



STAFF REPORT

Title: Letter from Minister of Health - MRI Services

Meeting Date: September 12, 2023

Executive Summary:

The City of Cold Lake received the attached letter from the Honourable Minister of Health, Adriana LaGrange, regarding the City of Cold Lake's previous letter which identified an opportunity to place "permanent" MRI services in the City of Cold Lake by a private investor.

Unfortunately, the response didn't seem to directly address the City's proposal and request to meet. That being said, the City of Cold Lake is reaching out to schedule meetings with AHS.

Background:

The City of Cold Lake, in partnership with its newly established Municipally Controlled Corporation (CL Medical Clinic), and with investment from a local business, has identified an opportunity to enhance access to medical imaging services with a permanent Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technology that can be well positioned to serve northeastern Alberta.

The area is currently served by a mobile MRI unit which covers a large area and which is approaching its end of service life. Despite the occasional coverage from this mobile unit, however, residents often still find themselves travelling outside of the region to receive MRI services in a timely fashion.

The local business opportunity has completed a business plan that identifies an opportunity to purchase an MRI machine and operate it in the City of Cold Lake, provided AHS supports the effort through referrals.

Access to healthcare services has long been a priority for the City of Cold Lake's Council and residents. The current mobile service, which now covers Hinton, Westlock, Cold Lake, Camrose and Lloydminster, could be repositioned to other, more remote and underserved areas. Moreover, the local business has proposed that the machine will be purchased and operated privately, meaning that our region's health services can be substantially increased at no capital outlay or operational overhead to AHS.

Initial conversation regarding this plan has been met with reservations from AHS officials.



Alternatives:

- Council may direct administration to prepare further correspondence regarding this matter.
- Council may accept this information as information.
- Council may direct administration to continue on this course of advocacy via other means.

Recommended Action:

Administration recommends that Council pass a motion accepting the attached letter as information.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

No

Submitted by:

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer