

DRIFTWOOD

Letter - VIHA is less than honest

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We are writing in response to the ad on Page 16 of the Perfect Balance insert in the Gulf Islands Driftwood of Jan. 27. In it the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation asks for donations from the community for equipment for that hospital's newly renovated operating room.

Seven years ago the residents of Salt Spring responded to a similar request when there was a fundraising drive that saw hundreds of thousands of dollars contributed to renovating and equipping the operating room of our Lady Minto Hospital. Since then our surgery has been closed and newly purchased items — including the operating table and sterilizing equipment — have been relocated to off-island facilities.

Our community feels that VIHA has been less than honest in its dealings with us. Firstly, furnishings for such major institutions as hospitals should be paid for with money from our provincial taxes and not by community donations. And secondly, when large sums of money are raised for specific community-based projects, we feel those purchases should forever remain in that community.

We would like to forewarn the inhabitants of the Saanich Peninsula and all other Gulf Islands, and urge them to think about what they are being asked to do and to proceed with caution.

Jill Willmott,

for the Salt Spring Island Raging Grannies