



City of Lakes | Ville de lacs

Family Health Team
Équipes de santé familiale

yourFamilyHealthTeam.com

October 1, 2016

Ms. Catherine Matheson
General Manager of Community Development
City of Greater Sudbury
200 Brady Street
Sudbury, ON, P3A 5P3

Dear Ms. Matheson,

Please accept this letter as our request for property tax relief on municipally-owned properties occupied by the City of Lakes Family Health Team (COLFHT).

The COLFHT is an interdisciplinary team of healthcare professionals providing primary care to residents across the City of Greater Sudbury (CGS) at four clinical sites- Sudbury, Val Caron, Walden and soon-to-be Chelmsford. All four clinics are located in municipally-owned buildings.

In 2005, the CGS sponsored our application to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care to establish a Family Health Team in Sudbury. We shared a vision for bringing family physicians and other allied healthcare providers to the outlying areas of Greater Sudbury where there had been a chronic shortage of family physicians going back several decades. We agreed that the COLFHT's new model of care would be an attractive physician recruitment strategy. And we were right! Today fifteen family physicians and thirteen allied health providers serve 20,000 patients in Walden, Val Caron and Sudbury. And, as you know, a fourth clinic is currently under construction in Chelmsford and will be ready in early 2017. Once fully operational, our team will be serving over 24,000 patients- many of whom did not have a family physician prior to being rostered to our team.

Our sights are now firmly set on maintaining a sustainable network of clinics across the city. Physician retention is critical, and that means we need to ensure that our clinical operations are financially viable. There is nothing that prevents any of our physicians from leaving the COLFHT and the CGS to pursue other practice opportunities. We are acutely aware of the potential for an outmigration of physicians from our rural clinics over time. With two of our existing leases due for renewal in 2018, we are conscious of the need to maintaining the COLFHT as an attractive destination for local family physicians.

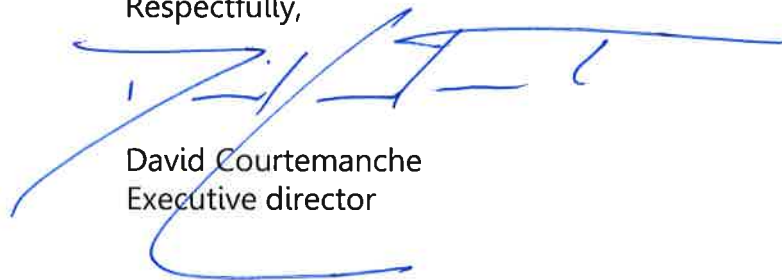
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As a rural retention strategy, we view a property tax exemption as an effective way of attracting and retaining family physicians in Greater Sudbury's rural communities. Pursuant to subsection 110(6) of the Ontario Municipal Act, municipal councils have the authority to exempt certain properties from taxation; and pursuant to subsection 2(1) of Ontario Regulation 603/06, the classes of municipal facilities that are eligible for the purpose of a tax exemption include facilities related to the provision of health services. We respectfully request a municipal capital facilities property tax exemption for three of our rural clinics which are located in the outlying areas of Greater Sudbury; specifically, Walden, Val Caron and Chelmsford. We ask that this exemption effective April 1, 2017.

We would be pleased to update City Council on our progress at their invitation.

Respectfully,



David Courtemanche
Executive director

cc. Dr. Chris McKibbin, Chair of the Board of Directors
Dr. Tom Crichton, Lead Physician