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February 4, 2016

Mayor and Council City of Fort Saskatchewan 10005 102 St Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta T8L 2C5

Madame Mayor,

Heartland Housing Foundation (HHF), formed in 2013 through an amalgamation of Pioneer Housing Foundation, Fort Saskatchewan Seniors Housing Foundation, and Lions Haven Foundation has as its mission to provide safe, affordable housing to the citizens of the communities it serves. There is a need in both the City of Fort Saskatchewan and Strathcona County for more affordable housing across the spectrum: from AISH clients and single working individuals to families and seniors. HHF has been working with community partners on how we as a management body can assist in addressing this need.

On December 15, 2015, HHF presented some tentative future plans to both councils. This included a 90 room expansion of Silver Birch, replacement of Clover Bar Lodge (oldest in the list of lodges), construction of a 70+ suite combination seniors/affordable housing apartment complex, and an affordable/low cost apartment on the Old Turner Lodge site.

HHF continually is on the look for new opportunities and to that end, often depends on the support of the local municipality. The newest expansion in Sherwood Park is being financed through a municipal debenture (\$22,500,000). The new Dr. Turner Lodge came about through the gifting of land to the Alberta Government by the City of Fort Saskatchewan and building funds from the government The replacement of Clover Bar Lodge will become a reality with capital from the department. (Support for the provision of land by Strathcona County has been received.)

One of the key components of any expansion or new build is ensuring the land is available. To that end, HHF is intending to move forward in Fort Saskatchewan with plans for a seniors/affordable housing apartment similar to the design shown to Council in December. To accomplish this goal, HHF would like to ask for an official commitment to HHF that the land described as Lot 8, Block 22, Plan 6180 NY, in the City of Fort Saskatchewan will be made available at no cost.

This property is part of the Old Hospital Lands and sits adjacent to the land turned over to the Government of Alberta for the construction of Dr. Turner Lodge. This property works well for a new project as it will afford local seniors an affordable housing opportunity which does not currently exist.

Transfer of title at this time is not imperative, but a written commitment for the property will allow HHF to move forward with planning and development.

This request is being made on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Heartland Housing Foundation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stew Hennig

**Board Chair** 

Heartland Housing Foundation

Lynn Olenek

**Executive Director** 

**Heartland Housing Foundation** 

