

COWICHAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Update for staff, medical staff, volunteers and community members.

Exciting times ahead as procurement presses on

Those who've followed the procurement process for a major capital project such as the Cowichan District Hospital replacement will tell you how critical this phase is, in its potential to set the stage for the success during subsequent phases.

"The decisions we make today will steer us through to design and construction, into move-in day and well beyond," said Alice Gelpke, executive director for the Cowichan region. "The more thoughtful, thorough, creative, inclusive and forward-thinking we can be today, the better prepared we will be for the future."

The project team has been working closely with both teams of shortlisted proponents - Alliance Care Partners and EllisDon + Parkin - to answer their detailed questions, study their proposed design solutions, and provide in-depth feedback. At the conclusion of procurement, a decision will be made to determine which proponent team will work with Island Health to deliver the official design and oversee construction of the new Cowichan District Hospital.

"It's been incredible to see the designs evolve," said Dr. Michelle Weizel, executive medical director. "Having been on this journey since business planning, I look forward to the day when the final renderings are shared. It's going to be an exciting time for the entire community and will transform the way we deliver, access and receive health services in Cowichan."



L-R: The CDH Replacement Project Mental Health Substance Use working group shares how expanded care spaces will contribute to better health care experiences for people with mental health and substance use issues.

We hope you enjoy this snapshot of the work underway and always appreciate hearing from you. Please send your questions and feedback to the team at newcdh@islandhealth.ca or visit us online at www.islandhealth.ca/newcdh.

Inside this edition:

Page 2: Come behind the scenes with our Mental Health and Substance Use program working group (above). As an interdisciplinary team dedicated to bringing the best care to their patients, they'll share how people living with mental health and substance use issues will benefit from a redesigned, expanded space at the future CDH and experience more holistic care journeys. (Video included.)

Page 3: Hear from Joe Elliott, Project Director for Indigenous Engagement, and learn about the importance of Indigenous and Métis participation on the project.

Page 4: Patient partner volunteers needed! Find out how patients and their caregivers can provide feedback on the designs for the new hospital.

Page 5: Video of our October 27 community info session

Page 6: A recap of Infrastructure BC's Business to Business networking sessions for the proponents and local businesses interested in opportunities to provide goods or services on the project.

Behind the scenes: CDH Mental Health & Substance Use working group shares how expanded spaces support better care journeys

Have you ever seen a space and immediately envisioned its possibilities for the future? This is how the Cowichan Mental Health and Substance Use (MHSU) care professionals describe visits to their peers' care units at other hospitals during business planning for the new hospital.

"Our goal is to provide the best, patient-centred care for people and to be the best community hospital in the province," said Dr. Chris Derocher, psychiatrist at CDH. "We are getting a truly stellar facility, and patients are going to benefit from the kind of care we'll be able to provide in a space that's custom-built with people in mind and informed by the most up-to-date research and practices in our field."

The first step involved a whole-team approach to planning. They gathered psychiatrists, family doctors, psychiatric nurses and nurse administrators, occupational therapists, Indigenous representation, occupational health and safety advisors, program administrators and the CDH Replacement Project clinical leads. Derocher says Cowichan MHSU staff work in the hospital, and in community-based settings, as an integrated team to ensure people receive seamless care. "We made a commitment to inclusive planning early on, bringing different perspectives, evidence and expertise from our peers, to determine what makes for the best care and work experiences."

Some of the new features planned for the future hospital include:

- Dedicated psychiatric evaluation space within the emergency department
- A new, 4-bed child and youth mental health area within the paediatric unit
- A new, 4-bed adult psychiatric intensive care unit
- A 20-bed inpatient psychiatric unit (5 more than current CDH)
- Access to exercise and outdoor recreation space with plants, seating, games and a walking loop
- Options for privacy or social interaction
- Therapeutic group activity space
- Purpose-built spaces that feel more home-like and less clinical, through artwork, views of nature, natural light, biophilic design; and
- Accommodations for people with physical or cognitive challenges.

"We are always looking at how we can make our care more welcoming, healing, inclusive, holistic and culturally safe," said Dr. Rachel Grimminck, psychiatrist at CDH.

"When people feel respected and safe from stigma and systemic racism, it changes the dynamic of an interaction and creates an opportunity to focus on healing and recovery."

"The team was deliberate about including design elements that foster greater patient agency," added Mona Kaiser, physician engagement lead for the project. "There will be options for social interaction, exercise and therapeutic space; patients can control the lighting in their rooms and the artwork, and will have opportunities to learn or enhance life skills such as cooking, laundry or gardening."



Video: The CDH Mental Health & Substance Use working group shares their vision for better care journeys in the new hospital.



MHSU patients at the new CDH will have access to safe outdoor space inspired by this area at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital.



Youth will have mental health care spaces that are welcoming and designed with their input, such as this area at Surrey Memorial Hospital's Adolescent Mental Health Unit.

Next steps

The MHSU working group will continue refining and confirming their vision in greater detail as the project advances. In addition to engaging as a peer user group, they are passionate about including input from people who have accessed mental health and substance use services in Cowichan. If you, or someone you know, would like to lend your voice to this important work stream, check out their video to [meet the team](#). To RSVP for Patient Partner volunteer opportunities, [click here](#).

Why is it important that Indigenous people are involved in the CDHRP and why Culture Safety?

Project Director for Indigenous Engagement Joe Elliott answers important questions about Indigenous participation on the project.

I would like to start with a Land Protocol, and state that the land that the new hospital will be built on is in the traditional territory of Cowichan Tribes who have lived on and cared for this place since time immemorial; and who continue to live and occupy their traditional lands.

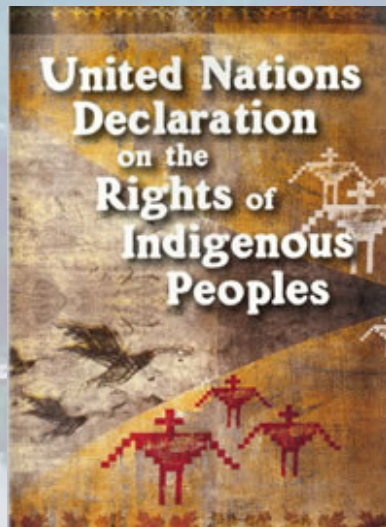
Land Protocol is a traditional way of demonstrating respect for people and communities. As a member of Cowichan Tribes, my ancestors introduced themselves using this protocol, as did members of other Nations, when visiting and interacting outside their home communities.

In this, and many other ways, the new hospital brings re-renewed opportunity to continue the ancestral relationships between Métis, Ditidaht, Pacheedaht, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Stz'uminus, Penelakut, Lyackson, Halalt and Malahat peoples, who access services and care at Cowichan District Hospital, in addition to citizens residing in the traditional territory of these Nations.

The relationship between the neighbouring Nations reflects generations of engagement which the First Nations practised through their traditional trading mechanisms. Continuing to honour these relationships through the project's Indigenous Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from each nation, honours these relationships while providing learning opportunities for Indigenous people

to transform positive change in the current health care system.

Indigenous peoples' rights to be involved in creating Culture Safety is a human right recognized under international and domestic laws, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) which the provincial government passed in November 2019.



Indigenous participation in planning for the new hospital also provides opportunities to respond meaningfully to Recommendation 10* and other highlighted actions documented in the provincially-funded report, [In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in B.C. Health Care.](#)

Indigenous people have their own traditional systems, social structures,

laws and rules directing how each nation interconnects with one another, and their rules for how each group interacts with one another is advanced through the DRIPA Act and UNDRIP which recognise Indigenous peoples' human rights to be involved in decisions related to their health.

Indigenous communities have always had an inclusive process to maintain their peoples' health and well-being and this reciprocal relationship is recognized under the international and domestic human rights, including the right to health, and the right to self-determination to their health and well-being. This process includes the right to have their own health jurisdiction or the right to participate in other jurisdictions that will support the health and well-being for their community members.

Indigenous people have the right to be involved in health decisions and the right to health care service free of racism, and the right to build their political and economic opportunity for their nations.

I feel encouraged by the kinds of conversations we are having, and about the work we will be doing together in Cowichan. The opportunity to advance a new, culturally safe hospital and health system may come around but once in a lifetime, but we have the chance to improve our health and wellbeing for many generations.

*** Recommendation 10:** That design of hospital facilities in B.C. include partnership with local Indigenous peoples and the Nations on whose territories these facilities are located, so that health authorities create culturally-appropriate, dedicated physical spaces in health facilities for ceremony and cultural protocol, and visibly include Indigenous artwork, signage and territorial acknowledgement throughout these facilities.



VOLUNTEER PATIENT PARTNERS NEEDED

Help shape health care experiences in the new CDH

Would you like to lend your voice to the planning process for the new Cowichan District Hospital (CDH)?

The Project team is seeking patient partner volunteers to review proposed design solutions and provide input, advice and guidance during the design and construction phase of the hospital replacement project.

Patient partners are integral members of our planning teams. By sharing their diverse perspectives, experiences accessing services and providing feedback, they support programs across Island Health to deliver patient and family-centred care that feels safe, welcoming, respectful and easy to navigate.

There are currently two patient partners on the project's clinical advisory committee. Incoming patient partners will serve alongside representatives from CDH Emergency, Paediatrics, Perioperative, Maternity, Mental Health & Substance Use, Spiritual Health, Medical Imaging, Ambulatory Care, and Medical/Surgical in-patient units.

Other programs have active patient partners and may work to recruit within their existing channels. There will also be opportunities to advise on public spaces within the new CDH.

WE ARE SEEKING PEOPLE WHO

- Live in the CDH service region
- Have used services/care at CDH in the past 5 years, either as a patient or caregiver, are comfortable speaking about their experience, and can work in a collaborative, respectful atmosphere
- Are comfortable using email, Zoom or WebEx technology
- Are not employed by Island Health

TIMELINES/COMMITMENT

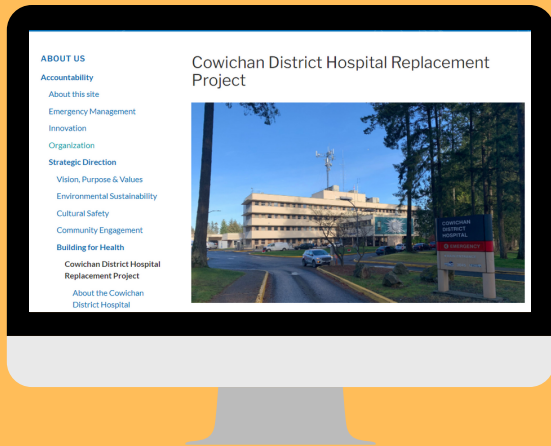
- 1-year
- Project orientation will be provided
- Advisory work begins spring 2022

FLEXIBLE PARTICIPATION OPTIONS

- Participate in regular meetings; or
- Review proposals as-needed.

TO APPLY

- RSVP to our posting on the BC Patient Voices Network (<https://bit.ly/30E8RB1>) by Dec 15.



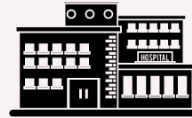
Find answers to
CDH Replacement Project
FAQs here: <https://bit.ly/3FMWrpj>
or watch the recording from October
27 virtual info session, below.

Did you miss our virtual community
information session on October 27?
Not to worry. You can view the recording
here: <https://bit.ly/3HNMMu0> or email
newcdh@islandhealth.ca if you have
additional questions for the project team.



NEW CDH QUICK FACTS

Top things to know about your
new Cowichan District Hospital.



1 OPEN FOR CARE IN 2026

2020: Procurement phase began
2021: Site prep work
2022: Groundbreaking and construction begins
2026: Open for patient care in the fall
Budget: \$887.4M (CVRHD funding \$282.6M)



2 204 BED CAPACITY

185 acute care beds will be operational on
opening day, up from 134 in the current
hospital. As with all new builds, some will
be reserved for future population growth.



3 THREE TIMES MORE SPACE

At approximately 515,000 square feet (47,848
square metres) the new CDH will be nearly
three times larger than the current facility.



4 CULTURALLY SAFE SERVICES AND SPACES

Including areas for ceremony, quiet reflection,
gathering space for larger families and ongoing
cultural safety training for people involved in
the build and day-to-day hospital operations.



5 ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FEATURES

The new CDH will be primarily powered by clean
electricity. GHG emissions will be at least 75%
lower despite it being 3x larger than the current
hospital. It will also be approximately 30% more
energy efficient and 60% more water efficient. We
are also exploring ways to source locally grown
foods and protect natural habitats.



6 BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF CARE FOR A COMMUNITY THAT CARES

By continuing to work in partnership with
community-based service providers, people will
receive the right care, in the right place, at the right
time, improving health experiences and outcomes,
and increasing capacity in our hospital. Our hospital
will be integrated within the full continuum of
health services available in the Cowichan Valley.



7 FREE PARKING, FREE WI-FI

Capacity for 800 parking spaces, fully accessible
for all abilities with infrastructure for green
transportation options. Free public Wi-Fi.

Infrastructure BC - Procurement Update



Infrastructure BC is a provincial crown corporation which supports the public sector by working with owners to plan, procure, and deliver complex public infrastructure in an evolving world. Since 2002, Infrastructure BC has led the procurement of 64 completed projects across Canada valued at \$23 billion. Infrastructure BC is managing the procurement of the [Cowichan District Hospital Replacement Project](#) through a competitive alliance selection process. In an alliance, Island Health and the successful proponent will deliver the project as an integrated, collaborative team, making best-for-project decisions to achieve the project's objectives.

For each project, Infrastructure BC's procurement process includes a community-focused business-to-business networking event. This event connects local contractors, suppliers, and businesses who might be interested in working with, or providing products and services to, the successful proponent team. These events allow proponent teams to enhance their knowledge, understanding and awareness of local services available, and to build relationships with local contractors, suppliers, and businesses.

Traditionally these events are held in person within the project's region. To ensure the safety of all involved during the pandemic, the Cowichan District Hospital Replacement Project business-to-business events were held virtually via Zoom.



The networking sessions occurred on Wednesday, September 22, and Monday, September 27, 2021, generating the most interest and attendance of Infrastructure BC's virtual B2B networking sessions to date!

Registered participants received a private, individual time slot with each proponent team to outline services that may be of interest to the proponents.

During these one-on-one engagement sessions with proponent teams, businesses provided an overview of their products and/or services. Through these discussions, proponent teams gained a broader awareness of local services available, a vital component as they prepare their project proposals.

GET TO KNOW THE CDH REPLACEMENT CAPITAL PLANNING PHASES

