



# REPORT

To: Electoral Area Directors Committee

Report Number: ADM-EADC-002

From: Crystal Brown, Electoral Area Manager

Date: May 12, 2020

Subject: Hope Air

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## RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Electoral Area Directors Committee receive the report titled "Hope Air" dated May 12, 2020 for discussion.

## BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Electoral Area Directors Committee requested that information regarding Hope Air be brought back to the next Electoral Area Directors Committee meeting.

Hope Air is a national charity that provides Canadians in financial need with free travel for medical care far from home. Their vision is that everyone in Canada has access to the healthcare they need, despite distance or cost of travel.

In Canada, healthcare coverage starts at the door of the doctor's office, but how you get to the doctor, and any related travel costs, fall to you. Over 20% of Canada's population live in small and rural communities where specialized medical care is not available and a trip to see a medical specialist might involve a 16 hour car or bus ride. For low-income patients living in these communities, travelling long distances to their specialist or medical appointments comes at a cost of time and money; neither of which they can afford. This lack of access leads to delays in treatment and poor health outcomes.

Hope Air is a unique and essential component of Canada's universal healthcare system. Hope Air is Canada's only national charity providing free flights and accommodations to low-income Canadians who must travel to medical care that does not exist in their communities. Hope Air exists to bridge the distance between low-income people living in small and rural areas, and the medical care they need.

According to the Canadian Medical Association, "Geography can cause barriers to access. In general rural Canadians have higher health care needs but less access to care. This lack of access to specialists and other medically necessary services can lead to delays in treatment and harm to health including unnecessary pain and permanent disability. Further, travel for necessary treatment often comes with a significant financial cost."

To be eligible for free services, you must have a financial need and have a confirmed healthcare appointment that is covered by your provincial healthcare plan.

Hope Air has three key methods of obtaining the free flights they provide to patients:

- Hope Air purchases airfare on commercial airlines with the generous support of our donors. Approximately 70% of Hope Air's flights are purchased with donated funds.
- Hope Air has many incredible airline partners who donate seats on their flights.
- Hope Air has the support of volunteer pilots who use their personal aircraft to fly patients to their appointments.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Electoral Area Directors Committee provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

Attachments:

1. Sample Flight Request Form