

Celebrating National Physicians Day in Canada on May 1st

“ May 1st marks National Physicians’ Day and there’s never been a more important time to recognize the medical profession. May 1st was chosen in honour of the birthday of the first woman to practice medicine in Canada and a founder of Canada’s women’s movement, Dr. Emily Stowe.

Given our shared challenges with the response to COVID-19, it is important that we take time for reflection, recognition, and gratitude.

For more than a year, medical staff working with Island Health have focused their energies on preventing and managing the spread of COVID-19 and keeping people safe in our communities. At the same time, medical staff have been working with teams to expand services in areas ranging from improving access to surgery, to expanding options for primary care, and delivering care to highly vulnerable populations. Managing the provision of high-quality care while also helping to lead our response to COVID-19 has stretched medical staff to their limit as this pandemic continues into the third-wave.

On behalf of Island Health, I’d like to send my sincerest thanks and gratitude to the medical staff working with Island Health. Your dedication and commitment to high-quality care for the people we serve is seen, felt and remembered during this unprecedented period of activity and challenge. Medical staff hold a great privilege of trust in our communities, and your service, leadership and example is needed more than ever. To all the medical staff working with Island Health, thank you, we celebrate your perseverance and commitment to care. ”

- Dr. Ben Williams Vice President of Medicine and Quality,
and Chief Medical Executive

“ To all of the Family Physicians who work with Island Health in so many different capacities, thank you. Thank you for rising to the occasion with really everything COVID -19. Thank you for pivoting so quickly to virtual care in your offices, creating local solutions to seeing patients who needed physical exams like CAPE clinics and other made in the community solutions – thanks for COVID questionnaire positive Assessment sites, hospital ED conversions to makethem COVID safe, COVID wards, participating in leaders forums and COVID task groups. Thank you for contributing in so many different ways to continue giving care to all regular patients and then on top of that COVID patients, helping with Vaccinations etc... It was and is overwhelming. ”

- Dr. William Cunningham
Department Head, Primary Care

THANK YOU TO THE
PHYSICIANS’
FROM ALL OF US AT

