

*Q: The new facility is located approximately 6 km from the existing facility. I assume much of the existing equipment will be utilized in the new facility. How will existing SJGH equipment be moved to minimize the impact on patient care? How will service be provided while this is taking place? Laboratory equipment? Beds and other nursing equipment such as IV poles; surgical equipment, etc. What processes are being put into place to ensure a smooth transition of physical resources from the existing facility to the new facility? What processes are being put into place to ensure a smooth transition of patients from the existing facility to the new facility?*

A: Island Health recognizes that moving patients, staff, services and equipment from the existing hospitals to the new facilities will be a complex task. Following a Request For Proposals process, Island Health has contracted with Health Care Relocations Ltd. (HCR), to help plan and implement the move-in to the new Comox Valley and Campbell River hospitals in late 2017, and to mitigate risk and minimize disruption of service to patients and staff.

HCR has helped with the move of more than 300 hospitals, laboratories and healthcare facilities throughout Canada and the United States, since 1993. Last year, HCR was behind the largest hospital move in Canadian history which was the redeployment of patients, staff, services and equipment from three large Montreal facilities to the new 2.5-million-square-foot, 500-bed McGill University Health Centre after two years of detailed planning. The moves involved more than 7,000 staff.

HCR will work with key stakeholders to develop a North Island Relocation Services Plan by June 2017, identifying logical steps and critical interdependencies to achieve the move in the fall of 2017.

*Q: How is the facility to be staffed? I assume most of the staff from St. Joseph's will transfer to the new facility. This will entail a transfer of staff from one employer to another. What processes are being put in place to ensure a smooth transition of human resources for the opening of the new hospital?*

A: Island Health and SJGH are well into the planning process for staff transition to the two new hospital sites. A working group – involving representation from Island Health and SJGH programs and departments – is planning transition activities. Discussions are also underway with our union partners around this transition process.

With a few exceptions, acute care clinical staff at St. Joseph's will be offered a transfer to join Island Health prior to the opening of the new Comox Valley Hospital. Campbell River clinical and non-clinical staff will transfer from their current location to the new Campbell River Hospital on the same site. The details of how and when this will take place will be negotiated with the unions in 2016.

We also hold regular staff engagement sessions to ensure staff at both sites have the most up to date information about the transition process.

Staff at both CRH and SJGH are talented professionals with healthcare experience which is valued and critical to success in the new hospitals. We are committed to providing staff with information as soon as it is available with respect to the transition.