

South Island Division of Family Practice



March 25, 2019

Dear Mayor Desjardins

At the request of the Ministry of Health (MoH), the South Island Division of Family Practice (SIDFP), along with its health care partners, undertook a service planning process to identify the resources needed to support increased primary care services in Esquimalt and the Western Communities.

Due to the recent closure of one of the two Esquimalt medical clinics and the relocation of one physician to a clinic in Victoria, at least 4,000 additional patients have been added to the approximately 32,000 who are looking for a family physician in this area. This number is expected to grow to about 55,000 within three years.

The need for new primary care services in Esquimalt is immediate.

Esquimalt is not alone in the need to expand primary care services for its residents. All South Island communities have a need to attract new Family Physicians to our region. For the Township of Esquimalt, the lack of suitable clinic space to house these providers, within an attractive team-based model of care environment, is an impediment to recruitment.

Successful physician recruitment requires coordination across many stakeholders. Municipalities can improve their chances of attracting these professionals by ensuring that robust community services are in place, that the community is a welcoming place to live and practice and that the necessary infrastructure is available.

Recently, Island Health, with support from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Capital Regional Hospital District opened the new Urgent Primary Care Centre in Langford at the St. Anthony's site. This site will provide urgent care for residents across the Western Communities and will soon be recruiting 12 fulltime full-service Family Practitioners. This purpose built medical building experienced an exodus of primary care providers due to cost and maintenance issues. The recent leasehold improvements and partnership with the municipality has reinvigorated this site as a model for team-based care.

The recruitment of new primary care providers has begun. Esquimalt would benefit greatly if both short-term (next 6 months) and medium-term (1-2 years) clinic space options were made available.

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We look forward to continuing to work with you and the Township to ensure that robust and sustainable primary care services are available in the community. Our pressing issue is to increase the available clinic space necessary to attract new primary care providers to Esquimalt.

The South Island Division of Family Practice would be pleased to meet with you, Council or any of your partners.

Regards,



Clay Barber,
Executive Director,
South Island Division of Family Practice

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
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RECEIVED: MAR 28 2019		
Referred: <i>Anja</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC