



## PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

### HEALTH CARE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

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**LOCATION** Peace River Regional District Office, Dawson Creek, BC

#### ATTENDANCE

##### Directors

Chair Rose, Electoral Area 'E'  
Vice-Chair Ackerman, City of Fort St. John (*via zoom*)  
Director Sperling, Electoral Area 'C'  
Director Bumstead, City of Dawson Creek  
Director Bertrand District of Tumbler Ridge (*via zoom*)

##### Absent:

Director Heiberg, District of Hudson's Hope

##### Others

Shannon Anderson, Northern Health (*via zoom*)

##### Staff

Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer  
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer  
Trevor Ouellette, IT Manager  
Tab Young, Deputy Corporate Officer and Recorder

##### Delegations

Angela DeSmit, Northern Health (*via zoom*)  
Lindsey Borek, Northern Lights College Foundation  
Nicole Dahlen, Northern Lights College (*via zoom*)

**1. CALL TO ORDER** The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

#### 2. DIRECTORS' NOTICE OF NEW BUSINESS

#### 3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3.1

Adoption of Agenda

MOVED Director Bumstead, SECONDED Director Sperling

That the Health Care Scholarship Committee adopt the April 13, 2022 Meeting Agenda:

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Directors' Notice of New Business**

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

**4. Gallery Comments or Questions**

**5. Adoption of Minutes**

5.1 Health Care Scholarship Committee Draft Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2022

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**7. Delegations**

7.1 Angela DeSmit, Northern Health in attendance re - MOU & Annual Scholarship Update. 7.2 Lindsey Borek, Northern Lights College Foundation and Nicole Dahlen, Northern Lights College - in attendance re: MOU, Health Care Assistant and Health Sciences Vocational Program Update.

(Continued on next page)



Adoption of Agenda (Cont'd)

**8. Correspondence**

**9. Reports**

9.1 PRRD/Northern Lights College Foundation – MOU re: Health Care Assistant Scholarship, FN-HCSC-006 (Deferred from the October 8, 2021 HCSC Meeting).

**10. New Business**

**11. Diary**

11.1 Diary Items

**12. Item(s) for Information**

12.1 Health Care Scholarship Committee ToR

12.2 Health Care Scholarship Programs Summary Matrix

12.3 Northern Health 2021 Renewal MOU – For Reference

**13. Adjournment**

**CARRIED**

**4. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS**

**5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

5.1

Jan. 28/22 HCSC Minutes

MOVED Director Sperling, SECONDED Director Bumstead,

That the Health Care Scholarship Committee adopt the Minutes of the January 28, 2022 Health Care Scholarship Committee Meeting.

**CARRIED**

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**7. DELEGATIONS**

7.1

HCSC Program Annual Update

The Health Care Scholarship Committee received an update from Angela DeSmit, NE Chief Operating Officer regarding the Health Care Scholarship Program that included the following:

- Number of scholarships awarded for each stream;
- Number of Return of Service (ROS) agreements entered into with NHA;
- Number of recipients that did not fulfill the ROS agreement with NHA; and
- The total amount of annual funding utilized of the financial contribution.

A question and answer period ensued. A summary of the discussions are as follows:

- Recipients sometimes move out of Province to obtain higher paid employment in a medical field once the ROS is complete, and the need for a system in place to keep track beyond the Return of Service.
- Consideration of Scholarship criteria improvements:
  - The Northern Nursing Baccalaureate Program – add criteria to the Scholarship Matrix.
  - Supporting diverse programs to recruit health professionals.
  - Review the Part I and Part II criteria.

HCSC Program Annual Update  
(Cont'd)

MOVED Director Ackerman, SECONDED Director Sperling,  
The Health Care Scholarship Committee recommends that the Regional Board authorize that the Scholarship Matrix for the RN/RPN scholarship stream be amended to allow students who are enrolled in the Northern Baccalaureate Nursing Program to apply for a scholarship.

**CARRIED**

MOVED Director Ackerman, SECONDED Director Sperling  
That the Health Care Scholarship Committee recommend that the Regional Board authorize creation of a scholarship policy that is flexible enough for Northern Health to award scholarships that enhance their ability to be competitive when recruiting Health Care Professionals.

**CARRIED**

In response to the Director's discussion regarding competitive recruitment, Ms. DeSmit noted that Northern Health would be willing to come back to a future meeting to provide the Directors with an update on recruitment and retention strategies within Northern Health and the North East region and provide data on the return of service program.

MOVED Director Sperling, SECONDED Director Ackerman  
That the Health Care Scholarship Committee recommend that the Regional Board authorize Northern Health to attend a future Committee of the Whole meeting to present the PRRD with a progress report that includes data on the return of service program and recruitment strategies within Northern Health and the North East region.

**CARRIED**

7.2  
NLC Foundation and NLC –  
MOU and Health Care  
Assistant and Health Sciences  
Vocational Program Update

The Health Care Scholarship Committee invited Northern Lights College Foundation representative Lindsey Borek and Northern Lights College staff, Nicole Dahlen to enter into a discussion with the committee members and Northern Health to discuss the outstanding Memorandum of Understanding with the Northern Lights College Foundation regarding the funds administered for the Health Care Assistant Scholarship stream.

Discussion points included:

- Five Year agreement with the Northern Lights College Foundation since 2017 to administer 20,000 for the Health Care Assistant Stream.
- Criteria Limitation - live in the Region for 2.5 years.
- Health Care Assistant (HCA) Program - Growth of the program in the last few years, including a Partnership Pathway program with the Ministry which fully funds HCA students,
- Potential for a 2 year return of service agreement in lieu of the 2.5 year PRRD residency as a condition of eligibility – which currently limits the number of eligible students for the PRRD scholarship.
- NLC is working on a new program proposed for a start date of February 2023, funded by the Ministry - a bridge between the Health Care Assistant Program and the Practical Nurse program.



NLC Foundation and NLC –  
MOU and Health Care  
Assistant and Health Sciences  
Vocational Program Update  
(Cont'd)

In response to a question regarding utilizing all of the Scholarship Funds, Ms. Borek noted that the stats from 2017-2021 indicate that the scholarship program is undersubscribed, explaining contributing factors such as the Partnership Pathway program funding students, requirement for residency prior to entering the program, and the funding being available only post graduation rather than while studying.

Ms. DeSmit advised that while she did not have statistics, the majority of HCA program students graduating from NLC are immediately employed with Northern Health.

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

### 9. REPORTS

#### 9.1

PRRD/NLC College Foundation  
– MOU re: Health Care  
Assistant Scholarship

MOVED Director Bumstead, SECONDED Director Sperling

That the Health Care Scholarship recommend that the Regional Board authorize staff to work with the Northern Lights College Foundation and Northern Health to amend the Memorandum of Understanding with the Northern Lights College Foundation to allow flexibility in the criteria for the Health Care Assistant and the Licensed Practical Nursing Program.

**CARRIED**

In response to the Directors discussion on undersubscribed scholarships, Ms. Dahlen noted that the Partnership Pathway program funding is granted up to 2024, noting that it is not guaranteed for long term. Ms. Borek also noted that adding flexibility into the MOU would allow the NLC College Foundation the ability to award scholarships to those students who currently do not fit the scholarship criteria, bringing up the subscription statistics.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

### 11. DIARY

#### 11.1

Diary Items

No change to the Diary.

### 12. ITEM(S) FOR INFORMATION

#### 13.1 Terms of Reference

The Committee's Terms of Reference was included for information.

#### 13.2 HCS Programs Matrix

The Matrix of available scholarships was included for information.

### 14. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.