June 16, 2023

**To:** Residents evacuated from Edson Continuing Care Centre due to wildfires
**cc:** Families of the evacuated residents
Continuing care operators caring for residents evacuated from Edson

Alberta Health Services (AHS) continues to navigate the wildfire situation in Edson and surrounding communities to develop a plan to resume services in consideration of the safety and well-being of our continuing care residents.

Due to a wildfire evacuation order, AHS relocated residents from Edson Continuing Care Centre on June 9. Residents have gone home with family members or have been safely moved to continuing care facilities in Northern Alberta and Edmonton.

We know you are very anxious to return to your home, and there are many important considerations as we work toward this goal.

Though some Yellowhead County evacuees are beginning to return to their homes, wildfires continue to burn in the Edson area. We maintain close relationships with Alberta Forestry and the local municipalities to ensure we have the information we need to develop timelines and a plan for the safe return of residents from the Edson Continuing Care Centre.

The care and safety of our residents remains our top priority. Because of the unpredictable nature of the wildfire, we will return continuing care residents to their home when the facility is ready and the municipality is confident there is little likelihood of another evacuation. Due to the unstable conditions and size of wildfires in the area, it could be several weeks until we are able to do so.

It is important to consider the impact of these moves on any vulnerable population. As you know, evacuating individuals, many who have mobility issues, can be disruptive and takes time to ensure availability of appropriate transport options. We want to avoid multiple moves where possible.

To ensure the comfort and safety of residents, they will continue to be cared for in their temporary locations until it is time for them to be transported home.

Residents, families, and healthcare facilities where they have been relocated will be notified when arrangements are in place for a safe return to their home.

Continuing care residents and families with questions or in need of support can call the Continuing Care Access Line at **1-855-371-4122.** The line is toll-free and staff are available

Monday to Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday and Statutory holidays from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for questions or for more information.

Updates to AHS' response to the wildfires, as well as resources, will continue to be posted to www.ahs.ca/wildfire.

We thank the AHS staff & physicians who assisted in these safe evacuations, and who continue to provide safe and high-quality care to patients & families.

Stacy Greening
Chief Zone Officer, North Zone

Alberta Health Services