



**BC Rural Health Network**

Monday, January 24, 2022

Attn: Susan Brown  
CEO Interior Health Authority

Re: Your letter of January 21<sup>st</sup> 2022

Dear Ms. Brown,

Thank you for your prompt response to our letter of January 20th, 2022.

Many rural residents in the communities we represent have lost trust in information received from all levels of government regarding their healthcare interests. We appreciate how challenging the times are, and as stated our goal is to improve, not hinder the dialogue with both our membership, and with all rural residents in BC regarding their health.

The BC Rural Health Network (BCRHN) remains concerned with the return of services post this short-term management of a crisis. We appreciate that Minister Dix stated in the Covid-19 update on January 21 2022 that services will be returned. We also appreciate you too have stated that normal operations will return as soon as possible. It is however, the ambiguity of the statement, and the lack of guarantees in priority of service resumption, which cause concern. Although the rural resident would like to have comfort in the words provided, it has historically been a significant issue for services to be restored once removed from rural communities.

The challenges that BC rural communities have faced pre-pandemic remain on the table, and remain unaddressed. Normal operations were not good in the communities impacted by the recent changes, and the concern they become further impacted and not prioritized, is very real for rural residents.

Our communities need assurances on priority to restoring services and ensuring that further redirection of service is not done in isolation of the communities to be impacted. In addition, we request that dialogue occur pre, rather than post announcement, moving forward.

The BCRHN requests a meeting to discuss improving communications between rural communities and the Interior Health Authority. By way of this letter, we also invite impacted regional mayors to participate. The meeting request comes through our Vice President Colin Moss (Councillor in New Denver) and board member Leonard Casley (Mayor of New Denver.) Please respond at your earliest convenience.

**The BCRHN is the healthcare voice of the rural residents of British Columbia and seeks better health outcomes for all people, through solutions-based approaches with governments, and information provision to residents.**

Yours in Health and Wellness,



Paul Adams  
Administrator  
250-438-0080

Cc: \ Ed Staples, Colin Moss, Peggy Skelton, Leonard Casley, Ted Patterson, Mayor Ferguson, Mayor Casley, Mayor Zeleznik, Mayor Busse, Mayor Stamer, Mayor Blackwell, Mayor Miller