

news release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Endoscopy Suite Redevelopment at Victoria General Hospital

VICTORIA – A \$2.2 million dollar redesign of the Endoscopy suite at Victoria General Hospital will improve safety and quality care for patients.

The Capital Regional Hospital District (CRHD) has approved \$660,000 for the project. The remainder of the project is funded by the Ministry of Health and Island Health.

“Colon cancer is the second and third most common cause of death for males and females, respectively,” says Health Minister Terry Lake. “This project will help to meet the needs of our colon cancer screening program, which is working to reduce these rates through early detection and treatment. The project will improve patient flow and infection control processes within the endoscopy suite.

The planned improvements include bringing three procedure rooms up to current standards, redesigning patient areas for before and after procedures to allow for improved flow of patients, staff and equipment, and providing more adequate space for cleaning medical devices.

“With the new Colon Screening program, we are seeing higher volumes of patients needing a colonoscopy,” says Island Health President and CEO Dr. Brendan Carr. “The redesign will allow us to be more efficient, improve process, and ultimately better meet the needs of patients requiring colonoscopies.”

Island Health has completed preliminary design work, and will be issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for construction work on the project.

“The Capital Regional Hospital District and residents of the Capital Region, through their property taxes, play a crucial role in ensuring capital funding is available for important patient safety improvements like this endoscopy redesign,” said David Howe, CRHD Board Chair. “Projects like this aren’t as high profile as building a new hospital or adding a new service, but the CRHD recognizes that they are equally important in providing excellent health care to the people in our community.”

Work is expected to begin later this year, with the final project completed in 2017.

In addition, to support access to colonoscopy services, Island Health has hired additional nursing staff, increased operating hours and hired a new gastroenterologist to address demand. As well, it has reviewed all physician wait lists to confirm patients are on the right list and being booked based on appropriate urgency prioritization. Island Health has streamlined processes and systems resulting in an increase of 2,000 non-screening endoscopy cases annually.

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