



Cowichan Valley Division of Family Practice

A GPSC initiative

NEWS RELEASE

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Cowichan Maternity Clinic: 1 year anniversary

Duncan, BC – The Cowichan Maternity Clinic is celebrating a successful first year of service for mothers and families in the Cowichan Valley. Since opening its doors in March of 2011, the clinic has provided care for 539 mothers and babies and delivered over 287 babies. The clinic has also found family physicians for 118 patients who previously did not have one.

The clinic, conveniently located in the Cowichan District Hospital, continues to provide maternity care and immediate post-natal care for pregnant women in the Cowichan region by providing convenient access to other hospital services such as labs and ultrasounds, coordination of public health services, breastfeeding support, pregnancy and parenting related discussion sessions, and opportunities to meet and connect with other expectant parents.

“We have worked hard over the past year to provide seamless care to women and their families from early pregnancy to postpartum. By providing walk in appointments, nursing support, food, assistance with transportation and linkages to other health providers we have been able to better assist our patients who face challenges in their pregnancies and were at risk of falling through the cracks in the medical system,” said Dr. Maggie Watt, physician lead at Cowichan Maternity Clinic and board member of the Cowichan Valley Division of Family Practice.

One of the goals of the clinic is to close the care gap faced by First Nations women, who comprise 30% of the deliveries in Cowichan Valley, and who face unique cultural, socioeconomic and medical needs during pregnancy. Aboriginal Success by 6 is an early childhood development initiative that works with Aboriginal communities to enhance the lives of young Aboriginal children and is a proud supporter of the Cowichan Valley Maternity Clinic.

“Moms and families have really benefited from this direct service. We know that food can be a huge barrier for expecting moms and their children. Through the clinic, these moms are able to access healthy foods for themselves and for their baby. In partnership we are making a difference,” said Ada Mawson, Director of Aboriginal Success by 6.

The Cowichan Maternity Clinic is an initiative of the Cowichan Valley Division of Family Practice, a group of local physicians working together to achieve common health care goals. One of the goals of the Division and the clinic is to improve primary care opportunities for women in the community who have limited or no access to primary maternity care providers.

“The success of the clinic would not have been possible without the support of the Division. The Cowichan Valley Division of Family Practice has provided essential operational funding,

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administrative support, and access to high level decision makers in the BCMA, VIHA and the Ministry of Health that has allowed this exciting project to become a reality,” said Dr. Watt.

Learn More:

For more information on the Cowichan Maternity Clinic, visit: www.cowichanmaternityclinic.ca

For more information on Divisions of Family Practice, visit: www.divisionsbc.ca

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