

NEW HOSPITAL IN CAMPBELL RIVER AND THE COMOX VALLEY OPENING



BUILDING LINKS

CLARICE COTY

Residents of the North Island will be visiting the new hospitals soon as both campuses in Campbell River and Courtenay are set to open in the next few weeks. The 153-bed Comox Valley campus in Courtenay will have an expanded emergency room, surgical care space and University of BC academic teaching space. In Campbell River, the 95-bed campus will include larger single-patient rooms with more private space for patients and their families, a larger emergency department and a bigger maternity ward, with two large birthing rooms to accommodate extended family. The new

hospitals in Campbell River and Courtenay were open to the public for an open house in August and approximately 4,000 people turned out for self-guided tours of the North Island Hospital campuses. There is an excitement about the new hospitals for residents, staff and volunteers.

The \$606.2 million North Island Hospitals Project includes a \$331.7 million, 153-bed Comox Valley Hospital in Courtenay on Lerwick Road near Ryan Road, and a \$274.5 million, 95-bed Campbell River Hospital on the existing hospital site.

Construction of the new hospitals created an estimated 2,200 direct jobs and more than 1,400 indirect jobs over the life of the project. The economic and social benefits of the North Island Hospitals Project extend well beyond job numbers, said NIHP Chief Project Officer **Tom Sparrow**.

He notes the project to date has purchased \$165 million worth of equipment, products and services from a wide range of Island suppliers. The

North Island Hospitals Project has been recognized as one of BC's 'Champions of Apprenticeship' by the Industry Training Authority, which funds skilled trades training in BC. The North Island Hospitals Project won another award for innovation excellence. The project's design builder, **Graham**, won Gold in the 'Builder/General Contractor Commercial over \$500 million' category at the *Constructech Vision* awards in Chicago August 18, 2016. The award is from Chicago-based *Constructech Magazine*, which celebrates the places "where construction and technology converge."

The North Island Hospital's Campbell River campus is projected to open on September 10, 2017 and the Comox Valley campus on October 1, 2017.

Clarice Coty is the editor of Building Links. Contact: clarice@buildinglinks.ca or find Building Links on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BuildingLinks