



TOWN OF CRESTON

PO Box 1339, 238-10th Avenue North, Creston, BC V0B 1G0
Phone: 250-428-2214 * Fax: 250-428-9164
email: info@creston.ca



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

In our community commitment, the Creston Valley Health Working Group priority is to recruit physicians with the advanced skills required so that citizens of the valley have the services provided by not only skilled Family Physicians in a clinic setting, but also serve our fully functional Hospital with a 24/7 Emergency Department. Many small communities in our province lack this important community service, which we are committed to support.

In order to have a fully functional Hospital and Emergency Department, our community requires Family Physicians who have the advanced maintained skills to provide:

- Emergency Department coverage;
- management of admitted patients;
- clinical office hours;
- care for patients in extended/long term facilities.

This means that Creston requires full service Family Physicians to keep our Hospital operational.

Most physicians would admit that, while there are many rewards to practicing in Creston, there are also some personal and professional challenges. These challenges include the responsibilities of being an emergency physician in a geographically isolated community and providing after-hours/weekend/holiday coverage for both our ER & inpatients.

Fortunately, in Creston, this challenging aspect of rural medicine is shared amongst all of the physicians practicing here. The fact that all of our doctors work in our Hospital creates an equity amongst our physicians - they "share the load" for which we are all grateful.

Walk in clinics may seem like an attractive option or easy solution to increase access to physician care - we know they work in larger centres. However, walk in clinics in our community would create a work imbalance between physicians that would not equally share Hospital and Emergency responsibilities. The natural consequence of that inequity is that likely local physicians would gradually leave full service practice for office/daytime work only. This would leave us without our much needed Emergency Department and in-patient Hospital coverage.

Our Emergency Department is, by default, our "walk in patient" option for those citizens without a Family Physician, or those with an emergency. As with any Emergency Department, patients are seen in priority of their need. While everyone agrees that there is a hardship with an indefinite wait in the Emergency Department, it remains our most viable option to maintain Hospital care in the Creston Valley.

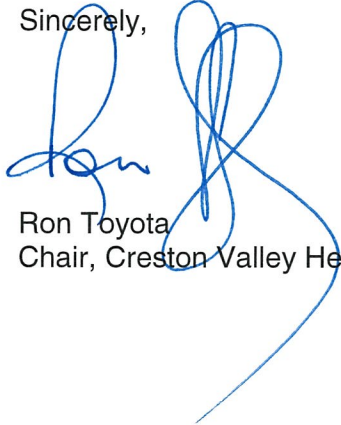
The security of keeping our Hospital here is maintained by recruiting full service physicians with advanced skills. Creston Valley Health Working Group's continued service to the community, through our physician recruiter, is improving our supply of Family Doctors. We are pleased to report that in the last 7 years, our physician compliment has risen by 7 family physicians, and countless locums to fill in during physician absences.

As new family physicians are recruited to Creston, a notice is placed in the Creston Valley Advance newspaper and placed on the Town website: www.creston.ca immediately. Once the

clinic is prepared for new patients to be accepted for that physician, they in turn have placed advertisements in the newspaper for access in applying for their services, and we publish on the Town website as well.

I trust this provides further insight into the work that has been and continues to be done by our physician recruitment specialist on behalf of the Creston Valley Health Working Group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ron Toyota', with a large, stylized flourish extending downwards and to the right.

Ron Toyota
Chair, Creston Valley Health Working Group