



Interior Health
Every person matters

April 5, 2019

Ms. Rhona Martin, Chair
Columbia Shuswap Regional District
555 Harbourfront Drive NE, PO Box 978
Salmon Arm BC V1E 4P1

Dear Ms. Martin:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Lions Vision Centre, located at the Pleasant Valley Health Centre. Interior Health and Vernon Jubilee Hospital Senior Leadership truly recognize the dedication and incredible work undertaken by those involved in making the Lions Vision Centre a reality, and their continued support for ongoing equipment needs at the Centre.

The Vision Centre is currently experiencing a shortage of anaesthesiology resources. This shortage is being experienced across Interior Health, and throughout B.C. and Canada. In response to the shortage we have managed to find interim coverage. However, this is not a sustainable option and gaps in coverage have the potential to cause postponement of surgical cases. I want to assure you that we are working diligently with our physicians to reduce the impact to patients and to develop the best possible solution to continue to provide sustainable safe patient care.

I am acutely aware of the potential impact that this information may have on the valued relationship with the Lions Club as a key stakeholder in the Lion's Vision Centre, and I would not wish to cause any undue stress to the Lions Club or wider community.

While it is possible that relocation to Vernon may be required to sustain service for local patients, I want to stress that no decision has been made and our preference is certainly to find a way to keep the service in its current location.

Interior Health has a formal policy of consultation with third party donors and we will make certain the necessary collaboration with the Lions Club takes place if a need to relocate appears unavoidable.

Sincerely,

Richard Harding
Acute Health Service Administrator
Hospitals and Communities, North Okanagan

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