City of Cold Lake

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

November 25, 2021

Via email: registrar@cpsa.ab.ca

College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta
2700, 10020 100 Street NW
Edmonton, AB
T5J 0N3

Attention: Dr. Scott McLeod, Registrar

Dear Dr. Scott McLeod:

I am writing on behalf of Council to inform you that, at our regular Council meeting held on November 23, 2021, Cold Lake City Council passed a motion requesting that the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta consider streamlining the assessment process for physicians moving to Cold Lake from outside of Canada.

Over the years, the City of Cold Lake has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on doctor recruitment and retention efforts. These efforts have been — and remain — one of our Council's top priorities as many residents in our community are unattached to a local family physician.

It is our understanding that physicians moving to Cold Lake from outside of Canada must first complete an assessment at another healthcare facility prior to establishing their practice in our community. We understand that this process takes several months, after which the doctor is then oriented to the community and the local healthcare facilities and clinic at which he or she will establish a practice.

We have great respect for the doctors in our community, and we are confident that among them there are several who would be willing and able to assist in this assessment process locally. Doing so, we feel, would greatly streamline this process for doctors who are new to Canada, preventing drawn out orientation process, and allowing for a smoother transition to their community.

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5513 - 48 Avenue, Cold Lake, AB T9M 1A1
Telephone (780) 594-4494 Fax (780) 594-3480
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It is our hope that these assessments take place at the Cold Lake Healthcare Centre by local physicians. If this is not a possibility, our Council would appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the assessment process and would like to extend an invitation to speak with you about the process. This information will assist our Council and our administration as we continue to work to support our local healthcare providers.

You may reach out at your earliest convenience or, alternatively, you may contact the City of Cold Lake's Chief Administrative Officer, Kevin Nagoya, at 780-594-4494 or via email at knagoya@coldlake.com.

With warm regards,

Craig Copeland,
Mayor

cc: The Hourable Jason Copping, Minister of Health
Mr. David Hanson, MLA for Bonnyville - Cold Lake - St. Paul
Dr. Verna Yiu, AHS President and CEO
Alberta Municipalities
Rural Municipalities Association
Cold Lake City Council
Kevin Nagoya, CAO

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