



District of Chetwynd

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September 10, 2025

VIA EMAIL: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Josie Osborne,
M.L.A., Minister of Health
Re: Tumbler Ridge ER Closure

Dear Minister,

The District of Chetwynd echoes the dismay and profound disappointment already voiced by so many northern residents at the surprise Northern Health announcement that Emergency Services at the Tumbler Ridge Health Centre are being permanently curtailed. This means that effective immediately there will be no emergency coverage on nights or weekends for our neighboring friends and family. We understand that there is currently a physician shortage in Tumbler Ridge as is the case for so many communities. We have also heard that Northern Health has stated that this Emergency Department is used less than some others, and that this is a factor in the decision. Relying on ambulance transport to the nearest centre will result in unnecessary loss of life, and we wonder what number of fatalities will be considered meaningful before once again restoring these basic and essential emergency services.

The ripples caused by this announcement are significant, far reaching, and puts more pressure on the other local communities already struggling with hospital diversions and reduced service provision. This choice will result in an increased threat for our high-risk shift workers and the vulnerable and elderly. There will also be yet more challenges for tourism and recruitment and retention for industry workers, teachers, professionals, and all of the other people that make a community functional and sustainable. As do many of our remote rural communities, Tumbler Ridge helps our Province by being a major economic driver, industrial centre, and support network for the thousands of workers in the immediate area engaged in resource extraction. We are simply asking that all of us be as valued, and receive the same basic services, that the residents of the urban regions take for granted. An extra hour and a half of transport on bad roads to receive urgent care is unacceptable, and places unnecessary risk on patients and the first responders trying to help them.

This decision has a huge negative impact to our entire region and we urge you to reconsider it, or at the very least ensure that it is for as short of duration as possible.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the District of Chetwynd,

Allen Courtoreille
Mayor
District of Chetwynd

Steve McLain
Chief Administrative Officer
District of Chetwynd

Vision Statement

Chetwynd exists in order that area residents have sustainable opportunities for
Security, Health, Safety and Prosperity
in surroundings that display the best of our natural environment.