

Supporting Document: Amalgamation of Motions for Psychiatric Care Facility

At the October 7th regular Council meeting, two Notice of Motion submissions were included on the agenda: Item G.1, submitted by Councillors Klassen and Frizzell, and Item G.2, submitted by Councillor Sampson.

To provide a more unified and streamlined discussion, the three Councillors agreed to amalgamate their motions into one single agenda item. This approach allows Council to focus on a cohesive strategy for addressing the critical need for psychiatric care in Northern BC in one agenda item versus two.

The Councillors have agreed to put forward the following revised/amalgamated recommendations for Council's consideration:

1. That Council **DIRECTS** the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee to engage in a strategic advocacy campaign in support of the Provincial Government establishing a Northern BC standalone secure psychiatric care facility in Prince George with appropriate capitalization and ongoing operational funding. This facility would support individuals requiring complex psychiatric, addictions, and mental health care, reducing the burden on existing hospital and healthcare infrastructure. This advocacy should be pursued in tandem with the existing advocacy initiatives under our Intergovernmental MOU with other locally elected officials (MPs, MLAs, LTFN, FFGRD).
2. That Council **DIRECTS** the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee to advocate for provincial legislation based on expert consultation that would enable involuntary admittance to specialized, compassionate care facilities. The intent is to provide care for those who are at risk for causing extreme harm to themselves or the broader community, and cannot self-identify the medically-recognized need for treatment and admission into a specialized care facility.
3. That Council **ENDORSES** Dr. Barbara Kane's petition to the Provincial Government and Northern Health for the development of a psychiatric hospital in Northern BC, since it supports and furthers the city's advocacy efforts.
4. That Council **DIRECTS** Administration to develop a communications strategy, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, to communicate Council's endorsement of Dr. Kane's petition, the advocacy works the City will undertake, and to advocate that other Northern BC local governments to join this effort.
5. That Council **DIRECTS** Administration to forward these resolutions to NCLGA and UBCM as part of the overall advocacy and communications strategy.