September 2022

Yvette Cassidy, CAO

Stettler District Ambulance Association

c/o County of Stettler

ycassidy@stettlercounty.ca

Dear Yvette,

I am a rate payer in the Summer Village of White Sands and I wish to provide my support to the Stettler District Ambulance Association in their efforts to negotiate an increase in funding to maintain the current level of ambulance services in Stettler and area. The substantial increase in call volumes for 911 calls and for inter-facility transfers (IFT) would clearly indicate that this service is vital to this area.

The Ambulance Service costs have seen significant increases in the 10 to 11 years since funding was last negotiated. In addition, placing the provision of care on the Ambulance Service during the wait time for patients to be admitted into Emergency care after an IFT with no consideration of the impact on current funding does not make sense.

I believe that the Government’s intention to reduce rather than increase funding, will directly result in unnecessary deaths of Albertans. Countless Albertans choose to reside in areas where certain services are available to them. This would include the ambulance service in Stettler and area which has been highly successful over the years in reacting in a timely manner and with appropriately trained emergency response staff. These Albertans have built their lives in these communities. To withdraw this service puts not only our rural tax payers’ lives at risk, but also our rural communities at risk of losing their appeal as a good place to live.

I feel confident that the health and welfare of all Albertans is one of the primary goals of our Provincial Government and that, once they have looked at this situation from a different perspective, they will understand the validity of and accommodate SDAA’s request for increased funding.

Yours truly,