



CASTLE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Box 455, Pincher Creek Ab. T0K 1H0

The Honorable Tyler Shandro, QC
Minister of Health
423 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB

Re: Rural Medical Services

Dear Minister Shandro:

Last fall your government abrogated its contractual agreement with the Alberta Medical Association in-order-to unilaterally mandate changes to this agreement. This has resulted in a breakdown in the relationship between the Province and the doctors who provide medical services to local hospitals in 22 rural communities, including the Pincher Creek Hospital which serves the community of Castle Mountain Resort. We find this situation very disturbing and want you to know that our community stands in solidarity with our health care professionals.

Under the leadership of our doctors, the Pincher Creek Hospital has become a provincially recognized model for efficient, caring rural community healthcare. We believe the services these doctors provide to our hospital are critical to the quality of life and safety of the residents of our region, and the ability of our region to attract and retain residents, industry and tourism.

We understand the Province is confronting serious economic challenges at present. However, quality health care in SW Alberta is not a nice option, it is a critical necessity. Our residents already endure at least an hour and a half of travel to obtain treatment like kidney dialysis and chemo therapy. How destructive to the competitiveness of our region to have to do the same for a broken bone or sutures.

We are very thankful for the leadership and representation of Roger Reid whom we know has brought many of these issues to your attention. We urge Roger to continue to represent the interests all rural Albertans. We urge you to listen with an open mind.

In our view, this mess is the result of ill-conceived and expedited policy and we urge the current government to restore our confidence in its agenda by directly resuming good faith consultation and negotiation with the medical community.

Respectfully,

The Castle Mountain Community Association Executive Committee
Cc: The Honorable Jason Kenney, the Honorable Roger Reid

