



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

FOREST SAFETY OMBUDSMAN CALLS FOR LEVEL 3 TRAUMA CENTER IN THE NORTHWEST

February 2, 2017

TERRACE – A report released by the Office of the Forest Safety Ombudsman supports the need for a Level 3 Trauma Centre in the Northwest.

The purpose of the report was to review Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) provided by the BC Ambulance Service in BC.

The report speaks to the “Rural Urban Divide” and states “the availability and level of emergency medical services in BC is distinctly split down urban and rural lines. Quite simply, the closer to a larger urban centre you live or work, the greater the options available to you in terms of rescue, transportation and medical facilities. The more rural your location, the fewer the options and the longer the response times”.

One recommendation from the report is that “BC consider mandating – through legislation or policy – guaranteed timelines for the public to access Trauma 3 level care, similar to other jurisdictions”. Examples provided in the report include Washington State which has legislation that ensures that 99% of their population is within a 60 minute response time to a Level 3 Trauma Centre. Alaska has 31 dedicated helicopters in the State, and this ensures that every resident is within 60 minutes of a trauma center.

Mayor Leclerc stated, “We look forward to the Province working on ensuring there is an equity of services for all residents of BC regardless of whether they live in an urban or rural area.”

The need for a Level 3 Trauma Centre in the Northwest is one of the primary focus points supporting the need for the replacement of Mills Memorial Hospital in

Terrace and is the number one priority for the City of Terrace, the North West Regional Hospital District and the Northern Health Authority.

-30-

Media Contact:

Alisa Thompson

Corporate Administrator

City of Terrace

250.638.4721

Email: athompson@terrace.ca

Website: www.terrace.ca