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Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada

OCT 18 2012

Mr. Steve Upham
Reeve
County of St. Paul No. 19
5015 - 49 Avenue
St. Paul AB T0A 3A4

Dear Reeve Upham:


Thank you for your recent letter regarding the utilization of Canadian Forces Base Edmonton as the primary medevac landing site. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Although military helicopters use this facility, Canadian Forces Base Edmonton is not an airport, and significant infrastructure would be required in order for the site to be suitable for medevac aircraft. The Edmonton International Airport is the only facility with the necessary infrastructure such as instrument landing systems.

The Health Quality Council of Alberta conducted a detailed review of the relocation of medevac to the Edmonton International Airport and made a number of recommendations to ensure the move does not compromise patient safety. Some of the report's 18 recommendations are now in place, and the remaining recommendations will be addressed prior to the transfer of medevac services to the Edmonton International Airport. One of the recommendations states that rotary transportation between the airport and a tertiary care facility can be used when it is deemed that this mode of transport will result in substantial time savings in the case of a priority red patient, or extreme traffic or road conditions. The Government of Alberta and other stakeholders are working to standardize equipment between medevac aircraft and STARS rotary ambulance in order to ensure rapid transport for time-sensitive patients.

Please be assured that the Ministry of Health, Alberta Health Services, the City of Edmonton, the Edmonton Regional Airports Authority and other stakeholders are working together to plan for the closure of the City Centre Airport and to address any patient safety concerns. Thank you again for writing.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alison Redford', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alison M. Redford, QC

cc: Honourable Fred Horne
Minister of Health

Honourable Ric Mclver
Minister of Transportation

Honourable George VanderBurg
Associate Minister of Seniors
MLA, Whitecourt-Ste. Anne