

OPEN MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

7:00 pm

FVRD Boardroom, 45950 Cheam Avenue, Chilliwack, BC

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDENDA AND LATE ITEMS

All/Unweighted

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION

THAT the Agenda, Addenda and Late Items for the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board Open Meeting of December 19, 2018 be approved:

AND THAT all delegations, reports, correspondence and other information set to the Agenda be received for information.

3. MINUTES / MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Inaugural Meeting of the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board - November 27, 2018

4 - 7

All/Unweighted

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION

THAT the Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board of November 27, 2018 be adopted.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 2019 Hospital District Provisional Budget

8 - 12

Motion No. 1: First Reading - All/Weighted

Motion No. 2: Second & Third Reading - All/Weighted

Motion No. 3: Adoption - All/Weighted (2/3 Majority)

- Corporate report dated December 19, 2018 from Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services
- Draft Bylaw No. 0072, 2018

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION

MOTION NO.1: THAT the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board consider giving first reading to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Provisional Budget Bylaw No. 0072, 2018*.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION

MOTION NO.2 THAT the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board consider giving second and third reading to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Provisional Budget Bylaw No. 0072, 2018*.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION

MOTION NO.3 THAT the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board consider adopting the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Provisional Budget Bylaw No. 0072, 2018*.

5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1 **Progress Report regarding Abbotsford Regional Centre for Health Education and Simulation.**

13 - 17

6. REPORTS FROM BOARD DIRECTORS

7. ADDENDA ITEMS/LATE ITEMS

8. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD FOR ITEMS RELEVANT TO AGENDA

9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

All/Unweighted

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION

THAT the meeting be closed to the public, except for Senior Staff and the Executive Assistant for the purpose of receiving and adopting Closed Meeting Minutes convened in accordance to Section 90 of the *Community Charter* and to consider matters pursuant to:

- Section 90(1)(e) of the *Community Charter* - the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Board considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Hospital Regional District; and
- Section 90(1)(k) of the *Community Charter* - negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a regional service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Board, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the regional district if they were held in public.

R E C E S

10. RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

11. RISE AND REPORT

12. ADJOURNMENT

All/Unweighted

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board Open Meeting of December 19, 2018 be adjourned.



INAUGURAL FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

(Immediately after the FVRD Inaugural Board Meeting)

Members Present:

Director Henry Braun, City of Abbotsford, Chair
Director Dennis Adamson, Electoral Area B
Director Pam Alexis, District of Mission
Director Wendy Bales, Electoral Area C
Director Kelly Chahal, City of Abbotsford
Director Hugh Davidson, Electoral Area F
Director Bill Dickey, Electoral Area D
Director Taryn Dixon, Electoral Area H
Director Orion Engar, Electoral Area E
Director Leo Facio, Village of Harrison Hot Springs
Director Brenda Falk, City of Abbotsford
Director Carol Hamilton, District of Mission
Director Chris Kloot, City of Chilliwack
Director Dave Loewen, City of Abbotsford
Director Jason Lum, City of Chilliwack
Director Bud Mercer, City of Chilliwack
Director Ken Popove, City of Chilliwack
Director Sylvia Pranger, District of Kent
Director Terry Raymond, Electoral Area A
Director Peter Robb, District of Hope
Director Patricia Ross, City of Abbotsford
Director Ross Siemens, City of Abbotsford
Director Al Stobbart, Electoral Area G

Staff Present:

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrator Officer
Suzanne Gresham, Director of Corporate Initiatives
Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services
Tareq Islam, Director of Engineering & Community Services

Barclay Pitkethly, Director of Regional Programs
Margaret-Ann Thornton, Director of Planning & Development
Stacey Barker, Deputy Director of Regional Programs
Jaime Schween, Manager of Corporate Administration
Jennifer Kinneman, Manager of Corporate Affairs
Kristy Hodson, Manager of Finance
Tyler Davis, Network Analyst I
Chris Lee, Executive Assistant
Maggie Mazurkewich, Recording Secretary

There were eight members of the public present.

1. CALL TO ORDER by Chief Administrative Officer

The meeting was called to order at 7:24 pm.

2. ELECTION OF FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD CHAIR by Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Gipps called for nominations for the position of Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board Chair.

Director Loewen nominated Director Henry Braun. Mr. Gipps called for nominations for the position of Hospital Board Chair for a second and third time.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Gipps declared Director Braun as the Hospital Board Chair, and he assumed the Chair.

3. ELECTION OF FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD ACTING CHAIR by Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Gipps called for nominations for the position of Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board Acting Chair.

Director Pranger nominated Director Pam Alexis. Director Dixon nominated Director Leo Facio. Mr. Gipps called for nominations for the position of Hospital Board Chair for a second and third time.

There being no further nominations, the nominees were given an opportunity to address the Hospital Board for one minute on why they should be elected.

An election by ballot was then conducted and the Chief Administrative Officer declared Director Alexis as Acting Chair of the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District.

4. REMARKS BY FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD CHAIR

Director Braun, Chair, remarked on the accomplishments of the Hospital Board over the past year and thanked the Board for his appointment. He congratulated Director Alexis for her appointment as Acting Hospital Chair.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDENDA AND LATE ITEMS

Moved By RAYMOND

Seconded By MERCER

THAT the Agenda, Addenda and Late Items for the Inaugural Meeting of the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board of November 27, 2018 be approved;

AND THAT all delegations, reports and correspondence and other information set to the Agenda be received for information.

CARRIED

6. MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board - September 25, 2018

Moved By CHAHAL

Seconded By FACIO

THAT the Minutes of the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board of September 25, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED

7. REPORTS FROM BOARD DIRECTORS

Director Bales remarked on recent meetings with Sts'ailes First Nation.

Director Adamson commented on funding micro projects in his electoral area.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD FOR ITEMS RELEVANT TO AGENDA

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By ROBB

Seconded By PRANGER

THAT the Inaugural Meeting of the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board of November 27, 2018 be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

.....
Director Henry Braun, Chair

.....
Corporate Officer/Deputy

To: CAO for the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board

Date: December 19, 2018

From: Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

File No: HD3920-20

Subject: 2019 Hospital District Provisional Budget

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District give three readings and adoption to *Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Provisional Budget Bylaw No. 0072, 2018*.

BACKGROUND

Attached is the Regional Hospital District 2019 Provisional Budget bylaw for consideration. Section 23 of the Hospital District Act states the Board must adopt for 2019 a Provisional Budget by December 31, 2018 and an Annual Budget by March 31, 2019.

DISCUSSION

With the legislative deadline approaching to adopt a 2019 Provisional Budget and the understanding that the Annual Budget (to be adopted prior to March 31st, 2019) is the budget for which the 2019 property tax requisition is based on, Staff are proposing a 2019 Provisional Budget much aligned with the 2018 Annual Budget.

Specifically, the proposed Provisional Budget follows the plan set for 2019 in the 2018 five year plan:

- continuing to put funds into a Major Capital Projects reserve to be used to fund the Board's financial commitment to Fraser Health Authority (FHA) for the Abbotsford and Chilliwack Residential healthcare projects,
- continuing to allocate \$1.8 million per annum to fund FVRHD's share of Fraser Health's minor and medium facility/equipment projects,
- setting the annual administration fee recovery from the Regional District for operating the Hospital District at \$4,000,000, and
- adjusting investment income revenues based on projected capital reserves levels.

The provisional budget authorizes payments for expenses related to the Hospital District prior to the annual budget being passed by the Board.

The Board will have the opportunity to further discuss and provide direction regarding the 2019 Annual Budget in February and March 2019.

COST

As authorized within the 2019 Provisional Budget.

CONCLUSION

The Hospital District must pass a 2019 Provision Budget prior to December 31, 2018, even though the 2019 Annual Budget is what the 2019 Property Tax Requisition will be based on. With the approaching deadline, the Board has the opportunity to adopt a roll over budget from 2018 which provides time to further review Hospital District operations and direction prior to adopting the 2019 Annual Budget.

COMMENT BY:

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported.

FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

BYLAW NO. 0072, 2018

A Bylaw to Adopt the Hospital District Provisional Budget for the Year 2019

The Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board of Directors enacts as follows:

1) CITATION

This bylaw may be cited as *Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Provisional Budget Bylaw No. 0072, 2018*.

2) ENACTMENTS

Schedules A and B attached hereto and an integral part of this bylaw is the Provisional Budget for the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District for the year ending the 31st day of December 2019.

3) SEVERABILITY

If a portion of this bylaw is found invalid by a court, it will be severed and the remainder of the bylaw will remain in effect.

4) READINGS AND ADOPTION

READ A FIRST TIME THIS _____ day of _____

READ A SECOND TIME THIS _____ day of _____

READ A THIRD TIME THIS _____ day of _____

ADOPTED THIS _____ day of _____

Chair/Vice-Chair

Corporate Officer/Deputy

5) CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of *Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Provisional Budget Bylaw No. 0072, 2018* as adopted by the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board of Directors on the _____ day of _____. Dated at Chilliwack, B.C. this _____ day of _____

Corporate Officer/Deputy

FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT
2019 PROVISIONAL BUDGET

Schedule A of Bylaw No. 0072, 2018

	2018 ANNUAL BUDGET	2018 PROJECTED ACTUAL	2019 ANNUAL BUDGET
REVENUE			
Tax Requisition	\$ 11,175,300	\$ 11,175,300	\$ 11,398,800
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	160,000	160,000	160,000
Interest Income	429,400	429,400	417,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	39,300	34,000	39,300
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 11,804,000	\$ 11,798,700	\$ 12,015,100
EXPENSES			
Administration Recovery	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 400,000
Operating Expenses	14,680	10,950	14,680
Interest on Long Term Debt			
Abbotsford Hospital/Cancer Centre	743,100	743,100	743,100
Chilliwack General Hospital	973,330	973,330	973,330
Contributions to Hospital Foundations	-	-	-
Contributions to Fraser Health Authority			
Minor & Medium Equipment	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000
Major Capital Projects	3,600,000	3,330,000	6,500,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 7,481,110	\$ 7,207,380	\$ 10,431,110
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ 4,322,890	\$ 4,591,320	\$ 1,583,990
FINANCING & RESERVE FUND ACTIVITIES			
Transfer From Reserve Funds			
Capital Reserves	5,400,000	5,130,000	8,300,000
Principal payments on Long Term Debt			
Abbotsford Hospital/Cancer Centre	(1,308,900)	(1,308,900)	(1,308,900)
Chilliwack General Hospital	(755,590)	(755,590)	(755,590)
Capital Acquisitions	-	-	-
Transfers To Reserve Funds			
Interest Earnings	(429,400)	(429,400)	(417,000)
Early Debt Retirement	(565,000)	(565,000)	(778,500)
Minor & Medium Equipment	(1,800,000)	(1,800,000)	(1,800,000)
Major Capital Projects	(4,864,000)	(4,864,000)	(4,824,000)
	\$ (4,322,890)	\$ (4,592,890)	\$ (1,583,990)
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ -	\$ (1,570)	\$ -

FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

2019 PROVISIONAL BUDGET

Schedule B of Bylaw No. 0072, 2018

	2018 Financial Plan	2019 Financial Plan	2020 Financial Plan	2021 Financial Plan	2022 Financial Plan	2023 Financial Plan
REVENUES:						
Tax Rate Increase	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.08%	0.08%	0.08%
Annual Revenue						
Tax Requisition	\$ 11,175,300	\$ 11,175,300	\$ 11,398,800	\$ 11,636,300	\$ 11,878,300	\$ 12,125,100
Tax Requisition - Growth	-	223,500	228,000	232,500	237,400	242,300
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	160,000	160,000	160,000	160,000	160,000	160,000
Interest Income	429,400	417,000	276,200	178,700	266,000	356,600
Miscellaneous Revenue	39,300	39,300	51,300	52,300	53,300	54,400
	<u>11,804,000</u>	<u>12,015,100</u>	<u>12,114,300</u>	<u>12,259,800</u>	<u>12,595,000</u>	<u>12,938,400</u>
Financing & Reserve Fund Activities:						
Reserve - Minor/Medium Equipment	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000
Reserve - Major Capital Projects	3,600,000	6,500,000	16,000,000	13,100,000	-	-
	<u>5,400,000</u>	<u>8,300,000</u>	<u>17,800,000</u>	<u>14,900,000</u>	<u>1,800,000</u>	<u>1,800,000</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 17,204,000</u>	<u>\$ 20,315,100</u>	<u>\$ 29,914,300</u>	<u>\$ 27,159,800</u>	<u>\$ 14,395,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,738,400</u>
EXPENSES:						
Services & Supplies						
Administration Recovery - Regional District	\$ 350,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 410,000	\$ 420,000	\$ 430,000	\$ 440,000
Operating Expenses	14,680	14,680	16,680	17,180	17,680	18,180
Long Term Debt						
- Interest - AHCC	743,100	743,100	743,100	743,100	743,100	743,100
- Interest - CGH	973,330	973,330	973,330	973,330	973,330	973,330
Contribution to FHA Minor/Medium Equipment	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000
Contribution to FHA Major Capital	3,300,000	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions to Abbotsford Campus of Care	300,000	4,500,000	8,000,000	5,500,000	-	-
Contributions to Chilliwack Campus of Care	-	2,000,000	8,000,000	7,600,000	-	-
	<u>7,481,110</u>	<u>10,431,110</u>	<u>19,943,110</u>	<u>17,053,610</u>	<u>3,964,110</u>	<u>3,974,610</u>
Financing & Reserve Fund Activities:						
Long Term Debt						
- Principal - AHCC	1,308,900	1,308,900	1,308,900	1,308,900	1,308,900	1,308,900
- Principal - CGH	755,590	755,590	755,590	755,590	755,590	755,590
Capital Acquisitions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to Reserve - Interest Earnings	429,400	417,000	276,200	178,700	266,000	356,600
Transfer to Reserve - Early Debt Retirement	565,000	778,500	1,006,500	1,239,000	1,476,400	1,718,700
Transfer to Reserve - Minor/Medium Equip.	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000
Transfer to Reserve - Capital Projects	4,864,000	4,824,000	4,824,000	4,824,000	4,824,000	4,824,000
	<u>9,722,890</u>	<u>9,883,990</u>	<u>9,971,190</u>	<u>10,106,190</u>	<u>10,430,890</u>	<u>10,763,790</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>\$ 17,204,000</u>	<u>\$ 20,315,100</u>	<u>\$ 29,914,300</u>	<u>\$ 27,159,800</u>	<u>\$ 14,395,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,738,400</u>
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>



**Progress Report for the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital
District re: Abbotsford Regional Centre for Health Education
and Simulation**

Fall 2018

Overview

Opened in April 2018, the Abbotsford Regional Centre for Health Education and Simulation (ARCHES) at Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre (ARHCC) is a state-of-the-art regional education centre that provides advanced supplementary training for medical staff to help ensure that communities in the Fraser Valley continue to receive top-level medical care.

In Canada, errors complicate over seven percent of all patient encounters, and many of these errors are attributable to errors in teamwork and communication. Simulation provides the training in which healthcare providers of various disciplines can work together to improve teamwork to improve health outcomes. This is why the Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation partnered with the Abbotsford Simulation Group, a grass roots team of doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists, to raise \$500,000 to create and build a simulation program locally in Abbotsford. The Abbotsford Simulation Group has collectively volunteered thousands of hours since January 2015 to make the program a reality. Thanks to the money raised by the foundation, these funds have provided the capital required to hire an educator, purchase life-like mannequins and equipment needed to make this idea a reality.

The ARCHES Simulation Program is designed for interdisciplinary simulation; we envision involving all departments of ARHCC and surrounding hospitals in simulation, either within the confines of the lab or in the place where staff work on a daily basis. Since its opening, the facility has hosted physicians, registered and licensed practical nurses, respiratory and physiotherapists and social workers for training sessions. In addition, basic life support training has been conducted for pharmacy and housekeeping staff at the hospital. ARCHES has also received requests from sites further east with no access to simulation (i.e. Mission Memorial Hospital, Chilliwack General Hospital and Fraser Canyon Hospital) to arrange training sessions at ARHCC. We are also expanding access to the community, as Correctional Services Canada is interested in simulating within the lab.

Completed training sessions include:

- Mock Code Blue (Cardiac Arrest/Medical Emergency) – members of the Code Blue Team (registered nurses and respiratory therapists from the Intensive Care Unit, Critical Care Unit and Emergency Room) have completed 4 Adult and 5 Pediatric sessions. These sessions included managing deteriorating patients, advanced life support for cardiac/respiratory arrest and caring for unstable patients after cardiac arrest. A total of 28 staff (Physicians, RNs and RTs) have attended these, and they will three times a month in the future.
- CPR Challenge – ARCHES has hosted 12 events, involving 82 medical and non-medical staff, who were given the opportunity to try again after feedback to build muscle memory. These staff are scored by the mannequin on their compressions and ventilations both before and after coaching, and usually scores increase by 20-30% after the session. There are multiple CPR Challenges booked weekly into 2019, and have frequent staff requests for repeated practice.

ARCHES is still in its infancy; as such, much of the energy has been directed towards completing needs assessments for staff and ensuring the lab is up and running with all the required equipment. Confirmed upcoming projects include:

- Neonatal resuscitation and managing deteriorating patients in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Maternity Ward (monthly on each unit)
- Massive transfusion simulation for the Maternity Ward
- Pediatrics Deteriorating Patient sessions in Post Anaesthetic Care Room
- Mock Code Blue sessions for the Emergency Department (twice monthly), and Renal and Paediatric Units
- Paediatric deterioration and mock code blue for the Emergency Department
- Role clarity in Emergency Resuscitation Rooms for trauma and code blue (practicing new roles and leadership)
- Forensic Examination demonstration and practice
- Deteriorating patient workshops on Renal and Medicine
- CPR Challenges for all departments, as well as community care (Community Dialysis and Rehabilitation)

Overall, there is a lot of interest in ARCHES, and many more sessions will be booked in the coming weeks and months.

Current Funding Needs

Capital equipment:

- Glidescope – \$13,000
- Vascular Access Task Trainers
 - Femoral Vein– \$3,500
 - Subclavian Vein and Internal Jugular Vein vascular access task trainers – \$2,700
- Intubation task trainers (adult, pediatric, infant, neonatal and difficult airway) – \$10,000
- Mannequin (Sim Mom) – \$100,000
- CPR torsos with feedback and defibrillator capabilities – \$TBD
- Additional ResusciAnne CPR mannequin – \$8,000
- Mock medications – \$3,000
- Disposables (includes IV equipment, saline, medications, moulage equipment, central line kits) – \$25,000 per year

Personnel costs:

- Full-time position for simulation educator (increased yearly at 0.2 FTE increments) – up to \$62,000 per year (total number for her position in a 1.0 FTE capacity is \$124,000).
- 0.2 FTE medical lead to manage and oversee the lab, teach and work to promote the simulation lab regionally – \$60,000 per year
- Specialized simulation educator training – \$1,250 + travel + accommodation
- Training of additional instructors (Simulation Learning Strategies Course) – \$600 for doctors; \$450 for allied health/nursing
- Paid instructor time to teach and promote simulation lab (these are the instructors which form the Abbotsford Simulation Group) Note: it's difficult for the simulation educator to run simulations alone (i.e. running the mannequin, actively watching and debriefing) – \$1,000/session.

It's important to keep in mind that the personnel expense is the most critical component of this program. Without leadership from a well-trained, full-time educator, and supporting staff, sustaining the program will be difficult.

Testimonials

“A huge portion of errors in the hospital are preventable by fostering good communication amongst health professionals. In the way we're trained, everyone works in their own little spheres. Learning how to communicate and work as a team isn't taught. And, that's where the Abbotsford Regional Centre for Health Education and Simulation has bridged that gap and helped improve teamwork. This is the best teaching tool out there, and it greatly benefits the hospital staff, the patients and the community at large.” – Dr. Michael Yatscoff, Emergency Room Physician, Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre

“The great thing about having a simulation doll is that we can create an urgent environment and practice what to do in various situations without putting a real patient at risk. It's that practice that makes perfect.” – Derek Vandooren, Respiratory Therapist, Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre

“Practice scenarios have allowed us to become more confident in treating high acuity cases. This simulation lab has made a real difference in the health care in our community.” – Barbra Barwich, Registered Nurse, Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre

“Our reactions have become better tuned, more accurate and safer when we're faced with a real crisis in patient care because of this simulation lab, and it has greatly enhanced our ability to perform under the immense pressures that come with very difficult cases.” – Dr. Phil Shaw, Emergency Room Physician, Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre

Media Coverage

Abbotsford News – Fake patients, real training: New lab to provide vital health care practice

Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation receives \$370,250 donation to create simulation lab

June 27, 2017

The computerized mannequins may not be real, but the lessons learned will be.

A new regional “simulation lab” – the brainchild of a group of local doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists – will give local health care workers a space to practise communication, teamwork and skills they use to treat sick patients.

This week, the Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation received a \$370,250 from the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District to finance initial start-up costs for new lab, which will be built at Abbotsford Regional Hospital and open next March.

The aim is for the lab to be used not just by ARH staff, but by health workers and even community members from around the Fraser Valley. The lab will feature “computerized mannequins that simulate real-life scenarios,” according to the foundation.

Hospital staff already take part in training exercises, but studies have shown simulation-based procedures produce better outcomes. Emergency physician Dr. Michael Yatscoff – who was a member of the Abbotsford Simulation Group that sparked the idea – noted that around 70 per cent of “patient safety events” are due to failures of teamwork and communication.

“A huge portion of these errors are preventable by fostering good communication and improving teamwork amongst health professionals,” Yatscoff said in a press release.

While simulation training is part of many programs and provided at spots around B.C. and Canada, the simulation group found there to be a “near-total absence of simulated training at ARH and within the Fraser East region.”

The new lab is meant to address that need and create a program that is self-sustaining. The project needs another \$100,000 to reach its goal of \$500,000, which will cover the initial start-up costs and the first year of administration and operation.