



Policy Resolutions

2014

Increased Flights and Air Service out of the Lloydminster Airport

Issue:

Presently the Lloydminster Airport is serviced by one airline with two flights daily Monday to Thursday with no flights on Friday mornings and no flights on the week-end.

Background:

1. A cancelled flight on Friday afternoon in Calgary means not arriving back to Lloydminster until Monday morning.
2. A lot of business people are driving to Edmonton and flying to Calgary which gives them a lot more options.
3. The no weekend flights also mean that very few people are flying out of Lloydminster to Calgary for further connections, because of the inability to return on a week-end.
4. The cost of a return trip to Calgary is \$437.00. Grand Prairie to Calgary is \$458.00.
5. There are currently no flights going east to Saskatchewan, one of the fastest growing economies in Canada.
6. Although some flights have been added, there are still no week-end flights and still no connectors with major airlines.
7. If we want to take our city to the next level, we need to look closely at our Air Service as presently supplied in Lloydminster.
8. If we want to attract business and employees to our community we will need a higher level of air service at a reasonable fare rate.
9. The City has purchased land to ensure the expansion of the airport.

Recommendation:

That the Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce request that the City of Lloydminster work with new and existing airline service providers to determine how the air service can be expanded and improved so that our City airport can grow to accommodate the rate of business growth in Lloydminster.

Improvements to the Lloydminster Airport

Issue:

Currently many flights cannot land at the airport if the weather is inclement due to the lack of proper guidance equipment.

Background:

1. Currently the approach minimum for an aircraft doing an RNAV approach onto runway 26 is 365ft and 08 RNAV is 346ft. This could hopefully come down to 250 feet as in the larger airports.
2. The City of Lloydminster applied two year ago (July 27, 2011) for approval from NAV Canada to proceed with the upgrade. To date no approval has been received.
3. Currently, our Charter Service, Courtesy Air and Border City Aviation has WAAS ability in their aircraft but can't use it because it's not certified.
4. Without this approval we lose the ability to land planes in all weather conditions.
5. If we want to take our city to the next level, we need to look closely at our Air Service as presently supplied in Lloydminster.
6. If we want to attract business and employees to our community we will need a higher level of air service .

RESOLUTION:

That the Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce request that NAV Canada approve immediately the application made by the City of Lloydminster for the upgrade to the LPV systems so that it can become operational and the City airport can grow to accommodate the rate of business growth in Lloydminster.

Subject: **Creating a Safer Community**

Background: There has been a significant increase in the population of Lloydminster and this has also increased the potential for crime. Residential and Business break-ins have shown an alarming increase in the past five years. The vagrant population has increased and the violence and inappropriate behavior amongst younger children has increased.

The move to K division has increased the number of resources available to the community however the number of RCMP officers required to police the City & rural areas has not kept pace with the need, and they do not have the time to coordinate programs that could assist them in their work. These programs are more cost effective and efficient if coordinated by civilians.

Volunteer time is limited for most individuals who are qualified to participate in the organization and administration of the various programs that can assist the R.C.M.P to keep our City safe.

Lloydminster & Area Drug Strategy Committee and the Lloydminster Youth Centre has been working hard at informing youth about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

Issue: There is a need for a coordinated approach to the support and maintenance of the existing programs that are currently in place. These include but are not limited to: Neighborhood Watch & Citizens on Patrol; While it is understood that the community must begin to take more responsibility for it's safety and security by reporting suspicious behavior, a coordinated approach would serve to make the necessary links, manage a communication strategy and recruit, train and coordinate volunteers.

Recommendation: The Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce recommends that the City of Lloydminster allocate tax dollars towards the creation of a discreet position, administered by a civilian, that would be dedicated solely to a communications plan, recruitment of volunteers, coordinate training for volunteers as well as administrative support of the programs that do and could continue to provide safe and effective supports to the work of the R.C.M.P. including those programs mentioned above and others.

Subject: Fair and Equitable Funding for health care services in Lloydminster

Submitted by: Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce

Background:

The City of Lloydminster and its surrounding community is unique in both provinces because it straddles the boundary of both provinces and serves as a centre for health care services. The Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan need to agree to formally recognize the Lloydminster Bi Provincial Health Care Services Area as an accurately defined Bi Provincial Health Care area of joint provincial responsibility. The Alberta and Saskatchewan Provincial Health Ministries need to agree to actively participate in the ongoing integrated operational health care services planning and agree to contribute appropriate planning resources and financial funding for the Lloydminster Bi Provincial Health Care Services Area. Both provinces need to mutually agree and be accountable for fair and equitable funding to support the service planning, capitol, operational and administrative costs of the Lloydminster Bi Provincial Health Care Services Area.

Lloydminster has not received funding on the same formula from Alberta Health as other regional health centers and for that reason has fallen drastically behind in it's ability to provide the required basic services for this area. There are also discrepancies between Saskatchewan regions and Lloydminster, with Lloydminster receiving less per capita, thus both provinces need to ensure the financial economic well being of this interprovincial health service area.

The ability of the community of Lloydminster to attract a labour force to meet the demands of business, is limited at the moment, because we are not able to provide equitable health services as health service areas of similar size.

The Chamber of Commerce business community and the community as a whole are no longer willing to be the "fringe" of either province, but rather the "core" of a dynamic, prosperous region that adds significantly to the government coffers each year, including those health care dollars that are distributed throughout the provinces. We are not asking for special treatment, just equitable treatment.

Therefore be it resolved that: the Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce expects the Government of Saskatchewan and Government of Alberta Health Ministries to continue to support the work of the Bi-Provincial Health Working Group to ensure that an equitable funding formula is developed and implemented to ensure fair and equitable funding to support health services that are required for the Lloydminster Health Services area.

Upgrades to Highway 17 - Rural

Issue:

Highway 17 upgrades are imperative to ensure continued safe and timely movement of goods and services as well as human capital in the north east corridor of Alberta.

Background:

Highway 17, a major north south connector highway between Macklin (highway 13(AB) and highway 14 (SK) to the south, and Onion Lake First Nation to the north, runs along the Alberta/Saskatchewan border. This highway handles a large volume of traffic.

In 2011, the stretch of highway 17 from Lloydminster north to Alcurve (junction of highway 3 (SK) and highway 45 (AB) received some upgrades with passing lanes on the Sandy Beach hill and turn lanes at the major intersections. This made this piece of highway somewhat safer although future work will need to be done to keep up with the traffic count and the economic development of the area with several acreage developments adjacent to the highway.

The stretch of highway north of Alcurve to Onion Lake is heavily used by heavy oil haulers, oil company crew trucks and other oil field equipment. In addition it is used by business commuters and professional employees to and from Lloydminster. Highway 17 south of Lloydminster is also used by heavy oil haulers, oil company crew trucks and other oil field equipment as well as business commuters to and from Lloydminster. It is the avenue by which millions of dollars of business is done on a daily basis. There are several Transload facilities already developed just off the highway or adjacent to the highway and several more are in the planning stages that do and will deploy thousands of vehicular traffic to the highway daily.

This above mentioned highway has steep hills (Jumbo Hill and the North Saskatchewan River hills to the north and the Battle River Hills to the south). These hills slow traffic to a crawl, especially the heavy trucks and those unlucky enough to be behind them, and the temptation to pass on the hills is huge, causing the potential for accidents.

In the past three years there have been many accidents on this highway, some resulting in serious or catastrophic injury and others resulting in fatalities. The Lloydminster Rescue Squad and the Lloydminster RCMP detachment have shared their stats for the past three years for their jurisdiction. The number of calls for service has been 1,316 with 145 of these collisions and three fatalities.

Recommendation:

1. That the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Alberta continue their highway improvement and within the next three years complete the upgrades to highway 17 focusing on passing lanes on all major hills and construct turning lanes at key intersections.

Upgrades to Highway 17 within Lloydminster City Limits

Issue:

Highway 17 upgrades within the City of Lloydminster are imperative in order to maintain efficient and effective transportation along this retail and commercial corridor.

Background:

Highway 17, a major north south connector highway between Macklin (highway 13(AB) and highway 14 (SK) to the south, and Onion Lake First Nation to the north, runs right through Lloydminster and handles upwards of 15,000 traffic counts per day.

In the past few years the Lloydminster Exhibition has expanded their event days that sees large agricultural vehicles, trailers and cattle haulers using highway 17 to reach their facility; there has been over \$43M in corporate capital investment along highway 17 both north and south within the City limits with expanding professional services, real estate offices, fast food outlets, sports and fitness centers, industrial parks just to name a few.

In their current budget, Lloydminster City Council has allocated \$5.5 million to complete the underground work along this corridor to accommodate a future one way couplet. The total cost of the couplet project is estimated at \$23 million.

With the RM of Britannia proposing a light industrial park to the north and east; RM of Wilton developing an energy related trans fold facility as well as the three existing major trans fold facilities already within in the City, and with the business and commuter traffic along with tourist traffic, highway 17 is becoming unmanageable without a major upgrade which includes at the very least provision for two lane traffic each way and turning lanes.

Recommendation:

1. That the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Alberta provide immediate funding to the City of Lloydminster to do the necessary upgrades to Highway 17 within the City limits.

LABOUR FORCE ENHANCEMENT AND QUALITY PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMMES

BACKGROUND:

Businesses in Canada are experiencing increasing difficulty in recruiting and retaining competent, well-trained staff. This challenge will be exacerbated by the aging of our workforce and the impending retirement of the “baby boom generation”. As such, it is important that social policies be implemented that make it possible for the maximum participation of our population in the paid workforce.

The parents of pre-school aged children could participate to a greater extent in the workforce if there were increased access to quality, regulated pre-school programmes to address the developmental needs of their young children. Quality programmes can be delivered in a variety of settings that provide childcare in safe, healthy environments and address the age-appropriate learning needs of the children. Such programmes, regulated by the Province, would provide the peace of mind and confidence to parents that would allow them to re-enter the workforce in a timely manner.

Increasingly we are hearing from school divisions that children are coming to kindergarten un-prepared for their start of school life. If children are un-prepared at that age, the problems only become worse as they move into elementary grades. These children are the business leaders of tomorrow. We need to ensure that they are receiving a good start by providing the pre-school support for their developmental needs.

In addition, the lack of after school care facilities or spaces is also a road block for parents to return to work or be productive at work. Schools that are equipped with facilities to provide this type of service will help parents make the decisions for educational opportunities of their children.

The Federal Government has backed away from contributing to the funding of quality, regulated day-care and pre-school programmes. This federal position notwithstanding, the need for such programmes has not diminished. Implementation of such programmes is a provincial responsibility and will require the political will and action by the Government of Alberta/Saskatchewan. The benefits of increasing the pool of potential skilled employees through the timely return to work of parents of pre-school aged children will be profound.

RESOLUTION:

That the Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce request that the Alberta Chambers of Commerce communicate to the Government of Alberta, its support for increased spaces as well as support for quality, regulated programmes for early childhood development for children so as to facilitate the timely return to the workforce of the children’s parents.

Subject: Lakeland College Funding**BACKGROUND:**

Lloydminster is experiencing a shortage of skilled labour. Skilled labour is supported by two sources – educational institutions and on-the-job skills training. Lakeland College's Lloydminster campus has provided quality post-secondary education to students for over twenty years, and has welcomed Saskatchewan students into all programs. Lloydminster high school students graduate from the Saskatchewan education system, with many of them attending Lakeland College on the Vermilion and Lloydminster campuses. However, the Lloydminster campus, uniquely situated on the border of Saskatchewan and Alberta, attracts Saskatchewan students from outside Lloydminster.

Enrolment over the last six years indicates that 42% of students on the Lloydminster campus are from Saskatchewan. Enrolment in various programs seems to attract more Saskatchewan students, from a high of 57% in health programs (Practical Nurse (PN) diploma program and Health Care Aide (HCA) certificate program), 50% in trades and technology (Heavy Oil Operations Technician certificate program and Power Engineering), 45% in business diploma programming, and 39% in university transfer programming.

Lakeland College initiated approval to deliver the Practical Nurse diploma program in 2012, and is currently approved by the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) to educate students in the PN program. Graduates of Lakeland's PN program, who pass the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examinations (CPNRE), become Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) who can practice in anywhere in Canada. Of course, Lakeland students, many of whom complete their practicums in Saskatchewan, stay and practice in Saskatchewan.

Support for the ongoing delivery of these programs, with a strong presence from Saskatchewan residents, is essential to continue delivery of high demand programs in the region. Lakeland College appreciates the strong support provided by industry leaders in the area, who provide opportunities for student practicum and co-operative experiences. These experiences allow students to apply theory to practice before graduation. It also allows the industry partners to see a variety of students in the workplace, giving them an opportunity to offer summer experience to students, and ultimately full time employment upon graduation. This is a classic 'win-win' situation.

With a change in funding from the Government of Alberta spring 2014, Lakeland College made some difficult decisions regarding delivery of programs. With support from the Government of Saskatchewan, a gap in program delivery on the Lloydminster campus would allow students to attend Lakeland College – closer to home for Saskatchewan residents.

BE IT RESOLVED

That the Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce request that the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce communicate to the Government of Saskatchewan, its support for proportionate funding from Saskatchewan Government for delivery of programs at Lakeland College to enable Saskatchewan students to continue to pursue post-secondary education in order to join the labour force and support the economy of the Province of Saskatchewan.

Subject: Access to Primary Health

Background:

Recent information released from the Health Council of Canada indicates that most Canadians have a family physician or clinic where they can access care. Yet the ability to access this care in a timely manner is an issue. Statistically, 62% of Canadians find it difficult to access medical care in the evenings, on weekends, or during holidays without accessing this care through an Emergency Department. In addition, 41% of Canadians indicate that they cannot access a same day or next day appointment making Canada the worst of all the countries surveyed in a recent Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey. Many other high-income countries have more innovated solutions to accessing primary health care.

Unfortunately, Lloydminster residents have similar experiences as others across Canada. Compounding the problem is the fact that the community of Lloydminster, unlike most western Canadian cities, does not have access to a Primary Health Care Clinic that offers a more innovative and generally more accessible, team approach to primary care. Lloydminster citizens are only able to access primary health care through a more traditional model of care, with physicians being the professionals who are the initial point of contact. This forces many to access their primary health care through Emergency Departments, generally not a timely way to access care and an expensive way to receive care. Over the past two years Lloydminster in collaboration with Prairie North Regional Health Authority has been successful in recruiting a number of family physicians to the community. Although this has certainly assisted with the difficulty many individuals were experiencing in accessing primary health care, the issue of timely access remains. Many individuals still have to wait several days for an appointment with their family doctor. Once again forcing many to seek medical attention through the Lloydminster Hospital's Emergency Department.

Clearly, the traditional model of providing basic primary healthcare in Lloydminster is inadequate. It is imperative that our community finds and implements an effective and efficient primary health services model. Such a model will complement the continuing services of privately run clinics and will ensure timely, effective and cost effective access to appropriate basic medical services.

Many models of primary health care delivery have been developed and implemented in other communities and jurisdictions. In general, such models provide:

- a. Diagnosis services with the capacity to treat basic or routine health matters.
- b. Referral services to appropriate health professionals (either in-house or elsewhere).
- c. A diverse team of health professionals who can provide the right services by the appropriate caregiver in a timely manner.

Whereas, Lloydminster residents still receive their primary health care through a more traditional physician driven clinic model, and the majority still do not have timely access to primary care services

Whereas, the lack of primary health care services is negatively impacting Chamber members ability to recruit and retain employees;

Whereas, most comparable communities have evolved to a more effective, inter-disciplinary team approach to the delivery of primary health care;

Whereas, both Ministries have engaged in a process to ensure equitable health services for the citizens of Lloydminster

Resolution:

Be it resolved that the Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce advocate on behalf of its members to the Ministers of Health in both Alberta and Saskatchewan for the immediate provision of funding for an innovative, community governed Primary Health Care Centre in Lloydminster.

Incentives to Relocate

BACKGROUND:

There are areas in Canada that are experiencing a shortage of skilled labour as well as semi-skilled labour. This shortage of labour is preventing businesses from expanding and growing to meet the needs of a strong economy and growth in population. Some businesses have had to close or reduce their hours because of lack of staff. Others have not been able to take on new contracts which in turn slow down construction and project completions.

There are areas of Canada where there is high unemployment. Our country and certainly the west were settled by individuals who saw potential to moving and taking advantage of the opportunities available to them. Often times there were incentives offered by the government of Canada and the railway companies to make it attractive for them to leave their homes and families and embark on a new adventure.

The shortage of labour is one of the threats to our continued prosperity as a country. Businesses closing or offering reduced services takes from the bottom line of the business and subsequently from the bottom line of the country with less taxes. If we can't find a way to solve this problem, we will lag further and further behind other countries. In addition, supporting Canadians on unemployment insurance adds to the social costs. Not a good business proposition.

Incentives such as re-location allowances, tighter employment insurance regulations for those living in areas of high unemployment, grants to employers in areas where labour shortages are acute to help bring employees in; financial assistance to Chambers of Commerce to conduct job fairs in areas of high unemployment; air fare re-imbursment for seasonal workers who consider working elsewhere during their down season are just a few of the incentives that the government might consider in order to assist with the solution to this problem.

BE IT RESOLVED

That the Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce request the Government of Canada considers ways to offer incentives to encourage unemployed Canadians to relocate to areas where there is acute labour shortages.