

August 5, 2025

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

Dear Minister Osborne,

Re: Third Service Disruption at Delta Hospital and Lack of Action from Fraser Health

Last night, the Delta Hospital Emergency Department faced another overnight closure. This is the **third** major service interruption in recent months, following overnight closures that occurred between February 22 and 24, 2025. These repeated disruptions are deeply concerning and unacceptable.

This matter cannot be ignored by Fraser Health. Residents of Delta, Tsawwassen First Nation, and the thousands of commuters and workers who rely on Delta Hospital cannot be expected to navigate a system where 24/7 emergency care is no longer guaranteed.

Council has been clear and consistent in its advocacy for the need for urgent care in Delta. We have called repeatedly for the establishment of two Urgent and Primary Care Centres (UPCCs)—one in the North Delta area and one in South Delta or Tsawwassen First Nation. This proposal, jointly supported by the City of Surrey and Tsawwassen First Nation, was submitted to your office on May 6, 2025. Establishing UPCC facilities in Delta would directly alleviate pressure on Delta Hospital and provide essential access to non-emergency care for residents who currently have nowhere else to go.

In addition, Delta Council remains highly concerned by the absence of a meaningful response from Fraser Health leadership. Despite written invitations, neither Dr. Lynn Stevenson, Interim CEO of Fraser Health, nor any member of the Fraser Health board has appeared before Delta Council. This lack of engagement with Delta Council is not only disappointing—it is a failure in public accountability. Delta Council expects more from our health authority's leadership.

Furthermore, it must be acknowledged that structural underfunding is constraining Fraser Health's ability to meet the needs of growing communities like Delta. I have been advised that **Fraser Health serves 39% of British Columbia's population yet**

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receives only 28% of the provincial health budget. In contrast, **Vancouver Coastal Health serves 22% of the population but receives 29% of the health budget.** This significant funding gap directly limits Fraser Health's capacity to expand services and respond to rising demand, especially as more specialized care is being shifted to the Fraser region. Residents of Delta and other Fraser Health communities are being asked to accept growing service delays while receiving less per-capita investment—it is inequitable and unsustainable.

This has led to a situation in which Delta Hospital's emergency department has become so fragile that an illness affecting a single staff member can result in its closure, as occurred last night and for the third time in less than six months. This issue is further compounded for life threatening situations where in our community the BC Emergency Health Services ambulance response times already fail to meet the provincial standards and are currently the worst response times across the region.

As Minister, both the funding inadequacy and Fraser Health's leadership are directly under your purview. I am requesting an urgent meeting with you, the Fraser Health Board, Delta City Council, and local leaders in healthcare including the CEO of the Delta Hospital and Community Health Foundation, Lisa Hogland.

Please have your staff contact our Deputy City Manager, Marcy Sangret at (604) 946-3219 or via email at citymanager@delta.ca to setup a time to meet.

Yours truly,



George V. Harvie
Mayor

cc: Hon. David Eby, Premier
Hon. Ravi Kahlon, MLA for Delta North
Ian Paton, MLA for Delta South
Hon. Jill McKnight, MP for Delta
Laura Cassidy, Chief, Tsawwassen First Nation
Brenda Locke, Mayor, City of Surrey
Delta City Council
Deputy City Manager, Marcy Sangret