



December 11, 2019

Honourable Grant Hunter
Associate Minister of Red Tape

Email: associateminister-rtr@gov.ab.ca

Dear Honorable Grant Hunter,

RE: Central Peace Health Centre – Broadband Internet

The G5 municipalities, composed of Saddle Hills County, Birch Hills County, Municipal District of Spirit River #133, Town of Spirit River and the Village of Rycroft, partnered to construct the Central Peace Health Centre. In addition to this initiative a Part 9 company was formed called The Central Peace Medical Services Corporation to operate the facility. A component of the services included in the facility is to make it possible for patients to access health care through Telehealth. Telehealth is the delivery of health related services and information at a distance using videoconference technology through Alberta Health Service.

The broadband internet service required to run the Telehealth is through Alberta Health Services via Supernet. The connection to the service is sourced from the Central Peace Health Complex situated nearby. The Central Peace Health Centre had requested to access this service to provide broadband internet service to tenants within the building (doctors, dentists etc.). The request was denied and during the construction phase of the project a separate broadband internet service was installed at the facility and the monthly cost is \$995.00 per month plus GST. Allowing the facility to access the Supernet internet connection would save the corporation \$11,940.00 per year in operating costs.

We currently have a shortage of physicians in rural Alberta and more and more municipalities are building new clinics to attract new physicians. Medical clinics and physicians help our municipalities be more attractive for economic development. This initiative would save annual costs of the clinic operations by sharing the Alberta Health Services Supernet internet connection and would help provide ongoing support of these infrastructure projects.

Sincerely,

Alvin Hubert, Reeve
Saddle Hills County

Cc: Honourable Tyler Shandro, Minister of Health
Saddle Hills County Council
Central Peace Municipalities (G5)

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