

More Healthcare Beds Now!

A Seniors Voices Comox Valley Advocacy Project

April 2019

More **Healthcare** Beds Now! A Seniors Voices Comox Valley Advocacy Project

We have a hospital over-capacity crisis that will get much worse if nothing is done about the growing shortage of healthcare beds in the Comox Valley

The North Island Comox Valley hospital has operated at over-capacity since it opened on October 1 2017 at 129 beds and increased to 146 beds on August 24 2018

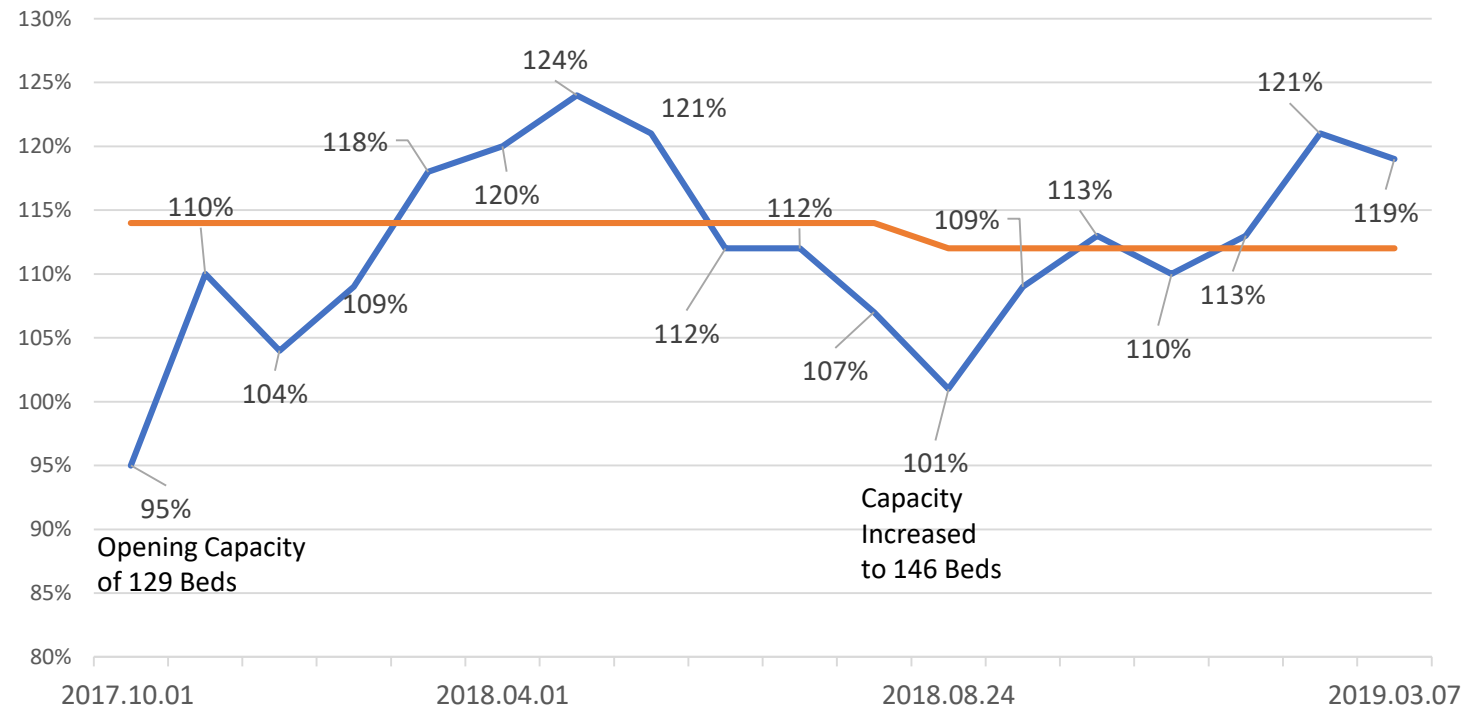
A 95% target operating occupancy level would be expected for a new hospital

Since the increase to 146 beds, the average occupancy rate has been 112% (164 patients)

On January 11 2019, it was 138% (202 patients)

The hospital has a 153 bed 10-year design capacity

Comox Valley Hospital Monthly Average Occupancy Rates as a Percentage of Capacity and Average Monthly Occupancy Rates at 129 and 146 Bed Operating Capacities
October 2017 to March 7 2019



More **Healthcare** Beds Now! A Seniors Voices Comox Valley Advocacy Project

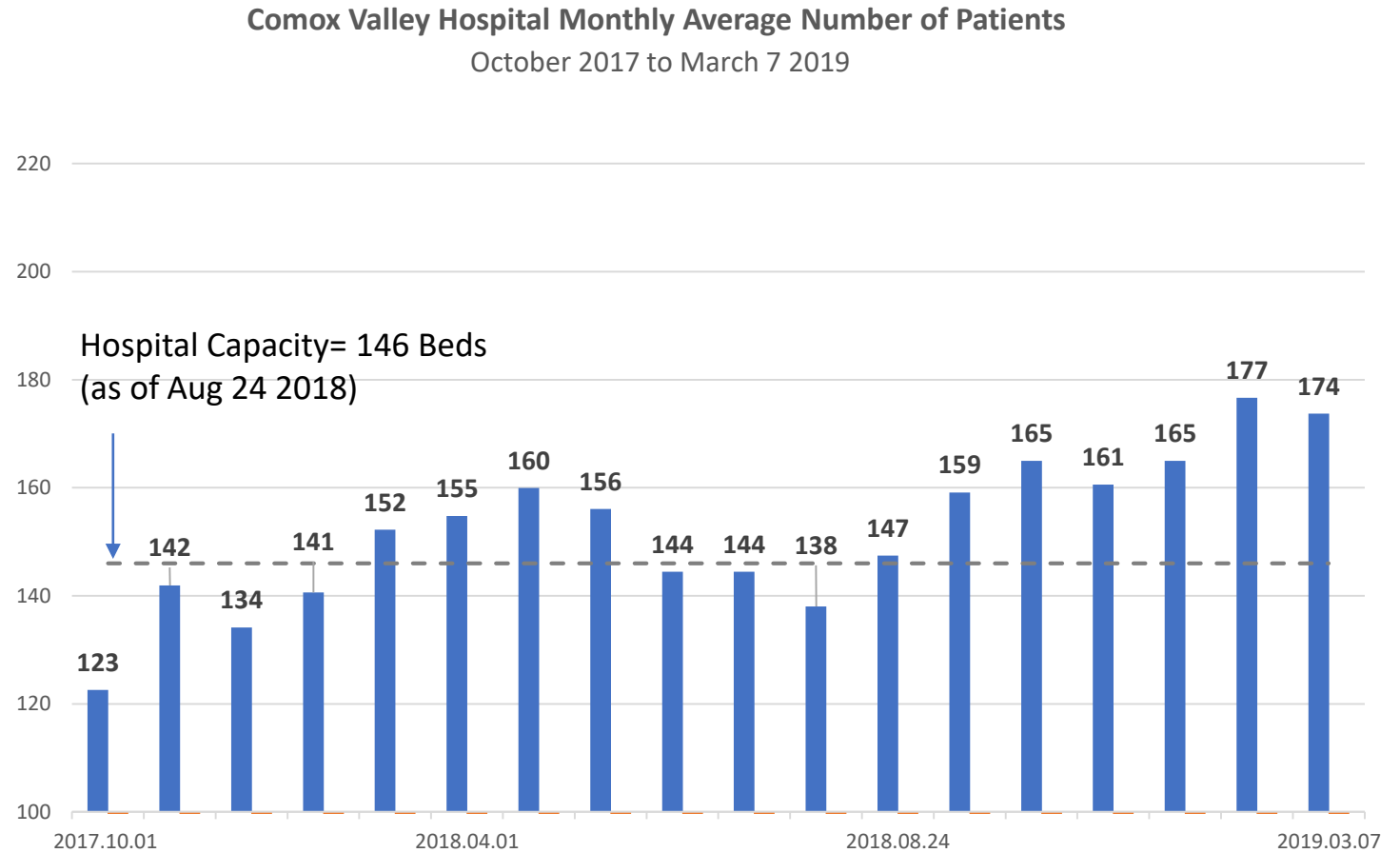
We have a continuously growing, larger than expected number of patients competing for a short supply of hospital beds and hallway hospital care may be becoming an operational norm

On average, the hospital has an 18 patient 'surplus' over capacity

30% of the time, there is a 29 patient surplus and on January 11 2019 there was a 56 patient surplus

The number of patients has continuously grown despite the addition of 21 transition beds at The Views (Sep 25)

Despite the 38 bed system capacity addition that would have resulted in a 92% occupancy rate, the average occupancy rate for the seven months was 112%



More **Healthcare** Beds Now! A Seniors Voices Comox Valley Advocacy Project

Why? A shortage of long-term care beds means too many patients are waiting in hospital for a care bed to become available...

Our community requirement increases by 32 care beds/ year and it is estimated that this adds eight patients/ year waiting in hospital for a care bed (AAP patient)

After the transfer of 21 AAP patients to the new transition beds at The Views, there was an up to 24 AAP patient increase over seven months

For every patient waiting in hospital, at least another three patients are waiting in community (at home) for a care bed

We project that by 2027, Comox Valley will require 349 hospital beds if no more care beds are provided than planned



... and the number of patients waiting in hospital for a care bed is much higher than expected relative to the estimated care bed shortage!

More **Healthcare** Beds Now! A Seniors Voices Comox Valley Advocacy Project

We need to dispel the myth that the opening of the planned new 120 bed long-term residential care facility by 2021 will solve our hospital over-capacity problem ...

The March 2018 RFP for 151 beds was not enough or soon enough

31 of its beds are already included in our total system capacity and the planned new 120 bed facility will not open until 2021

By then, we estimate that our community's care bed requirement will have doubled and at least another 151 beds will be required

Assuming the transfer of patients to the new facility will be from both the hospital and the community at the same ratio that is currently used when care beds become available, the number of hospital patients is expected to be somewhat higher than current levels after the new care facility opens



... it won't, instead we'll have the same or worse hospital over-capacity crisis that we have now! Immediate priority must be placed on adding enough care beds...

More **Healthcare** Beds Now! A Seniors Voices Comox Valley Advocacy Project

Why? The number of 'real' hospital patients is growing at a higher than expected rate ...

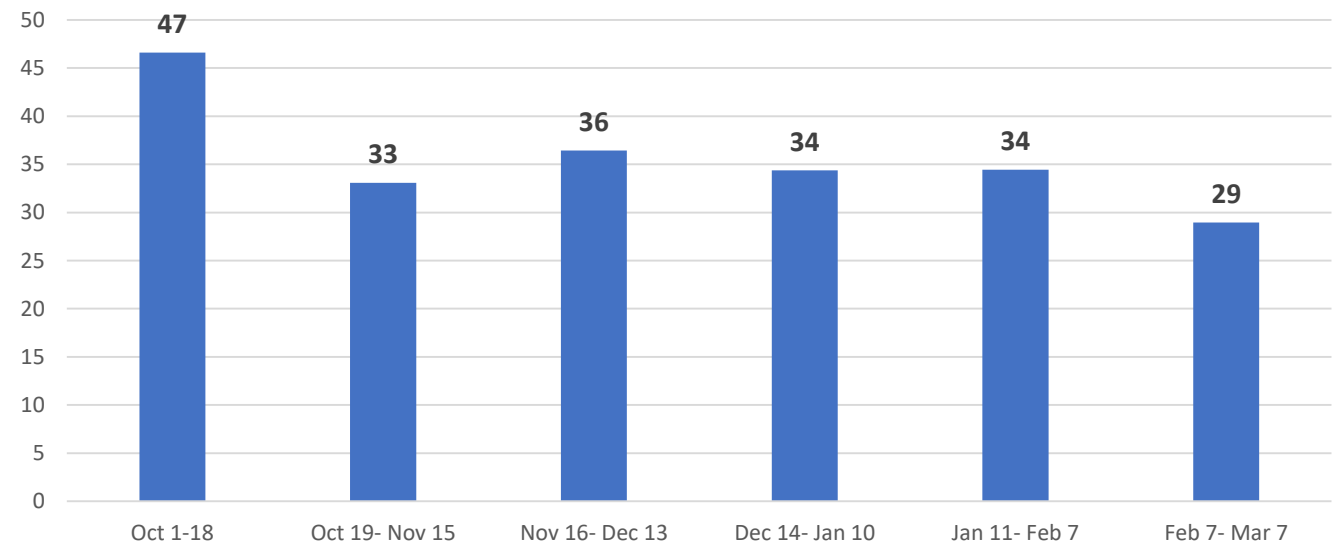
The 'real' (i.e., patients needing hospital care) hospital demand is estimated to increase by four patients/ year based on BC Statistics population estimates

During the past winter, there was an estimated increase of a monthly average of 38 'real' patients over the period

A comparison of the first two 'winter periods' of operations, demonstrates consistent annual increases of monthly averages from 29 to 47 'real' patients

Net patient in-migration may be a factor

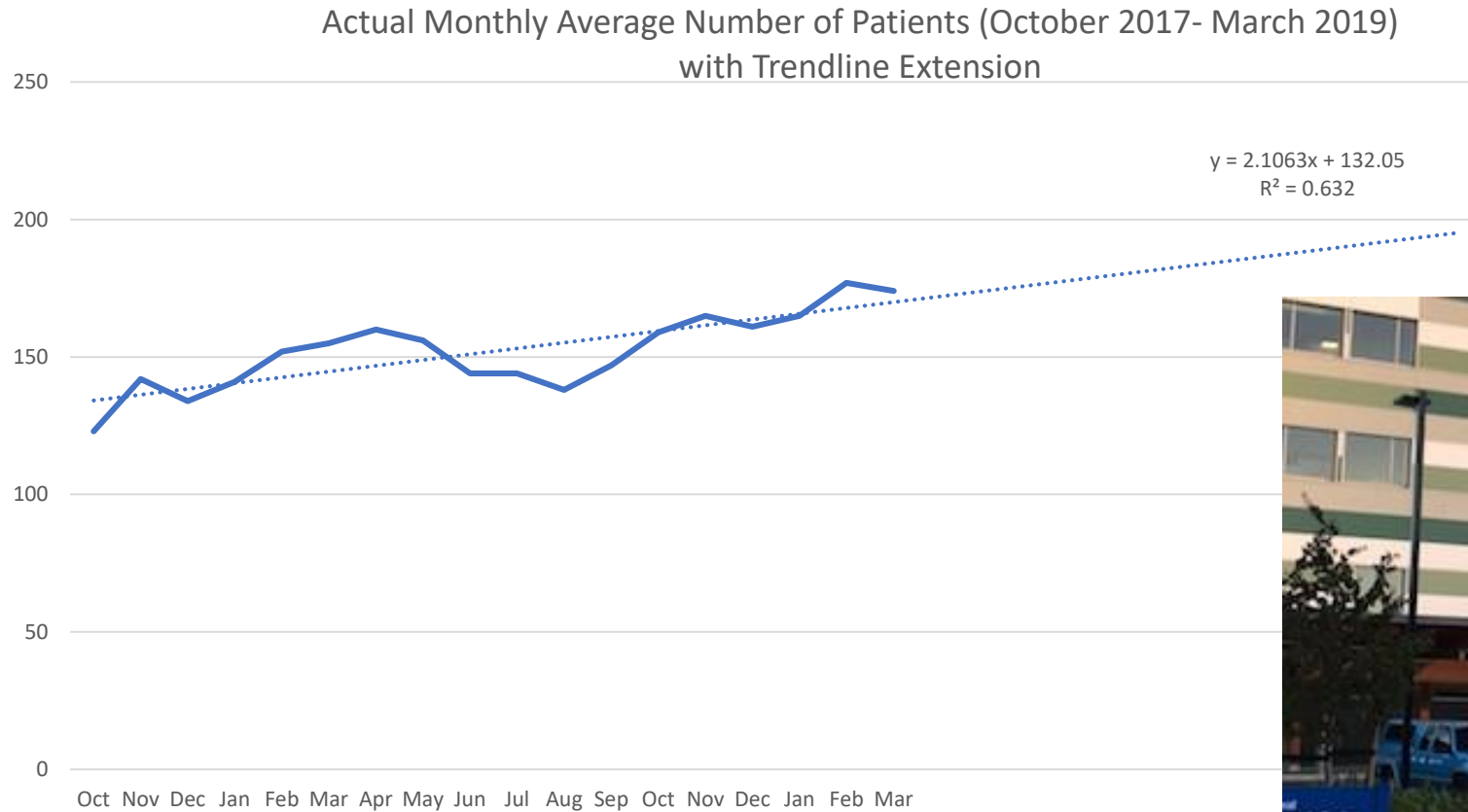
Comox Valley Hospital Comparison of First Two Winter Periods of Operations
Estimated One-Year Increase in Number of Patients Excluding AAP Patients
October 1 2018 to March 7 2019 vs. October 1 2017-March 7 2018



...while the requirement for care beds must take priority, the need for hospital capacity expansion warrants examination

More Healthcare Beds Now! A Seniors Voices Comox Valley Advocacy Project

How Many Beds Do We Need?



More **Healthcare** Beds Now! A Seniors Voices Comox Valley Advocacy Project

Comparative Data for Island Health, comparative hospital occupancy rates demonstrate that North Island Hospital's campuses had the highest occupancy rates in the past fiscal year, with Campbell River the highest and Comox Valley second highest

Reference	Comparative Data	Number of Hospital Beds Required to Meet the Same Level for Comox Valley
Island Health 2018-19 Fiscal Year for All Other Hospitals (i.e., not including North Island Hospital)	103% Occupancy Rate	159 Beds
Planning Target (Island Health)	95% Occupancy Rate	173 Beds
National Average (2017)	2.55 Beds/1000 Population	170 Beds

More **Healthcare** Beds Now! A Seniors Voices Comox Valley Advocacy Project

Demand a Plan Now! Cost should not be a barrier to providing an equitable, adequate standard of healthcare for our community and for our most vulnerable seniors...

Increased community involvement and representation is required in the decision-making process to ensure that the plans are adequate for our requirements and to hold the provincial government accountable

Hospital beds are expensive compared to care beds and the misallocation of healthcare resources for our community is about a \$15 million loss of highest and best use value for the provincial government's investment in terms of patient experience

Our municipal tax payer investment in the new hospital is subsidizing the provincial government as Island Health leverages the existing hospital facility for AAP patients at marginal costs while it saves the fully allocated cost for care beds not provided; the result is a lower standard of hospital care for all patients than appropriate for the community investment made

As a community, we need to challenge any suggestion that more community programs, operational innovation and home care improvements, while positive, are the solution when the problem is fundamentally a serious shortage of healthcare beds

More [Healthcare](#) Beds Now! A Seniors Voices Comox Valley Advocacy Project

Demand a Plan Now! It is already a late start and if past performance is the best indicator of the future, the process could take several years to complete ...

We can no longer wait on the sidelines for normal planning processes to be followed to be informed by Island Health executives about what they plan to do for us

We hope that Island Health is expediting its work on these issues but given the lack of transparent process, we are concerned that they are delaying decisions and perpetuating the effects of past sub-optimal decision-making while our community lives with the consequences

Continued operations at over-capacity levels can be expected to have a negative impact on the quality of the hospital's work environment and employee job satisfaction and morale, and therefore affect its ability to attract and retain qualified talent

As a community, we need to ensure that Island Health provides the healthcare beds and home care support we need

... failure to take immediate action to solve our community's healthcare bed requirements is unconscionable!

More **Healthcare** Beds Now! A Seniors Voices Comox Valley Advocacy Project

Join Our Efforts....

We are a Comox Valley based group of volunteers and associates providing

Grassroots Advocacy for Seniors sharing our experience... making a difference

For sources, methodology, and analysis supporting this presentation, please refer to our research posted under “More Beds Now” on our website: <https://seniorsvoices.ca> , and/or have a look at what we are working on, sign-up to follow us and “Contact Us” to let us know what you think (constructive input very welcome) and how you might want to help...

Together we can contribute toward a quality healthcare experience for all members of our great community and advocate for those who are least able to advocate for themselves