

September 21, 2016

CLIFF: 1030701
File: 51260-20

Steven Hui
Chair
Revelstoke District Health Foundation
PO Box 2421
Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0

Dear Mr. Hui,

Re: Letter of Support - Revelstoke Queen Victoria Hospital Heliport

On behalf of the BC Emergency Health Services I would like to express our full support for the planned heliport infrastructure development at the Revelstoke Queen Victoria Hospital.

The ability of an air ambulance helicopter to land at a designated hospital heliport is a fundamental requirement to shortening inter-facility transit times and ensuring that critically injured patients receive timely medical care. Although the Revelstoke Airport is only a five minute drive from the Queen Victoria Hospital, the transfer of the patient and medical equipment from the road ambulance to the aircraft can take up to twenty minutes, a transfer that must also occur at the receiving destination. Hospital heliports render these additional transfers unnecessary enabling the patient to receive medical attention much sooner. And, a helicopter flight from Queen Victoria Hospital to Kelowna General or Royal Inland Hospital is approximately 45 minutes as compared to two hours and forty-five minutes by road. Of interest, in the past two years the BC Emergency Health Services transferred 13 patients by fixed wing aircraft and 28 patients by helicopter from Revelstoke.

A designated heliport affords greater safety of flight as compared to an emergency landing zone. Heliports with prepared surfaces, fixed lighting, safety areas and designated approach/departure paths enable the safe and timely transfer of patients to the receiving hospital and the eventual transfer to a higher care facility.

Unfortunately, the BC Emergency Health Services is not in a position to provide funding for heliport infrastructure initiatives. We encourage communities to establish and maintain well equipped hospital heliport facilities that afford safe and reliable access for our rotary wing air ambulance fleets.

Should you require any further information, please contact me directly at 250.952.6061 or Paul.Bouchard@bcehs.ca.

Sincerely,



Paul Bouchard
Director, Aviation
Provincial Programs