

STUART-NECHAKO REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

PRESENT: Chair Judy Greenaway

Directors Martin Elphee
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Mark Parker
Michael Riis-Christianson
Sarrah Storey
Henry Wiebe

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Secretary
Cheryl Anderson, Acting Secretary
John Illes, Treasurer
Wendy Wainwright, Confidential Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Greenaway called the meeting to order at 1:47 p.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Wiebe
Seconded by Director Elphee

SNRHD.2025-4-1

"That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Agenda of March 13, 2025 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director McGuire

SNRHD.2025-4-2

"That the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Stuart-Nechako Regional
Hospital District Meeting
Minutes – February 27, 2025

Moved by Director Moutray
Seconded by Director Parker

SNRHD.2025-4-3

"That the minutes of the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District meeting of February 27, 2025 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

2025 Budget and 2026 Provisional Budget

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Moutray

SNRHD.2025-4-4

"That Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Annual Budget Bylaw No. 93, 2025 with a Schedule A requisition of \$7.00 Million be given first and second readings this 13th day of March 2025."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS

Emergency Room Closures and Diversions Burns Lake Hospital

Director Riis-Christianson brought forward the continued Emergency Room closures and diversions at the Burns Lake Hospital. Director Wiebe mentioned that the situation is deteriorating with the days the emergency room is closed.

District of Vanderhoof -Update

Director Moutray mentioned that Vanderhoof is experiencing a significant Licenced Practical Nurse (LPN) shortage. He discussed the topic with the Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health. Director Moutray noted the need to ensure LPN educational programs are in communities as well as increasing earn and learn programs.

Discussion took place regarding the invitation to Minister Osborne and the Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure from the Regional Hospital Districts within Northern Health to visit the north and discuss the tax rates paid by the Regional Hospital Districts.

District of Fort St. James -Update

Director Elphee and Chair Greenaway will be welcoming the new doctor arriving in Fort St. James on March 23rd.

District of Fraser Lake -Update

Director Storey attended a 75-year-of-excellence celebration for the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Medicine Program with Dermot Kelleher, Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Vice-President, Health. They discussed the timeline for doctors finishing their schooling are being given their certificates in their first year of practice. There was also discussion regarding doctors being trained in Vanderhoof need to be doctors that want to be in the community and stay in the community.

Village of Granisle – Update

Director McGuire noted that she is awaiting a response from Northern Health regarding diversions in Granisle.

Director McGuire spoke of the Seniors Wellness Programs taking place in Granisle that are having great engagement.

- The Grubber Geezers
- Java Social Club
- Seniors Yoga.

VERBAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

Village of Burns Lake – Update Director Wiebe commented that two new physicians will be arriving in the community next month. He also spoke of the Village of Burns Lake Recruitment and Retention Committee which is moving forward.

Fraser Lake Medical Center Director Parker spoke of the use of video conference technology to see a physician at the Fraser Lake Medical Centre. He noted the possible benefits and challenges.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) – Update Director Moon mentioned that she has been designated as a community liaison for the Vanderhoof Primary Care.

Chair Greenaway, Electoral Area C (Fort St. James) – Update Chair Greenaway provided the following update:

- Attended two meetings with Northern Health for medical staff recruitment and retention
 - o Fort St. James is having success in recruiting physicians
 - o Complement of physicians is 8 and there are currently 6.5 physicians
 - o Full complement of Registered Nurses
 - o Shortage of LPNs and Care Aids
- Met with the College of New Caledonia regarding the creation of medical programs in communities
 - o Shortage in people to fill the seats
- Seniors Wellness Training Program sponsored by Northern Health
 - o Northern Health is proposing changes to the programing.

Medical Professional Programs Discussion took place regarding:

- LPN Program
 - o Associate Dean School of Health Sciences, College of New Caledonia noted that student enrollment in Health Science Programs has been impacted by the views of the profession after the COVID 19 event
 - o Being part of the solution to encourage enrollment and changing the outlook towards healthcare and its professionals
- Challenges and various considerations about health care professions and employment
- Diversions at one health care facility impacts other health care facilities in the region
 - o The continuous diversions at Burns Lake Hospital are having a significant impact on St. John's Hospital in Vanderhoof
- Shortages of employees in health care are creating difficult working conditions
- Clinical professionals moving into management roles
- Work life balance
 - o Brought forward the issue with the Minister of Health
- Attempts are being made for change and missing the changes needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Moutray
Seconded by Director Wiebe

SNRHD.2025-4-5

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:16 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Judy Greenaway, Chairperson

Wendy Wainwright, Confidential Secretary