

A non-profit society governed by local volunteers dedicated to the health and wellness needs of our community.

*Local health matters*

## Family physicians and the Pender Harbour Health Centre

We often hear from the community about your need for family physicians at the Pender Harbour Health Centre.

We wanted to use this opportunity to update you on our recruitment efforts, explain how to access our current physician and information around alternative ways to access physician care.

### PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT

The PHHC leadership is actively looking for ways to bring more physicians to the PHHC.

We have been working with the local Division of Family Practice and their Recruitment and Retention Team.

This year, the PHHC leadership have had meetings with three physicians who are interested in coming to practice on the Coast.

The PHHC also has physician job postings on various job boards including Health Match, the new provincial healthcare recruitment website.

Finally, we are also working with the Sunshine Coast Primary Care Network to bring new physicians to the community.

### CURRENT PHYSICIAN ACCESS

As mentioned in last month's edition of the *Harbour Spiel*, we currently have a part-time family physician at the PHHC — Dr. Bazilli.

Dr. Bazilli currently provides a clinic on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and is taking appointments with patients previously connected to Dr. Sutton who remain unattached.

### ALTERNATIVE PHYSICIAN ACCESS

Due to a current lack of physician access at PHHC we would like to make you aware of two other op-

tions to access a physician.

You can connect with a physician daily by using the TELUS Health MyCare App.

Simply download the app and follow the prompts to book an appointment with a practicing physician in BC.

You can also access the walk-in clinic at Cowrie Medical Clinic on Saturdays from 10am – 4pm (604-670-6222).

### GETTING CONNECTED TO THE PENDER HARBOUR HEALTH CENTRE

As we look to bring more physicians to the PHHC, it is important for you to know how we will be connecting new patients to these physicians.

Recently the Ministry of Health launched the Health Connect Registry.

Unattached patients will need to sign up to this online registry and when new physicians are recruited, patients are attached from this new online waitlist.

If you do not have a family doctor, please go to the Health Connect Registry at [www.healthlinkbc.ca](http://www.healthlinkbc.ca) or call 811 and sign up.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

As you have heard, the recruitment of physicians is a challenge province-wide and, on the Coast, we have many folks who are seeking a physician.

One barrier to recruitment is access to housing.

We have already had some community members step forward and offer accommodation, either free or heavily subsidized.

If you have housing options for physicians, we encourage you to connect with the PHHC Executive Director at [nick.gaskin@penderharbourhealth.com](mailto:nick.gaskin@penderharbourhealth.com).