



WEST KOOTENAY-BOUNDARY REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

Spotlight

October 2012

“We’re Very Proud”

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES KLH RE-DEVELOPMENT

NELSON—The long-awaited and highly anticipated opening of the \$15 million Kootenay Lake Hospital emergency department redevelopment was held on September 12th to a crowd of dignitaries, elected officials, hospital staff and community members.

“We’re very proud,” said Interior Health Board Director Glenn Sutherland on behalf of Dr. Robert Halpenny, Interior Health CAO and Norm Embree, Interior Health Chair. Sutherland, a Nelson resident, said that “every aspect of this project was held to the highest standard.”

Marguerite Rotvold, Chair of the West-Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital Board (WKBHRD), which contributed \$5.5 million to the project, said that “an achievement such as this is the result of vision and hard work, expertise and partnership, and of course—time and money... it truly is a regional achievement.” Rotvold praised her fellow directors on the WKBHRD for their support and leadership and for “representing their residents’ health care needs so well.”

Residents from the around the region who seek medical care at KLH will benefit from the project which increased the size of the emergency department three-fold—improving privacy, confidentiality, efficiency, workspace and natural light. New purpose-specific rooms, including the CT scanner suite, will house state-of-the-art equipment and provide treatment space for specialists.

“The sun shines on this facility every day,” said Mayor John Dooley, who credited the tremendous work of KLH staff for their input into the project, their patience as it unfolded and their daily service to the community.

“When we work together, opportunities are endless,” said Dooley.

That sentiment was echoed by MLA John Slater and Pat Dooley, Chair of the Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation.

“We have a shared responsibility for things that are important,” said Ms. Dooley.

The spirit of collaboration and dedication to quality health care was strong as speakers shared stories about the project’s evolution and success.

The new emergency department was officially opened to the public on September 18th.

Dr. Rahul Khosla, Chief of Emergency Medicine, shared that although the new emergency department is “beautiful, I don’t want to see anyone rushing back here.”



DID YOU KNOW...

That the WKBHRD contributed \$5.5 million to the Kootenay Lake Hospital Re-development project?

Left to right: Dr. Rahul Khosla, KLHF Chair Pat Dooley, WKBHRD Chair Marguerite Rotvold, MLA John Slater, Mayor John Dooley, Director Glenn Sutherland

BOARD TOURS SLOCAN VALLEY HOSPITALS

The Hearts of their Communities

On October 10th, the West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital District Board and Staff toured the Slocan Community Health Care Centre in New Denver and the Arrow Lakes Hospital in Nakusp. This was an opportunity for the Board to see how their contributions to capital health projects benefit residents in these communities.

Suzanne McCombs—Community Manager for the Nakusp & New Denver health centres, gave thorough tours of the facilities. She said the New Denver centre is the heart of the community—a sort of “one-stop shop” for health care.



Chair Marguerite Rotvold and Director Henning von Krogh of New Denver take a ride on the bike.

A highlight of the New Denver tour was seeing a specialized bike that was purchased by local foundations and hospital staff. A resident can sit on the

front of the bicycle while a driver peddles the unit. Ms. McCombs shared that one resident who had not left the centre in 25 years was taken out in the bike and was able to see, enjoy and connect with her community again.

At the Arrow Lakes Hospital, the Board saw the Telehealth unit, which uses videoconferencing to connect patients and health care providers with other health professionals around the Province. Such a service is vital in an isolated, rural community.

The Board saw many such services at each of the facilities, in addition to what the hospitals need, such as extra space and new equipment.

Directors were impressed by the family atmosphere in both extended care facilities as well as the number of services offered. Chair Rotvold said it was clear how important these hospitals are to citizens of New Denver and Nakusp. “These residents work really hard to keep these facilities in their communities. It’s important for us as directors to see the exceptional level of care and commitment offered in these smaller rural hospitals.”



The WKBHRD Board of Directors at the October meeting in Nakusp. Thank you to Director Karen Hamling for hosting the Board meeting in the beautiful new emergency services building.

NEW POLICY ADOPTED ON DELEGATIONS

The WKBHRD Board of Directors adopted a new delegation policy which outlines the process by which individuals or groups can apply to be heard by the Board. To read the policy, please visit:

http://rdck.bc.ca/hospitalboard/wkbr_hospital_district.html



WKBHRD LOBBIES INTERIOR HEALTH AT UBCM

At the 2012 Union of BC Municipalities Convention in Victoria in September, members of the West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital District Board met with Interior Health CAO and President Dr. Robert Halpenny. The delegation discussed the importance of a facility study in the hospital district and the status of funding for the Victorian Community Health Centre in Kaslo.



UPDATE ON FUNDS FOR KASLO HEALTH FACILITY

The West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital District Board of Directors had requested that Interior Health consider contributing \$300,000 toward improvements to the Victorian Community Health Centre in Kaslo. After having learned that Ms. Mabel Manning had bequeathed \$500,000 to the facility, the West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital District committed funding of \$200,000 on the condition that Interior Health provide funding as well.

Interior Health has replied that it will proceed with improvements to the facility using just those funds that were bequeathed by Mabel Manning.



UPCOMING 2012 BOARD MEETING

Nov. 21 6 p.m. Castlegar Community Complex

The public is invited to attend Board meetings.

BOARD SECRETARY GUSTAFSON TO RETIRE

WKBHRD Board Secretary Jim Gustafson is retiring—his last meeting will be on November 21st in Castlegar. Join the Board as we bid farewell and congratulations to Jim.