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City of **Cold Lake**

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

December 3, 2020

Via Email [health.minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:health.minister@gov.ab.ca)

Government of Alberta  
Office of the Minister of Health  
423 Legislature Bldg. 10800-97<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Attention: Honourable Tyler Shandro, Minister of Health

Dear Minister Shandro:

At the City of Cold Lake's regular Council meeting, held on November 24, 2020, City Council debated concerns being raised by our residents relating to access to the Government of Canada's "COVID-19 Alert" mobile application.

In the Cold Lake context, these concerns are exacerbated due to our proximity to the Province of Saskatchewan, the City of Cold Lake's position as an economic hub in the northeast, and the presence of CFB Cold Lake. Many Saskatchewan residents are using the federal COVID-19 contact/exposure alert application and come to our community to shop and access healthcare services. It is our hope that a solution may be found that would allow the Government of Alberta to enable the federal government's application, or to harmonize the Alberta tracing application with the federal one.

We understand that the "ABTraceTogether" was launched in May 2020 and the Government of Canada developed its "COVID-19 Alert" at a later date, and that this has caused concerns relating to provincial coordination and potential confusion between different applications.

Our Council feels that the Government of Alberta deserves much credit in its quick response, development, and deployment of its tracing application. Since inter-provincial travel and trade is critical to our economy and will be a large factor in our post COVID recovery, however, it is our hope that a Canada-wide solution can be implemented as soon as reasonably possible.

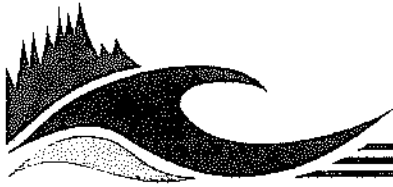
Although the federal government's application may have been late, it has the unique advantage of being able to trace contacts across the country. Our residents feel there are significant benefits a Canada-wide approach can bring to help safely strengthen interprovincial travel and trade.

In response to our residents' concerns, Council passed the following resolution:

*Moved by Councillor Vining that Council consider a letter to the Government of Alberta urging it to open access to the federal COVID-19 mobile app in Alberta.*

**WHEREAS** Canada is in the midst of a global pandemic relating to the COVID-19 virus, during which health experts have expressed the need to be able to trace people who may have been exposed to the virus in an effort to break the cycle of infection; and

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***WHEREAS** the Government of Canada has developed a nation-wide mobile application to assist with tracing efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and*

***WHEREAS** as on November 4, 2020, eight (8) provinces and territories have opened the app for access within their jurisdictions and over 5 million Canadians have now downloaded the application.*

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Cold Lake urges the Government of Alberta to enable the Government of Canada "COVID-19 Alert" application for Albertans.*

And that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Jason Kenny Premier of Alberta, MLA David Hansen, opposition health critic MLA David Shepherd, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, and all municipalities within the Province of Alberta.

The City feels that the more Albertans who voluntarily download and use a tracing application capable of operating across all provinces, the quicker Albertans can react to information and assist with curbing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, which will assist in quicker economic recovery efforts.

The City of Cold Lake appreciates your leadership in these uncertain times and stands ready to assist in any way called upon.

And we remain,

Respectfully yours,

Craig Copeland,  
Mayor

cc: Council  
Chief Administrative Officer K. Nagoya  
The Honourable Jason Kenny, Premier of Alberta  
The Honourable David Hanson, MLA Bonnyville-ColdLake-St. Paul Constituency  
The Honourable David Shepherd, MLA Opposition Health Critic  
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)  
and all Municipalities within the Province of Alberta