

## COMMUNITY UPDATE: Northern Lights Regional Health Centre Heliport Project

## **OVERVIEW**

- The \$8.5 million heliport project at the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre (NLRHC) began in January 2018.
- Having the heliport beside the health centre will improve access for patients who need critical care transport.
- The heliport is being built on land at the rear of the hospital. It will be an elevated platform, approximately 30-40 feet off the ground, level with the main floor of the hospital, and in close proximity to operating rooms. This location requires less preparation than other previously discussed options, which is anticipated to result in lower costs and shorter timelines.
- Until the heliport project is complete, helicopter patient transports will continue to land at the Fort McMurray airport. Ground ambulances will be used to transport patients to, and from, the health centre and airport. This is already common practice in Fort McMurray and in other communities across the province. It is a safe option.

## WORK CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

- A temporary safe work zone near the NLRHC and Dr. Clark & Father Turcotte schools has been set up to ensure the contractors have access to build the structure and to store construction equipment and materials.
- Work on the underground utilities, which includes critical electrical lines, storm water drain, and other cables has been completed.
- We've begun adding piles in the ground for the frame of the structure.

## **AHEAD**

- Spring 2018: In coming weeks we'll be pouring concrete for foundations. Once done we'll begin installation of structural steel.
- Late 2018: Construction of the project is expected to be completed toward the end of 2018. Additional time will be required after the construction is completed for building commissioning which includes testing, training. Transport Canada approval, and staff orientation and training.





Spring 2018





