

Peace Palliative Care Society
Box 6954
Peace River, Alberta T8S 1S7



PEACE PALLIATIVE CARE SOCIETY

Dear Dan Williams,

This letter is written on behalf of the Peace Palliative Care Society, to express our deep concern regarding the lack of accessible physical therapy services for individuals with life limiting illnesses in our community. Recently, our Society received a request for financial assistance to cover the cost of private physical therapy, as there are no public options available locally and Alberta Health Services is not covering any private physical therapy for people with palliative diagnoses.

As a charitable, non-profit organization, the Peace Palliative Care Society relies entirely on community donations to provide support for individuals facing financial hardships and end-of-life care. It is deeply concerning that we are being asked to step in and help fund a service that should be readily available and publicly funded. The burden of filling these gaps in care should not fall on charitable organizations or the individuals who need this essential service.

This situation highlights a broader issue: our local hospital currently has two long standing vacant physical therapist positions with a third unfilled vacancy due to a maternity leave. Due to these unfilled positions, residents with critical needs are left with no choice but to pay out-of-pocket for care or forgo treatment altogether. For individuals with serious health conditions, physical therapy is not a luxury; it is essential for maintaining mobility, managing pain, and improving quality of life.

This issue directly affects the most vulnerable members of our community, placing an undue financial and emotional burden on them and their families. Addressing the staffing shortage would not only support those currently struggling but also demonstrate a commitment to equitable healthcare access for all Albertans.

We are calling on you, as our MLA, to advocate for the prioritization of filling these vacant positions at the Peace River Community Health Centre, with full-time, permanent physiotherapists. Ensuring timely and equitable access to public physical therapy services is vital for individuals with chronic, life-limiting or terminal illnesses who cannot afford private care.

We would appreciate your support in addressing this critical issue and kindly request a response outlining the action(s) you plan to take. Please feel free to contact us at prpeacepalliativecaresociety@gmail.com if you require further information or have any questions. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We trust in your support to help ensure that individuals facing serious health challenges receive the care they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

The Board and entire membership of the Peace Palliative Care Society

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