

**While the points below are not exhaustive, they are intended to help you give thought to some of Wheatland & Area Hospice Society's most pressing concerns. We could sure use your help with advocacy/letter writing.**

**Support for our hospice:**

- Hospice care is essential end-of-life support for patients, families, and caregivers.
- Having to leave our community to access this type of care highlights the inequalities of health services to rural residents.
- Travel time and distance to access this care in Okotoks or Calgary has an economic impact.
- I support a locally controlled not-for-profit model of hospice rather than “beds at the end of a hallway” in a LTC facility that is not truly a hospice. Quality of care matters.

**Support for the lodge project:**

- A new lodge will provide affordable housing for seniors in our area for many decades to come. Seniors are a growing demographic.
- Our area has a need for 400 lodge spaces in the next 20+years because we are part of the Calgary/Edmonton corridor. This new lodge can provide an additional 120 of those spaces.
- Keeping our parents and grandparents close by as they age strengthens the fabric of our rural communities.
- Home care services only address health needs, and most lodge residents enter for social, security, and financial considerations. Government needs to address both aspects of aging.

**Support for both hospice and lodge:**

- This new project will alleviate some strain on existing healthcare facilities and services in our community.
- Community consultations and presentations are well supported by many different age groups and residents.
- This project has the full support of both WHMB and WAHS boards which has representation through the breadth of our county. Many volunteer hours and \$4.1M have been contributed to support the hospice portion of the build.
- I realize my municipal and provincial tax dollars will be needed to build the lodge and contribute to operational funding of the hospice, and even though I myself am not currently utilizing these facilities, I recognize the importance of them to our keep our community whole.