



September 13, 2019

Gord Milsom, Mayor  
City of West Kelowna  
2760 Cameron Road  
West Kelowna, BC, V1Z 2T6

Dear Mayor Milsom,

**RE: Partnership Agreement with Interior Health and the City of West Kelowna**

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It was a pleasure to present to Council at a Committee of the Whole meeting on September 10, 2019. As discussed, we are following up to formally request a partnership agreement between Interior Health and the City of West Kelowna. Interior Health would like to partner with the City of West Kelowna to identify and implement actions that will improve community health and wellness, and reduce risk factors associated with chronic disease.

The health of individuals and populations is created by many intersecting factors, including our social and physical environments, our genetics, and our access to doctors and hospitals. We know that the social determinants of health (i.e. income, education, employment, etc.) have the biggest influence on health and wellness. We recognize local governments currently provide much of the essential social and physical infrastructure necessary to support individual and community health and well-being.

Interior Health aims to improve health and wellness by working with local governments and community partners to create policies and environments that support good health. Both health authorities and local governments have a shared interest in working together to improve the quality of life for community members.

The purpose of the Partnership Agreement is to promote the City of West Kelowna's health and wellness through:

- Formalizing a collaborative relationship between the City of West Kelowna and Interior Health;
- Collaborating on city plans, policies and initiatives using a health and equity lens;
- Supporting community level strategies and actions to improve the health of the community; and
- Building community capacity through city staff and community organizations.

We look forward to working with the City of West Kelowna by bringing the health perspective to community planning and our continued collaboration to support improved health and wellness of all community members.

Sincerely,

Silvina Mema, MD MSc FRCPC  
Medical Health Officer

Heather Deegan  
Director, Healthy Communities