

Letter - Suite for nursing staff

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In last week's Driftwood, a letter appeared regarding furnishing of the space on the top floor of the Kings Lane Medical Clinic for "visiting VIHA personnel."

I would like to clarify that everyone who works at Lady Minto Hospital is "VIHA personnel," and this space is used by off-island nursing staff who travel to Salt Spring to work at the hospital.

There has been significant publicity in recent years about the national shortage of nurses, and for a variety of reasons, many nurses are unable to move to Salt Spring. These issues include family commitments elsewhere, the high cost of housing, and the desire to remain flexible and work in several different places. Daily commuting back and forth is not an easy option due to their 12-hour shifts.

Last year, both the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation and the auxiliary joined together to purchase furniture, dishes and linens to make the top floor of the Kings Lane Medical Clinic a comfortable suite for nurses who do not live on Salt Spring to stay overnight before and after their shifts. This location is within walking distance to the hospital and has been invaluable in our efforts to recruit and retain casual staff.

The writer refers to money "for what is an obviously VIHA expense." However, the history of hospitals across the country is filled with examples of ways in which service clubs and foundations contribute to support health care. At Lady Minto, we feel blessed to have the strong support of a vibrant auxiliary and foundation who help us in so many ways to make sure our hospital can help all of us when we need medical attention.

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