

February 2020

The Honourable John Horgan, MLA
Premier of British Columbia
501 Belleville Street
Victoria, BC V8V 2L8

Dear Premier,

I'm a proud resident of the Central Island region and my family and I appreciate the excellent healthcare available in this province.

However, we're concerned that the healthcare services available in Central and North Island regions are not receiving the same attention as the communities south of the Malahat and have not kept pace with medical demand and population growth.

According to the 2018 population estimates by the BC Government the population in the South Island stands at 413,460 while the Central and North Island population is more than 422,000. The Central Island has the oldest population in Canada and overall is growing faster than the South Island.

This letter is to encourage your government to expand medical services at the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) to a level closer to those available in Victoria, as outlined in the NRGH Priority Services Plan, developed by Island Health and local healthcare providers and published in August 2017. We feel these changes will provide equity and proper access to healthcare. Some of the important services that should be expanded include cardiology, cancer treatment, mental health, and surgical services. We also point out the urgent need for a new Patient Care Tower at NRGH.

We are asking that you provide this level of accessible healthcare over the next 5 years. This means that change will have to begin today. ***It's Nanaimo's turn!*** We the residents, look forward to hearing from you.

We sincerely thank you!

Signature

Print Name

Address & email or phone

c.c. The Honourable Adrian Dix, MLA, Minister of Health