

<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda <i>March 21</i>	Ownership
<input type="checkbox"/> Works	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg Board <i>AND</i>	File# <i>0220-01</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> DS	<input type="checkbox"/> In Camera	<i>NOCSEHD 9000-05</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fin/Adm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Mtg	<i>March 26, 2019</i>
<i>2519A</i> <b>MAR 14 2019</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ec Dev	<b>RECEIVED</b>	Ack Sent:
<input type="checkbox"/> IT	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff to Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Fax
<input type="checkbox"/> Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff to Respond	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail
<input type="checkbox"/> SEP	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff Info Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
<input type="checkbox"/> HR	<input type="checkbox"/> Dir Mailbox	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Dir Circulate	

March 12, 2019

The Right Honourable Adrian Dix  
Minister of Health  
Province of British Columbia  
Victoria, B.C.

RE: Proposed Relocation of the Armstrong Vision Center, Pleasant Valley Health Center.

Dear Sir:

It has recently come to our attention that Interior Health is seriously considering moving this clinic from its current location to the Vernon Hospital.

We feel that this would be a huge mistake that would negatively impact on the health care of thousands of British Columbians from Revelstoke to Sorrento and south to Vernon. The information came to light at a Zone Meeting of the Lions clubs involving the executives from Armstrong Lions, Enderby Lions, Lake Country Lions, Lumby Lions and Vernon Lions. All those present were extremely distressed to hear of this proposal. It has been confirmed with Lisa Westermarck of Interior Health that this proposal is indeed being considered. Apparently, the main problem is the availability of Anesthetists for the huge number of eye surgeries at this location.

The Lions Clubs, in this area, were instrumental in establishing this clinic in the first place more than a decade ago and just last year purchased a new Argon laser machine for the clinic at a cost of over \$108,000.00.

The Armstrong/Spallumcheen Health Care Auxiliary who have 25+ years of volunteer service, thousands of hours running a thrift shop, and more than a million dollars donated to health care in the area are also very concerned about this proposal.

In a nutshell, this move would undoubtedly cause eye patients to have to wait much longer for required eye surgery. It would also put all our ophthalmologists in the situation of having to compete for operating time at Vernon hospital which is already extremely busy. If they cannot get operating time, I believe that they would leave the area and find somewhere else to practice.

If this move takes place, I suspect that those volunteer organizations that have been so generously supporting the eye health in this area for so many years, would cease to do so.

The bottom line is that this move would not provide the level of eye care needed in this area; would cause many people a high degree of stress in trying to address their eye health care; and would certainly be likely to cost the province much more in the final analysis.

Your support in looking into this matter as soon as possible and helping to keep this very worthwhile facility open would be very much appreciated.

I am certain that you would agree that you do not solve one problem by creating another larger one.

Thank you for your attention. Please respond to our concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Peter & Betty Powell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter & Betty Powell

Enderby Lions Club Members.

Cc: Lisa Westermarck, Interior Health

Greg Kylo, MLA Columbia Shuswap

Rona Martin, Chairperson, North Okanagan/ Columbia Shuswap Regional Hospital District

Marj Bailey, President, Armstrong/Spallumcheen Health Auxiliary

Mayor and Council, District of Sicamous

Dr. Shelly Geier, Sicamous Vision Care

Dianne Boyd, President, Armstrong Lions Club

Dennis Morgan, President, Enderby Lions Club