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Province of
British Columbia



Hon. Mike Bernier, MLA
Shadow Minister for Forests

Peace River Regional District

Thank you, Directors, for considering this request.

I have been meeting with local Physicians who are working diligently to ensure that we have the supports in the South Peace to meet the health needs of our communities.

The South Peace is trying to create a “Division of Practice”, and the way I understand it, this would allow the Hospital Chief of Staff, in partnership with other medical professionals around the region in other health facilities to have more local decision-making and have access to a separate level of funding as a group. This would help them locally to determine some of the resources they can share in the South Peace allowing opportunities for some patients to stay in either Chetwynd or Tumbler Ridge more often rather than being transferred to the larger hospital in Dawson Creek, which in turn could free up beds for others. Since 2018, the South Peace has been a “self-organizing group” which does not allow them access to specific Northern Health funds for local decision-making, whereas a division of practice being set up, would be similar to what has been approved in Fort St. John. We do have primary care unit planning but with this change that is being asked for, there is a feeling this could also go a long way in helping recruit more physicians to the area.

I have confirmed that Northern Health supports this initiative, but the College of Physicians and Ministry of Health have yet to approve the request after 5 years of being asked.

Since this is something that could benefit all our communities in the Region, I am hoping that you will join me in the request to create a Division of Practice in the South Peace, by sending a letter of support to my office so that I can add to my ask of the Provincial Government for consideration. We have Physicians in all our communities that support this, and here is our chance to support them.

Thank you for considering this request for a support letter.

Yours in health,



Mike Bernier, MLA – Peace River South
Shadow Minister for Forests