



*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Red Deer - North*

AUG 14 2023

AR 211239

His Worship Craig Copeland  
Mayor  
City of Cold Lake  
5513 48 Ave  
Cold Lake Alberta T9M 1A1

**Sent via email:** [ccopeland@coldlake.com](mailto:ccopeland@coldlake.com)

Dear Mayor Copeland:

Thank you for your letter regarding MRI services in the City of Cold Lake and your kind words regarding my recent appointment as the Minister of Health. I share your desire to ensure that Alberta's health care system serves Albertans effectively, and I hope you find the following information helpful.

Please be assured that the Government of Alberta recognizes the importance of timely diagnostic imaging for patients and is committed to addressing wait times. To that end, Alberta Health worked with Alberta Health Services (AHS) to develop the Diagnostic Imaging Action Plan, which outlines areas for system improvements that will decrease wait times. AHS is implementing these improvements to ensure MRI wait times decrease and remain within clinically appropriate timelines.

As you are likely aware, AHS is the organization responsible for making decisions concerning the delivery of diagnostic imaging services and follows the Diagnostic Imaging Access Guidelines to evaluate all new program enhancements. As the organization finalizes the service delivery plans for advanced diagnostic imaging across the province, all options, including outsourcing to additional vendors will be considered. AHS makes decisions about when to contract services out based on factors such as existing capacity in the region and wait times. When pursuing contracts, AHS is required to follow approved public procurement guidelines, as well as consider existing contractual obligations.

Since AHS is responsible for the provision and delivery of public diagnostic imaging services in the province, I encourage you to visit the Doing Business with AHS website ([ahs.ca/about/Page207.aspx](https://ahs.ca/about/Page207.aspx)) for additional information on AHS contracts.

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Lastly, Alberta Health's Strategic Partnerships Team is working to help facilitate discussion and awareness of innovative delivery arrangements. I encourage you to contact Jodi Goebel, Executive Director, Health Economics and Partnerships at [Jodi.Goebel@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Jodi.Goebel@gov.ab.ca) to discuss a mobile MRI unit in Cold Lake.

Thank you again for writing and for your advocacy on behalf of Albertans in Cold Lake and the surrounding area.

Sincerely,

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

Adriana LaGrange  
Minister of Health

cc: Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Scott Cyr, MLA, Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul