



**Bow Island Primary Care Medical Clinic Ltd.**  
**A Proposal to Establish a Municipally Controlled Corporation**

The Town of Bow Island is taking steps to establish a Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC) that will own and operate a primary care medical clinic. This will allow the Town to take active and direct steps to recruit physicians for the Town and surrounding communities.

**What is a Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC)?**

- An MCC is a for-profit corporation that is controlled by a municipality or group of municipalities for the purposes of providing a regional municipal service or facility.
- MCCs are regulated by the Municipal Government Act, Business Corporations Act, Control of Corporations Regulation, and the Debt Limit Regulation.
- The Municipal Government Act (MGA) allows a municipality, by itself or with other municipalities, to establish and control, or obtain control of, a corporation subject to the terms of Section 75.1(1) of the MGA.
- An MCC is incorporated under the Business Corporations Act and exists as a separate legal entity from its founding municipality or municipalities, governed by its shareholder or shareholders.

**Why is the Town setting up an MCC?**

- Our community has been approved for 5 physicians; there is currently 1 physician. The existing clinic is not financially sustainable with only 1 physician and the Town is responding in what is believed to be the most prudent path forward in ensuring that our clinic and hospital remain available to provide services to the community.
- Financial support is a key factor in maintaining the current medical clinic and in recruiting additional physicians. There is a higher level of accountability to local taxpayers when providing public funds to a publicly owned corporation than there is in supporting a privately owned business.
- By owning and operating the medical clinic as a business, the MCC will have a direct influence on recruitment efforts and can be more proactive in recruiting physicians.

**What will the proposed MCC do?**

- The MCC will operate a clinic space where physicians may practice their medical services. The clinic will provide physicians with:
  - Cohort Medical Examination Rooms
  - Medical Examination Equipment
  - Medical Office Assistant Services
  - Reception and Appointment Services
  - Hosting of Electronic Medical Record Services
  - Patient Document Management



### **Who owns the MCC and how is it controlled?**

- The Town will be the sole shareholder of the MCC and must operate within the context of the Unanimous Shareholder Agreement.
- The MCC will have a Board of Directors that will consist of up to five (5) individuals who will be appointed at the sole discretion of the Town Council.
- The MCC will not have any ownership in the current building and adjoining pharmacy, this is a private business that leases space to the clinic.
- The MCC will be operated at arm's length from the Town and will be an independent entity. Clinic employees will not be employees of the Town and all operations will be separated from the Town.
- An MCC may operate as a for-profit company. It will operate under the Business Corporations Act and Control of Corporations Regulation, like other private businesses. The Board of Directors will determine how profits are handled.

### **How much will this cost and is the Town working with other levels of government?**

- The Town of Bow Island, the County of Forty Mile, and the Village of Foremost have established a Joint Health Care Recruitment Committee that will work collaboratively to develop and implement strategies at attracting and retaining family physicians, and to deliver financial support to the MCC.
- The Town has applied for grant funding from Alberta Health and anticipates receiving up to \$200,000 over two years to support clinic operations. This grant must be matched with \$200,000 in municipal funds over two years.
- There will be legal fees and costs to establish the corporation, this is estimated to be under \$10,000.

### **How is this MCC proposal different from typical medical clinics?**

- Medical clinics are typically owned by all or some of the medical practitioners that are providing the services within the medical clinic. These may be seen by the public in various shapes, size, and models - including Primary Care Networks (PCN).
- Most medical clinics in the province currently exist as private companies, and most physicians in the province with family practices operate through their own corporations that either have ownership in a clinic or rent space in an existing clinic.
- Clinics charge doctors for value-added services such as reception, appointment tracking, bookkeeping, record keeping and space to operate their practice. While physicians, in turn, bill their clients, with insurable services going through the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan.
- The MCC is a private business that will be owned by the Town and will offer the same services as a typical clinic, the ownership structure is the primary difference.

### **How can you get involved?**

- Review the Business Plan at [www.bowisland.com/latest-news](http://www.bowisland.com/latest-news)
- A Statutory Public Hearing is being held on August 11, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Town Office Hyland Room. Members of the public are invited to attend this hearing to speak for or against the proposal.
- If you cannot attend the Hearing, you can still provide feedback, raise concerns or show support by emailing [townoffice@bowisland.com](mailto:townoffice@bowisland.com).
- Letters can be mailed to:  
Town of Bow Island  
Box 100, Bow Island, AB. T0K 0G0