



OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

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13 February 2024

Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills
Room 346 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Via: PSFS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Minister,

We write to thank you for taking time to meet with our municipality at the recent UBCM conference in Vancouver (Meeting ID: 745). It was a pleasure to be able to discuss our interest in the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia (UHNBC) Acute Care Tower project and our desire to establish regionally based Veterinary medicine and tech programs.

The UHNBC Acute Care tower project remains a priority for our region, and we renew our ask that in the government's 10-year capital plan funding be allocated to enable the project to proceed to procurement and construction. UHNBC is the largest acute care facility in the Northern Health Authority. It's a community hospital with a catchment area of approximately 100,000 and a regional hospital serving close to 300,000 people over an area of 600,000 sq kms. There is a growing demand to improve access for cardiac, mental health and surgical services. UHNBC is in profound need of acute beds and associated outpatient services to fulfill both its local community hospital and regional tertiary care functions. The Treasury Board approved a concept plan in February 2020 for a new acute care tower, existing resources are in significant need of redevelopment, and we trust that government will prioritize this important work.

As well, thank you for your letter dated October 27th, 2023, we appreciate the contacts shared related to advancing veterinary medicine in the region. We look forward to following up with you as this conversation continues.

We thank you for your attention and look forward to the next opportunity to meet.

Respectfully,

City Council of Prince George

CC:

Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs.
MLA Shirley Bond, Prince George Valemount.
MLA Mike Morris, Prince George Mackenzie.
MLA Coralee Oakes, Cariboo North.
Lara Beckett, Chair, Regional District Fraser Fort George.
Joan Atkinson, Chair, Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District.
Ciro Panessa, President and Chief Executive Officer, Northern Health.