

JOINT NEWS RELEASE

North West Regional Hospital District

Nisga'a Lisims Government

FIRST MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT AND THE NISGA'A NATION



On October 21, 2016, at a special meeting in Terrace, BC, the North West Regional Hospital District (NWRHD) and the Nisga'a Nation signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a process by which Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) may propose capital health projects to the NWRHD for funding.

Nisga'a Lands were included within the district boundaries of the NWRHD in December of 2014, and the Nisga'a Nation appointed its first Director to the NWRHD in January of 2015. The Nisga'a Nation also began paying Regional Hospital District Property Taxes in 2015. The inclusion of

Nisga'a Lands as part of the hospital district and this MOU are firsts for the province. No other hospital district in the province includes treaty lands within its district boundaries and no other treaty government has a similar tax or funding arrangement with a hospital district anywhere else in the province.

The Nisga'a Nation will now be able to submit proposals for capital projects in the same manner as the Northern Health Authority, which covers the NWRHD excluding Nisga'a Lands.

NWRHD Chair Harry Nyce welcomed the Nisga'a delegation, which included Collier Azak, NLG's CEO, and Shirley Morven, the Chairperson of the Council of Elders of NLG. Mr. Azak called the event, "An exciting accomplishment for both NLG and the NWRHD." Ms. Morven spoke of the milestones she has seen over her life, and how this was another.

"Nisga'a Lisims Government looks forward to working with NWRHD to improve health infrastructure in the north of the province, which is obviously something that is needed in many areas," stated Mr. Azak.

"NWRHD is pleased to have a framework in place that will allow us to move forward in fully incorporating the Nisga'a Nation and provide the same opportunities to all communities we represent," stated Harry Nyce, Chair NWRHD.

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About the North West Regional Hospital District

The North West Regional Hospital District (NWRHD), is comprised of 28 directors representing the North Coast Regional District, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine, the western portion of the Bulkley Nechako Regional District and the Nisga'a Nation.

The Regional Hospital District raises funds through tax requisitions for capital projects including hospital facilities and equipment. These funds support local Health Authority projects.