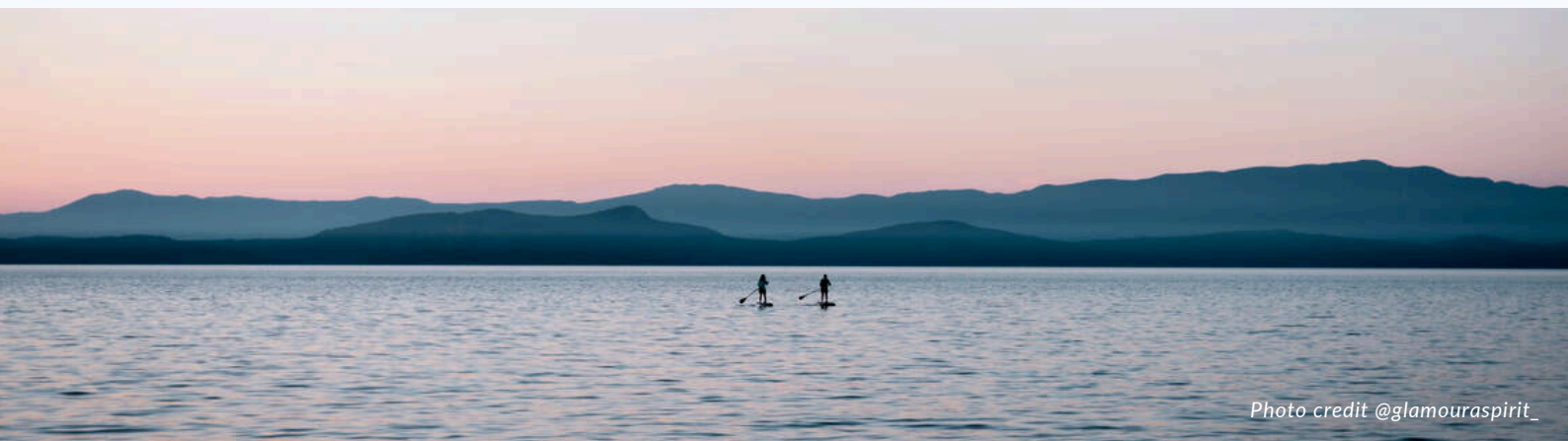


# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



Since 2015, the Practice Ready Assessment - British Columbia program has assessed 363 family physicians in 78 communities across the province.

Island Health is proud to be part of this program and serving our communities across the region.



## Island Health Highlights

**We've supported 51 clinics in 20 communities across Vancouver Island since 2015.**

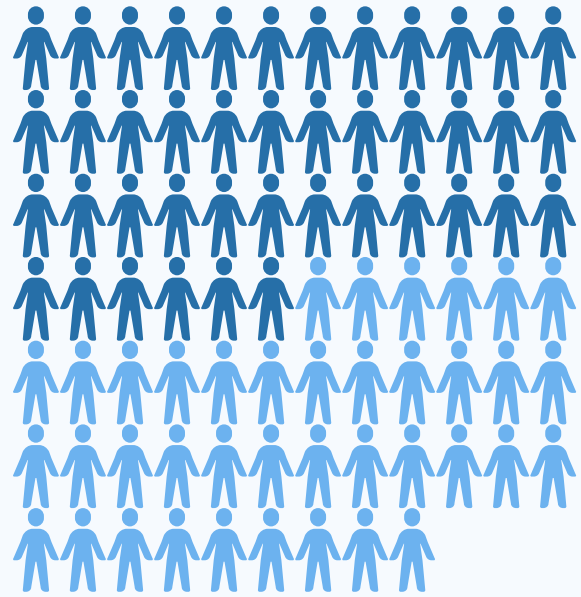
*The PRA-BC program supports communities by offering the fastest way to get more doctors licensed in BC and hosting physicians who have the ability to provide community and acute services in addition to longitudinal family practice.*



# 81

**Full time family physicians have come to Vancouver Island to start their Canadian medical practice through the PRA-BC program.**

*39 physicians are currently completing their three-year ROS placements, with 50% of physicians choosing to stay in the clinics after completion.*



# 200%

**The ministry tripled the number of PRA-BC seats from 32 to 96 per year as of March 2024.**

*And in 2019, the program opened placements to urban clinics.*

# 20

**Placements available for participants annually.**

*The PRA-BC program has evolved in the last ten years. With two intakes each year (Fall and Spring), we provide 10 available placements per intake.*



*Photo credit Jordan Dyck*

# From a candidate to a medical director of PRA-BC

“I entered the PRA-BC program as a candidate. I now work within the program from a leadership and assessment role. This full arc gives me a clear view of what the ROS program does to a clinic and the people it serves.

When I completed my assessment for ROS placement, the clinic I worked in shifted within months. Same day backlog reduced. Follow up care improved. Preventive screening rates increased. Diabetic reviews and chronic disease monitoring became routine instead of delayed. These changes did not happen by chance. They resulted from consistent physician presence and structured integration into the team.

Community impact follows clinic stability. When residents know that a physician remains in place, they stop traveling long distances for care. In the area I worked, non-urgent emergency visits dropped by roughly twenty percent over eighteen months after stable ROS coverage became consistent.

Hosting a ROS physician changes your clinic culture. Initial effort remains real. Orientation takes time, supervision requires structure and feedback demands clarity. Yet, the return outweighs the input. Stability grows, staff engagement improves and patient confidence rises as consistency becomes visible.”

[Dr. Anas Toweir, Port McNeill](#)



## Join Our Team of Assessors!

Since tripling the PRA-BC program, we're in need of assessors/clinics for the 12-week Clinical Field Assessment.



Photo credit The Number Creative

### *Benefits to becoming an assessor*

- *Compensation - assessors who provide the assessment are paid \$1,000/week/candidate*
- *Earn CPD Credits*
- *Partner with PRA-BC physicians dedicated to serving underserved areas*

“ PRA-BC physicians bring extensive international clinical experience, adaptability, and a deep commitment to serving underserved communities. Their learning curve is primarily related to navigating a new health-system context, not clinical competency. With orientation and collegial support, they integrate exceptionally well. ”

Dr. Hadfield, Qualicum Beach

“ If you are looking to add to your team, the PRA program is wonderful. You will get to participate in the CFA which is very rewarding in itself, but beyond that you will be introducing foreign physicians who have proven that they can practice at a Canadian standard. ”

Dr. Tram, Nanaimo

## Join the program!

Connect with Christal Lawson, Medical Staff Recruiter

[christal.lawson@islandhealth.ca](mailto:christal.lawson@islandhealth.ca)

[www.medicalstaff.islandhealth.ca](http://www.medicalstaff.islandhealth.ca)