services in Campbell River and Comox Valley.

What facilities and equipment are involved in this service?

Facilities include:

- Island Health operates a range of services at various locations including acute care facilities & health clinics.
- Private or not for profit facilities.

To what extent is the CSRHD currently involved in this service?

CSRHD is not involved in funding these services or facilities except where capital funding is provided to acute care locations.

What are the opportunities in this service area?

No significant capital projects are planned in the immediate future by Island Health in mental health and substance abuse services.

Some capital improvements are anticipated as a result of lease consolidation for services, including mental health and substance abuse services, in Campbell River and the Comox Valley.



Long term care

In broad terms what is this service?

Long-term care (LTC) is a variety of services which help meet both the medical and non-medical needs of people with a chronic illness or disability who cannot care for themselves for long periods. Long term care is focused on individualized and coordinated services that promote independence, maximize patients' quality of life, and meet patients' needs over a period of time. Long-term care may be needed by people of any age, although it is a more common need for senior citizens.

How are these services currently delivered?

Long-term care can be provided at home, in the community, in assisted living facilities or in nursing homes.

These services are provided through Island Health, private, and not for profit services.

What facilities and equipment are involved in this service?

Facilities include Island Health, not for profit and privately operated facilities.

To what extent is the CSRHD currently involved in this service?

CSRHD is not involved in funding these facilities at the present time.

What are the opportunities in this service area?

Significant capital projects have been identified as a high need from Island Health for facilities in the Campbell River and Comox Valley regions. If CSRHD was to support capital funding in this area, it would be expected that the timelines for completion of these facilities could be reduced. This would have significant impact on service delivery in the acute care hospitals by managing current over-capacity concerns.



Public Health

In broad terms what is this service?

Public Health provides health promotion, disease prevention, intervention and support services to women, children, youth and families living across the Island Health region. Services are provided to individuals, families, groups and communities in homes, schools, health units and community settings.

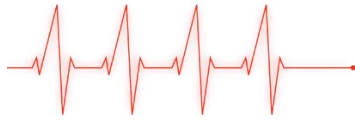
Public health officials include doctors, nurses, public health inspectors, environmental health officers, dietitians, dental hygienists, tobacco control officers, drinking water officers, vision screening technologists, mental health and addictions specialists, and a wide variety of other health care professionals. These health professionals share the common goal of protecting and promoting the health of a population through activities such as: Providing immunization clinics; Implementing maternal and child health promotion programs; Inspecting food establishments to ensure people have access to safe food; Investigating disease outbreaks and hazards to health and coordinating public health responses to health threats; Designing surveillance systems and conducting epidemiological studies to study the health status of British Columbians.

How are these services currently delivered? These services are provided through Island Health.

What facilities and equipment are involved in this service? Facilities include a variety of Island Health facilities.

To what extent is the CSRHD currently involved in this service? CSRHD is not involved in funding these facilities at the present time.

What are the opportunities in this service area? Some capital improvements are anticipated as a result of lease consolidation for services including public health services, in Campbell River and the Comox Valley.



Diagnostics

In broad terms what is this service?

Laboratory and Medical imaging services provided to assist primary care and acute care practitioners in assessing and treating disease.

How are these services currently delivered?

These services are provided by Island Health and through private services.

What facilities and equipment are involved in this service?

Facilities include Island Health diagnostic facilities and equipment and privately operated facilities and equipment.

To what extent is the CSRHD currently involved in this service?

CSRHD is involved in funding some diagnostic equipment at acute care facilities.

What are the opportunities in this service area?

No significant capital projects are planned in the immediate future by Island Health in diagnostic services.