



Chair Leonard Hiebert
Peace River Regional District Board
Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8

RE: Follow-up Board decision for STARS funding under new legislative changes

Dear Chair Hiebert,

It was very nice to see you and the PRRD Board again on April 10, 2025, during a follow-up meeting to request consideration of other options or waive/adjust legislative changes regarding STARS.

With recent amendments to PRRD Health-Related Services Grant-in-Aid Policy No. 0340-64, under the new policy guidelines, a maximum funding cap of \$75,000 per application, will have detrimental effects to the STARS GP base operations that serves your residents and vast remote region.

We rely on steadfast partners like you and embrace an unwavering partnership that spans 19-years! Since 2007, PRRD has continued to stand by our side, providing constant operational funding for our northern STARS base @ an increased rate of \$170,000 per year (since 2013).

Together, we made inter-provincial history, citing no borders, and a steadfast commitment to saving lives in the north. We celebrate PRRD and its residents and proudly recognize PRRD as a *Provincial Leader*, (on STARS helicopter), and a *Regional Leader across Western Canada*. PRRD joins more than 75% of Alberta's Regional Leaders, (contributing minimum \$2-\$90 per capita), in the united effort that maintains a robust health and safety network for all. Your residents have access to STARS 24/7, wherever they live, work, play and travel across western Canada.

The new capped funding amount @ \$75,000 (under new policy guidelines) - will affect PRRD's current milestone recognition. Helicopter logo requirements on the upper cowling (\$1M+ milestone including PRRD), requires \$100,000 minimum commitment per year. As well, Regional Leader status requires a minimum \$2 per capita annually while, PRRD has maintained closer to a \$3 per capita commitment since 2013, (depending on the current census).

I would like to inquire about the Board's decision (@ April 10, 2025, meeting), regarding the legislative changes and consideration to waive/adjust guidelines where STARS is concerned. I am scheduled to present your annual PRRD Board update on Thursday, October 2, 2025, and the application deadline is



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October 31st. I would sincerely appreciate guidance prior to the October 2nd update in order to prepare a proper financial request for the PRRD Board's consideration regarding STARS and future funding.

The current PRRD's 3-year pledge of support @ \$510,000 (total) expired in 2025. I would like to present a new funding request to maintain the same level of support @ \$170,000 per year for another 3-Year term (2026, 2027, 2028). This is not allowable under the legislative guidelines - without consideration for an amendment or adjustment to the capped amount with regard to STARS.

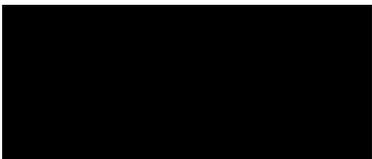
I know that you understand and can appreciate the pressures of rising mission demands and with increasing operational costs, it is critical for STARS, to ensure sustainable, operational support.

At the April 10th meeting, I explained how majority of Regional Leaders, have moved away from multi-year community grants (regarding STARS), to alleviate fluctuation and ensure sustainability. Most have moved to a fixed rate of support on standing motion, within annual budgets. This offers ease of process for administration and sustainability for STARS, today, tomorrow and securing the future. My commitment to these municipal supporters is to continue providing annual updates, audited financials, mission statistics, and reports on latest innovation. Could this pathway, be an option for PRRD Board consideration?

STARS will continue to provide critical care anywhere, with world-class expertise, state-of-the-art medical equipment and virtual care consultation. Our new fleet with advanced avionics, allows us to bring an unprecedented rapid response, when a life is on the line . . . and seconds count.

A life is saved every day. Partnership makes this possible.

Thank you for many cherished years of working closely with you and PRRD Board members, past and present. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you all on October 2nd.



Glenda Farnden
Senior Municipal Relations Liaison
STARS Foundation