

**STUART-NECHAKO REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, May 28, 2026**

Directors Present: Chair Judy Greenaway  
Martin Elphee  
Clint Lambert  
Linda McGuire  
Shirley Moon  
Kevin Moutray  
Mark Parker  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Sarraah Storey  
Henry Wiebe

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Secretary  
Cheryl Anderson, Acting Secretary  
John Illes, Treasurer  
Wendy Wainwright, Recording Secretary

Others: Merewyn Comeau, LD News/Black Press Media -  
arrived at 9:52  
Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator -  
via Zoom - arrived at 10:28 a.m.  
Michael Hoefer, Executive Director, Capital  
Planning Facilities Operations & Logistics,  
Northern Health - via Zoom - left at 9:59 a.m.  
Leigh Purnell, Smithers, B.C.  
Jasbir Singh Bhamra, Architect, Regional Director,  
Capital Development and Projects, Northern  
Health - arrived via Zoom at 9:59 a.m., left at 10:00  
a.m.

---

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Greenaway called the meeting to order at 9:48 a.m.

## **AGENDA**

**May 28, 2026**

**2026-SNRHD-040**

Moved by Director McGuire

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Agenda for May 28, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **MINUTES**

**Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Meeting Minutes - March 26, 2026**

**2026-SNRHD-041**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Storey

That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Meeting Minutes for March 26, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DELEGATION**

**NORTHERN HEALTH - Michael Hofer, Executive Director, Capital Planning, Facilities Operations & Logistics, Northern Health**

Re: Vanderhoof Primary Care

Chair Greenaway welcomed Michael Hofer, Executive Director, Capital Planning, Facilities Operations & Logistics, Northern Health.

Mr. Hofer provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Vanderhoof Primary Care

- Project details
- Location of new Primary Care Facility
- Building Functional Program
- Project Status and Activities

- Project Timeline.

The following was discussed:

- The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Infrastructure have indicated they won't be organizing an official groundbreaking
  - Requesting attendance at a groundbreaking
  - Infrastructure projects in northern B.C. have a significant impact
- Equipment due to be on site next week.

### **2026-SNRHD-042**

Moved by Director Moutray

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

That the Board write a letter to the Minister of Health and Minister of Infrastructure requesting that an official groundbreaking for the Vanderhoof Primary Care Facility be planned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **REPORTS**

### **John Illes, Treasurer - Request for a CT Scanner at St. John Hospital (Vanderhoof)**

#### **2026-SNRHD-043**

Moved by Director Moutray

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board write a Letter to Northern Health requesting that a CT Scanner for St. John Hospital be prioritized for installation as early as 2027 and request information on how the Hospital District Board can best support this project moving forward.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board discussed gathering information and data around costs and delivery area for a CT scanner at St. John Hospital in Vanderhoof and the best equipment to relieve pressure from the UHNBC in Prince George and support the region.

**2026-SNRHD-044**

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board receive the Treasurer's Request for a CT Scanner at St. John Hospital.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**John Illes, Treasurer - Update on Southside Helipad Fundraising Efforts**

Discussion took place regarding:

- A breakdown and details of the \$582,000 estimated cost for a helipad on the Southside
  - Northern Health has indicated the information is confidential
- Requirements for a rural helipad
- Potential funding partners are requesting a cost analysis.

**2026-SNRHD-045**

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Storey

That the Board request Northern Health provide engineering design and clarification of the class of the costs totaling \$582,000 for a helipad for the Southside.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**John Illes, Treasurer - Presentations from Northern Health**

**2026-SNRHD-046**

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board receive the Treasurer's Presentations from Northern Health memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Fraser Lake Care facility being considered in years 12-14 of Northern Health's 10 year Capital Plan
  - Master Plan for Fraser Lake is planned for 2040
    - Once complete the Plan is forwarded to the Province for consideration and can take a significant number of years to move forward

- Concerns regarding:
  - Rising costs of construction
  - Future anticipated growth in mining and industrial development in the area that may increase pressures on health care.
  - Strategy moving forward and advocacy
    - Potentially writing a letter to Northern Health expressing opposition to the 10 year master plan
      - Need to reevaluate priorities
      - Review future industrial activities and additional concerns.

Director Moon attended the Northern Health Strategic Planning meeting in Vanderhoof on May 27th and mentioned that the Stuart Nechako Manor has 50 beds and one respite bed with a wait list of 60 people. Director Moutray brought forward concerns regarding the Facility Condition Index (FCI) scoring for the facility ranks it low, however this does not include current needs. He noted the importance of the FCI scoring system needing to encompass the current need of a facility.

**2026-SNRHD-047**

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Parker

That the Board direct staff to formulate an advocacy letter to bring forward for the Board's consideration at a future meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**2026-SNRHD-048**

Moved by Director Moutray

Seconded by Director Storey

That the Board request that Northern Health consider reviewing the Facility Condition Index (FCI) and include a current needs assessment/score as part of the criteria in the FCI score.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **VERBAL REPORTS**

### District of Vanderhoof - Director Moutray

- Anesthesiologist in Vanderhoof is moving to a contract position due to an increase in pay to provide services at hospitals throughout the north and will no longer be providing services at the St. John Hospital on a full-time basis.

### District of Fort St. James - Director Elphee

- At the end of March 2026 two Practice-Ready Assessment (PRA) expired and are no longer providing services.

### Village of Fraser Lake - Director Storey

- Attended a meeting with Northern Health at the NCLGA Conference and AGM May 20-22, 2026 in Prince George
  - Discussed the increased wage compensation for traveling/contract nurses and physicians
  - Losing a Pharmacist in the community.

### Village of Granisle - Director McGuire

- The exterior door at the Granisle Medical Centre is nearing completion.

### Village of Burns Lake - Director Wiebe

- Attended the Northern Health Strategic Planning meeting
  - discussed future industrial projects and utilizing buildings such as the College of New Caledonia to promote health care initiatives.

## **RECEIPT OF VERBAL REPORTS**

### **2026-SNRHD-049**

Moved by Director McGuire

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board receive the various Directors' verbal reports.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**IN-CAMERA MOTION**

**2026-SNRHD-050**

Moved by Director Parker

Seconded by Director Lambert

That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(2)(b) of the Community Charter for the Board to deal with matters relating to:

- Recruitment and Retention.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

**2026-SNRHD-051**

Moved by Director McGuire

Seconded by Director Parker

That the meeting be adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

---

Judy Greenaway, Chairperson

---

Wendy Wainwright, Recording Secretary