

Spotlight

October 2015

Kaslo Cares

On October 28th, WKBRHD Board members toured the Victorian Community Health Centre in Kaslo. The Board entered the facility through the new entrance, which offers improved accessibility, enhanced security and better visibility.

The Board learned that its funding contributions have purchased nurse call and fire alarm systems. Also, the hair salon was relocated from an uncontrolled, hard-to-access area to a better location.

Jonathan Jinjoe, Manager of Plant Services advised the Board that the facility's air handling equipment is 20—25 years old and needs to be updated. Additionally, an underground fuel storage tank needs to be replaced with an above-ground unit to meet code requirements.

Site manager Suzanne McCombs said one of the biggest issues at the site is the Telehealth room, which is difficult to access. A fully functioning Telehealth service would enable patients and their physicians to connect with specialists around the Province and even further afield.

While acknowledging the challenge of keeping the emergency room department open, McCombs did point out that the facility now has a full complement of physicians. She said that the nurses are fully trained in emergency medicine. The hospital now wants to bring specialists to the facility to serve residents both in person and over Telehealth. Currently, the site offers mental health support, a lab, x-ray, a baby clinic and visits from an internist, public health nurse, diabetes educator, foot care nurse, optometrist, nicotine intervention counsellor, respiratory therapist and a dietician.

McCombs pointed out that “more people are getting physiotherapy for free in Kaslo than ever before. We are committed to physiotherapy in Kaslo.”

The facility has 18 beds in its residential care unit as well as a respite/palliative care bed.

McCombs is hoping the clinic will be able to expand its hours in the future.



The State of the Reserve

In 2007, the WKBRHD established a reserve fund that was to be used to purchase/finance capital projects. Since then, the reserve has grown to \$9.3 million. In 2012, the Board placed a cap of \$10 million on the fund. At its January 2016 meeting, the Board will decide whether to keep the cap in place or lift it.



The Future of Health Care



“We’re trying to provide services for people at home as much as possible, to keep them at home longer so they don’t have to go into resident care or into the hospital at an earlier time.”

- BC Minister of Health Terry Lake



2016 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Jan. 27	Castlegar Community Complex	6 p.m.
Feb. 24	Castlegar Community Complex	6 p.m.
March 23	Castlegar Community Complex	6 p.m.
June 22	Castlegar Community Complex	6 p.m.
Oct. 26	Castlegar Community Complex	6 p.m.
Nov. 23	Castlegar Community Complex	6 p.m.

If any community groups or delegation would like to present to the Board at any of the meetings, contact Anitra Winje at awinje@rdck.bc.ca 250.352.8166.

Agendas and refreshments are available at the meetings.



WkBRHD Board Chair Marguerite Rotvold (left), talks to Interior Health Board member Pat Dooley.

WkBRHD Welcomes IH Board Member

The WkBRHD Board was pleased to welcome Interior Health Board member Pat Dooley to its October 28th meeting. Mrs. Dooley grew up in Kaslo and has a long history of public service. She has been a superintendent of schools and the former Chair of the Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation.



Services Near You

In addition to the regional hospital in Trail, the following regional services are available to residents in the West Kootenay-Boundary region:

- Acquired macular degeneration clinic (Nelson)
- Transient Ischemic Attack Rapid Access Clinic (Nelson)
- Bone Density Services (Nelson)
- Methadone Therapy (Castlegar)
- Electroencephalography (Castlegar)



The Ministry of Health has identified the following priorities for health care service planning in 2015—2016:

- The delivery of patient-centered services and care
- The delivery of high quality and appropriate health services that best meet the needs of the population
- Managing performance through continuous improvement
- Improving access to and services for primary, home, community and residential care for those with high health and support needs (i.e. mental health and substance abuse, complex chronic conditions and the frail elderly)
- Improving timely access to appropriate surgical treatments and procedures
- Quality rural and remote health services.

DID YOU KNOW...

People who are physically active for 30 minutes a day, control their weight, eat healthy foods and refrain from smoking reduce their risk factors for most chronic diseases by up to 80%?

Nurse Practitioners

What are nurse practitioners? They are registered nurses who have additional training (often a master's degree) and an expanded scope of practice. They are focused on primary care, chronic disease, disease prevention and health promotion. NR's are able to diagnose many conditions, as well as prescribe medications and order tests. They complement the services offered by physicians. NP's first became regulated in British Columbia in 2005.

We have six nurse practitioners in the Kootenay-Boundary region:

- 1 at the Castlegar Health Centre
- 1 for New Denver and Slocan City
- 1 for Nelson and Trail
- 2 in Rossland and Trail
- 1 in Rock Creek

Spotlight thanks Interior Health for the use of its statistics.

