

MOUNT WADDINGTON COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUP RECEIVES \$475,000 FROM
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL ISSUES TO DEVELOP AND INITIATE NEW
MODEL OF CARE FOR THE NORTH ISLAND

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NORTH ISLAND - The North Island is one step closer to developing a new model of care that better serves residents of this rural region, following the award of \$475,000 to the Mount Waddington Collaborative Working Group by the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues.

Collaborative Working Group co-chairs Mayor Shirley Ackland and Dr. Dave Whittaker note that the funds will be used to build on existing information such as health statistics and an investigation of patient journey experiences, and to implement a series of pilot projects that explore ways of providing better patient care in a rural environment.

“Using the information we gather from a review of current health statistics and patient journey experiences, and the pilot projects we initiate, we intend to develop a series of recommendations on how to improve the current level of care in our region,” notes Ackland.

“And we will be initiating a full public review of those recommendations in the spring of 2017,” adds Whittaker, “prior to initiating a new model of care in the latter part of 2017.”

Pilot programs under the initiative include delivery of an adult day program to help maintain the health of ageing members of the population and provide respite for their caregivers, and a pregnancy outreach program designed to keep young mothers with their babies and reduce the level of child apprehensions in the region. Other pilot initiatives include new approaches to providing more renal and cancer care locally, and offering a more holistic approach to pain management.

In the summer of 2014, the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues invited a proposal from Island Health “to explore and put into practice innovative and novel service delivery arrangements.”

The North Island division of Island Health responded by making an application through the Mount Waddington Collaborative Working Group.

The Mount Waddington Collaborative Working Group includes representatives from the First Nations Health Authority, Island Health, local government, Mount Waddington Health Network, First Nations communities, and the Northern Vancouver Island Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice.

For further information, contact Mayor Shirley Ackland at 250.956.3111.