

Good morning,

I am reaching out to you today to request your assistance and support for Hope Air.

Hope Air provides essential services to rural and remote communities across the country and the majority of their work is done here in British Columbia. Not only does Hope Air provide air transportation to patients and their caregivers but also provides accommodations, meals and ground transportation. Their charitable services need to continue and to be enhanced, to ensure equitable access to care for all of us who are forced to leave our communities for care and treatments. In 2023, Hope Air supported over 14,100 travel arrangements for patients across British Columbia. Hope Air had an infusion of support from the Government of B.C. to support the needs of cancer patients and steadfast support from the Provincial Health Service Authority, community foundations, and corporate and individual donors. And yet, the demand continues to soar. The BC Rural Health Network has been working closely with Hope Air and promoting their services to many who haven't been aware of their significant and essential services. Their no patient left behind policy could be jeopardized if their funding is not sufficient or stable. Over the past year, we have been promoting the services of Hope Air and as people become aware of what services they can provide, the more these services are utilized.

On **June 17th**, Hope Air is working with municipalities across the province to declare this day, "**Hope Air Day**" in British Columbia. They are choosing this day to shine the spotlight on the unique medical travel needs of thousands of residents each year. In turn, we must continue to bring awareness to the issue of equitable access to health care for all.

I am writing to request your consideration that your Municipality adopt the attached proclamation declaring June 17th, Hope Air Day. We would be grateful for this support, in joining cities and towns across B.C. to recognize the impact of Hope Air.

I have attached a draft of the proclamation for your review.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this proclamation.

Yours in health and wellness,

Phoebe Lazier

Community Engagement

BC Rural Health Network

Phoebe Lazier || She/Her || Community Outreach || **BC Rural Health Network** ||



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***The BCRHN is the healthcare voice of the rural residents of British Columbia and seeks better health outcomes for all people, through solutions-based approaches with governments, and information provision to residents.***

***The BCRHN is grateful to live, work, and be in relation with people from across many traditional and unceded territories, covering all regions of British Columbia. We are honoured to live on this land and are committed to reconciliation, decolonization, and building relationships in our communities***

*Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.*

## Municipal Proclamation

Hope Air Day

June 17, 2024

Whereas, access to healthcare is a fundamental right for all citizens, regardless of their geographic location;

Whereas, Hope Air, a charitable organization, has been tirelessly dedicated to providing access to healthcare by facilitating free flights and other services for patients living in rural and under-served communities in British Columbia, ensuring they can receive vital medical treatment regardless of distance or financial means;

Whereas, Hope Air has been instrumental in bridging the gap between smaller communities and hospitals far from home, reducing the barriers that often prevent individuals from reaching medical care;

Whereas, the impact of Hope Air extends beyond the individual patients served, positively affecting families, communities, and the healthcare system as a whole by promoting wellness and reducing the burden of untreated medical conditions;

Whereas, the compassion, dedication, and commitment demonstrated by Hope Air and its volunteers embody the spirit of community and the belief in the inherent value of every individual's well-being;

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the [Name of Municipality] that June 17th, 2024, shall be known as "Hope Air Day" in recognition of the invaluable contributions made by Hope Air to the health and well-being of individuals in British Columbia's remote, rural and underserved communities.

We urge all citizens to join us in celebrating Hope Air Day and to reflect on the significance of ensuring equitable access to healthcare for all members of our society. Let us reaffirm our commitment to supporting initiatives that promote health equity and extend our gratitude to Hope Air for their unwavering dedication to serving those in need.

Signed,

[Mayor's Signature]

[Mayor's Name]

Mayor of [Name of Municipality]

[Seal of the Municipality]