



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

April 15, 2025

Re: Support for Cold Lake Native Friendship Society's Mental Health and Addiction Funding

To Whom It May Concern,

It is the City of Cold Lake's understanding that the Cold Lake Native Friendship Centre has made an application for a Mental Health and Addiction funding for the purpose of assisting with culturally relevant addiction and recovery services through its Kokum's House Traditional House program.

The Cold Lake Native Friendship Centre has been a long-standing, strong community partner with decades of experience in delivering meaningful and impactful social programming in the City of Cold Lake. The Cold Lake Native Friendship Centre's clients at Kokum's House are often men who face barriers to their recovery, including intergenerational trauma, isolation and difficulty accessing culturally relevant supports. The services it provides are important and, unfortunately, are in greater need than ever.

The City of Cold Lake, like communities of all sizes across Canada, has seen a marked and sustained increase in its vulnerable population, homelessness, food bank usage and drug and alcohol addictions. This trend has negatively impacted public safety and the lives of our most vulnerable residents, who often struggle to find support in a rural situated urban centre.

By blending western recovery models with Indigenous healing methods, the Cold Lake Native Friendship Centre will be delivering much needed assistance to those who need it the most. The staff at the Cold Lake Friendship Centre are well known within Cold Lake as extremely competent community organizers who have, time and again, delivered successful programs tailored to the needs found among our population's vulnerable people.

The City of Cold Lake whole-heartedly supports the Cold Lake Native Friendship Centre's application for a Mental Health and Addiction funding. Should you require any further information about the City's support for this project and the Cold Lake Native Friendship Centre's funding application, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Copeland

CC: Council  
Kevin Nagoya, CAO  
Scott Cyr, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul