



# Town of Bonnyville

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February 25, 2013

Wendy Harrison  
V.P. Rural, North East Operations  
Alberta Health Services (A.H.S.)  
North Zone  
Morinville Clinic  
9523 100 Street  
Morinville AB T8R 1V3

RECEIVED MAR 04 2013

Dear Ms. Harrison:

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT – CONTINUED FULL OPERATION OF ELK POINT HEALTH CENTRE**

The Town of Bonnyville has received correspondence from MLA Shayne Sadkiw regarding the critical situation currently being experienced by the Elk Point Health Centre due to Registered Nurse staffing shortages that has resulted in the closure of acute care beds and a reduction of emergency room services since November 27, 2012. The Town also received a letter dated February 7, 2012 from Parrish Tung, Mayor of Elk Point, asking for the Town to send a letter of support for the continued full operation of the Elk Point Health Centre.

Council of the Town of Bonnyville approved a motion at their Regular Council Meeting of February 12, 2013 to provide the Town of Elk Point with this Letter of Support. Council is in full agreement that due to population growth and the number of northeast area petroleum industrial projects that have been announced for the next few years, it is critical to maintain full operation of the Elk Point Health Centre.

Council recognizes that patients were going to the Elk Point Health Centre due to long wait times (up to seven hours) in Bonnyville, St. Paul and Lloydminster. Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.) has been diverted to St. Paul and Bonnyville Health Centre's since November, resulting in overcapacity and long wait times to see a physician in both communities. With the closure of the Elk Point acute care beds, Doctors there, no longer have the ability to admit patients there either and these patients are being transferred to St. Paul or Bonnyville, putting additional strain on our facilities.

Mayor Tung, in his February 8, 2013 letter to you, outlined recommendations for a good working relationship with the Elk Point Community and Town Council. Council of the Town of Bonnyville supports their recommendations and would like to strongly emphasize that it is **critical** that the Elk Point Health Centre be kept in continued full operation. Surely Alberta Health Services can work with the Town of Elk Point to resolve the pressures that the Elk Point Health Care Centre faces.

Sincerely,



Ernie Isley

Mayor  
Town of Bonnyville

EI:amh

cc: Parrish Tung, Mayor of Elk Point  
Genia Leskiw, MLA, Bonnyville-Cold Lake  
Shayne Saskiw, MLA, Lac La Biche-St.Paul-Two Hills  
✓ Steve Upham, Reeve, County of St. Paul No. 19  
Fred Horne, Minister of Health and Wellness  
Stephen Lockwood, Chair of Alberta Health Services

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