

MIHCA Update October 2023

Sad news; the BIG Ask; the Next 'Poke'

**Sad news:** We are sorry to report that Leanne Rowand, Nurse Practitioner at the Health Centre clinic, is leaving her position effective October 1, 2023. We congratulate her on the exciting new opportunities she is following and are so very grateful for the care she has provided Mayne Islanders over many years.

While Island Health is seeking a replacement, more Mayne Islanders will be left without primary health care. In partnership with Dr. Losier, our Association is actively lobbying and encouraging Island Health to expedite their recruitment efforts as well as arrange for interim coverage until a permanent replacement is hired. We encourage everyone to please be patient as we await the outcome of our efforts. As a reminder, in an emergency always call 911.

We are advocating for the current part-time Nurse Practitioner position to be increased to a full time position, as a means to expand access to primary health care on Mayne. We are also advocating for additional part time Physician coverage at the Health Centre which, combined with a full time Nurse Practitioner, would make for a very significant improvement in accessing primary healthcare on Mayne.

Of course there is a big difference between us advocating and Island Health agreeing, but we are working with a number of influential partners in an effort to make this happen - It is the cornerstone of our 3-year strategic plan.

**The BIG Ask:** As noted last month, there are significant costs associated with our efforts to enhance health care on Mayne. If you agree that this ongoing work of the MIHCA is important, please consider becoming a member (\$10 individual or \$20 per family annually) and/or make a donation. We need your support. Visit [www.mayneislandhealth.ca](http://www.mayneislandhealth.ca) and click "Donations and Memberships" near the top right corner of the home page, or email [admin@mihcaboard.ca](mailto:admin@mihcaboard.ca).

**The Next 'Poke':** In other news, the next COVID/Flu clinic is scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Ag Hall. There will be a second clinic at the Ag Hall on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Both of these clinics will be by appointment only. Stay tuned for more information. We'll post it on our website at [www.mayneislandhealth.ca](http://www.mayneislandhealth.ca) and on our and other community Facebook pages. We'll also put up posters around the island. If you are a MIHCA member, you'll receive an email as soon as we know any details.

Wishing you good health,

Rob McFarlane on behalf of the Mayne Island Health Centre Association.