

Stuart-Nechako
Regional Hospital District



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL
HOSPITAL DISTRICT



May 20, 2025

The Honourable Bowinn Ma, MLA
Minister of Infrastructure
PO Box 9021 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Via email: INF.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Ma:

On behalf of the Northern Regional Hospital Districts, we would like to thank you and your team for meeting with us on May 8. We appreciated the opportunity to voice our concerns on the current state of affordability and equity under the current *Hospital District Act* and the need to work together towards legislative reform of the *Act*.

As noted in the meeting, when compared to other areas in BC, the six northern regional hospital districts pay some of the highest requisition rates per average household. As a result, fairness for taxpayers across the province is in question. Northern communities are also dealing with industrial closures and cutbacks impacting the tax base and challenges to hospital service level provision due to smaller populations and large geographic areas.

The negotiation of regional hospital district contribution levels for priority capital investment projects is inconsistent across the province. Capital funding requests also continue to increase significantly each year, in addition to priority investment projects. Regional hospital districts feel they cannot say no to the provincial funding requests on capital projects that continue to significantly increase in cost, for fear of jeopardizing their region's healthcare services.

The Regional Hospital District model is outdated and increasingly unsustainable. The original legislation dates to 1967, and it does not reflect the reality of delivering healthcare in 2025. Technology is advancing faster, reinvestment is needed, and both equipment and facilities are far more complex and costly than ever before. Healthcare costs have escalated significantly, and they will continue to do so. The Province is in a spending wave and regional hospital districts and their taxpayers are being asked to pay for more, more often.

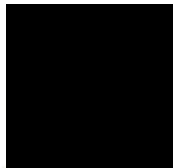
We look forward to upcoming discussions and appreciate the opportunity to work with the Ministry of Infrastructure staff to examine our funding and affordability concerns, and work towards the legislative reform of the *Hospital District Act*. As you indicated during the meeting, please have Deputy Minister Bobbi Plecas coordinate a staff meeting at your earliest convenience through:

Curtis Helgesen, CAO
Stuart-Nechako
Regional hospital District
curtis.helgesen@rdbn.bc.ca

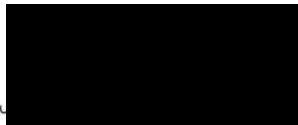
and

Chris Calder, CAO
Fraser-Fort George
Regional Hospital District
chris.calder@rdffg.bc.ca

Sincerely,



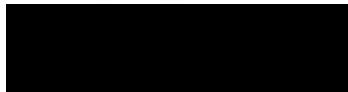
Barry Pages, Chair
North West
Regional Hospital District



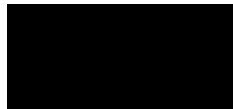
Judy Greenaway, Chair
Stuart-Nechako
Regional Hospital District



Joan Atkinson, Chair
Fraser-Fort George
Regional Hospital District



Al Richmond, Chair
Cariboo-Chilcotin
Regional Hospital District



Leonard Hiebert, Chair
Peace River
Regional Hospital District



Rob Fraser, Chair
Northern Rockies
Regional Hospital District

cc: Alisa Thompson, Executive Director, North West Regional Hospital District
Curtis Helgesen, CAO, Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District
Chris Calder, CAO, Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District
Murray Daly, CAO, Cariboo-Chilcotin Regional Hospital District
Shawn Dahlen, CAO, Peace River Regional Hospital District
Scott Barry, CAO, Northern Rockies Regional Hospital District