

# Spotlight

May 2015

## Board in the Boundary

Prior to their Board meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup>, directors of the WKBRHD toured Boundary Hospital in Grand Forks.

The Board viewed pieces of equipment it helped fund, such as the water softening system, which is required because of the heavily mineralized water in Grand Forks.

Jonathan Jinjoe, Manager of Plant Services for Kootenay Boundary, pointed out the building's windows date to 1963, when the facility was built. The aluminum frames frost up and condensation forms on the panes. With no R-value, the glass is not energy efficient. Jinjoe hopes the Board will consider contributing funds to replace the windows in the future.

"The infrastructure of the facility is in good condition," said Jinjoe. However, a new chiller is needed, as well as an elevator. Like the windows, the elevator is circa 1963.

The Board also toured Hardy View Lodge, which contains 80 beds, as well as four short-stay beds for patients who need compassionate care for less than 30 days. The facility is also home to dementia patients.

Chair Rotvold thanked Interior Health for the thorough and informative tour of the hospital and said it was beneficial for the Board to see "the infrastructure that is essential to the operation of the facility."

## 2015 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

June 24	Nakusp Emergency Svs Building	6 p.m.
Oct. 28	Kaslo, JV Humphries School	6 p.m.

## The Rotvold Report

Chair Rotvold reported that she and Secretary Horn attended the Spring Interior Health/Regional Hospital District meeting in Kelowna. She raised the following issues on behalf of the WKBRHD Board: population circulation (how population in catchment areas is determined), access to transportation and transit service levels, ambulance, and small water systems and the challenge of complying with regulations.

## Board makes Motion on Transit

The WKBRHD Board passed a motion to write a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure about transit funding. The Provincial budget and BC Transit Budget Plan for 2015 through to 2018 will remain flat, and although there will be sufficient funding for base service levels in year one of the plan, there will be no provisions for expansion. The WKBRHD Board is concerned that this might result in decreased hours of operation. This is concerning to the Board, as regional transit has seen an increase in ridership over the past three years.

Access to health care is of particular concern to the WKBRHD. Regular transit service plays a vital role in health care accessibility. The Board would like to see increased transit service which it believes would contribute to improved health care for residents.



IH staff and WKBRHD Board members view outdated and inefficient windows at the Boundary Hospital.



## Funding Pointed at Arrow Project

The West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital District will dedicate \$100,000 from its reserves to fund a preliminary design and Class B cost estimate, including options for phased construction, for renovations to upgrade the emergency department at Arrow Lakes Hospital. The Board identified the Arrow Lakes Hospital ER renovation as a priority last year.

The money will only be transferred to Interior Health if the authority accepts the offer. *Spotlight* will keep you posted!



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