

## **Returning RIH administration to Kamloops**

**Summary: The costs of centralized health care administration have superseded patient care as a priority.**

Royal Inland Hospital is a major tertiary and trauma care hospital that serves a significant population base. In April 2010 the Interior Health Authority placed administration of Royal Inland Hospital under a chief operating officer based in Kelowna. Previously, the hospital had been administered by a local chief operating officer. The perception is that this decision was made without consultation of mayors and other stakeholders in the region.

In the past year, issues of concern to the public have accelerated at Royal Inland Hospital, including inequitable financial support, inability to resolve a recurring problem with the sterilization of surgical instruments, inadequate parking and discontent with the parking-payment system, privatization of security staff and unacceptable wait times for basic diagnostic services.

While some of the above issues began surfacing prior to the April 2010 decree, long-distance administration does not adequately answer local needs and is not conducive to addressing local issues. No evidence has been provided to demonstrate that benefits have accrued to Kamloops through the move to long distance administration.

### **THE CHAMBER RECOMMENDS**

That the provincial government:

1. undertake an accountability review in consultation with stakeholders to determine the degree to which the centralization of RIH Administration to Kelowna has benefited Kamloops residents in the areas of increased service, efficiency, equitable spending of health care dollars and quality of health care.
2. restore local RIH administration if it is determined that quality of health care benefits to Kamloops have not accrued from the centralization.

Submitted by the Policy Committee