



June 11, 2025

1309414

Via email: mayor@barriere.ca; George.Lampreau@simpcw.com;
director.jhayward@tnrd.ca

Their Worship Rob Kerslake
Mayor of the District of Barriere,
George Lampreau
Chief, Simpcw First Nation, and,
Jill Hayward
Director, Thompson Nicola Regional District

Dear Mayor Rob Kerslake, Chief George Lampreau and Jill Hayward:

Thank you for your letter of March 4, 2025, regarding emergency health services in Barriere. I apologize for the delay in response.

BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) is committed to providing timely, high quality and safe out-of-hospital care for patients throughout BC. I recognize how important the Juliet resource has been to Barriere and understand the concern you have for adequate coverage in the North Thompson region.

BCEHS supports Barriere and the communities of the North Thompson region with four ambulances on a permanent basis. Barriere operates as an "Alpha" shift model, meaning the community has full-time paramedics staffed 24/7 responding from the station. They also have a full-time Unit Chief position and a full-time standalone Community Paramedic (CP) position. The CP in Barriere helps bridge the gap in rural and remote health service delivery by providing non-emergency and scheduled care to patients as part of an integrated healthcare team. In the event a CP is the closest most appropriate unit, they may also be dispatched to a high-acuity 9-1-1 call.

The Juliet Car is a part of the temporary resources put in place in response to the challenge of unplanned emergency department closures in the region. The Ministry of Health (Ministry) has communicated to BCEHS that they are supported to maintain this ambulance in Barriere up until at least September 30, 2025. It is important to note that BCEHS is a provincial service not limited by municipal boundaries—they use a dynamic deployment model to make the most of available resources to respond to patients.

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The Ministry is working closely with the regional health authorities on a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges of unplanned emergency department closures across rural BC. This work will help determine whether current temporary ambulance resources need to be sustained, moved to different communities or discontinued. Sustaining reliable services for British Columbians living in rural communities will be the principle that guides this work.

We are confident that recent investments, made in partnership with the Ministry, will ensure communities throughout the region continue to receive prompt and reliable service in the years to come. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josie', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Josie Osborne
Minister

pc: Doug Garland, Director, Clinical Operations – Interior West, BC Emergency Health
Services
Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer, District of Barrier