

# HEALTH SERVICES FUNDING - #2

## FACT SHEET #2: THE NEED TO SUSTAIN FUNDING FOR THE MEDICAL CLINIC

For decades, the Saturna Community Club has managed the Medical Clinic on an all-volunteer basis, through its Health Services Committee. Over the years, the amount of funding required to maintain the clinic has been growing. Last year's operating budget (not including Medical Doctor and Nurse Practitioner contract fees, drugs or medical equipment, provided by IHA) was \$23,600.

### A. Current Sources of Support for the Clinic:

- Island Health Authority: MD and NP fees, medical supplies, and for clinic operation, partial funding of the Medical Office Assistant, and funding for restocking labour.
- Rental Income from other health care professionals is minimal (currently a massage therapist.)
- Clinic Patient Fees (for services not covered by MSP) are minimal, and vary from year to year.
- Donations have primarily been from the Annual Garage Sale conducted by the Saturna Recycling Centre, and gifted to the Medical Clinic. After 2019, when recycling's confirmed funding ends, the Recycling Centre may need these funds.
- The Saturna Community Club has always covered the annual shortfall, and provides the volunteer labour to manage the clinic. Should alternative funding for the Medical Clinic be secured, the Community Club will continue to provide support for health services on Saturna Island.

### B. The Current Situation:

The Community Club's only source of funds is the annual Saturna Lamb BBQ on Canada Day. These funds must maintain and insure the Community Hall and Recycling Centre, as well as keep the Medical Clinic clean and supplied, utilities paid, and the Medical Office Assistant's wages topped up to a liveable level.

### C. Our Concerns:

- The BBQ's viability is uncertain as volunteers age and burn out (average age on Saturna is 60).
- The BBQ's revenue is inconsistent, and could be greatly curtailed by bad weather and other factors beyond the island's control.

### D. Opportunities:

- Secure, stable funding will allow the creation of a paid part-time Health Co-ordinator position and a bookkeeper which would take stress off aging clinic volunteers.
- Alternative funding for the Medical Clinic would free up BBQ revenue for supplementary health and wellness services not currently possible, but available on other islands.

Saturna Sustainable Health Funding Committee  
July 2017



# SATURNA

