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January 4, 2010

His Worship James Atebe and Council  
District of Mission  
P.O. Box 20  
8645 Stave Lake Street  
Mission, B.C. V2V 4L9

Dear Mr. Mayor:

**Re: Mission Memorial Hospital**

In July 2009, Fraser Health developed a Discussion Paper regarding evidence-based options for the operations of Mission Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department as part of the health authority's efforts to manage unavoidable cost pressures, Fraser Health presented several options for consultation.

Following consultation with local physicians and other stakeholders, Fraser Health has reached the conclusion that the best option for budget reductions at Mission Memorial Hospital (MMH) at this time is to close the Operating Room (OR) and shift surgery volumes to higher-volume sites. The MMH OR is currently open for two days per week for low acuity procedures. This option has been considered as having the least effect on the patients served by MMH. This change is expected to take effect in early February 2010.

The relatively small number of patients currently receiving surgery at Mission Memorial, about 13 a week, will instead receive surgery from their surgeon at Abbotsford Regional Hospital or Ridge Meadows Hospital. Wait lists will be minimally impacted. Patients will be informed of any changes by their surgeon.

Currently, MMH performs the lowest number of surgeries of Fraser Health's 11 surgical sites – approximately 500 surgeries last year. Costs to maintain such a small volume surgical program are relatively high. It is extremely difficult to achieve economies of scale in staffing and supply utilization. The operating room space will remain under the purview of the Fraser Health Regional Surgical Program for consideration for future uses.

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Fraser Health, along with the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District and Mission municipal leadership have been engaged in a health service planning process to determine current and future healthcare services required for the Mission area. This consultative process is an example of our commitment to the relationship between Fraser Health and the community of Mission. All healthcare services including emergency services will be included in the planning process, to ensure an integrated and effective health service delivery model is created. Fraser Health commits that there will be no changes to the hours of operation of the Emergency Department (ED) during the planning process. Any future decisions about the ED hours will be made within this consultative planning process.

The Mission Memorial Hospital site is a vital component of Fraser Health, and the health campus will play an important role into the future. We will always strive to refine and configure the services at all of our sites to best meet the needs of the local and regional populations.

Sincerely,



Barbara Korabek  
Vice President, Clinical Operations



Arden Krystal  
Vice President, Clinical Operations

cc: Dr. Nigel Murray, President and CEO, Fraser Health Authority