



North Peace Housing Foundation

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April 29, 2022

Todd Loewen, MLA
Central Peace-Notley
Constituency Office
P.O. Box 9
10410-110 Street,
Fairview, Alberta T0H 1L0

Dear Ms. Schiml,

Thank you for your letter dated April 19, 2022, concerning visitation at the Homesteader Lodge in Hines Creek.

With the transmissibility of the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus and the recent number of outbreaks that we have experienced in our facilities, North Peace Housing Foundation asked visitors to restrict visitation to resident rooms in all of our facilities.

You are correct in your understanding that a survey was conducted at the Lodge and that the results showed support for changes to the current visitation protocol; however, this was not a Foundation approved survey and it was conducted while Management was away from the Lodge. Additionally, only those family members present at the Lodge at that time were given the opportunity to voice their opinion.

The current Health orders in place with regards to visitation are as follows:

CMOH Order 06-2022 states that all "visiting persons must wear a well-fitting surgical/procedure mask OR they may use a well-fitted KN95 or N95 facemask or a respirator...Visiting persons who are spending time with residents with communication challenges (e.g. hearing concerns) where a mask would inhibit communication being provided, can remove mask while in a private space in the building if the resident consents and a distance of two meters is maintained between the visitor and the resident at all times. Masks can be temporarily removed for the purpose of eating and drinking and be replaced immediately after the food/drink is complete. A distance of two meters should be maintained while the mask is removed."

The Foundation takes the safety and security of our residents very seriously. Administration made the decision to request visitation in the resident rooms to reduce the likelihood of the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. When the concerns of the Residents' Association were brought to our attention, we

responded with the commitment to survey all Residents and family members to determine their wishes. If the majority want to visit outside of their rooms, that is the direction that we will take. Due to the size of the dining room at the Homesteader Lodge and the requirement to social distance when unmasked while eating or drinking, we are looking at having dedicated visitation space provided in part of the common area to accommodate the residents' and families' wishes, and to continue to comply with the current CMOH orders.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tammy Menssa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "M".

Tammy Menssa
Executive Director