



Interior Health

Corporate Administration
Interior Health Authority
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August 29, 2012

His Worship Mike Frazier
Chair
NCLGA Resolution Committee
North Central Local Government Association
206 – 155 George Street
Prince George, BC V2L 1P8

Dear Mayor Frazier:

Thank you for your July 26th letter informing Interior Health of two recently endorsed resolutions by your association for submission to the Union of BC Municipalities. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to these two important health care issues for rural British Columbians.

Health Connections is a partnership between Interior Health, regional districts, municipalities, BC Transit, and local not-for-profit societies that expands transportation routes and increases patient access to non-emergency medical appointments. The program aims to connect individuals in rural and remote communities with services and programs in our community, regional and tertiary facilities. For more information regarding the program I would encourage you to visit: <http://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourStay/GettingThere/Pages/default.aspx>.

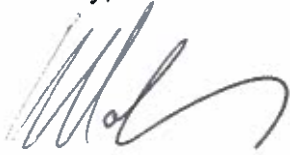
Interior Health is making significant telehealth investments to reduce travel frequency for medical services in our region. At the community level, telehome monitoring programs reduce the need for clients to travel to their local health centre for checkups and visits. At the regional level, clients visit telehealth sites in their home community and are linked to specialists at the regional and provincial level for pre and post surgical consults.

Over the past number of years significant advancements have been made in palliative care, which provide individuals more options for the best possible quality of life at the end of life. The types of hospice palliative care services provided depend on individual client need and the stage of illness. Many individuals often wish to spend as much time as possible at home, which may include remaining at home until death. Interior Health works with individuals and their families to try and support their care in an environment that reflects their wishes.

Most palliative care services are covered by the BC Medical Services Plan or the BC Palliative Care Benefits Program. For further information I would encourage you to visit: <http://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourCare/EndOfLife/Pages/default.aspx>.

I hope you find the information above of assistance and please do not hesitate to contact my office if you would like further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Halpenny', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Robert Halpenny
President & Chief Executive Officer

cc Norman Embree, Chair, Board of Directors
Dr. Jeremy Etherington, Vice President, Medicine & Quality
Andrew Neuner, Vice President, Community Integration
Val Stevens, Director, Health Authority Relations, MOH