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For Immediate Release

### **NEW RESIDENTIAL CARE BEDS COMING TO CAMPELL RIVER**

Campbell River – Seniors on Northern Vancouver Island will have improved access to residential care services in their community when a new 80-bed care facility opens in July 2008.

New Horizons, a private operator in partnership with Central Care Corporation, have been awarded a contract to build and operate the new facility, which will provide 80 publicly funded residential care beds. The facility will be located at 1449 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Campbell River. This location is near the Ironwood assisted living development.

“This is great news for residents of Campbell River and the North Island,” said Health Minister George Abbott. “These new beds will go towards fulfilling our province’s commitment to develop 5,000 beds and units for seniors by 2008 – services that will support and encourage independence while also providing more intensive care as peoples’ health care needs change.”

The New Horizons development is the first successful bid to be announced as part of a Request For Proposal issued by the Vancouver Island Health Authority in February. The RFP sought proposals from not-for-profit and private operators to build and operate 1,230 residential care beds and assisted living spaces throughout the health authority. This included approximately 930 additional net new beds and spaces as well as flexibility for approximately 300 replacement beds in the future.

“VIHA is committed to developing and enhancing services that support our growing and aging population,” said Mike Conroy, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Vancouver Island Health Authority. “This contract award is the first of series of projects that will significantly increase our residential care and assisted living capacity, which will improve access to services for seniors and help reduce pressures on our emergency departments.”

VIHA received approximately 50 submissions to the RFP. The health authority continues to evaluate proposals and conduct discussions with potential developers in Greater Victoria, Sooke, Cowichan/Duncan, Nanaimo, Parksville/Qualicum, Port Alberni and Comox/Courtenay.

Announcement regarding future developments and successful bidders in these communities will be made as contracts are finalized and signed.

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