

<Date>

Honourable Adrian Dix, MLA  
Minister of Health and Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs  
PO Box 9050 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

**Re: Letter of Support: Capital Projects for Nanaimo Regional Hospital District**

Dear Health Minister Dix:

On behalf of the \_\_\_\_ Council I write to you to express support for the Nanaimo Regional Hospital District's (NRHD) priority capital projects, including a new patient tower center and a new cardiac catheterization lab to be located at the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH). These projects were identified by the Province and Island Health in consultation with health care experts and are included in Island Health's major capital plan. Over the last two years, the NRHD has confirmed its commitment to these projects and has developed an advocacy focus and a financial strategy to see them realized.

The Central and North Island have one of the fastest growing and oldest populations in Canada. Additionally, the complexity of medical needs across the entire region is also growing. The NRGH is the designated tertiary hospital north of the Malahat, providing specialized services to patients not just within the NRHD region but also from across the Central and North Island. The shortage of health facilities is at a critical point, leading to a lower standard of care and poorer outcomes for patients in the Central and North Island, as well as high costs to the health system. For many patients this creates additional financial and transportation burdens associated with travelling to Victoria or Vancouver for treatment. Delaying these projects will only exacerbate the growing gaps in care, putting patients at increased risk and contributing to worsening health outcomes and greater inefficiencies.

The NRHD has put in place funding mechanism for its share of the costs and is ready to proceed. The NRHD priority projects will complement our own region's health infrastructure by providing new and enhanced health services to the Central and North Island, helping to ensure our residents get the care they need closer to their communities.

We urge the Province to commit to the patient tower and cardiac catheterization lab in the NRHD region and to see the other projects through to completion.

Sincerely,

Name

Title