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**Nanaimo Regional Hospital District to Host a Regional Health Summit: *Health Forward: Advancing Healthcare in Central and North Vancouver Island***

The Nanaimo Regional Hospital District (NRHD) is pleased to host *Health Forward: Advancing Healthcare in Central and North Vancouver Island*, a regional health summit, on November 13, 2025, at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre. The summit will be an opportunity to bring together leaders from First Nations, the Government of British Columbia, local governments, regional hospital districts, health authorities, community health organizations and other partners. It will offer a forum for fostering positive and collaborative conversation on a wide range of health issues, strengthening partnerships and helping to shape strategies for the future of healthcare in the region. Participants will explore ideas for building a more resilient health system, including continued investment and growth in regional healthcare facilities and services. Summit participation is by invitation.

“The *Health Forward* summit is a pivotal moment for our region. We look forward to fostering meaningful discussions and building the partnerships needed to improve healthcare for residents of Central and North Vancouver Island,” said Janice Perrino, Chair, Nanaimo Regional Hospital District. “This summit is about shaping a shared healthcare vision and taking action together.”

The summit program has been developed in collaboration with the First Nations, health authorities, clinical experts and other partners and includes:

- The changing demographics of Central and North Island and their impact on healthcare systems
- The growing use of artificial intelligence in healthcare
- Innovative community health programs that reduce patient admissions to hospitals
- How investment in healthcare systems and infrastructure energizes economic growth
- Incorporating Indigenous health practices into existing and future health systems
- Reimagining the challenge of physician and specialist recruitment and retention in Central and North Vancouver Island

**About the Nanaimo Regional Hospital District**

The Nanaimo Regional Hospital District provides annual capital funding to Island Health in support of local healthcare facilities under the *Hospital District Act*. It is an independent entity that has its own budget and is governed by a Board of Directors while sharing the same boundaries, directors and administrative staff as the Regional District of Nanaimo. Hospital Districts are required to approve a provisional budget on or before December 31 each year and adopt, by bylaw, an annual budget on or before March 31 each year. More information about the NRHD can be found online at: [rdn.bc.ca/hospital-district](http://rdn.bc.ca/hospital-district).

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