



February 1, 2016

Attention: Mayor Roy Avis and Fort Frances Council

Re: Dialysis Transportation

Please accept this letter as a request for attention to the issue of handicap transportation for our hemodialysis patients living in Fort Frances.

Fort Frances and area bears a significant burden of chronic kidney disease. Dialysis dependence requires treatments three times per week, every week to sustain life. A meeting was held with Thunder Bay Regional HSC (Jane Elliott RN, Lori Byerley SW), Anne Sinclair from the Indian Friendship Centre, Karen Green from Rainycrest and Jason Kabel, Manager Community Services on January 18, 2016. This meeting revealed the handivan is unable to renegotiate their hours of operation to accommodate our dialysis patient scheduling. This is unfortunate. Our dialysis patients are disabled, often on fixed income, and medically fragile. The current resource allocation for specialized transportation in Fort Frances is inadequate to the presenting need. Unfortunately we also predict growth in dialysis dependence and again a subsequent effect that requires more community supports.

This letter is to request dedicated transportation supports for dialysis patients. When reviewing the township strategic plan transportation planning for dialysis is congruent with the ongoing Accessibility Act and also Quality of Life Services. RainyCrest is also home to hemodialysis patients who collectively all require handicapped transportation on Saturdays and the solo handicap taxi has to make three consecutive trips for patients. Unfortunately meals get missed at RainyCrest while waiting for a ride post dialysis. This arrangement is contrary to "Age Friendly" planning and is difficult for the patients.

Many thanks for reviewing this request. It is my understanding the Dial a Ride will be negotiated this year. This may be a perfect opportunity to pursue a transportation agenda. If I can provide any needed information please feel free to contact me at 807 684 6161.


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