

March 3, 2016

Mr. Philip Kilbertus
Senior Officer, NELHIN
555 Oak Street East
North Bay, ON P1B 8E3

Re: Non Urgent Patient Transportation Funding Strategy

Dear Mr. Kilbertus

The City of Greater Sudbury, as requested, has reviewed the North East Local Health Integration Network Non Urgent Patient Transportation (NUPT) Funding Strategy, January 22, 2016.

The City of Greater Sudbury has been fully engaged in the Non Urgent Patient Transportation Project since the Fall of 2012. The City is one of three (3) services to be funded for a NUPT demonstration pilot project and continues to deliver this NUPT service with the Community Flow Car in support of the patient flow needs of Health Sciences North. Our Deputy Chief, Joseph Nicholls, continues to participate on the NELHIN Leadership Steering Committee advocating on behalf of the Paramedic Services in North Eastern Ontario and a Non Urgent Transportation solution.

The City recognizes the importance of NUPT to Northern Ontario communities along with the unique challenges resulting from our vast geography and limited availability of specialized diagnostic and treatment hospitals.

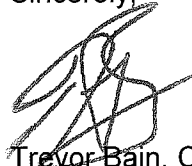
However, the City of Greater Sudbury does not support Paramedic or Emergency Medical Services being responsible to fund the NUPT project. The key points related to our funding position are as follows:

1. It is inappropriate to download costs to the local municipal tax base to deliver a regional health care transportation system.
2. The centralization of specialty health care services into hub hospitals contributes to increased demand for Non Urgent Patient Transportation services. The NUPT should, therefore, be funded by the MOHLTC.
3. Greater Sudbury Paramedic Services has identified operational needs to address service delivery challenges within our municipality; however, we lack the funds to do so.

4. A new NUPT delivery model will not result in any reduction in the City's required deployed resources, in fact we have been seeking funding enhancements to service emergency response needs.
5. Paramedic Services, to our knowledge, are not funding Non Urgent Patient Transportation by private providers anywhere else in the province. In most other urban centers in Ontario private companies are delivering NUPT needs and being funded through the hospitals using these services. Why would we treat Northern Ontario any differently?
6. Finally, during our teleconference of June 1, 2015 the City, at that time, indicated we would not be financially supporting a NUPT system for the reasons provided above.

In closing, the City of Greater Sudbury continues to support the need for a NUPT solution for the North and remains hopeful that a funding strategy that does not include municipal financial contributions can be achieved.

Sincerely,



Trevor Bain, Chief
Fire and Paramedic Services
City of Greater Sudbury

TB/jn

CC: Kevin Fowke, Chief Administrative Officer
Aaron Archibald, Deputy Chief
Joseph Nicholls, Deputy Chief