

NANAIMO REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

**BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009**

A D D E N D U M

PAGES

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

2-3 **Rachel Carson**, re Nanaimo Regional Hospital Dialysis Unit.

SCHEDULED STANDING, ADVISORY STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Regional Hospital District Select Committee. (All Directors – One Vote)

4-5 Minutes of the Regional Hospital District Select Committee meeting held March 17, 2009. (for information)

1. *That the capital project and equipment lists provided by the Vancouver Island Health Authority detailing their preliminary expenditure plans for 2009/2010 be received for information.*
2. *That the report "Strengthening the Capital Planning and Cost Sharing Process – A Review of the 2003 Cost Sharing Review" be received for information.*
3. *That as follow up to recommendation R8 in "Strengthening the Capital Planning and Cost Sharing Process – A Review of the 2003 Cost Sharing Review", staff schedule a working meeting with the Vancouver Island Health Authority to establish a dialogue regarding health care projects and to discuss an appropriate definition of capital for Regional Hospital District funding purposes.*



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<i>Corresp.</i>			

Mr. Joe Stanhope
 Chair, Regional District of Nanaimo Board of Directors
 6300 Hammond Bay Road
 Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2

March 12, 2009

Dear Mr. Stanhope,

Today is World Kidney Day. I am a nephrologist (a doctor specializing in kidney disease), and I am writing to request your help and involvement in bringing appropriate, local care to people in the RDN suffering from kidney failure (also known as renal failure). The mid and north Vancouver Island population of more than 300,000 people deserve to have access to a properly equipped regional hospital so that they don't have to travel to Victoria for care that should be available locally. Unfortunately, the Nanaimo Regional District has the dubious distinction of being the only community of its size in Canada without an in-hospital kidney dialysis unit (please see the attached graph).

As you know, eighteen months ago in October 2007, VIHA announced that it had included funding in its capital budget to construct a dialysis unit on the first floor of the newly built Perinatal wing of the Nanaimo General Hospital. However, the full project was not given final approval by the Ministry of Health and has stalled. \$4.5 million dollars has already been spent on a half-finished space that sits empty and unused. This is a "shovel-ready" project perfect for government stimulus spending.

From the BC Government's own BC Provincial Renal Agency Guidelines: "Planning for a Full Service Renal Program should be undertaken when the population of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) patients in a region reaches a critical mass that would (a) permit efficient use of resources and (b) provide sufficient volume of care (approximately 65 - 75 patients) to support a nephrologist". There are currently >190 dialysis patients and >1000 CKD patients living in or north of Nanaimo. I am one of two fellowship-qualified nephrologists hired by VIHA to work in Nanaimo, waiting for a dialysis unit to open.

The VIHA Executive and PHSA's Provincial Renal Agency both support the expansion of dialysis services to Nanaimo Regional General Hospital. I was very pleased when the Nanaimo Regional District approved its share of the capital funding last fall.

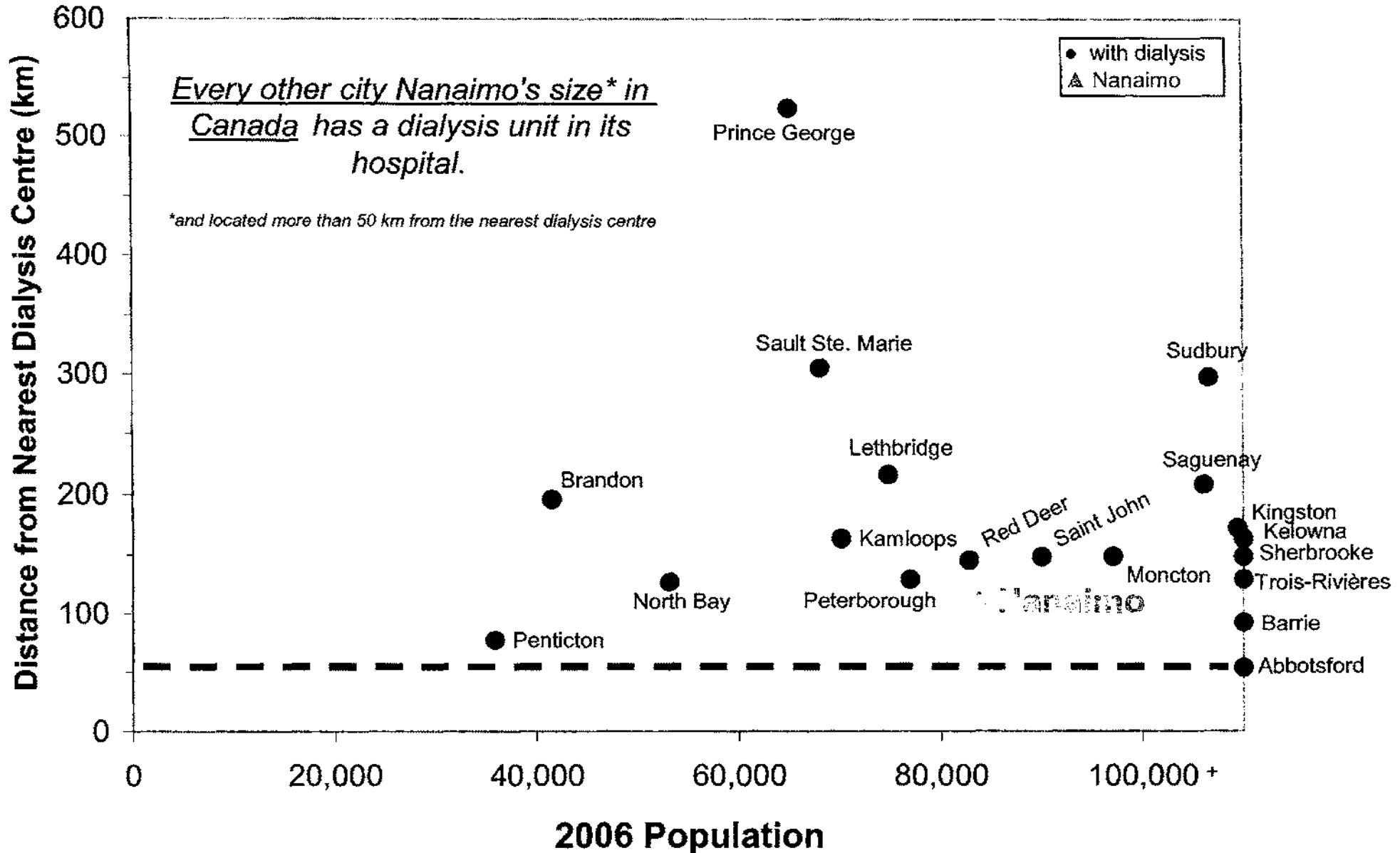
We have consensus from the healthcare professionals, the PHSA and the Health Authority. I ask that you raise this issue again with the RDN Board and our provincially elected representatives. With a provincial election only 8 weeks away, I believe it is essential that our community put this issue on the political agenda.

I hope I will be able to meet with you personally or speak on the phone regarding this issue over the next few weeks. Please don't hesitate to contact my office or email me with any questions. With thanks of behalf of my patients,

Dr. Rachel Carson MD FRCP(C)

rcarson@viha.ca

How Far is Too Far To Go for Dialysis? Data for all of Canada



NANAIMO REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT SELECT COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009 AT 10:00 AM
IN THE RDN CONFERENCE ROOM**

Present:	Director T. Westbrook	Chairperson
	Director J. Burnett	Electoral Area A
	Director J. Stanhope	Electoral Area G
	Director C. Haime	District of Lantzville
	Director D. Johnstone	City of Nanaimo
	Director J. Kipp	City of Nanaimo
	Director E. Mayne	City of Parksville
Also in Attendance:	C. Mason	Chief Administrative Officer
	N. Avery	Gen. Manager, Finance & Information Services

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

MINUTES

MOVED Director Burnett, SECONDED Director Haime, that the minutes of the Regional Hospital District Select Committee meeting held November 21, 2008 be adopted.

CARRIED

REPORTS

2009/2010 Capital Equipment and Minor Project Expenditures.

MOVED Director Kipp, SECONDED, Director Stanhope, that the capital project and equipment lists provided by the Vancouver Island Health Authority detailing their preliminary expenditure plans for 2009/2010 be received for information.

CARRIED

Regional Hospital District 2008 Cost Sharing Review – Final Report.

MOVED Director Stanhope, SECONDED, Director Kipp that the report “Strengthening the Capital Planning and Cost Sharing Process – A Review of the 2003 Cost Sharing Review” be received for information.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

MOVED Director Stanhope, SECONDED Director Haime, that as follow up to recommendation R8 in "Strengthening the Capital Planning and Cost Sharing Process - A Review of the 2003 Cost Sharing Review", staff schedule a working meeting with the Vancouver Island Health Authority to establish a dialogue regarding health care projects and to discuss an appropriate definition of capital for Regional Hospital District funding purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED Director Kipp, SECONDED Director Stanhope, that the meeting terminate.

CARRIED

TIME: 11:45 PM

CHAIRPERSON