

## **Fair and Equitable Funding for and Timely Implementation of Health Care Services in Lloydminster**

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2020

### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Lloydminster and its surrounding community is unique because it straddles the boundary of both provinces and serves as a center for health care services for citizens from both provinces.

On July 28, 2014, with the signing of an MOU, the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta recognized the Lloydminster Bi-Provincial Health Care Services area, as an accurately defined bi-provincial health care area of joint provincial responsibility. A permanent Bi-Provincial Health Services Committee was created to ensure the unique health service needs of the border community are addressed and that fair and equitable services be appropriately funded.

The Alberta and Saskatchewan Provincial Health Ministries must agree to begin actively participating in the ongoing integrated operational health care services planning and agree to further contribute appropriate planning resources and financial funding for the Lloydminster Bi-Provincial Health Care Services Area. Both provinces must mutually agree and be accountable for fair and equitable funding to support the service planning, capital expenditures and operational and administrative costs of the Lloydminster Bi-Provincial Health Care Services Area.

According to the formula used to determine funding for other regional health centers in Alberta, Lloydminster has not received equitable funding from Alberta Health Services. Lloydminster's funding has been calculated based solely on the Alberta service area versus the entirety of the 78,000 population area. For that reason, Saskatchewan Health Authority has fallen drastically behind in its ability to provide the required basic services for Lloydminster and surrounding area. There are also discrepancies between Saskatchewan regions and Lloydminster, with Lloydminster receiving less per capita than other Saskatchewan regions. Thus, both provinces need to ensure the financial economic well-being of this interprovincial health service area. This lack of funding and inability of the two provincial health authorities to work in an effective collaborative fashion, delays the development and implementation of required health services for the Lloydminster population. The Bi-Provincial Health Services Committee was developed to deal with these issues, but to date, has seen slow progress between leadership in Saskatchewan and Alberta to work within this new governance system. Due to the restructuring of health care areas in Saskatchewan and the beginning of a 15-year health planning cycle in Alberta, we feel that it is imperative that this is dealt with in an expedient manner. Otherwise, the Lloydminster Health Services area will be left on the fringe again with taxpayers from both provinces not being able to access appropriate and equitable health care.

The ability of the community of Lloydminster to attract a labour force to meet the demands of business is limited by the fact that Lloydminster does not offer equitable health services to other areas of similar size in either province.

The Chamber of Commerce business community and the community as a whole are no longer willing to be the “fringe” of either province, but rather want to be recognized as the “core” of a dynamic, prosperous region that adds significantly to the government coffers each year, including those health care dollars that are distributed throughout the provinces. We are not asking for special treatment, just equitable treatment.

**Therefore, be it resolved that:**

the Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce demand both the Government of Saskatchewan and Government of Alberta through their respective Health Ministries;

- Adhere to the governance structure as outlined in the Bi-Provincial Health Services and Infrastructure Assessment.
- Commit the necessary finances to, as expediently as possible, correct the inequities in health services funding and ensure the timely implementation and enhancement of the services required to bring health services in Lloydminster to the level that could be expected by citizens in other areas of either Alberta or Saskatchewan of comparable size.

Implement an accountability structure to ensure funding received for the Lloydminster Health Services area is utilized to provide service for citizens residing in this bi-provincial jurisdiction.