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November 27, 2017

Kevin Lorette
GM, Planning and Protective Service
Capital Regional District
Sent via email to: klorette@crd.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Lorette:

Re: Island Health Support for a Community Health Network on Southern Vancouver Island

Thank you for your interest in discussing how Island Health and the Capital Regional District (CRD) can work together to support the concept of a Community Health Network (CHN) on the South Island.

As you are aware, CHNs play an important role in bringing together local and regional governments, public institutions and community organizations to collectively develop shared approaches to address the social determinants of health – factors such as income, education, social environments, housing and modifiable life-style risk factors.

As we discussed, Island Health is pleased to confirm annual funding in the amount of \$60,000 will be made available to the CRD effective January 2018 to support CHN work on the South Island for a period of three years. This is part of a commitment that Island Health has made to fund Regional Districts on Vancouver Island up to \$80,000 each to support initial work around establishing CHNs. As previously referenced, a historical arrangement is in place with Sooke for \$20,000 to support this community's Community Health Initiative.

The aims of CHNs align well with the work the CRD has been undertaking to develop a Community Health and Wellbeing plan and the CRD's Regional Outcomes Monitoring (ROM) Collaborative. These initiatives also include membership from a range of agencies that would usually also be part of a CHN. Island Health looks forward to working with the CRD to amend the ROM Memorandum of Understanding to include language that speaks to the functions of a CHN.

We recognize that Southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands are comprised of many communities with diverse needs and priorities, and we look forward to continued discussions with the CRD and local communities to ensure that local voices have an opportunity towards health improvements and reduced health inequities.

Island Health is grateful for the ongoing partnership and support from the CRD as we collectively work to improve population health. This includes the CRD's long-term support and funding of tobacco enforcement and other health protection functions – initiatives that are key to enabling public health and wellness in our communities. As such, we request that the funds the CRD provides to Island Health for these crucial health protection bylaw enforcement activities be maintained. We look forward to the CRD's continued support of these key functions as distinctly separate but related, public health initiatives.

We look forward to our continued partnership, and thank you for all your support to date.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Damstetter
Chief, Community Health and Care
Island Health



Dr. Murray Fyfe, MD MSc FRCPC
Medical Health Officer
Island Health