

**REPORT TO HOSPITALS AND HOUSING COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 02, 2022**

SUBJECT *Hospital District Act Amendment Request*

ISSUE SUMMARY

Hospital District Act (HDA) Amendment Request to Ministry of Health.

BACKGROUND

In 2016 the Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital District (RHD) sent a letter to the Ministry of Health requesting that the *HDA* be updated to reflect the recommendations from the 2003 Ministry of Health review. Deputy Minister Brown responded in a letter and agreed amendments to the *HDA* would bring it into closer alignment with current practices and policies, noting that the Ministry would seek to consult with RHDs likely in 2017 or 2018. Regrettably, RHDs have not been engaged on this matter as suggested and upon enquiry in 2019, were disappointed to be advised that consideration of proposed amendments to the *HDA* were not a priority at that time. We understand from our colleagues and partners that there has been a variety of correspondence with the Ministry of Health on this issue since the 2003 Ministry of Health review and the issue is only becoming of greater concern to the RHDs. At the quarterly RHD meetings the need to have the *HDA* updated has been a point of discussion for several years and the group recently agreed that sending a joint letter (see attached Appendix A) to the Ministry of Health was desirable.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Hospitals and Housing Committee recommends to the Capital Regional Hospital District Board:

That a joint letter with the Regional Hospital Districts (RHDs) be sent to the Ministry of Health requesting the *Hospital District Act* be updated and that the RHDs be consulted and engaged in the process as part of the legislative review.

Alternative 2

That the *Hospital District Act Amendment Request* report be referred back to staff for additional information based on Hospitals and Housing Committee direction.

IMPLICATIONS

Intergovernmental Implications

To date the RHDs have identified a variety of challenges with the current legislation including eliminating the need for Ministry sign off on designation of facilities that can be cost shared by RHDs and the need for consultation with the Ministry on capital bylaws. RHDs would also like to see the *HDA* provide RHD boards with the power to designate signing authority to staff, similar to Regional District legislation. Other issues of concern include matching funding eligibility language around project and operational needs to current practices and provisions to reduce RHD share in special circumstances such as funding a tertiary care facility with a broad spectrum serving

multiple regions. Lastly, RHDs would like to see broadening language of “hospitals and hospital facilities” to make it less restrictive.

Financial Implications

Requesting an update to the *HDA* has no short term financial implications and a future update and amendment to the *Act* has the potential to provide more flexibility and efficiency in the way the CRHD conducts business in the future.

CONCLUSION

An update and amendment to the *HDA* is long overdue and has the potential to increase CRHDs efficiencies, meet the increasing demand on our funding and administrative resources and strengthen our relationship with healthcare partners in British Columbia.

RECOMMENDATION

The Hospitals and Housing Committee recommend to the Capital Regional Hospital District Board:

That a joint letter with the Regional Hospital Districts (RHDs) be sent to the Ministry of Health requesting the *Hospital District Act* be updated and that the RHDs be consulted and engaged in the process as part of the legislative review.

Submitted by:	Michael Barnes, MPP, Senior Manager, Health & Capital Planning Strategies
Concurrence:	Kevin Lorette, P. Eng., MBA, General Manager, Planning & Protective Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Letter to Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health