



County of St. Paul No. 19

January 16, 2015

Mr. Rob Barone, Director
Clinical Operations North East/Contracted Services
Emergency Medical Services – North Zone
10710 – 97 Street
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 7G6

Dear Mr. Barone:

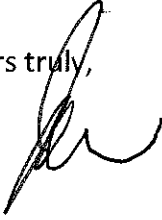
The County has been advised that Alberta Health Services is now reviewing their proposed Direct Delivery Model. This is very concerning to County council.

The direct delivery model has been fully supported by the municipalities and fire service in the area and has also been communicated to our community as the change that is going to take place. The County is disappointed that AHS may change their mind and decide not to provide a direct delivery model for our community. Although we can appreciate that it is important to look at financial implications of the model, we feel the needs and concerns of our rural community should be the main priority when making this decision. We are very excited about the access to Non-Ambulatory Transfer (NAT) system and feel that in rural Alberta this will increase the effectiveness of ambulance service by reducing the frequency of ambulances being taken out of our community for transport of patients to the city. Other service delivery alternatives may not offer this valuable system and as a result we will continue to have reduced service or longer wait times for emergent calls when ambulances have to come from other communities to provide service.

Staff recruitment and retention is also becoming a bigger issue for our region. AHS has a larger casual pool to draw from, which would be beneficial. AHS would have fewer issues to have qualified staff to sustain Advanced Life Support (ALS) service that our residents expect. The St. Paul Ambulance Board has informed County Council that since announcing their divestment, they no longer have any full-time or part-time paramedics on staff. As a result we are unable to provide ALS service to our community. It seems that Paramedics and EMTs are only interested in working in our community if AHS takes over the service.

County Council feels that it is in the best interest for our community to implement the direct delivery model from AHS. We hope AHS will continue on with the direction that has been proposed. I would be happy to speak with you should you want to have further clarification regarding the County's position. Feel welcome to call me at (780) 614-5107.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Upham', written in a cursive style.

Steve Upham
Reeve

/pjc