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From: AKBLG Executive Director <admin@akblg.ca>
Sent: August-30-24 18:22
To: Administrative Coordinator
Subject: AKBLG Advocacy
Attachments: Ministry of Health UBCM Rural Recruitment.pdf

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Please find attached a note from our President, Keith Page and an attached letter from last year's UBCM from the Minister of Health. - Linda

Dear AKBLG Members,

As we approach this year's UBCM conference, I want to update you on our advocacy efforts and priorities and **ask you to share local stories** related to our 2024/2025 advocacy priorities below.

Our focus continues to be driven by you, our members, through the resolutions endorsed at our April convention and further refined through the prioritization survey afterwards. This democratic approach ensures we're addressing the issues that clearly matter most to our communities.

Following last year's advocacy on rural health care retention, we received a response from the Ministry of Health last quarter. Their letter, attached here, provides valuable information on their approach to rural recruitment, including incentive programs for the Kootenay Boundary region and relevant actions from BC's Health Human Resources Strategy. This insight will inform our ongoing efforts in this area and may help advocates in your community identify support opportunities.

Building on this, we will concentrate our advocacy efforts on four critical areas at this year's UBCM conference:

1. **Reasonable Access and Transportation to Medical Services:** Push for improved accessibility to medical services for our rural communities, including better transportation options.
2. **Funding Model for Emergency Management Responsibilities:** Advocate for sustainable funding to support local governments in meeting the expanded responsibilities outlined in the province's new emergency management legislation.
3. **Improved Health Services Planning and Delivery:** Urge health authorities and ministry to develop better on-the-ground engagement and planning throughout our jurisdiction especially for mental health, addiction recovery and homelessness.
4. **Local Government Finance Review:** Advocate for the completion and implementation of this crucial working group's review to ensure local governments have a modernized financial framework to meet our communities' ongoing needs.

These member-chosen priorities will guide our efforts at the UBCM conference with ministry and provincial staff.

And we need your help. Your experiences and perspectives are invaluable in strengthening our advocacy efforts with rural substance. I'm calling on you to reflect on these priorities and **share with our Advocacy**

Chair any stories or anecdotes from your community that relate to these priorities. These real-world examples will help us connect abstract policy discussions to tangible situations and solutions, making our advocacy more impactful.

Please send your stories to our Advocacy Chair, Aidan McLaren-Caux, at amclarencaux@nakusp.com by September 9th. Your contributions will play a crucial role in illustrating these issues to the Ministries and Staff.

Together, we can ensure that the voices of our communities are heard loud and clear, driving positive change for the benefit of all our residents.

Thank you for all your hard work and I'm looking forward to seeing you in a few weeks.

Sincerely,
Keith Page
President, AKBLG

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