



Village of Cache Creek

1389 QUARTZ ROAD

P.O. BOX 7 • CACHE CREEK, B.C. V0K 1H0 • TEL: (250) 457-6237 • FAX: (250) 457-9192
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Honourable Josie Osborne
Minister of Health
PO Box 9050 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

SENT VIA EMAIL: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Re: Maternity Care Services at Royal Inland Hospital

JOSIE
Dear Minister Osborne,

On behalf of the Village of Cache Creek Council, we are writing to express our deep disappointment and concern regarding Interior Health's recent advisement of potential maternity service interruptions at Royal Inland Hospital (RIH). This news has caused significant alarm within our community, as well as across the wider Thompson-Nicola region, given the central importance of RIH for our area.

Expectant parents in our region should not face uncertainty about where they will deliver their children. The advisement notes that due to physician scheduling shortages, patients may be diverted to other hospitals located hundreds of kilometres away. For families already under stress, this prospect is unacceptable. The burden of traveling long distances, particularly in emergency situations, creates unnecessary risk for both mothers and newborns, while also placing emotional and financial strain on families.

While we acknowledge and respect the efforts by Interior Health to maintain emergency coverage and provide supports for transportation and accommodation, these measures are no substitute for stable, local maternity care. The ability to deliver safely and consistently in Kamloops is not a convenience; it is a necessity. When the central hospital for a region cannot reliably maintain its maternity ward, it directly undermines confidence in the healthcare system. Families notice this, and so do professionals considering relocation. If a critical service such as maternity cannot be guaranteed, it raises broader concerns about the reliability of healthcare in our region and, by extension, the attractiveness of our communities as places to live, work, and invest.

For small rural municipalities like ours, this issue goes beyond healthcare. Rural areas often have lower average incomes, meaning many residents are less able to afford the extra costs of long-distance travel or extended stays away from home. This places some of our most at-risk people in very difficult situations, forcing them farther from their personal care networks at a time when support is needed most. At a time when communities across the Interior are working hard to grow and diversify, this kind of instability sends a discouraging message that risks long-term consequences.





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Residents of Cache Creek and the wider region deserve the same level of reliable, accessible maternity care that is expected elsewhere in British Columbia. Council strongly urges the Province and Interior Health to take immediate steps to address these service gaps and to provide a clear and transparent plan for ensuring long-term, dependable maternity care in Kamloops. We ask that your Ministry engage openly with local governments and communities to restore confidence in this essential service.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to a timely and meaningful response that reflects the Province's commitment to equitable healthcare for all British Columbians, regardless of geography.

Respectfully,

P.A. John Ranta
Mayor, Village of Cache Creek
On behalf of Council

Cc:

- Board of Directors, Thompson-Nicola Regional District
- City of Kamloops Council
- City of Merritt Council
- District of Barriere Council
- District of Clearwater Council
- District of Logan Lake Council
- Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality Council
- Village of Ashcroft Council
- Village of Cache Creek Council
- Village of Clinton Council
- Village of Lytton Council
- Lorne Doerkson – MLA for Cariboo - Chilcotin

