



DIRECTOR REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: DR-RHD-001

From: Director Sperling

Date: July 17, 2025

Subject: Seniors Housing in the Regional Hospital District

PURPOSE/ISSUE:

To discuss seniors care facilities in the Regional Hospital District.

RECOMMENDATION/ACTION: *[Corporate Unweighted]*

That the Regional Hospital District Board request that Northern Health provide the Regional Hospital District Board with the population data and projections used to determine the bed count for the recently announced expansion project to add additional seniors housing beds to Peace Villa in Fort St. John and any other information relative to seniors care housing demands that is being relied upon to inform future seniors care housing capital project investment decisions for the Northern Health region, so that the Regional Hospital District Board can understand the long term plan and targets currently in place to provide adequate health/seniors care in the region.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Now that the Peace Villa has been announced, the Peace River Regional Hospital District is unaware of any additional senior care facilities that may be needed in the region. Attached is a press release regarding the Peace Villa expansion project and a press release from September 2024 regarding a long term care (LTC) residence expansion project in Penticton BC. The facility announcement for the project in Penticton (Interior Health) includes additional information about overall expansion targets to meet projected needs, including:

- Interior Health has benefited from an increase in publicly funded LTC beds from 495 to 605 since 2018.
- Ministry of Health plans include adding a total of 495 new LTC beds to Interior Health (no deadline associated with this statement).
- Increasing demands witnessed over the past five years are proposed to be met with a government investment of approximately \$3.5 billion to expand and improve the quality of care of seniors in British Columbia (entire province).

Members of the Regional Hospital District Board have expressed concern that the 84 long term care beds being built to expand Peace Villa is not enough to meet current or future needs and receiving the population data and projections would help the Regional Hospital District Board understand the situation.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Senior's Housing (Advocacy)

Advocacy for investment in Seniors Housing to ensure seniors are able to age in their communities is identified in the PRRD Strategic Plan. If the data relied upon by the Ministry of Health/Northern Health supports additional investment, the Regional Board will be able to advocate for such investment.

Attachments:

1. Northern Health Press Release (June 24, 2025) re: Peace Villa Seniors Housing Expansion
2. Ministry of Health Press Release (September 13, 2024) re: Penticton Long Term Care Residence

External Link:

1. [Letter from Save Our Northern Seniors to BC Ministers re: Seniors Issues in 2025](#)
(February 20, 2025 Regional Board Meeting, Agenda Item 12.22)