

January 18, 2022

File No. 0220-20

Transmitted by Email: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Jim.sinclair@fraserhealth.ca
Victoria.Lee@fraserhealth.ca

Mr. Adrian Dix, Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
PO Box 9050
STN Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Mr. Jim Sinclair, Board Chair and
Dr. Victoria Lee, President and CEO
Fraser Health Authority
Suite 400 , Central City Towner
13450 – 102 Avenue
Surrey, BC V3T 0H1

Dear Minister Dix, Mr. Sinclair and Dr. Lee:

Re: Temporary Closure of Maternity Ward at Peace Arch Hospital

On behalf of Council and the City of White Rock, I am writing to you further to the recent decision by the Fraser Health Authority to temporarily close the Maternity Ward at the Peace Arch Hospital and asking maternity patients to attend Langley Memorial Hospital for their deliveries beginning January 28.

We understand that there may be a reduction in medical staff and pediatricians at the Peace Arch Hospital currently and the need to provide optimal care, however, this is an essential health care need in the City of White Rock and surrounding South Surrey area with an increasing population of young families. The Peace Arch Hospital services a local area population of 110,000, delivers more than 1,000 babies per year and 20% of its emergency patients are children.

In addition, the White Rock community has heavily invested in maternity services at the Peace Arch Hospital. In 2010, the community together with the Peace Arch Hospital Foundation raised and invested \$5.3M to build a new Maternity Ward at the Peace Arch Hospital. Those are community dollars.

We also note that maternity patients are being asked to drive 30 minutes to Langley Memorial Hospital, or perhaps a 40-minute drive to Surrey Memorial Hospital, which does not seem acceptable for these patients.

Currently, Cloverdale or Delta has no maternity services available, and the new hospital planned for Cloverdale, which is years away from being built and operational, will not offer maternity services. We understand that Surrey Memorial Hospital's maternity services are at capacity, meanwhile Surrey is on a trajectory to surpass Vancouver as the region's largest city in the next few years.

It is disappointing that there seems to have been a lack of collaboration or planning with stakeholders so that this situation could perhaps have been prevented.

On behalf of the residents of White Rock and the South Surrey area, we are seeking a permanent solution by the Minister of Health and the Fraser Healthy Authority. At the very least, assurances that this is temporary situation, the recruitment of sufficient staff, and the reopening of the Maternity Ward is a priority.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter and look forward to a reply.

Yours truly,

Darryl Walker, Mayor

cc: Dr. Laura Lewington, Pediatrics Department, PAH
White Rock Council

DRAFT