

March 6, 2020

Mr. Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer
Peace River Regional District
1981 Alaska Avenue
Box 810
Dawson Creek, BC
V1G 4H8

Dear Mr. Dahlen:

Re: Funding for the North East Physician Recruitment position

I am writing to thank the Peace River Regional District for their support of a dedicated North East Physician Recruitment position. This position has made a difference to our capacity to recruit physicians and I believe that Dr. Chapman provided an overview of the contribution this position has made at one of your meetings in 2019.

Northern Health recognizes that this is not the usual focus for funding from the Peace River Regional District and appreciates your willingness to support this endeavour. However, over the last three months we have been finalizing the Northern Health global budget for the next three years and would like to inform you that we will be funding this position on a permanent ongoing basis through internal funding. As a result, we will not be expecting funding from the Peace River Regional District in 2020/21.

We have appreciated the creativity that the Regional District has brought to supporting recruitment endeavours for physicians as well as for other health care providers. Your support through bursaries and scholarships has been valued by students. Your support has also facilitated the approval of a North East based nursing program.

We would encourage you to continue the kinds of bursary and scholarship type supports you have provided for students in the health professions including physicians, nursing, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, ultrasound technology, lab and diagnostic imaging, health care assistants (both for long term care and community home support), and licensed practical nursing. These professions are in high demand and there are increasing recruitment challenges across the province. Support for students as they pursue their academic studies and practicum placements makes a real difference for those students and encourages potential students to choose a health career.

Thank you once again for your very tangible and meaningful support of our efforts to recruit physicians and other health care providers to the North East.

Sincerely,



Cathy Ulrich
President & Chief Executive Officer
Northern Health

cc: Mr. Brad Sperling, Chair, Peace River Regional District
Dr. Ronald Chapman, VP Medicine
Dr. Becky Temple, Medical Director, North East
Angela De Smit, Chief Operating Officer, North East

Previously Received - March 26, 2020