



# PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

## HEALTH CARE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

### MINUTES

**January 10, 2025, 2:00 p.m.**  
**1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC**

Directors Present: Chair Veach, Village of Pouce Coupe  
Vice-Chair Hansen, City of Fort St. John (via Zoom)  
Director Dober, City of Dawson Creek (via Zoom)  
Leonard Hiebert, Electoral Area D (ex Officio)  
Director Rose, Electoral Area E  
Director Sperling, Electoral Area 'C'  
Director Taillefer, District of Taylor (via Zoom)

Directors Absent: Alternate Director Graham, Electoral Area B

Staff Present: Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer  
Joanne Caldecott, Deputy Corporate Officer  
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer  
Ashley Dimapilis, Grants Coordinator  
Katherine Lovino, Administrative Clerk/Recorder

Others Present: **Northern Health**  
Shannon Anderson, Board of Directors (via Zoom)  
Kendra Kiss, Senior Operations Officer Northeast Rural (via Zoom)  
Stacey Pickering, Regional Director, Employee Experience & Organizational Development – BC (via Zoom)

**Northern Lights College Foundation**  
Nicole Dahlen, Associate Dean, Academics and Vocational Programs (via Zoom)

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#### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE- CHAIR

Before the Health Care Scholarship Committee meeting was called to order, the Chief Administrative Officer announced that during an election held preceding the January 10, 2025 Committee meeting, Director Veach had been elected as Chair and Director Hansen was elected as Vice-Chair of the Health Care Scholarship Committee for 2025.

#### 2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Veach called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

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**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOVED Chair Veach

SECONDED Director Heibert

That the Health Care Scholarship Committee agenda of January 10, 2025, be adopted

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE- CHAIR**

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**4. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS**

**5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

5.1 Health Care Scholarship Committee Draft Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2024.

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**7. DELEGATIONS**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

8.1 Letter from North Peace Secondary School Re: Request Confirmation of Scholarship Commitment

**9. REPORTS**

9.1 PRRD Health Care Scholarship Review, DR-HCSC-004

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**11. CONSENT CALENDAR**

11.1 PRRD Health Care Scholarship - Progress Update and Subscription Status, FN-HCSC-019

11.2 Email from the Northern Health Regional Manager, Recruitment Services Re: Health Care Scholarship Committee Invitation to Present to the Committee

11.3 Thank You Letters - NLC Foundation Recipients

11.4 HCSC Terms of Reference

11.5 Health Care Scholarship Matrix

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**CARRIED**

**4. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS**

**5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**5.1 Health Care Scholarship Committee Draft Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2024.**

MOVED Director Taillefer

SECONDED Director Dober

That the Health Care Scholarship Committee Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2024 be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**7. DELEGATIONS**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

**8.1 Letter from North Peace Secondary School Re: Request Confirmation of Scholarship Commitment**

MOVED Director Sperling

SECONDED Director Taillefer

That the Health Care Scholarship Committee refer the letter from the North Peace Secondary School re: Request Confirmation of Scholarship Commitment to the January 24, 2025 Rural Budgets Administration Committee Meeting.

**CARRIED**

Directors noted that scholarships/bursaries awarded to the North Peace Secondary School were funded by Electoral Area B and not the Health Care Scholarship Committee.

## 9. REPORTS

### 9.1 PRRD Health Care Scholarship Review, DR-HCSC-004

MOVED Vice-Chair Hansen

SECONDED Director Taillefer

That, in response to feedback received from students, the Health Care Scholarship Committee recommend that the Regional Board amend the current healthcare scholarships provided by the Peace River Regional District as follows:

- Northern Lights College Health Care Scholarship from 20 @ \$1,000 each to 6 @ \$3,000
- Licensed Practical Nurse LPN from 10 @ \$1,000 each to 6 @5,000
- Career Professional Development Scholarship from 13 @ \$1,000 - \$1,500 each to 7 @ \$2,000 - \$2,500 with a 1-year return of service agreement.

**DEFEATED**

MOVED Director Sperling

SECONDED Leonard Hiebert

That the Health Care Scholarship Committee recommends that the Regional Board approve adding \$50,000 to the Health Care Scholarship Program to be used towards RN programs.

**DEFEATED**

**IN FAVOUR:** Director Taillefer

The committee had a robust discussion regarding the allocation of scholarships for various health care programs which included:

- Concern about altering scholarship amounts prematurely; changes could be considered when the current Memorandum of Understandings expire and need a full review prior to renewal.
- The need to address the low uptake of scholarships remains and the need for effective scholarships that attract people into the healthcare sector.
- Northern Lights College (NLC) scholarships were originally for Health Care Aides (HCAs) only but can now be used for Practical Nursing (LPNs) too. The average cost for the HCA program was confirmed at \$3,100/year while the LPN program was confirmed at \$11,000 for 2 years (combined total). NLC views all positions in healthcare as important as RPNs have much heavier workloads when the other positions are vacant. Students continually report that the number one barrier to entering a healthcare profession is funding and many students are simply oblivious to the opportunities that exist in healthcare. Scholarships remain an important tool to support, attract and retain students.
- Whether the Service Function was close to being maxxed out and whether it was prudent to ask the Regional Board for additional funding. Before doing this, a suggestion was made to invite NLC, Northern Health and University of British Columbia (UNBC) to a meeting to share their perspectives on how best to attract students and reevaluate the scholarship program after their input is received.
- The scholarships do not seem to do anything to address the ongoing diversions experienced in the region. No matter what other programs are doing - why aren't they working; does the Committee have the right focus; is it moving in the right direction?
- The current program is missing the RNs; only two RN scholarships were used last year.



- Northern Health noted how Eligibility Criteria for scholarships can become problematic and provided examples. Reviewing/changing eligibility criteria to ensure they are not too restrictive and can be easily met by applicants was recommended.
- A proposed motion from Chair Veach outlining alternative allocations for the 2025 Scholarship Program maintaining the same total budget and included an Indigenous focus and new Mental Health Scholarships was shared with the Committee. Members expressed interest in the options proposed, however asked that information be provided to all members in advance of meetings to enable a thorough review.
- When the time comes to renew the Memorandum of Understanding, need to come together and decide what will invigorate the system and get more students into the programs.

Chair Veach called a Special meeting of the Health Care Scholarship Committee to be held at the PRRD Head Office in Dawson Creek on February 11, 2025 at 10 a.m. to discuss the proposed Health Care Scholarship Committee Memorandum of Understanding with Northern Health, the scholarship budget and any potential changes required.

MOVED Director Sperling  
SECONDED Leonard Hiebert

That the Health Care Scholarship Committee invite Northern Lights College, University of British Columbia and Northern Health to attend the next HCSC meeting to discuss scholarships and to learn what they consider appropriate for recruitment of students and retention of staff.

**CARRIED**

**11. CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOVED Leonard Hiebert  
SECONDED Director Sperling

That the Health Care Scholarship Committee receive the January 10, 2025 Consent Calendar.

**CARRIED**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Peace River Regional District's Health Care Scholarship Committee meeting held on January 10, 2025 in the PRRD Board Room, 1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC.

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Danielle Veach, Chair

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Katherine Lovino, Recorder