

Nanaimo Regional Hospital District Board Adopts 2026 Budget

The Nanaimo Regional Hospital District (NRHD) adopted a budget with a tax requisition of \$49.5 million for 2026 at its March 24, 2026, board meeting. The 2026 budget includes \$3.5 million for capital equipment and minor projects, \$5.3 million for debt servicing on existing major capital projects and funds to continue to build reserves for the Board's priority projects.

In 2022, the NRHD Board identified five priority capital projects as follows, all of which have progressed.

1. High Acuity Unit at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) - opened to patients in August 2025
2. Nanaimo Cancer Centre at NRGH - construction began in 2025 with completion anticipated in 2028
3. Long-term Care Facility in Lantzville - construction is anticipated to begin in 2026
4. New Patient Tower at NRGH - commitment made by the Province in fall 2024
5. Cardiac Catheterization Lab at NRGH - commitment made by the Province in fall 2024

A new patient tower would include modernized patient rooms, surgical spaces, imaging, labs and administrative areas while supporting more specialized programs. A new cardiac catheterization lab would improve timely diagnosis and reduce the need for Central and North Island patients to travel to Victoria or Vancouver for interventional cardiology procedures.

The Province has accepted the NRHD's offer to pay for the concept plan for the patient tower and cardiac catheterization lab. The NRHD has also offered to pay for the subsequent business plan for these projects and the construction costs of the catheterization lab as a further innovative way to work collaboratively with the Province to advance these projects. The concept plan, business plan and construction are stages of the provincial approval process for major capital projects. This money will come from existing reserves.

To support the NRHD's contributions to these projects, a tax increase of 21 percent in 2026, over 2025, is needed for a contribution of \$46.8 million into reserves. This is \$63.96 per \$100,000 assessed value based on the 2026 BC Assessment Completed Roll. This rate is an estimate based on the 2026 Completed Roll values and may vary from the final rates on the property tax notices as a result of revisions to the roll after the submission deadline for property tax inserts set by the Province. The BC Assessment Completed Roll is a listing of all properties within a municipality or rural area as of December 31 and includes the assessed values and tax classifications of land and improvements. It is used to determine property taxes for the upcoming year by helping to ensure equitable taxation based on market value.

Quote

"The Nanaimo Regional Hospital District is grateful for the Province's support of our region's healthcare and for moving forward with concept planning for a new patient tower and a catheterization lab at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital. This is a crucial step forward in securing better healthcare for residents north of the Malahat. The NRHD is ready, with a robust long-term financial strategy, to partner with the Province on these critical projects." Janice Perrino, NRHD Chair

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About the Nanaimo Regional Hospital District

The Nanaimo Regional Hospital District (NRHD) 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.

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