



PO Box 30 5407 50th Street
Tofield, Alberta T0B 4J0
P 780 662 3269
F 780 662 3929
E tofiedadmin@tofiedalberta.ca
W www.tofiedalberta.ca

May 3, 2021

Honorable Tyler Shandro
Minister of Health
Office of the Minister of Health
423 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister,

Re: Rural Alberta Vaccine Provision

Minister Shandro, COVID 19, has shown no geographic limitations, nor boundaries. Rural Alberta has been affected by the pandemic on the same levels as our major urban centres, if not, in some cases worse. Rural Alberta sees the population consisting of people from the very young to those being our most vulnerable and many of these being seniors.

Living in rural Alberta provides many opportunities that our urban centres can not provide, such as, tranquility, a quieter way of life and the comfort in knowing your neighbors and surroundings. However, a large challenge has presented itself, most recently in the way of vaccine provision. Tofield has been fortunate in vaccine provision, however, continues to run out. The provision of Moderna would be ideal, as our Pharmacists have identified this as the “perfect rural vaccine” this is based upon shelf life, storage, and the ability to have these vaccines administered. However, even with this, we still have well over 400 citizens on the wait list for this vaccine.

The other conflict is administering these injections to our seniors, vulnerable, disadvantaged, and incapacitated. These people often do not have the means to access the vaccine. These people can not access services in the larger centres which have been able to secure the bulk of vaccines. Minister, frankly, this is wrong as well as very concerning that not all Albertans are provided the same opportunity. It is not easy having these vaccines available in major urban centres and expecting these people to find a way to access this service.

Many rural Alberta communities have yet to receive a single dose of vaccine. How do these people obtain a very necessary service? Please take into consideration what has just been provided, Tofield and other rural communities can not administer vaccine to those in their communities due to shortages, as

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well as transportation issues, how then can communities without vaccine possibly have their citizens looked after?

With several rural towns, villages and counties being commuter communities for the purposes of work, providing essential services and people traveling to and from these communities from urban centres to get to their places of employment (E.g. Ft. MacMurray, Wainwright, Calgary, etc.)

A person would think that getting vaccines out to these areas would be considered an important resource in the effort to bend the curve. Everyone in Alberta is affected by the pandemic and everyone should be protected.

Minister Shandro, we understand the challenges that COVID has provided to your Ministry, your Government and Alberta. We understand that there are issues with supply of vaccine, however there must be a better solution for distributing a portion of what supply there is to rural Albertans. Minister, this is a plea to help those not in the urban centres. Rural Alberta is the lifeblood of our Province and can not be forgotten. Minister, we need a strategy, we need a metric to act within and we need results.

Sincerely,

Debora L Dueck
Debora Dueck
Mayor

C.C AUMA Membership
 RMA Membership
 Jackie Lovely, MLA