



October 5, 2020

Honourable Jason Kenney  
Premier of Alberta  
307 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Kenney,


On September 15, 2020, Council received a presentation from a delegation concerned about potential changes at Residential and Support Services community homes and respite centres across the province. These homes provide around-the-clock care for children who are medically fragile and suffer from profound disabilities. We were made aware of a 90-day notice period to evaluate alternative service options that began June 10, 2020 and want to share our concerns regarding any potential changes to these programs.

Of great importance to our Council is that the families of those served deserve to know they can depend on these services to stay in place, and that the primary concern remains with the provision of consistent, high quality care. Consistency of care should take top priority, as changes to residents' routine and level of care can be extremely harmful, as many do not have the capacity to adapt. We are concerned about the impact a shift of care providers or alternative service options many have on residents. We also recognize that these homes are chosen by the guardians of those in care, and they have been selected as the best place for their loved ones.

We also urge you to ensure that a robust consultation takes place, involving the community at large, the family of those in care, the staff that serve them, as well as the health care and education professionals that provide services. Additionally, families should be assured that the level of care provided will not change. This consultation must also keep in mind that those being served are often unable to voice their own objections.

We strongly urge you to find ways to ensure that those being served in Residential and Support Services community homes and respite centre across the province continue to receive high levels of consistent, holistic care to ensure their quality of life. We believe the Alberta Advantage should also include the protection of our most fragile and vulnerable populations, and that these homes should continue to function without negatively impacting their residents.

Respectfully,



Barry Turner  
Mayor, Town of Morinville

Cc: Honourable Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Community and Social Services  
Honourable Dale Nally, Associate Minister of Natural Gas and Electricity  
Morinville Council  
Morinville CAO Stephane Labonne

*An Alberta Capital Region Community*