



REPORT

To: Health Care Scholarship Committee

Report Number: FN-HCSC-016

From: Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer

Date: January 12, 2024

Subject: 2023 Northern Health Annual Report and Funding Allocation Request

RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Health Care Scholarship Committee recommend that the Regional Board approve the request from Northern Health to award thirteen RN/RPN Return of Service Part 2 Scholarships to Non-Part 1 recipients for a total of \$32,500, funded from their current scholarship balance.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

That the Health Care Scholarship Committee recommend that the Regional Board approve the request from Northern Health to commit 5 additional Part 2 Scholarships to Non-Part 1 recipients in 2024 at \$2,500 each for a total of \$12,500 funded from their current scholarship balance.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

At the May 4, 2023 Board Meeting, the following resolution was passed:

That the Regional Board approve the request from Northern Health Authority to carry-forward the unspent grant funds of \$111,000 to the 2023/2024 calendar year, \$40,647.27 of which is uncommitted and available for the 2023 grant intake.

That the Regional Board authorize no further payments be made to Northern Health Authority, until they provide written confirmation that their uncommitted balance is below \$10,000, in accordance with section 5.0 of the MOU, which allows the funding contribution to be reduced in the event the prior years' annual funding contribution(s) is/are not fully utilized.

At the November 16, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting, Angela DeSmit of Northern Health presented the Northern Health Healthcare Scholarship Annual Report which included a funding allocation request. If approved, the funding request would leave Northern Health current scholarship balance with an uncommitted balance of less than \$10,000, which would satisfy the condition for further payments to be made to Northern Health.

Since this presentation, the balance of uncommitted funds has changed. The new balance has increased to \$47,000 as some of the funds previously committed were released.

In their report, Northern Health showcased the number of applicants, including the successful applicants and the location of the new hires from their Fall intake of applicants. The report indicates that they have hired six new Registered Nurses (RN) in Dawson Creek, two new RNs in Fort St. John through the RN/RPN Return of Service Scholarship, along with four new Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)

through the LPN Scholarship. In addition to these twelve hires through the scholarship programs, NH have identified 13 additional RN graduate hires this summer which did not identify as RN/RPN Part 1 applicants, that they are requesting to award RN/RPN Part 2 funding to (\$32,500 & 26 years of Return of Service). Table 3 shows a breakdown of the locations and units to which these new hires will report. NH are also proposing for consideration 5 RN/RPN Part 2 awards for graduate hires in 2024, based on the large number of new graduate hires in 2023 (\$12,500). Should both requests be approved, this would leave a balance of \$2,000 in uncommitted funds.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Health Care Scholarship Committee respectfully deny the request from Northern Health to present thirteen RN/RPN Return of Service Part 2 Scholarships to non-Part 1 recipients for a total of \$32,500.
2. That the Health Care Scholarship Committee respectfully deny the request from Northern Health to commit 5 additional Part 2 Scholarships to Non-Part 1 recipients in 2024.
3. That the Health Care Scholarship Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Not Applicable to Strategic Plan

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

As of December 31, 2023, the balance of the Medical Health Care Scholarship Reserve was \$112,535.73.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None.

Attachments:

1. Northern Health Care Scholarship Program Annual Report 2023
2. Northern Health & PRRD Health Care Scholarship MOU