

The Northern Rockies Regional Hospital District (NRRHD)

Regional Hospital Districts¹

Regional Hospital Districts (RHDs) were created under the 1967 [Hospital District Act](#) at the same time and with the same boundaries as regional districts. The boundaries of the Northern Rockies Regional Hospital District (NRRHD) are the same as the boundaries of the NRRM. The NRRHD contributes a local share of capital funding for hospital planning and construction and generates a reserve fund for future capital projects.

Reserves form an important part of the regional hospital district's financial plan. By maintaining reserves, NRRHD can accumulate funds for future liabilities - a key component of sound long-term financial planning practices. They also provide a cushion to absorb unexpected shifts in expenditures as one-time capital requirements are identified.

Locally elected Regional Hospital District Boards exist to contribute input to hospital planning and capital funding. Typically the same Board of Directors that govern Regional Districts make up the Regional Hospital District (RHD). In the NRRM, our Regional Council performs a trio of roles as municipal council, providers of regional services and regional hospital district board.

Funds are raised through local property taxation to service debt, to generate reserve funds for future capital projects, or to fund capital projects. Regional Health Authorities are mandated by the Province to operate hospitals and because they are embedded in hospital operations, much of the responsibility for capital planning falls on them even though both the Regional Health Authority and the NRRHD co-fund hospital capital improvements. The Regional Hospital District acts as an agent for the receiving and disbursing of money paid to or for the hospital.

Northern Health

Northern Health is the regional health authority responsible for operations and planning for capital improvements for the Fort Nelson General Hospital and the Fort Nelson Health Unit and approximately 75 other facilities in Northern BC, with the NRRHD providing up to 40 percent of the capital cost of a project. Other capital funding comes from the health ministry, own-source funding from Northern Health and from the [Fort Nelson Hospital and Healthcare Foundation](#).

NRRM Hospital District Board

The board of the Northern Rockies Regional Hospital District consists of the members of the Council of the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality²

Adopting Bylaws

A bylaw may be read first, second and third times and finally adopted by the board at one meeting, if the motion for adoption received a majority affirmative vote.

Provisional and Annual Budget

The board must prepare and adopt, before a prescribed date in each year, a provisional budget for the following year. On or before March 31 in each year, the board must adopt, by bylaw, the final annual budget and the board must thereafter transmit the budget to Northern Health. The tax levy (amount to be requisitioned) is included on the annual tax bill issued by the Regional Municipality.

¹ Bish, R.; Clemens, E., *Local Government in British Columbia*, 4th Edition, 2008, Union of BC Municipalities, Richmond, BC

² *Hospital District Act*, Section 17.1 Northern Rockies Regional Hospital District