



## NORTHERN SHUSWAP TRIBAL COUNCIL

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### MEDIA RELEASE

## Plans for redeveloped Cariboo Memorial Hospital in Williams Lake supported by Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw (NStQ) leadership.



Northern Shuswap Tribal Council (NSTC) Board of Directors Vice-Chair Mike Archie, surrounded by left to right; BC Health Minister Terry Lake, Cariboo-Chilcotin MLA Donna Barnett, Cariboo North MLA Coralee Oakes and Cariboo-Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Chair Margo Wagner.  
(Photo: Northern Shuswap Tribal Council/Brad McGuire)

**March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (Williams Lake, British Columbia)** – BC Health Minister Terry Lake was at Williams Lakes' Deni House yesterday, flanked by Cariboo-Chilcotin MLA Donna Barnett and Cariboo North MLA Coralee Oakes, to announce funding support for the redevelopment plans of the 54 year old Cariboo Memorial Hospital; a vital facility providing health care for the citizens of the large Cariboo-Chilcotin region of British Columbia.

**Mike Archie, Vice-Chair of Northern Shuswap Tribal Council and Canim Lake First Nation Chief, was on hand for the announcement and spoke favourably about the plans:** "The expansion of Cariboo Memorial Hospital is long overdue and gives our rural communities a better opportunity to access quality health-care services. Currently, many of our Northern Secwepemc citizens have to travel long distances, at high cost, to Vancouver, Kelowna, Kamloops and other areas to receive the services and care they need and deserve. With these new plans, it will allow our citizens to stay closer to home and their families. It will be a huge long-term benefit to our communities and our health care needs and we look forward to the day the shovels hit the ground."

Williams Lake Indian Band Councillor Rick Gilbert and Elder Virginia Gilbert were also on hand with Canim Lake Chief Mike Archie to show their support for the project. Cariboo Memorial Hospital is situated on Williams Lake Indian Band traditional territory.

The Ministry of Health is now reviewing Interior Health's concept plans for the facility. Once the plan is approved by government, a business plan will then be prepared and will focus on costs and services, enabling the redeveloped hospital to meet the long-term health care needs of the regions' citizens. The business plan process is expected to take 12 to 18 months, followed by procurement and construction. "The concept plan has an estimate of between \$80 and \$100 million, but we've got to get down to work on the business plan first before we can refine that," said Health Minister Terry Lake. "We will engage with the physicians, the nursing staff, the community, and our First Nations partners to determine exactly how many rooms, how big will the pharmacy be, all of those many things that come into the plan and the long-term sustainability of this facility."

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### **Background:**

\*NStQ traditional territories comprise the four Northern Secwepemc communities of *Williams Lake Indian Band (T'exelc)*, *Soda Creek Indian Band (Xat'süll)*, *Canim Lake Indian Band (Tsq'escen')* and *Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek / Dog Creek)*.