



December 10, 2024

Peace River Regional District
Box 180, 1981 Alaska Avenue
Dawson Creek, BC
V1G 4H8

Dear Peace River Regional District Chair and Directors,

The Maskwa Medical Center board would like to thank you and all who attended our presentation on August 15, 2024. We followed up on what the University of Alberta's Faculty of Family Medicine residency clinic could mean to the citizens of Northeastern British Columbia. As neighbours, we share the same issues regarding access to healthcare delivery and early detection of diseases. A border in the same country should not define one side over the other when it comes to its residents well being.

Facility Update

We are on schedule to start construction at the end of the first quarter of 2025 and aim to complete the facility by the end of 2026. The U of A Family Residency program will graduate 10 family physicians annually and deploy them to northern communities.

NE BC Family Physician Medical Training

- First, a student must achieve a 4-year bachelor's degree.
- Northwest Polytechnic (GP College) will then accept 30 students a year into the first year of a four-year Undergraduate Program. Eighty percent of these 30 students must be Alberta residents, and the remaining six students can be from outside the province of Alberta.
- Students from Northeastern British Columbia or the PRRD could apply for those remaining six seats.
- Speaking with the Dean of Family Medicine at U of A, they could prioritize those spots for academically qualified students from your region. Thus, students from NE BC could remain close to their community and family on weekends when they are not doing their studies. A similar model in Prince George shows that 75% of the graduates will stay in rural communities once they complete their training.

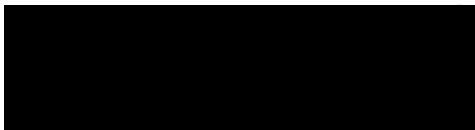
Maskwa's long term vision of working with the PRRD

- Work with health ministers and local government officials from both Provinces to accept government-paid medical services from one treasury to the other.

- Within the next five to seven years, set-up satellite offices in Dawson Creek and FSJ for the more complex cases to connect with the Maskwa Specialist Clinic and collaborate with other specialists to find a cure or treatment without patients travelling to larger centers.
- Provide student bursaries and scholarships to attend medical school, with contracts to return to regions of NE BC and NW AB that require more family physicians based on the region's population.
- Improve medical training and access to healthcare for all communities and residents in both NE BC and NW AB.

Working on the above issues together, we can truly make a difference for Peace Country residents and be proud Canadians.

Yours truly,



Ken Drysdale

Chairman of the Board

Maskwa Medical Center (Canada) Inc.

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