

Spotlight

March 2013



COMMUNITY INTEGRATION— THE NEW WAY OF WORKING

Interior Health is changing how health care services are delivered and that's good news according to the West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital District.

"It's nice to see that we're moving towards health promotion and prevention," said Marguerite Rotvold, Chair of the West Kootenay—Boundary Regional Hospital District. "This will ultimately lower the costs of delivering critical care."

The Board learned of Interior Health's new direction when Andrew Neuner, Vice-President of Community Integration, made a presentation at the March 27th WKBRHD meeting.

Mr. Neuner explained that the aim of community integration is to develop initiatives that "strengthen primary care." To achieve this, Interior Health is creating multi-disciplinary teams of health care providers that will coordinate and deliver effective and efficient care to their patients.

"We are trying to move away from the silo model and towards teamwork [while] being respectful of how people want to receive their care," said Neuner.

Interior has also developed strategies and programs to address the specific health care needs of particular groups of patients such as:

- Aboriginal health
- Breathe Well (*for patients with COPD*)
- Home First (*helping frail seniors stay in their homes*)
- Integration of health care services for Mental Health and Substance Users
- Diabetes Strategy
- Heart Failure & Telehome Monitoring
- Stroke Strategy
- Chronic Pain Strategy
- Healthy Communities (*partnering with communities to improve health*)
- Healthy Schools
- Healthy Start (*for women, children and families*)
- Immunization



Interior Health's Todd Mastel (*left*), Andrew Neuner, & Cheryl Whittleton at the West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital District Board meeting on March 27

Mr. Neuner cited examples of patients who have benefited from some of these initiatives.

He shared the story of "Mr. and Mrs. Nash" (not their real names), an elderly frail couple who were able to remain in their residence because of the Home First program.

Neuner reported that such initiatives are saving money, creating efficiencies and putting less demands on hospitals. But more important is the improvement in patients' health and quality of life.

"Stories like the Nash's, where this couple gets to stay together, pull at your heart strings," said Mr. Neuner.

Ultimately, this new paradigm of health care is intended to help Interior Health realize its goals of delivering high quality care to improve the health and wellness of patients, while at the same time saving money.

Andrew Neuner hopes "this new way of working becomes the normal way of working."



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

May 22	6 p.m.	Kaslo Lighthouse Theatre
October 23	6 p.m.	Castlegar Community Complex
November 27	6 p.m.	Castlegar Community Complex

The public is encouraged to attend Board meetings. Agendas & refreshments available at meetings.



To see which Director represents you on the hospital district board, please visit the RDCK website at www.rdck.bc.ca and click the WKBRHD tab.

New Director for the City of Greenwood Barry Noll

NEW INTERIM TREASURER WELCOMED



Grant Roeland has left recently the employ of the Regional District of Central Kootenay and will therefore no longer serve as the WKBHRD's treasurer. Mr. Roeland has taken a position as Chief Financial Officer with the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary.

The Board thanks Mr. Roeland for his years of exemplary service to the WKBHRD and wishes him the best on his new position.

The Board welcomes Beth Burget of the Regional District of Central Kootenay as its Interim Treasurer. Ms. Burget has previously served as Deputy-Treasurer for the WKBHRD.



Chair Marguerite Rotvold (left) and Secretary Brian Carruthers welcome new Interim Treasurer Beth Burget. Beth is the Manager of Financial Services at the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

DID YOU KNOW...



That the Interior Health Authority spends \$100 million per year managing diabetes?

WKBHRD FACILITY REVIEW

As previously reported in *Spotlight*, the Province has undertaken a review of health care facilities in the West Kootenay—Boundary Regional Hospital District. Interior Health reports that consultants have completed their site visits and have drafted their reports. Interior Health anticipates the reports will be completed in May. Once the Ministry approves the release of the documents, Interior Health will share them with the Board (possibly in late spring/early summer). Stay tuned for more information...

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF KASLO

The West Kootenay—Boundary Regional Hospital District will hold its May meeting in Kaslo so that Directors can tour the Victorian Community Health Centre and hear from the public. The Board has been touring health facilities in the region over the past year to see which services are offered, as well as to get an idea of what equipment and capital upgrades are needed at those sites.

If you are a resident of Kaslo or Electoral Area D, you are invited to attend the WKBHRD Board meeting at:

**6 p.m.
May 22nd
Lighthouse Theatre, Kaslo**

Should a community group wish to make a formal presentation to the Board, please contact Anitra Winje at 250.352.8166 or awinje@rdck.bc.ca at least 10 days prior to May 22nd.



Question...

“Could the outcome of the Provincial election in May affect the projects that the WKBHRD resolved to fund at its February meeting?”

Answer...

No. Regardless of the outcome of the election, those projects that the WKBHRD and Interior Health chose to jointly fund will proceed in April 2013.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR BETTER HEALTH

If you are interested in learning more about the collaboration between local governments and Interior Health to promote healthy communities, read “Healthy Communities in Interior Health” at:

<http://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/HealthyLiving/Documents/Healthy%20Communities%20in%20Interior%20Health.pdf>



The newly constructed Kootenay Lake Hospital, circa 1958. The hospital received a major upgrade in 2012 with the redevelopment of the emergency room department, which the West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital District helped fund.