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December 6, 2022

Re: New Hospital Petition

Dear sir or madam,

On behalf of the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the petition for a new hospital in Whitecourt. We believe that Whitecourt is in dire need of a new hospital, as the population is now five times more than it was when the hospital was built almost 50 years ago, and the current facility is undersized and showing its age.

Currently, the triage area is in an open hallway, and the hospital is lacking services, equipment, and struggles to retain doctors. We believe that a new hospital will help attract and retain doctors, lessen the travel for the residents of Whitecourt and Woodlands County to other health care facilities, and create more privacy and a higher standard of care for patients.

The current hospital is not equipped to handle a disaster and Whitecourt is the largest service community in a region where large risks exist. Examples are the potential for a significant wildfire in the forest that surrounds the town; potential for oil & gas facilities and pipeline incidents; trains carrying dangerous and highly flammable goods through town; trucks hauling volatile liquids through town; and rivers with annual flood warnings.

We urge you to allocate funding and energy in an expedient manner for a new hospital in Whitecourt, Alberta. This community is vital to the economic prosperity of the region and is deserving of a modern hospital facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dickin".

Mark Dickin  
President