

REASONS TO CARE

➔ Essential Services

The local community is going without essential services. Instead, the focus of the current board has been to fight its own members in court and to recruit thousands and thousands of new members from around the globe on the premise that their mission is to spearhead a national movement to oppose MAID and their wish to prevent others from being able to choose their own end of life care.

➔ Changed Mandate

This change in direction in mandate and use of assets and income by DHS is at the heart of the dispute for the community. This grassroots community sign up is about trying to ensure DHS keeps to its original purpose and to restore funding to supportive care in the local community.

➔ Outside influence

The DHS Board is counting on their mass sign ups to change the Society's bylaws to allow for permanent online meetings. This would allow their global sign up efforts to overwhelm the local community voice and permanently change the bylaws of the Society. These members could open the door to redirecting the assets away from the Harold and Veronica Centre for Supportive Care toward a national anti-choice agenda.

➔ Control of Local Assets & Revenue

DHS still owns outright a third building which is being used as a charity shop which was provided to DHS through another community capital campaign. The funds to purchase the Hospice Charity Shoppe were provided by a community funded campaign on the understanding that the shop's revenue would fund local hospice related services. The current assessed value of the building is \$3 million dollars and the shop generates up to \$1 million dollars in revenue per year. Donations, volunteer labour and purchases are all provided by the community on the understanding that their efforts support local hospice related services. DHS continues to operate the Charity Shoppe but none of the revenue is being directed to the Supportive Care Centre or the Irene Thomas Hospice.

WHY IS IT URGENT TO JOIN?

➔ We can do this!

We came within a handful of votes from blocking DHS from holding an online AGM, with more help we can prevent this permanent change in bylaws, contest the election of Directors and prevent any further changes that direct the DHS mission away from local community services. Eventually, DHS will have to have an in-person meeting and area members will have their voices heard but only if we step up now and prevent any bylaw changes at the AGM.

Join before October 21!

Sign up as a member of Delta Hospice Society
https://deltahospice.org/dhs_membership_form/

And sign up for our mailing list to be sure you are notified for the AGM.

➔ Questions?

Take Back Delta Hospice (TBDH) is a community based advocacy group that supports respect for everyone's choices in end of life care. Email us at hospice4delta@gmail.com

➔ How it began

Delta Hospice Society (DHS), a non-profit society, was built up through local volunteers and donations over decades. A capital campaign helped to build the Irene Thomas Hospice and the Harold and Veronica Savage Centre, both designed to provide care for area residents from Delta and local health authorities. Since 2010, volunteers and staff provided wrap-around service and support to children, youth, adults and seniors, including patient services and individual patient and group counselling. The DHS staff and services were highly regarded and the community had considerable pride in its accomplishment.

➔ Current Day

The Irene Thomas Hospice is now wholly operated by FHA according to provincial health guidelines. Currently, patients at the hospice do not have the benefit of the additional volunteers who assist patients and their loved ones through end of life nor the grief and bereavement programs previously provided under the umbrella of supportive care services. These services do not fall within the mandate of FHA and the community has lost services such as child grief and bereavement counselling, critical illness support groups, and group and individual counselling and therapy. The Supportive Care Centre now sits empty and FHA has indicated it will begin a public consultation process about its future. It is unclear at this time if the community will ever have access to supportive care services in the building they provided for that purpose.



HISTORY OF THE TAKE BACK DELTA HOSPICE MOVEMENT

➔ What went wrong?

The two buildings are located on land leased from the Fraser Health Authority (FHA) and DHS's lease with FHA was contingent upon them complying with provincial health regulations. The majority of funding for the hospice operations came from a contract with Fraser Health Authority (FHA) which was applied to medical staffing. This funding was also contingent upon following provincial health care regulations which now includes patient access to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID). Some within the organization opposed to newly introduced MAID legislation, recruited a new board that opposed access to this choice for patients. These board members then refused to comply with the terms of their lease or their Fraser Health funding. FHA gave notice that this position would result in loss of funding and the current Board let that occur. There was extensive media coverage, public rallies and a membership drive to try to regain control of DHS. The DHS Board tried to force a by-law change to change the society to a Christian based organization in an attempt to avoid the loss of provincial funding. Its own members had to take them to court to prevent them from selectively excluding members who would not support the change to the by-laws. DHS then lost their government funding due to non-compliance with health policies, FHA terminated the lease and DHS was evicted from both the Irene Thomas Hospice and the Centre for Supportive Care.

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