



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: FN-BRD-023

From: Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer

Date: September 22, 2020

Subject: July 2, 2020 Health Care Scholarship Committee Meeting Recommendation

The following recommendation from the July 2, 2020 Health Care Scholarship Committee meeting is presented to the Regional Board for its consideration:

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Weighted]

That the Regional Board enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Northern Health Authority, for a one (1) year term - with eligibility for renewal for up to four (4) additional one (1) year terms, for a total annual contribution amount of \$55,000 for the following PRRD Health Care Scholarships:

1. RN/RPN Return of Service Scholarship
2. Licensed Practical Nurse Scholarship
3. Technical Career Professional Development Scholarship
4. RN/RPN Professional Development Scholarship

Further, that the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the MOU on behalf of the PRRD.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

This MOU was developed in collaboration with the Northern Health Authority (NHA) and in consultation with the Health Care Scholarship Committee (HCSC) to establish a process for the administration and distribution of the four Health Care Scholarships by NHA on behalf of the PRRD. The MOU outlines the purpose, roles and responsibilities for both parties to work together in a coordinated approach to support the recruitment and retention of health care professionals in the Peace Region. The value of the MOU is \$55,000 annually and is to be used for the purpose of issuance of scholarship awards as listed below:

1. **RN/RPN Return of Service (ROS) Scholarships, Part 2** - \$15,000 to support six (6) ROS Scholarships each in the amount of \$2,500;
2. **Licensed Practical Nurse Scholarships (LPN)** - \$10,000 to award ten (10) LPN scholarships each in the amount of \$1,000;
3. **Technical Career Professional Development Scholarships** - \$15,000 to support four (4) scholarships each in the amount of \$1,500 for existing NHA employed LPNs bridging to an RN; nine (9) scholarships each in the amount of \$1,000 for existing NHA employees in technical positions bridging into a new health care career;
4. **RN/RPN Professional Development Scholarships** - \$15,000 to award five (5) scholarships each in the amount of \$3,000 for existing RNs or RPNs who have been employed with NHA for three years or more.

In order to release the \$55,000 to Northern Health, the MOU must be in place and is backdated to May 1st, 2020 to align with our budget and payment cycle moving forward. The MOU, if approved by the Regional Board, will be effective from May 1st, 2020 to April 30th, 2021.

A copy of the MOU is attached to this report for the Regional Board to review along with a copy of the [July 2, 2020 Health Care Scholarship Committee meeting minutes](#) previously received on the Consent Calendar of the August 13, 2020 Regional Board meeting and adopted on October 1st by the Committee.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Organizational Effectiveness
- ☒ Comprehensive Policy Review

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

The 2020 annual budget for the scholarships proposed to be administered by NHA under this MOU is \$55,000, of which \$10,000 is budgeted in Function 110 – Legislative Regional, and \$45,000 is Budgeted in Function 275 - Grants to Community Organizations.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Staff will work with NHA to coordinate a communication plan to ensure the expectations outlined in the MOU are followed and will collaborate with NHA to develop brochures and a media campaign.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The \$55,000 that will be paid to NHA under this MOU has already been requisitioned as part of the 2020 Annual Budget under Function 275, Grants to Community Organizations. Moving forward to 2021, no funding will be requisitioned to support this MOU until the conversion of the associated Supplementary Letters Patent #23.

Attachments:

1. Draft NH-PRRD HC Scholarship MOU_FINAL REV
2. July 2, 2020 HCSC meeting minutes