**Reduction in Physician Hours over the Summer**

Dear patients

The Sunshine Coast has lost 20% of the emergency physician work force over the past 6 months, this has adversely impacted our ability to fully staff the emergency department. (Coverage has now been reduced to a single physician on shift resulting in longer wait times.)

Given the ongoing staffing crisis, particularly as we go into the summer, the remaining ER physicians have had to increase their shifts to prevent closure of the ER. This unfortunately will impact Family Practice and in Pender Harbour.

Management and Physicians are meeting regularly with Vancouver Coastal Health to stabilize the work force and we will update patients as the situation changes.

Yours Sincerely

Colin Sutton.