

# Fort Vermilion and Area Seniors and Elders Lodge Board 1788

## Chairman's Annual Report 2018

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### ***Dearest Lodge Board and Membership:***

It is with great humility that I pen my third Annual Chairman's Report at our fourth AGM. It has been an active and successful year as the Board has undertaken many steps in taking our now 12-year story to all three levels of government as we attempt to find our champions who will say 'I will'. Also, our directors and registered members have been busy with community-volunteer fund raising, inter-departmental strategic task force meetings, providing governance direction at Board meetings, letter/email writing campaigns and individual advocacy of our dream ..."**to create a culturally inclusive Designated Supportive Living Facility in Fort Vermilion by 2020.**"

### **Accomplishments/Progress Since 2017 AGM:**

- **9 Regular Board meetings held**
  - 41 Motions Made
  - ~15 hrs of Actual Meeting Time
  - 100's of coordination emails/ phone calls and several blocks of paper, printer ink and pencils....
- **1 Special AGM meeting held**
  - Bylaws Amendment for Service Alberta Annual Society Return
- **Invited to Give Presentation on Our Story in Ottawa to the Federal Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN)**
- **(iii) 14 Letters Written to Elected Officials & 3 Letters of Response**
  - Including: **Alberta's:** Minister of Heath, Minister of Seniors and Housing, Minister of Indigenous Relations. **Canada's:** Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, and Minister of Employment, Workforce Development & Labour, Minister of Health, Minister of Indigenous Services, and Minister of Seniors.
  - Additionally, each letter was appropriately cc'd to MLA Debbie Jabbour and MP Arnold Viersen.
- **5 Multi-Departmental Task Force Meetings Held (& 2 Sub-Committee Meetings)**

**Key Message:** *The seniors and elders of Northern Alberta's Mackenzie region are in desperate need of a 'Culturally Inclusive' designated supportive living (DSL) or advanced care facility. Our existing facilities currently have a two year wait list, and for over ten years we have been calling on municipal, provincial and federal government to help us provide better care in a more compassionate timeframe. Healthcare is a multi-jurisdictional issue; therefore, we are asking Ministers and Senior Staff to formally provide support and direction on a multi-jurisdictional task force. A task force with a budget and political direction can implement change in the provincial and federal partnerships devoted to seniors and elders care, which will ultimately provide the Mackenzie region with the right facility to meet present and future need.*

  - Attending Government Staff from: **Alberta's:** Alberta Health: Strategic Policy & Indigenous Health Branch, Continuing Care Branch, Health Facility Planning Branch, Primary & Community Health; Alberta Health Services; Alberta Indigenous Relations; and Alberta Seniors & Housing. **Canada's:** Indigenous Services (*Previously INAC*), First Nation & Inuit Health Branch, Canadian Mortgage & Housing Corporation, and Employment, Workforce Development & Labour

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- **Organized and Brought our Story to 5 Community Events & Fund Raised *just shy of* \$32,000.00**
  - Fort Vermilion Get to Know You Night
  - MARA & Mackenzie County AG Fair
  - Fort Vermilion Rodeo Breakfast
  - Seniors Annual BBQ Supper (*during seniors' week*)
  - I Support Seniors & Elders Care Fund Raiser

There is no doubt in my mind that we have taken great strides in recent years in bringing our old story wrought with its strife and nobility to senior government officials at all levels. And we will continue to do so. We have persevered under the 'hot potato' treatment as different levels of government attempt to get their minds and mandates around an old story of great people caring for those most vulnerable in one of Alberta's remotest urban areas. We are not alone in Canada either; as we were invited to present our story to a House of Commons Standing Committee, truly a testimony to the hard work that this community has accomplished well over a decade now. You can take pride in knowing all three levels of government right across Canada know who we are and what we are going to accomplish. Additionally, we have had the privilege of being part of an unprecedented Strategic Task Force as provincial and federal department senior staff gather and meet to discuss our project. This is the first time this has ever happened in Canada/Alberta!

Yes, our need is great and is very real and yes Fort Vermilion is the best spot in our region to construct a facility that is designed to reach our most vulnerable and give them a home...give them hope. So, I ask, that you please remain vigilant and dedicated to our old story and take heart knowing that we are all doing the right thing at the right time with the right people.

I speak on behalf of the entire Board when I say thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

*JEFF ANDERSON*

Jeff Anderson, Chairman  
FVASELB1788

Encl. Echo Newspaper Ad "I Support Seniors & Elders Care" 2018 Fund Raiser

# Many Thanks to You

The Fort Vermilion & Area Seniors & Elders Lodge Board 1788 and their registered membership would like to thank all who supported and attended our "I Support Seniors and Elders Care" 2018 fund raiser. The evening was a huge success with 150 people attending and over \$28,000.00 generously donated towards the goal of building a culturally inclusive Designated Supportive Living home in Fort Vermilion.

This event would not have been what it was without a variety of bakers throughout the region and the Native Women's Association donating their culinary expertise where we saw 41 home made pies auctioned by community auctioneers. Silent auction items were donated by Tolko Industries, North Peace Tribal Council, ACE Hardware, La Crete Home Hardware, Lime Blue, Country Gardens B & B, La Crete UFA, Prairie Coast John Deere, Inner Peace Flights and several community members which were on display for the biddings wars. And lastly, the gracious people who prepared a wonderful meal satisfying many tummies. Again thank you all from the bottom of our hearts as we work together for our seniors & elders across the Mackenzie Region.

