

March 3, 2025

File No: 0400-90

Hon. Josie Osborne, Minister of Health  
PO Box 9050 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

*Sent via email: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca*

Dear Minister Osborne:

**Re:** Mandatory Care

Last September, Premier David Eby announced that, under the Province's Safer Communities Action Plan, the Province will be assisting those with long-term concurrent mental health and addictions challenges by opening highly secure facilities for people under the *Mental Health Act* throughout the province, as well as secure treatment within BC Corrections.


We understand that the strategy includes building more than 400 mental health beds at new and expanded hospitals in BC, and that facilities will provide voluntary care, as well as involuntary care under the BC *Mental Health Act* for people certified as requiring that care.

Without question, our region critically requires one of these sites, and the City of Williams Lake is committed to taking a focused, proactive approach. We realize that involuntary care is, in many cases, the best option to provide compassionate intervention and care for those with serious mental health or addiction issues, while preserving their rights and dignity. The City of Williams Lake looks forward to working with the Province to identify future local sites for this population that are appropriate for bringing people with severe addiction, brain injury, and mental health challenges back into their community.

City of Williams Lake Council is committed to being part of the solution, and supports a facility to provide both involuntary and voluntary care in our community in partnership and collaboration with local First Nations communities, the Cariboo Regional District, other local levels of government, and Interior Health.

We look forward to working with you to help create better outcomes for our community.

Yours sincerely,

  
Mayor Surinderpal Rathor

c: Premier David Eby  
MP Todd Doherty, Cariboo-Prince George  
MLA Lorne Doerkson, Cariboo Chilcotin  
Chief Willie Sellars and Council, Williams Lake First Nation  
Chief Rhonda Phillips and Council, Xatsull First Nation  
Chief Joe Alphonse and Council, Tsilhqot'in National Government  
Chair Margo Wagner and Directors, Cariboo Regional District  
Chair Al Richmond and Directors, Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District  
Dr. Robert Halpenny, Chair, Interior Health Board of Directors  
Susan Brown, President & CEO, Interior Health Authority