



SACRED SPACES & GATHERING PLACES

in
VANCOUVER
COASTAL HEALTH

as provided by



Hy'Chka

We recognize that our places of work and the Vancouver Coastal Facilities lie on the traditional homelands of the fourteen First Nation communities of Heiltsuk, Kitasoo-Xai'xais, Lilwat, Musqueam, N'Quatqua, Nuxalk, Samahquam, Sechelt, Skatin, Squamish, Tla'amin, Tsleil-Waututh, Wuikinuxv, and Xa'xtsa.

Vancouver Coastal Health recognizes the importance for many Aboriginal people to gather around loved ones in times of illness, healing and while receiving care. Comfortable spaces are provided within each facility and where possible spaces are also available for spiritual and cultural healing practices.

This booklet outlines the sacred spaces and places for Aboriginal patients and their families to gather while accessing services in Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). Sacred spaces and gathering places are listed for each VCH facility.

Aboriginal Patient Navigators work with staff to ensure that First Nations and Aboriginal people have access to high quality, culturally appropriate care. They are available from 8:30 - 4:30 Monday to Friday at info.aboriginalhealth@vch.ca or toll-free: 1 (877) 875-1131.

Some sites also have a Spiritual Care Practitioner. Contact for them can be found on the VCH website www.vch.ca/your-care/cultural-spiritual-services/spiritual-care-multifaith-services

SMUDGING AND BURNING OF MEDICINES

The burning of medicines is permitted at all VCH facilities. Health and safety concerns may limit where at each site smudging and burning of medicines may be permitted. Staff can help find a location that meets patient and family needs.



CENTRAL COAST

BELLA BELLA

RW LARGE HOSPITAL AND CLINIC

- The palliative room is spacious and has windows overlooking the ocean and Lama Pass.
- A family room is available next door to accommodate larger gatherings of families with lounge chairs and space for refreshments to be laid out. Families can bring in food.
- The morgue is available to family members upon the death of a patient and can be used as a sacred space to prepare the body as well as for necessary prayers and ceremony. It is spacious enough to accommodate larger gatherings of people and has benches for seating.

BELLA COOLA

BELLA COOLA GENERAL HOSPITAL

- There is seating available outside the palliative care room to accommodate visitors.



NORTH SHORE

NORTH VANCOUVER

LIONS GATE HOSPITAL (LGH)

LGH - Main Hospital

- On most floors there is space available for family members to sit and relax. The space opens onto a balcony so patients and visitors can access fresh air.
- There is a family waiting room on the main floor that seats 15-20 people.
- LGH patients, families, and friends can also access the Sacred Space located at the HOpe Centre.



LGH - HOpe Centre

- The sacred space is located on the main level of the HOpe Centre. The space incorporates elements of water, cedar, stone and earth to reflect a Coast Salish Longhouse. This space is open to Lions Gate Hospital patients and families. The room can be used for prayer, meditation, and spiritual ceremonies including drumming, smudging and ceremonial use of medicines. This space can accommodate approximately 35 people. For safety and to ensure patients are not disrupted during private ceremonies or gatherings, it is required that staff inform the HOpe Centre Librarian, the Chaplain, or security when a patient or family intend to use the sacred space. Security should be informed if the users intend to burn medicines.



SEA TO SKY

PEMBERTON

PEMBERTON HEALTH CENTRE

- There is limited space available for family members to gather. However, in some circumstances staff may provide office space to families and visitors of palliative clients to gather.

WHISTLER

WHISTLER HEALTH CARE CENTRE

- A quiet room with a sofa and TV is available upon request. The room seats about five and is located near radiology.



SQUAMISH

SQUAMISH GENERAL HOSPITAL

- There is limited space available for family members to gather. However, when possible the staff will work to accommodate the needs of the patient, family, and community to come together, eat, and sleep nearby as a family member passes.

HILLTOP HOUSE

- Patients each have a private room – family members are able to stay with them at any time. The rooms can seat about five to six people.
- There are two large activity rooms that families are allowed to use when not in use by patient programming. Requests for this space can be made through the Activity Department. The rooms can hold approximately 30 people. There are kettles and stoves if visitors want to prepare food or hot drinks.
- Members of Squamish and Lil'wat Nations come monthly and host a luncheon and drumming circle.



SUNSHINE COAST

SECHELT

SECHELT/SHÍSHÁLH HOSPITAL (formerly St. Mary's Hospital)

- There are family rooms on both floors of the acute care hospital for families to gather. These rooms can accommodate at least ten people.
- There are three welcoming poles outside the emergency room entrance.

SHORNCLIFFE CARE HOME

- Patients each have a private room – family members are able to stay with them at any time. The private rooms can seat three to four people at a time.
- There is a family room near the two palliative care rooms. There is a double pull out bed in each of the two palliative rooms. Sofas can accommodate a few other visitors wishing to stay overnight. The family room has a kitchenette and a



living room. Families are welcome to stay here when a family member is receiving end of life care. The family room opens out to an outdoor gazebo with patio seating.

- Family members can also use the gazebo for outdoor gatherings.

TOTEM LODGE

- The Rose Room is available for family members to gather. The room is quite small and can only seat about three people.
- There is a small fold out cot that can accommodate a single overnight visitor.

POWELL RIVER

POWELL RIVER GENERAL HOSPITAL

- A conference room may be available upon request for families to gather.

WILLINGDON CREEK

- Patients in residential care each have a private room – family members are able to stay with them at any time. The private rooms can seat three to four people at a time.
- There is also a large multi-purpose room that can be used for family functions.

EVERGREEN EXTENDED CARE

- There is a dedicated gathering space for families whose loved one is passing.



VANCOUVER/RICHMOND

VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL (VGH)

VGH - Main Hospital

- There is a multi-faith sacred space room in the Centennial Pavilion (ground floor) available for prayer, meditation, and ceremony. The room is set up with fans for smudging or burning of medicines. This space is available at any time for ceremony, prayer, and quiet reflection. Signs on the door indicate whether the room is in use. This space holds approximately 20-30 people.
- All units in the Centennial Pavilion have spaces that can be accessed for family. Rooms vary in size but can generally accommodate between five and ten people. Unit staff can assist in accessing the correct room.



- An outdoor patio is open to patients and families on the fourth Floor. There are benches for sitting and some green space.
- The CIBC Centre for Patients and Family is located at the Jim Pattison Pavilion main entrance. The centre has computers, internet, printing, faxing, and phones that can be used by patients and families. The Jim Pattison Pavilion also has comfortable seating, a small café and a staffed information desk. The centre is open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (closed for lunch 12:30-1:30)
- Most floors in the Jim Pattison Pavilion have small family rooms (seats approximately five to ten).
- The High-Acuity Unit (BPHAU) has a larger family room which includes space and equipment for making tea/coffee and for heating food. This room can accommodate about 20 visitors and has access to an outdoor space.



- There are also several green spaces that are accessible to patients and visitors:
 - 12th & Willow (directly across the street from Centennial Pavilion): Includes a water feature and trees, plants, grass. There is limited seating available.
 - 12th & Heather (beside Banfield Pavilion): park setting with trees, grass, benches.
 - 10th & Heather (across from the Cancer Research Center): park setting with trees, grass, benches.

VGH - Blusson Spinal Cord Clinic

- There is a small outdoor seating area with some benches and landscaping on West 10th. This area can seat approximately five people.



VGH - GF Strong

- The Library and Prayer Room (room 197) is open to patients and visitors from 8:00am-10:00pm seven days a week. This space can be used for quiet reading, reflection, and prayer. Staff can reserve the room for private ceremonies and may be able to assist in coordinating an appropriate time. The space can accommodate five to eight people.
- Open foyer on the main floor has comfortable seating.
- The cafeteria is large with plenty of seating room in the dining area.
- Each floor is equipped with its own dining area where families can gather. Groups of 10-15 can gather here.
- Meeting rooms can also be booked by patients and families through the Social Worker or Unit Manager where the patient is receiving care.
- There are several open air spaces that are accessible to patients and visitors:



- Large uncovered outdoor picnic area with wheelchair accessible picnic tables and surrounding gardens can be found on the north side of the building.
- Landscaped lawn with tree cover and paved pathways is located on the south-east side of the building.
- Braemar Park is located on the east side of the building.
- There are two enclosed patios on each floor located on either end of the hall. Smudging and burning of medicines is permitted on these patios – please coordinate with the social worker for support. This space can accommodate approximately 10 people.



UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (UBC) HOSPITAL

- The main hospital, Koerner Pavilion, has a comfortable seating area when you first walk through the doors. Seating accommodates approximately 20 people.
- There is a sacred space as well as Spiritual Care and Multi-Faith Room in the Purdy Pavilion, not far from the main building. Once in the Purdy Pavilion, signage directs you to these spaces. The sacred space has windows that look out over a tree. The sacred space seats about 10 people. Both rooms are open to patients and visitors.
- There is also a casual gathering area with comfortable seats and a piano in the Purdy Pavilion. This space comfortably seats 10-15 people.



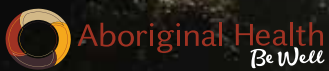
RICHMOND

RICHMOND GENERAL HOSPITAL

Richmond General Hospital (RGH) is organized into four zones: Green, Yellow, Red, and Blue. There are various gathering areas inside the main entrance and in the Yellow, Red, and Blue zones.

- An open-air gathering space with comfortable chairs in the foyer is located inside the main entrance doors. There are a Starbucks coffee, the Patient Information Desk, artists' table, and gift store circling the foyer. Seats approximately 20 people.
- The atrium lounge is available to families. It has comfortable chairs and a television. There is a courtesy phone here [Yellow Zone]. Seating can accommodate 15-20 people.
- An all-faiths quiet room is located within the atrium lounge at the back. It is open from 7am-7pm, but can be accessed after hours by calling the number provided on the door to the room. This room is dedicated for prayer and spiritual reflection. [Yellow Zone]. This is a small space and can only accommodate about 10 people at one time.

- There is a family seating area for the emergency department (ED). It can be accessed by walking down the hall through the Red Zone. This area is separate from the ED waiting room and is much quieter. This area can seat about 10 people.
- There are also several meeting rooms located in the Blue Zone that can be booked for families and patients. Contact your RGH social worker for help booking a room.
- The outside of RGH has a number of landscaped seating areas. The outdoor areas vary in size seating anywhere from five to 15 people. In addition, Minoru Park can be accessed from the south and east sides of the hospital along the paved paths leading between RGH and Minoru Park. Minoru Park has paved walkways around duck ponds and through gardens. It is wheelchair and mobility aid accessible. A small chapel is also located on the park grounds.



www.vch.ca/your-care/aboriginal-health



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