

August 7, 2026

Sent via email:

Mark Fercho, CAO

City of Cranbrook
40 10th Avenue South
Cranbrook, BC
V1C 2M8

Dear Mr. Fercho,

In response to your recent request, the following summary outlines current designated palliative and short-stay bed capacity in Cranbrook and Kimberley, as well as the key planning considerations that have informed Interior Health's strategy for meeting current and future hospice and palliative care needs.

While the need for hospice and palliative care services is influenced by a range of factors beyond aging, demographic trends remain an important consideration in planning. Population projections completed by Interior Health's Seniors Health team indicate varying aging patterns across East Kootenay communities.

- Creston currently has the highest proportion of residents aged 75 years and older (15.1%), followed by Windermere (11.3%) and Cranbrook (11.09%).
- Fernie, Golden, and Windermere are expected to experience the most significant growth in older adult populations over the next 5 to 15 years.
- Beyond 2035, however, growth in the 75+ population is projected to level off or decline across much of the region.

Population projections alone do not determine hospice and palliative care requirements. Planning also considers mortality rates, patterns of service utilization, and palliative care modelling. In 2025, Cranbrook and Kimberley recorded 433 deaths, with 24% occurring at home, 20% in long-term care, and 43% in hospital. These figures represent deaths in the region, including individuals who did not require or receive palliative services.

Taking these factors into account, Interior Health's palliative care planning model identifies a need for three designated palliative beds serving the Cranbrook-Kimberley area. This projected requirement incorporates both the 2025 death rate data and established palliative care utilization modelling.

Interior Health currently operates three designated palliative beds in the Cranbrook-Kimberley area:

- Two beds at East Kootenay Regional Hospital
- One bed at Kimberley Special Care Home

Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Däkelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, syilx, and Tšilhqot'in Nations where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.

In addition, 11 short-stay beds across F.W. Green Home and Kimberley Special Care Home support respite, end-of-life care, and convalescence as needed.

Three additional beds are planned as part of Phase 2 of the F.W. Green redevelopment project. Once operational, these beds, together with existing resources, will continue to be used in a flexible manner to meet evolving community needs.

In July 2025, Interior Health (IH) met with the Cranbrook Kimberley Hospice Society to share projections and discuss planning considerations. Interior Health's involvement to date has been supportive, primarily through facilitating connections with IH Licensing and providing population-based planning information. Licensing requirements, including considerations such as washroom design, hand hygiene infrastructure, and fire suppression systems, are important elements that should be integrated early in any facility planning process.

We recognize that hospice, long-term care, hospital-based palliative services, and home-based care each play important and complementary roles within a comprehensive continuum of end-of-life care. Our strategic focus outside of the bedded capacity we have described, is on strengthening community and home-based supports enabling individuals who wish to remain at home can be as safe and comfortable as possible.

Interior Health appreciates the support of non-profit partners and the City of Cranbrook's continued partnership and commitment to advancing healthcare services for residents across the region. Your support, collaboration, and advocacy contribute meaningfully to strengthening care delivery in areas such as palliative care, seniors' health, and community-based services. We value your engagement and remain committed to working together to ensure responsive, sustainable, and person-centred care for the communities we serve.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Hetu

Chief Operating Officer, Clinical Operations – East Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary
Interior Health

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