



Healthy Communities Collaboration Agreement (Agreement) 2016-2019

Central Coast Regional District (CCRD) and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH)

1) Context and Rationale

With the growing level of preventable chronic illness such as diabetes and obesity, both our health care system and our local governments have an interest in reducing these preventable illnesses to improve the quality of life for residents and stop the rise of health care and related costs.

According to a 2009 report from the Canadian Senate, 10% of population health outcomes can be attributed to physical and built environments and an additional 50% is the result of social and economic determinants.

Local government mandates influence supportive social and physical environments in a variety of ways. Through elements such as parks, recreation and related facilities, land use planning, economic development, and grants in aid, local governments impact economic stability, participation and sense of belonging in community, access to recreation and ease of physical activity, and availability and access to nutritious food. All of these factors impact the health and well-being of the population.

In 2010, the Ministry of Health launched Healthy Families BC Communities to promote partnerships between the healthy authorities and the communities within their regions to improve population health. This partnership work focuses on community-level planning, policies and programming, not health care service delivery.

2) Purpose of the Agreement

The purpose of the Agreement is to:

- To formalize a collaborative relationship between VCH and CCRD that achieves mutual objectives for the community's well-being.
- To confirm a model of working together that builds on existing collaborations.
- To identify priority projects and work together towards advancement of healthy communities.

a) Vancouver Coastal Health Context

The Ministry of Health's Healthy Families BC Communities Program (a component of the Healthy Families BC Strategy that was launched in May 2011) acknowledges that healthy



communities make it easier for residents to make healthier choices that help them achieve and maintain their health and well-being.

As part of the Healthy Families BC Communities Program, BC Health Authorities (including VCH) are working with local governments to develop plans to make their community's healthier. This Agreement intends to formalize these areas of work and collaboration, and be an impetus for project-specific and practical actions within the priority areas that are outlined in this Agreement.

b) Central Coast Regional District Context

The CCRD covers an area of 25,000 square km and services approximately 3200 residents, of which over 60% are First Nations. With no municipalities in the region, people primarily reside in the unincorporated communities of Bella Coola, Ocean Falls, Denny Island, Hagensborg, Bella Bella, and Owekeeno. All of these communities fall within the VCH region. This is a group of diverse communities ranging in size from 25-1500, with varied demographics.

The CCRD is unique in the province, as it is the only regional district without a municipality within its borders. The CCRD is currently undergoing a Governance and Service Delivery Diagnostic Analysis Study. The four themes for the study are: Service delivery, organization and cost recovery; Electoral Area governance and structure; Local governance and service relationships; and, Access to infrastructure and other grant funding. The unique governance structure limits the number of opportunities to access provincial and federal funding initiatives that would support healthy community development. The results of this study are expected in December 2016, and will inform the CCRD/VCH partnership.

3) Desired Outputs and Outcomes

Through collaboration on the initiatives outlined in this Agreement, VCH and the CCRD hope to affect the following outcomes:

- a) To build relationship between CCRD and VCH to support the health and wellbeing of communities through planning, policies and programming.
- b) To establish mechanisms to strategically identify priority action areas, tracking progress and celebrating successes.
- c) Improved health outcomes for CCRD residents.

4) Mechanisms for Collaboration

a) Reporting & Meeting Schedule

- i. **Working Group Meetings** – held as necessary for priority initiatives



- ii. **Quarterly Meetings** – held with CCRD and VCH staff for planning and review purposes.
- iii. **Annual Planning Meetings** – key staff from VCH and CCRD will meet annually to outline the key priority projects for the next 12 months. The annual planning meeting is also an opportunity to celebrate the successes, discuss the lessons learned, and confirm (or re-assign) the key contacts within each organization.
- iv. **Updates to Board** – as necessary, VCH and CCRD staff provide updates to CCRD Board on key healthy community initiatives as well as opportunities for future initiatives

b) Key contacts

The role of the key contacts within VCH and CCRD is to be stewards of the Agreement. The Chief Administrative Officer and Community Economic Development Officer are the key contacts in CCRD. The Chief Medical Health Officer and Population Health Policy Consultant are the key contacts in VCH. CCRD and VCH will designate alternates as needed.

- i. Responsibilities of the key contacts include but are not limited to:
 - organizing and coordinating the meetings,
 - informing one another of emerging opportunities,
 - tracking the progress and needs for the ongoing projects,
 - maintaining the profile of the relationship,
 - consulting internally across departments to elicit staff feedback
 - managing communications related to the Agreement.
- ii. Other departments and staff in addition to the key contacts may be involved in and lead the various priority projects.

c) Resources

- i. VCH and CCRD will provide staff resources and time to carry out the annual priority projects, within reasonable expectations and capacity.
- ii. Recognizing the constraints of limited resources and time, the priority projects will be collaboratively selected based on areas of mutual priority, maximum impact, and adherence to the purpose of the Agreement and the stated desired outputs and objectives in the Agreement.

d) Communications

- i. CCRD and VCH may issue external communications related to the project (e.g. press releases, website articles, publications, etc.). The partners agree to provide press releases and other materials to one another prior to release.



- ii. Internal communication between VCH and CCRD shall be directed through the key contacts.

e) Evaluation

- i. CCRD and VCH staff will review the progress of this Agreement at the Annual Planning meeting.

5) Duration of the Agreement

- ii. The Agreement continues for three years and will be re-evaluated at the end of this period.
- iii. CCRD and VCH commit to identifying the priority projects on an annual basis.
- iv. Revision or cancellation of the Agreement can be considered and approved by mutual consent by CCRD and VCH.


6) Priority Areas:

The following have been identified as potential areas for collaboration:

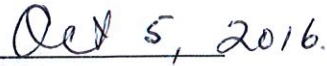
- **Community Planning** – In Fall 2016, the CCRD will apply to the BC Rural Dividend for funding to complete an Official Community Plan for Bella Coola Valley. As a partner, VCH is committed to providing funding and in-kind support to incorporate a health and wellness lens in the development of an OCP. The content of the OCP will provide ongoing guidance to the partnership efforts between the CCRD and VCH.
- **Community Health Information** – establishing an accurate picture of the current health status, health-related behaviours and social determinants of health for the population in the region will be valuable in supporting planning and partnership efforts moving forward. Work will be done to establish a community health profile using the best data available and assessment will be made regarding improved data availability in the future
- **Economic Development** – economic development is a current priority for the CCRD. Recognizing the strong link between income and health outcomes, VCH will work with CCRD where possible to support these efforts
- **Physical Activity** – there are ongoing efforts across the region to encourage increased recreational physical activity through improved and additional fitness programming, recreation trails, as well as increased safe active transportation. Where possible, VCH will work to support these efforts.
- **Healthy Eating** – access to affordable, nutritious foods in the region is an ongoing challenge. There are currently efforts to produce and distribute local food, and work would continue, to consider policies and programs that could improve access in the region.



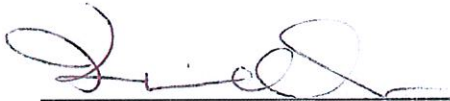
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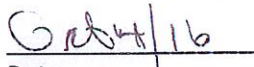
Darla Blake
Chief Administrative Officer
Central Coast Regional District



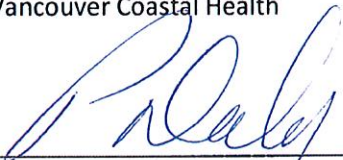
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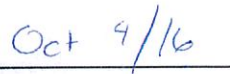
Karin Olson
Chief Operating Officer, Coastal Region
Vancouver Coastal Health



Date



Dr. Patricia Daly
Chief Medical Health Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health



Date