



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

To: Directors

Report Number: DR-BRD-092

From: Leonard Hiebert, Board Chair

Date: January 9, 2025

Subject: Weekly Letter Regarding Northern Health's Service Interruptions

PURPOSE/ISSUE:

On July 18, 2024 the Regional Board discussed their concerns regarding the number of diversions and Emergency Room closures taking place within the Peace Region. The Board passed a resolution to send out weekly letters to Premier Eby, Minister Dix, and both North and South Peace MLA's asking them to request that Northern Health advertise service interruptions, without Ministry interference, in the Peace Region.

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board no longer send out weekly letters to Premier, Minister of Health, and both North and South Peace MLAs asking them to request that Northern Health advertise service interruptions, without Ministry interference, in the Peace Region.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Regional Board was concerned with the ongoing number of diversions, Emergency Room closures and shortage of health-care professionals resulting in reduced access to essential health care services. The Regional Board thought that the lack of communication from Northern Health regarding these ongoing closures/diversions was unacceptable and that communications needed to be streamlined with an improved process that will "get the word" out in a timely manner. Weekly letters have been sent out to Premier Eby, Minister Dix, and both North and South Peace MLAs since August 11, 2024 to the present time. The Regional Board has however received two responses during October 2024 from the Health Minister's office thanking the Regional District for taking the time to write and explaining that due to the provincial election on October 19, 2024, the provincial government had moved into a caretaker or interregnum period being the period from when the writs of election are issued to the date a new cabinet is sworn in, therefore the Minister's Office would not be responding to enquiries during this time.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

Not Applicable to Strategic Plan