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His Worship Bill Irving
District of Ucluelet
P.O. Box 999
Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0

Dear Mayor Irving:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with myself and members of my executive team on Thursday, September 25 at the annual UBCM convention to discuss the concept of a combining the RCMP, fire department, and ambulance stations into one location.

BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) is responsible for the delivery, coordination and governance of patient-centred out-of-hospital emergency health services throughout BC through the *Emergency Health Services Act*. As we discussed last month, many changes have taken place at BCEHS over the past year, one of which occurred in April 2014, when a new senior leadership team was put into place with a mandate to improve ambulance service levels province-wide.

This new leadership team recognizes that a "one size fits all" approach does not serve the needs of patients in every community. We would like to assure you that we are committed to exploring innovative options for service delivery within a provincially coordinated framework, and remain open to possibilities as we work to determine how best to serve BC.

As discussed in our meeting, one of the options BCEHS is currently developing is an innovative patient care model called community paramedicine. Community paramedicine is a broad concept and can include many different program models, depending on the particular needs of a community. For example, paramedics might provide home support to seniors and others with specific health care needs, reducing the need for these patients to access a physician or the hospital.

The Ministry of Health has committed to an additional 80 full-time equivalent paramedic positions throughout the province over the next five years to help develop community paramedicine programs in rural communities across BC. BCEHS will be engaging with health authorities and other partners over the next few months to determine how community paramedicine may provide value and identify initial projects for roll out in the spring of 2015.

As mentioned in previous correspondence, BCEHS is interested in hearing more about the potential project of combining the RCMP, fire department, and ambulance stations into one location. Any potential project has to be considered in the context of its relative priority in relation to all potential projects across the province. The financial impacts, both one-time and on-going, also have to be taken into consideration before a decision can be made regarding participation. Please contact Wendy Hall, Director, Facilities to provide any new details you have regarding this project. Wendy can be reached via email at: wendy.hall@bcehs.ca.

Again, thank you for meeting with us at the UBCM convention. BCEHS believes that by working together with communities we are better able to determine how we can best serve BC's many diverse communities.

Sincerely,



Linda Lupini
Executive Vice President
Provincial Health Services Authority
& BC Emergency Health Services

cc: Carl Roy, President & Chief Executive Officer, Provincial Health Services Authority
Lynn Stevenson, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Jodi Jensen, Chief Operating Officer, BC Emergency Health Services
Nikki Sieben, Chief Transformation Officer, BC Emergency Health Services
Wendy Hall, Director, Facilities, BC Emergency Health Services