

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](mailto: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The Regional Hospital District model is outdated and increasingly unsustainable.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.

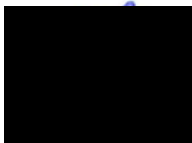
We look forward to upcoming discussions and appreciate the opportunity to work with the Ministry of Infrastructure staff to examine our funding and affordability concerns, and work towards the legislative reform of the *Hospital District Act*. As you indicated during the meeting, please have Deputy Minister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

Curtis Helgesen, CAO  
Stuart-Nechako  
Regional hospital District  
[curtis.helgesen@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:curtis.helgesen@rdbn.bc.ca)

and

Chris Calder, CAO  
Fraser-Fort George  
Regional Hospital District  
[chris.calder@rdffg.bc.ca](mailto:chris.calder@rdffg.bc.ca)


Sincerely,



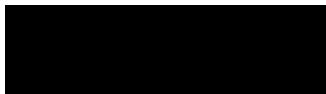
Barry Pages, Chair  
North West  
Regional Hospital District



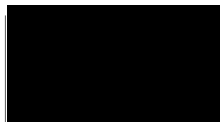
Judy Greenaway, Chair  
Stuart-Nechako  
Regional Hospital District



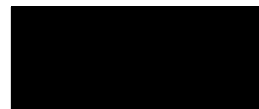
Joan Atkinson, Chair  
Fraser-Fort George  
Regional Hospital District



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