

**PEACE RIVER REGIONAL
HOSPITAL DISTRICT
CONSENT CALENDAR**



November 27, 2008

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

NOVEMBER CONSENT CALENDAR

for the November 27, 2008 Meeting

CORRESPONDENCE:

HCA-1 Copy of October 30, 2008 letter from Al Richmond, Chair Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District and five other Regional Hospital Districts to the Honourable George Abbott requesting an increase to the Health Authorities minimum range for ranking projects.

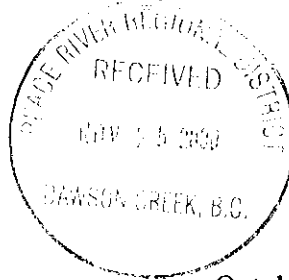


**Cariboo Chilcotin
Regional Hospital District**

building communities together

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*Hospital
Consent*



Your Reference:

Our Reference: 510-01
510-36
510-24

NCA-1

October 30, 2008

The Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Health
PO Box 9050 Stn Prov Gov
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Abbott:

Re: Health Capital Planning Process

On behalf of the Regional Hospital Districts within Northern Health, we are writing to express our concern regarding the recently implemented capital health planning process. While we respect the desire for a process which allocates funds on a provincial basis to all levels of government funded programs, we want assurance that the process will be reasonable, cost effective, inclusive and timely.

When Health Authorities were first established in 2001, they were meant to act independently from the provincial government to deliver their mandate for health care services including developing relationships with Regional Hospital Districts for capital and equipment projects. The Health Authorities are already challenged to undertake projects with limited funds, where escalating costs often impact the final outcome. With the new process imposed upon the Health Authorities the potential to increase the time line for approval resulting in further increased costs to projects is likely.

Based on guidelines, the Health Authorities will be able to rank projects between \$2 million and \$5 million; however, we would suggest that this range be increased to a minimum of \$30 million. We hope this increase would reduce the time required for approval and therefore be able to conclude projects within budget.

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Municipalities Quesnel Wells Williams Lake 100 Mile House

Electoral Areas A. Red Bluff - Quesnel B. Quesnel West - Bouchie Lake - Ten Mile C. Barlow - Bowron D. Wildwood - McLeese Lake
E. Esler - Dog Creek F. 150 Mile House - Horsefly-Likely G. Lac La Hache - 108 Mile H. Canim Lake - Forest Grove I. Narcosli - Nazko
J. West Chilcotin K. East Chilcotin L. Lone Butte - Interlakes

Regional Hospital Districts have specific concerns about Health Authorities not being able to undertake long range planning and prepare multi-year budgets that the Regional Hospital Districts can rely on for their budgeting purposes. In addition, we are concerned that the priorities identified in collaboration with the local elected officials and the Health Authorities, may be changed in Victoria. Northern Health and the Regional Hospital Districts have worked very diligently over the past several years to create a positive, open communication to ensure quality health services are provided in our communities. Overriding decisions at the provincial level have the potential to negate the trust that the parties have realized.

In closing, we reiterate our desire for assurance that the capital planning priority process will be reasonable, cost effective, inclusive and timely.

Yours truly,

Al Richmond

Al Richmond, Chair
Cariboo Chilcotin
Regional Hospital District

Don Zurowski

Don Zurowski, Chair
Fraser-Fort George
Regional Hospital District

Tony Briglio

Tony Briglio, Chair
North West
Regional Hospital District

Chris Morey

Chris Morey, Chair
Northern Rockies
Regional Hospital District

Karen Goodings

Karen Goodings, Chair
Peace River
Regional Hospital District

Bernice Magee

Bernice Magee, Chair
Stuart-Nechako
Regional Hospital District

cc Northern MLA's



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