

News from a recent meeting with our Island Health Leadership Team: With Dr. Losier's support and advocacy, our joint messaging to Island Health (IH) is generating action. We are pleased to report that IH has now posted a full time Nurse Practitioner position for our Health Centre, replacing Leanne Rowand (DNP), who was part time.

IH is also open to our seeking additional Family Physician coverage and is increasing the hours of the current RN position. We'll be promoting both the Nurse Practitioner and Family Physician opportunities in MIHCA's new recruitment video to be released in November. The video will be shared nationally through Doctors of BC.

Coincidentally, Canadian health ministers have green-lit a new cross-Canada licensing system for physicians and nurses that will facilitate more inter-provincial movement with fewer barriers. We're hoping this new licensing system will make it easier to attract medical personnel to Mayne Island.

Although we have challenges ahead and it will take time to recruit resources, we're over the first hurdle: IH's acknowledgement and support of our needs.

In the meantime, here are two useful links as possible interim access points to reach a family physician and or specialist.

Through TELUS Health, you can consult virtually with a doctor, psychologist, counsellor or dietician at your convenience. telus.com/en/health/my-care

CanScreenBC is the first clinic dedicated exclusively to cancer screening in BC, offering publicly funded cancer screening to all BC residents who don't have a primary care physician. canscreenbc.com/

A robust MIHCA membership demonstrates community support of our continued advocacy for additional health professional resources. 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. Visit mayneislandhealth.ca and click "Donations and Memberships" near the top right corner of the home page, or email admin@mihcaboard.ca .

In other news, if you were unable to register for the vaccination clinic to be held on Nov 1st and 2nd at the Ag Hall, there will be a second clinic on November 29th. Vaccination clinics are by appointment only. We'll post more information about the second clinic on our website at 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.

Health and Wellness Action Plan! On October 23rd MIHCA hosted a lunch with many community representatives who participated in the development of a sustainable, holistic health and wellness program for Mayne Islanders. We look forward to sharing the ideas and actions that emerged from this event in our December MayneLiner article.

Wishing you good health,

Lindsay Allan, on behalf of the MIHCA Board