

HEALTH SERVICES FUNDING - #4

FACT SHEET #4 - HEALTH SERVICES ON OTHER GULF ISLANDS

No two places are the same in providing health services. Each island has varied funding: doctors' fees, taxes, rent, donations and volunteer labour. Differences in size, location, population and services offered are key factors. The Rural Health Services Framework document created by Island Health (IHA) classifies Saturna as an "Isolated Island". The classification of each place sets a framework, but doesn't determine what services can or could be provided. It is however useful to compare and contrast Saturna to other similar Gulf Islands or "isolated islands".

Mayne Island has a population three times larger with more frequent ferry service, yet shares characteristics with Saturna. The Mayne Island Health Centre Association (www.mayneislandhealth.ca/), a BC non-profit society with a board of directors, operates the health centre. It is funded from property taxes (collected through the Mayne Island Improvement District), donations, rent and events. Services available include;

- Resident Physician 3 days per week (fee for service and IHA 'top-up')
- Nurse Practitioner 3 days per week (IHA)
- Massage, Chiropractic (private)
- Home and Community Support (IHA)
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse (IHA)
- Vision care (Private)

Galiano Island has both a similar population and ferry frequency as Mayne. Galiano Health Care Society (GHCS), a registered BC non-profit and a federal charity, has provided health services on Galiano for the past 25 years. It operates the GHC Centre through a board of directors and an executive director and staff. Their total annual budget is approximately \$ 140,000, funded by events, donations, grants, rentals and an annual property tax levy (since 2014). In 2014, the GHCS applied to the CRD to place \$86,500 per year on the property tax rolls (of which the CRD receives a \$1,550 administration fee). This passed with 90% support. Services at the Health Centre include:

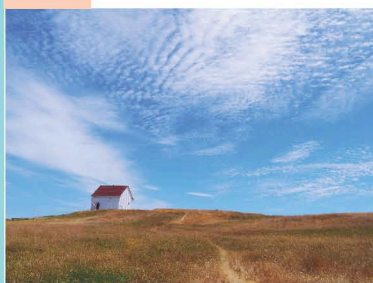
- Full time Doctor, Nurse Practitioner, and Home and Community Care Nurse (IHA)
- Once a week dentist
- Better at Home, Ageing in Place, Education
- Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Massage, Laboratory

With a population of 2,300, and very frequent and convenient ferry service, the **Pender Islands** have resident physician(s) who operate the clinic on a fee-for-service basis typical of larger communities, avoiding the necessity of community funding. They also offer a wider range of services that can be supported by a large population.

Hornby Island is quite isolated, with a population of about 1,000 residents and infrequent ferry service. It operates in alliance with adjacent **Denman Island** (population of 1,100) and the Comox Valley, in one large and well-funded entity (from taxes, donations, doctor's fees, fund raising, etc.) with several clinics. It has resident doctors, paid administrators and a wide range of services. Unusually, they charge a membership fee of \$5.00 per year.

Saturna Sustainable Health Funding Committee

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SATURNA

