

Your Name
Your Address
Your Postal Code

Today's Date

The Honourable Jason Copping
Minister of Health
Office of the Minister
423 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Copping,

As a resident of Red Deer and Central Alberta, I am writing to voice my opposition to Alberta Health Services' decision to consolidate emergency ambulance dispatch in Red Deer and in the surrounding communities that the Red Deer 911 Emergency Communication Centre serves. I request that you reverse the decision to consolidate emergency ambulance dispatch and keep EMS dispatch local.

I am concerned that consolidated emergency ambulance under Alberta Health Services will result in:

SLOWER EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES

- Municipal dispatch centres dispatch faster than Alberta Health Services In life And death emergencies where seconds count.
- The City Of Red Deer dispatches an ambulance, On average, 18-21 seconds faster than AHS.
- Red Deer – 67 seconds
- AHS Central – 85 seconds
- AHS North – 90 seconds
- AHS South – 91 seconds

LACK OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

- Municipal dispatchers know the unique geography, landmarks And the local lingo In their respective regions.

LACK OF INTEGRATED EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- In 40% Of calls, the fire unit arrives first On-scene, And because Red Deer firefighters are cross-trained As paramedics they provide life-saving care minutes before an ambulance arrives.
- Under the proposed AHS model, the Advanced Life Support firemedics wouldn't be dispatched to medical calls immediately or at all.

NO COST SAVINGS

- In 2019, if our communities were to bill AHS for the times that a fire unit was dispatched for provincial medical services; it would cost the province \$12.35M.
- Lethbridge – \$2.3M
- Calgary - \$6.7M
- Red Deer - \$2.15M
- Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo - \$1.2M

This decision doesn't just impact residents of Red Deer, but impacts people in surrounding communities in Central Alberta. I stand with the Mayors and residents of Lethbridge, Calgary and Wood Buffalo in demanding this decision be reversed. I urge you to keep the current dispatch model in our communities to ensure we continue to receive the highest level of medical care in life and death emergencies when seconds count.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Phone Number

Your email