



The situation with the Emergency Department at the **Health Centre** remains mostly unchanged, with locums covering most weekends and **Dr. Tawfeeq** looking after the Long-term and Alfred Egan residents. There are two acute care beds open, and Dr. Tawfeeq's patients are able to make appointments to see him at the clinic. Additional locum and temporary help is being sought while recruitment continues for new fulltime doctors, which will take some time. The Emergency Department is intended to treat people with major trauma or serious injuries and shouldn't be used as walk-in clinic. When the ED is closed call 911 in those serious situations. EMS services are prepared to respond to emergency events and support inter-facility transfers to neighbouring sites. Patients seeking care can access emergency services at the Taber Health Centre or the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital. There may also be doctors in those other communities than can provide clinical services at their offices until our clinic is back up to full strength. Another option available is to call Health Link at 811, which is available 24/7 for non-emergency, health-related questions.

Dr. Tawfeeq has gone above and beyond to look after as many people as possible but quite frankly this is too much for one person and this workload is taking its toll on him. We are all grateful for his compassion and dedication to our community and I ask everyone to encourage and support him through this difficult time. I would also ask for understanding and respect for the staff at the Health Centre. They have no control over what has happened and will continue to provide the best care possible under the circumstances.

The **Southern Alberta Summer Games** are coming up in the first week of July and this year will be in Taber. Our Recreation Coordinator, Kaylee Hurt is looking forward to having lots of entries for the Forty Mile team. She is even more excited about the prospect of Bow Island, the County and the Village hosting next year's games! They were last held here in 1996, so we are definitely due for the chance to welcome visitors here for four days next July. Volunteers will be needed and of course, local participants so mark your calendars now.

The **Pinto's Princesses** competition will return this fall, with entries already in and being reviewed by the committee. The excellent participants last year showcased their talent and public speaking skills in the weekend event in early September. The 3 winning contestants, Grand Princess Makaya Porteous, Princess Chloe Hume and Junior Princess, Mila Wever, did a great job supporting various community events throughout the year including representing Bow Island elsewhere. All the contestants did us proud and I am sure this year's group will be great as well.

Back in early April there was a fire at the North Forty Mile Landfill, north of Town. On behalf of the Board and Staff, my thanks to all the firefighters from the Town and around the County who battled the blaze for 44 hours and kept it from spreading off the site. Cypress County also sent people and equipment to help spell off the weary crews. We are very grateful for the farmers and businesses who responded with many truckloads of water, as well as equipment and food. While it is pretty tough to determine the exact cause of the blaze that was fanned by high winds, we did note there were countless small explosions during the event. Many of those were caused by batteries being in the garbage that became projectiles, adding to the risk for the firefighters. Please do not put batteries of any kind in your garbage. There are recycling options for those and other electronic products. In an effort to prolong the life of the landfill, the staff have worked hard to organize the site into areas for diverting many products from the garbage. Items such as metals, mattresses, electronics, paint, tires and oil have easily accessible places for them to be dropped off. Please follow the signs and the directions of the staff and understand they are there to help and are simply doing their jobs and should not be subjected to abuse. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

This will be another busy summer with lots of events that are kicking off soon, so get out and enjoy!

Mayor Gordon Reynolds