

October 25, 2018



Dear 

Thank you for your letter of September 20, 2018 regarding the matter of hospital pay parking.

I appreciate your acknowledgement that health authorities have limited human and financial resources to keep up to the continuously escalating costs of providing the best of care that we can sustain. In order to deliver our high levels of care, we must always be aware in exploring all reasonable opportunities to harness the resources available to us.

The revenue we receive for parking is divided two ways: first, approximately one-third of monies collected go directly to the costs of providing parking itself (paving, lighting, security, snow removal, leases, etc.) and second, the balance is invested directly back into patient care through our Hospital Foundations and the like. These organizations exist to provide our system with hard to fund items such as leading edge medical equipment, badly required research funds and facility upgrades. Essentially critical funds, where we receive little or no government funding. These are the items that make a difference in attracting and retaining the best providers and allow our teams to continue the world class care we enjoy.

While to some, parking fees may be unpopular, the revenue received from parking is a necessary requirement to continue to provide expert quality care to the people we serve. This is especially true in the densely-populated, expensive urban environments where most of VCH's facilities exist.

This urban environment presents the challenge of "too many people, not enough parking spaces". Translated, this means that in a city like Vancouver, charging for parking is one of the strategies to help ensure access for our patients and their families. Paid parking at hospital facilities discourages customers and employees of surrounding businesses from parking at our sites.

While it is not an option for all visitors, we also take care in ensuring our health facilities are accessible by transit, providing patients and their families a variety of cost-effective options when it comes to transportation. Further to this, I should note that all VCH facilities have the ability to offer subsidized parking rates for those with financial need.

Parking policy and regulations are a shared responsibility across the lower mainland and with the Ministry of Health. Although anticipated next spring, these policies can be reviewed and refined with the needs of those that can least afford it in mind.

Thank you again for your interest and for taking the time to write to us.

Regards,



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Kip Woodward  
Board Chair

Cc: Ravi Kahlon, MLA-Delta North

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