



# REPORT

To: Committee of the Whole

Report Number: FN-COW-003

From: Lyle Smith, Chief Financial Officer

Date: March 26, 2020

**Subject: Funding for the Northern Health Northeast Physician Recruitment Position and North Peace Division of Family Practice**

---

## **RECOMMENDATION #1: *[Corporate Unweighted]***

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional Board allocate the \$100,000 currently budgeted for the Northeast Physician Recruitment position to another use within the Grant to Community Organizations budget.

## **RECOMMENDATION #2: *[Corporate Unweighted]***

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional Board allocate the \$100,000 currently budgeted for the North Peace Division of Family Practice to another use within the Grant to Community Organizations budget.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the Whole and Regional Board that staff will no longer be developing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Regional District and Northern Health regarding northeast physician recruitment. This is a result of the letter written by Cathy Ulrich, President and Chief Executive Officer of Northern Health, received at the Regional Board meeting held on March 26, 2020.

In June of 2019, staff began developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Northern Health specific to the Northeast Physician Recruitment position. The MoU was meant to identify a scope of work, outline geographical boundaries, and to establish requirements for reporting and a process for the release of funds.

Ms. Ulrich advised that Northern Health no longer needs the PRRD's financial commitment of \$100,000 to support the Northern Health Northeast Physician Recruitment Position, as they are now able to fund the position on a permanent ongoing basis.

The 2020 Annual Budget includes a commitment of \$100,000 in Function 275 Grants to Community Organizations – Medical Recruitment Grants intended to support the Northeast Physician Recruitment position, and \$100,000 for the North Peace Division of Family Practice. These funds are now surplus in the function and available for other uses. If these funds are not used in 2020 they would be available to be used as a funding source for the Grants to Community Organizations budget in 2021 or alternatively could be transferred to an operating reserve at the end of the 2020 fiscal year.

Previously, NP Division of Family Practice, for recruitment and retention initiatives, received \$100,000 in 2015, nothing in 2016, \$75,000 in each of 2017 and 2018, and in 2019 were approved for a recruitment and retention grant through the economic development function in the amount of \$100,000 per year for three years, subject to reporting of their expenses. No report has been received regarding the use of the 2019 funding to date.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional Board not utilize the \$100,000 currently budgeted for the Northern Health Northeast Physician Recruitment position.
2. That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional Board not utilize the \$100,000 currently budgeted for the North Peace Division of Family Practice project.
3. That the Committee of the Whole provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

A commitment of \$275,000 was budgeted for Medical Recruitment Grants as part of Function 275, Grants to Community Organizations in 2020; this includes \$100,000 for the Northern Health recruiter, \$100,000 for the North Peace, and \$75,000 for the South Peace.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

None.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

None.

**Attachments:**

1. Letter from Northern Health – Funding for Northeast Physician Recruitment Position, dated March 6, 2020