

# What Will Happen with the Atlin Health Centre Project?

Dear Members of the Community,

Atlin Supportive Living Society has been working for a long time providing care and support for all members of the community of Atlin. Our Society has put a tremendous amount of effort into having our current Health Centre replaced. As everyone in this community knows, our current Health Centre is past its “best before date”. It needs replacing. This fact was brought to the Northern Health Authority’s attention, years ago by staff and more recently by Atlin Supportive Living Society.

Atlin Supportive Living Society has been working very hard to ensure that Atlin has a new Health Centre for primary and emergency care. To this end, Atlin Supportive Living Society spoke to all stakeholders in the community to let them know that the Society received donated land and that they were doing whatever was required by the Northern Health Authority to ensure that Northern Health could build a new Health Centre. Atlin Supportive Living Society sees this new facility as part of a larger development on the donated property; development that would include seniors’ affordable housing and a desperately needed assisted living building, and hopefully one day, B.C. Ambulance Services. In essence, Atlin Supportive Living wants to create a “Health Hub” for the community.

To this end, Atlin Supportive Living Society offered to lease the land to the Northern Health Authority for \$1.00 a year for twenty-five years. The Society carried out geo-tech and an environmental study on the property to ensure that it was suitable to build on. This cost the Society thousands of dollars of money that was donated by the community. As you are well aware, the Society has been fundraising: efforts that have been supported by the *entire* community of Atlin. It looked like things were well on their way. On January 30, 2018 Northern Health Authority posted their plan for the Centre (a Request For Proposal (RFP) on the Bid B.C. website, appealing to contractors to submit bids.

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, ten days before the bids were to close on March 16<sup>th</sup>, Atlin Supportive Living Society received a call from the Northern Health Authority, stating that the RFP was being “pulled”. Northern Health said that it had no other option, because Taku River Tlingit First Nations administration had contacted the B.C. Government and the First Nations Health Authority, opposing the project due to lack of Government to Government consultation. This is out of Atlin Supportive Living’s hands, but its impact on the project is felt deeply at the community level because we are all affected if this project cannot go ahead.

At this time, all that Atlin Supportive Living Society knows is there will be a meeting of the First Nations and Northern Health Authorities, Taku River Tlingit First Nations administration, and Atlin Supportive Living Society. The meeting will convene in Vancouver on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

It is the hope of Atlin Supportive Living Society that this project can carry on. The Society has carried out thousands of hours of volunteer work on the project: we are all volunteers who work for the betterment of everyone living in Atlin. Most importantly, we believe that it is very important that the voices of all the people of Atlin be heard. Everyone in the community who needs healthcare services will share this Health Centre.

Atlin Supportive Living Society remains hopeful that this project will carry on. We are encouraging community members to let their support for the Health Centre project be known. Atlin Supportive Living Society wants the parties at the meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> to hear the voices of all community members.

Here are a few ways to make your voice heard:

**1. Contact the Ministry**

Minister of Health: Adrian Dix phone: 250-953-3547

Email: [HLTH.health@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HLTH.health@gov.bc.ca)

Deputy Minister of Health: Stephen Brown phone: 250-952-1590

Email: [hlth.dmoffice@gov.bc.ca](mailto:hlth.dmoffice@gov.bc.ca)

Premier of B.C. John Horgan: phone: 250-387-1715

Email: [John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca)

**2. Sign our Petition of Support for the Atlin Health Centre Project**

Atlin Supportive Living Society Representatives will present these signatures at the meeting in Vancouver on April 19<sup>th</sup>. These Petitions of Support will be located at the local stores, and at the Atlin Supportive Living house on Fulton Street. If you cannot access those sites, please call Nita Connolly (at 250-651-7445) and she will bring a Petition to your home to collect your signature.

**There is also an online Petition of Support available at:**

<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/en-ca/219/019/907/support-atlin-health-centre-project/>

Since 2002, Atlin Supportive Living Society has always worked in good faith with all agencies at both the local and provincial level. While we remain optimistic about the outcome of this April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the volunteers of Atlin Supportive Living Society want you to know that we will continue to work for the entire community, providing health and meal services to anyone in the community who is in need regardless of this meeting's outcome. Our commitment to this community will not change.

In answering the question, "**What will happen with the Atlin Health Centre project?**", your voice matters. Please let your support be known.

Sincerely,  
Atlin Supportive Living Society