

OUR VISION:

Excellent health and care for everyone,
everywhere, every time.



February 11, 2025

Robyn Gray
Superintendent/CEO
Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools – School District 68
395 Wakesiah Avenue
Nanaimo, BC V9R 3K6

Re: Island Health Support for a 100-Seat Daycare Adjacent to Nanaimo Regional General Hospital

Dear Ms. Gray,

I am writing to express Island Health's strong support for the development of a 100-seat daycare adjacent to Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH). The results of our recent NRGH Child Care Needs Assessment survey underscore the urgent need for accessible, high-quality childcare services for hospital employees and our broader community.

The survey findings indicate that nearly 70% of responding NRGH employees do not have adequate childcare, significantly impacting their ability to work regular hours, take on additional shifts, and maintain a stable work-life balance. Many employees have expressed difficulty in securing childcare that accommodates their variable shift schedules, leading to increased stress and uncertainty about their long-term employment.

A dedicated childcare facility near NRGH would provide much-needed support for our healthcare professionals, improving employee retention, recruitment, and overall morale. By ensuring reliable childcare, we can help mitigate staffing shortages, allowing our hospital to maintain full operational capacity and continue providing high-quality care to the residents of Central Vancouver Island.

Furthermore, the establishment of this daycare aligns with our shared commitment to community well-being. A hospital-affiliated childcare facility would not only benefit our workforce but also contribute to broader economic and social stability by allowing more healthcare professionals to remain in the workforce. Ensuring that our hospital is fully staffed directly translates into better healthcare access and outcomes for the community we serve.

Island Health is eager to collaborate with Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools and other key stakeholders to make this initiative a reality. We welcome the opportunity to further discuss how we can support the planning and implementation of this essential project.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to working together to address this critical need for our hospital staff and the community at large.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lange". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "D" being large and prominent.

Damian Lange
Executive Director,
Nanaimo Regional General Hospital

Attached: Appendix A - NRGH Child Care Needs Assessment