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By Email
March 9, 2022

Honourable Adrian Dix
Minister of Health

Re: Revisions to *Hospital District Act (HDA)*

On behalf of the Vancouver Island Regional Hospital Districts (RHDs) we are restating our concerns regarding current *HDA* legislation and the need for it to be updated. 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.

In 2016, Deputy Minister Brown 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.

Some examples of specific concerns and suggested amendments raised by RHDs thus far include but are not limited to:

- Eliminating the need for Ministry sign off on designation of facilities that can be cost-shared by RHDs;
- Eliminating the need for consultation with the Ministry on capital bylaws;
- Providing RHD Boards with the power to designate signing authority to staff, similar to Regional District legislation;
- Matching funding eligibility language around projects and operational needs to current practices;
- Broadening restrictive language of “hospitals and hospital facilities”; and
- Provisions to reduce RHD share in special circumstances such as funding a tertiary care facility with a broad spectrum serving multiple regions.

An updated *Hospital District Act* will serve to increase our efficiencies, meet the increasing demand on our funding and administrative resources and strengthen our relationship with health care partners in British Columbia.

In moving forward, we ask that the Minister work with RHDs on planning a session to discuss *HDA* amendments as a priority in 2022. Specifically, we request the RHD representatives be engaged with the process and included in the legislative review.

Thank you for attention to our request.

Sincerely,

All RHD signatures