



August 1, 2024

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Via email: mayor@williamslake.ca

Their Worship Surinderpal Rathor
Mayor of the City of Williams Lake
450 Mart St
Williams Lake BC V2G 1N3

Dear Mayor Rathor,

I want to thank you and the Councillors who met with me on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, over Teams to discuss issues regarding recent Emergency Department diversions at Cariboo Memorial Hospital (CMH) and our mutual interest in working together to support actions being taken to avoid future diversions.

At the meeting, I informed you and your colleagues about all of the actions being implemented by the Ministry of Health, the Interior Health Authority (IHA) and the executive team at Cariboo Memorial Hospital to retain and recruit health care professionals and to stabilize and fill potential staffing vacancies that, if left unfilled, lead to Emergency Department diversions.

Emergency Department diversions are a serious issue across Canada as health care systems across the country continue to deal with significant shortages of health care workers, in the context of surging demand for health care services.

As the Minister of Health, I do not want any community to experience an Emergency Department diversion. That is why in Williams Lake we are taking unprecedented direct actions across multiple levels to stabilize our health care team at Cariboo Memorial Hospital and in the community.

These actions include:

Actions to Promote ED Service Stabilization
Nursing
Recruitment

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