

## CAO

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**Subject:** FW: Town of Spirit Airport

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**From:** Dan Dibbelt <ddibbelt@mdspiritriver.ab.ca>

**Sent:** November 24, 2022 3:48 PM

**To:** Town of Spirit River CAO <cao@townofspiritriver.ca>; cao <cao@birchhillscounty.com>; CAO <cao@rycroft.ca>; 'Cary Merritt' <CMerritt@saddlehills.ab.ca>

**Subject:** RE: Town of Spirit River Request for Letter of Support - Airport

Hi Steve, I have forwarded you the MDs letter of support and commitment.

Further, at council yesterday, the council made a motion to write a letter to the Premier, Minister of Health and Todd to advise that this is unacceptable and our regions ratepayers deserve the same opportunities to live as other regions. I will forward drafts of that letter to each municipality.

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**From:** Town of Spirit River CAO <[cao@townofspiritriver.ca](mailto:cao@townofspiritriver.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 24, 2022 3:39 PM

**To:** cao <[cao@birchhillscounty.com](mailto:cao@birchhillscounty.com)>; CAO <[cao@rycroft.ca](mailto:cao@rycroft.ca)>; 'Cary Merritt' <[CMerritt@saddlehills.ab.ca](mailto:CMerritt@saddlehills.ab.ca)>; Dan Dibbelt <[ddibbelt@mdspiritriver.ab.ca](mailto:ddibbelt@mdspiritriver.ab.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Town of Spirit River Request for Letter of Support - Airport

Hi.

The Town of Spirit River had a meeting with AHS and AHS will no longer be using the Spirit River Airport in the winter months for air ambulance services. The services are to resume in the summer months.

In the discussions, AHS had many reasons for not using the airport and their services will be concentrated on ground transportation going forward during winter. AHS will be sending out a letter outlining this information in the next week or so. AHS expressed they are willing to meet with the community as a follow up if needed. They were not aware of the upgrades completed at the airport this year and it did not change their position once they learned of the community's continued investment into the airport.

Air ambulance has reported an average of 40 flights/year from Spirit River and feel this (lack of) service will affect 15-25 patients. STARS services will not be affected.

I will not be pursuing funding for airport paving (or any additional upgrades) until more is known on AHS's position and if the airport is supported by the G5 municipalities.

The Town stills requests each municipality discuss with their Council to determine if there are benefits to your community and if the airport will be supported going forward.

Thank you for the consideration.