

**DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2009 AT 3:00 P.M.**

Present    **Council:** Mayor Anderson; Councillors Webster, Summer, and Johansson  
              **Staff:**     B. Mercereau, Deputy Clerk  
              **Others:**    Angela De Smit, Northern Health

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Anderson called the special meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

**NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES**

Angela De Smit from Northern Health gave a presentation to Council on the northeast health services for the region and for Hudson's Hope. The following information was provided:

- explained the Northern Health Authority vision, mission and values;
- advised that Hudson's Hope is a Diagnostic and Treatment Centre that includes ER services, public health, home and community care and mental health Services;
- outlined the many communities and aboriginal communities in their service area;
- trying to work with each community to determine their specific needs;
- have a difficult time trying to have a fill in for vacation time for the Hudson's Hope nurse;
- oil and gas companies are suppose to come and speak with the hospitals and clinics when they will be working in the area;
- some companies have spoken with the Hudson's Hope centre, however they do not have the capacity to be a triage centre;
- the doctor has the right to refuse medical care;
- the nurse or medical staff need to get detailed information on the telephone to advise whether the Hudson's Hope facility can deal with the patient or if they should be diverted directly to another facility such as Fort St. John;
- the Ministry of Health does not provide out patient physiotherapist services;
- Council could approach one of the private physiotherapists in Fort St. John to see if they would be interested in coming to Hudson's Hope;
- the Hudson's Hope physiotherapist facility in the clinic can be used free of charge;
- Council should schedule a meeting with Dr. Temple, the North East Medical Director, to discuss physician issues;
- a nurse practioneer is someone between a nurse and a physician and they are able to prescribe some medications;
- have entered into an agreement with Pharmasave to run and do the billing for the Hudson's Hope pharmacy; and
- questions or comments with regards to the Hudson's Hope facility can be directed to Angela De Smit or to Ms. Worrall at the clinic who is the site manager.

Council members made the following comments:

- have a large population of transient workers that are not recognized by the Ministry and therefore the Hudson's Hope Clinic does not receive additional funding for these non-residents who use the facility;
- concerned with lack of coverage on weekends, evenings and on Wednesdays;
- questioned if there is a difference in per diem, as other communities don't seem to

- have the same problems we have in trying to recruit doctors;
- questioned if the job posting should include the stipends that are received from BC Hydro along with housing and education funding;
  - asked Northern Health how Council can help to recruit doctors;
  - do not have enough ambulance attendants, which is a concern when we have a lack of doctor coverage;
  - requested that staff find out if the Oil and Gas regulations require companies to notify hospitals or clinics when they are working in the area;
  - questioned if a physiotherapist could charge clients extra to cover their travel and salary or if there is a set rate enforced by the Ministry;
  - a respiratory therapist who could come to Hudson's Hope once a month would be a great asset;
  - with recruitment problems, could it be advertised for two doctors to share the practice or advertise for one physician and one nurse practitioner;
  - no staff available at the clinic during their coffee breaks; and
  - concerned residents have left messages at the Northern Health office, but have heard nothing back.

Council agreed that they were thankful to have some doctor coverage in Hudson's Hope, but that they would like to see a more permanent solution.

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#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor Johansson and Seconded by Councillor Webster;  
"That the special meeting be adjourned." (4:27 pm)

Certified Correct:

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Clerk

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Mayor