

March 30, 2007

Mr. Chris Clement, Chair
Regional Hospital District
Capital Regional District
Box 1000
Victoria B.C. V8W 1R7

Dear Mr. Clement:

RE: Pender Islands Health Centre Application

The Southern Gulf Islands Community Health Advisory Committee has an 11 year history of proactive planning and collaborative problem solving in cooperation with regional health authorities. The Advisory Committee represents Galiano, Mayne, Pender, Saturna and Salt Spring Islands (local health area 64). The purpose of the committee is to improve and maintain the quality of health in our Southern Gulf Island communities.

Each Island appoints two representatives to the committee through their local health care society. The health authority provides representation from senior management. Our committee continues to provide a vehicle for two way communication and collaboration between SGI communities and VIHA.

Our committee has followed with considerable interest the excellent integrated model of health care programs and services delivered through Pender's Health Centre. We have watched the growing demands on that centre to meet the needs of the increasing population over the last 5 years (12.4% for North Pender and 48.4 % for South Pender). The need for the clinic expansion is well established to meet the health care requirements of Pender Islanders. The increase in visitors to the Island coincident with the new National Park and the expanded resort at Bedwell Harbour add to the demand, particularly emergency services.

We commend the Pender Islands Health Care Society for taking the initiative to raise the funds to provide the necessary expansion for effective delivery of health care services on the Penders. With the escalating cost of construction, it is clear that the Pender Islands Health Care Society requires some financial support to complete the expansion.

At the March 27, 2007 Health Advisory Committee meeting, committee representatives from all five Gulf Islands unanimously agreed to convey our strong support for Pender's funding application to the CRD.

Thank you for consideration of our views.

Respectfully submitted,

Co-Chair	Jean Taylor	Salt Spring
Co-Chair	Paul Petrie	Pender

Members: Don Clark Galiano
Sue Atha Mayne
Grant Brownlee Mayne
Dave Curwen Saturna
Georgina Novak Pender
David Smith Galiano
Ruth Volquardsen Salt Spring
Bernie Ziegler Saturna

CC: Shirley LePers, President, Pender Island Health Care Society
Susan DeGryp, CRD Director, Southern Gulf Islands
Jeremy Tate, Director CRD
Brian Jackson, Director Rural Health Services
Bill Relph, Manager Patient/Client Care, SGI
Health Advisory Committee members