



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

May 4, 2022

Via email: health.minister@gov.ab.ca

The Honourable Jason Copping
Minister of Health
423 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear _____,

It has come to our attention that the payment structure by which Alberta Health Services (AHS) compensates certain doctors who are working at emergency rooms designated either “rural” or “urban” may be disadvantaging the City of Cold Lake in its efforts to attract and retain physicians.

It is our understanding that doctors working at hospitals designated as “rural” are compensated at various rates that apply a premium to the wage that a physician earns while staffing a rural emergency room. We also understand that these rates vary depending on how isolated a hospital is considered to be from other major population centres. Furthermore, we understand that the physicians at the Cold Lake Healthcare Centre receive little to no premium, since it is considered to be an “urban” emergency room as designated by AHS.

The City of Cold Lake is a three-hour drive to Edmonton – where most of our residents who require specialized medical treatment have to travel. Access to Edmonton is provided primarily via Highway 28 – a single lane highway of questionable quality, which has seen little to no capital improvement of significant quality for decades. Our proximity to Edmonton and our means of accessing it can only be described as rural. Should our understanding of this situation prove correct, and the physicians in our community are provided a smaller premium for working in Cold Lake than other similarly situated communities, we feel that our significant and costly efforts to attract and retain physicians to our community would thus be undermined by a pay structure that puts our community at a systemic disadvantage.

It is our council’s hope that we can meet with you to learn more about this pay structure, and how it is applied to Cold Lake, so that we can ensure our physicians are appropriately compensated and that our attraction and retention efforts are not being unduly thwarted.

We remain, as always,

Yours,



City of *Cold Lake*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Craig Copeland
Mayor

Cc. _____ AHS
David Hanson, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul
Kevin Nagoya, CAO
Council