



January 11, 2021

The Honourable Adrian Dix  
Minister of Health  
PO Box 9050 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dr. Victoria Lee  
President and CEO, Fraser Health Authority  
Suite 400, Central City Tower, 13450 102 Avenue  
Surrey, BC V3T 0H1

Dear Minister Dix and Dr. Lee,

**Re: Continuation of Service at the Irene Thomas Hospice**

On February 25, 2021 the service agreement and lease between Fraser Health Authority and Delta Hospice Society, as well as all associated funding for the Society, will terminate. Delta Mayor and Council supports the actions taken by the Provincial Government and Fraser Health Authority.

Mayor and Council are committed to working together with the Minister of Health and the Fraser Health Authority to ensure that Delta residents have fair and equal access to palliative and hospice care in their community, according to the standards established by the Province of BC and rights legislated by the Government of Canada.

According to the terms of the lease for the Irene Thomas Hospice facility, Fraser Health Authority is entitled to take over the hospice residence for the purpose of undertaking hospice and palliative care services. As Mayor of Delta, on behalf of the residents of Delta, and with the unanimous support of Delta City Council, I urge Fraser Health Authority and the Province to exercise all rights afforded to them under the lease or otherwise to continue high quality palliative and hospice care at this important Delta facility.

We understand that due to the legal stance of the current Delta Hospice Society there may be a disruption for Delta residents who are seeking access to services at the Irene Thomas Hospice. This would be a very disruptive time for Delta residents who worked so hard and contributed funding that provided Delta their own community-based hospice facility.

... 2

January 11, 2021  
Page 2

Should the current Delta Hospice Society cause a disruption in service, we would strongly request the Ministry provide interim hospice beds in provincial health care facilities located in Delta, in order to allow Delta residents to continue to access critical services in their own community.

We very much appreciate the number of attempts by Dr. Victoria Lee and staff of the Fraser Health Authority to work with the Delta Hospice Society on a transition plan which would have allowed all current hospice care staff to retain their jobs and continue providing special care for residents needing hospice services in the Irene Thomas Cottage. Moving forward, we implore Fraser Health to make all efforts possible to rehire hospice staff who have been laid off by the current board.

It is incredibly unfortunate that the current Delta Hospice Society Board is determined to sabotage opportunities for Delta residents to have hospice services in their community. It is vital that steps be taken to ensure that special interest groups do not have the ability to remove beds from our community hospice facility ever again. As such, our community leaders and Delta elected officials are committed to working with your staff on alternatives to the current administrative model.

Finally, we implore the Province and Fraser Health Authority to take all steps possible to preserve for the benefit of Delta residents all assets and equipment acquired through incredible local fundraising efforts and hundreds of personal donations over many years.

We look forward to a response and continuing working with Ministry of Health officials.

Yours truly,



George V. Harvie  
Mayor

cc: The Hon. Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and  
Disability Inclusion  
The Hon. Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation  
Ian Paton, MLA Delta South  
Delta Council