



July 23, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mayor and Council,

RE: A Strategy for Rural Economic Development Through Health Care

The Council of the Village of Kaslo is sponsoring the following resolution, which was identified by the Association of Kootenay-Boundary Local Governments as a top shared priority, to the UBCM Convention this September.

A Strategy for Rural Economic Development Through Health Care

Whereas local health care at all stages of life impacts the economic development of communities: e.g. family members lose work time, people and their businesses move out of the community or choose not to locate there;

And whereas “ageing in place” keeps seniors close to home, where their partner, family or friends are better able to provide loving support and care, which reduces the load on health care providers and improves quality of life for all;

And whereas concentrating health services in regional centres transfers a significant economic burden to individuals in the form of transportation costs, increased energy consumption and housing in-affordability;

And whereas providing health care jobs in small communities stimulates the local economy with numerous spin-off benefits, creating opportunities to attract new people, their families, and businesses;

And whereas our elderly, and all patients, deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, not as “users”;

Now therefore be it resolved that we call upon the Government of British Columbia to build a strategy to expand rural community health care services with consideration for maximizing local

economic impacts, creating professional job opportunities, access to affordable housing, improving social wellbeing and reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.'

(Resolution 23/2020 Passed January 28, 2020)

We appreciate your consideration to support our resolution, which has become even more timely and relevant considering the impacts Covid-19 on the health and vitality of small, rural and remote communities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzan Hewat', written in a cursive style.

Mayor Suzan Hewat

Cc: BC Municipalities and Local Governments
The Honourable Adrian Dix, British Columbia Minister of Health