

February 19, 2021

RE: EXEMPTION REQUEST– ORDER 02-2021 – HEARINGS AND LABOUR NEGOTIATIONS

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta, a public health emergency was declared in the Province of Alberta on November 24, 2020 pursuant to section 52.1 of the *Public Health Act* of Alberta.

Further to that declaration of a public health emergency the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), pursuant to her authority under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*, made CMOH Order 02-2021 (the Order) that identified businesses or entities allowed to offer goods and services at locations accessible to the public as well as any other steps to lessen the impact of a public health emergency when offering those goods or services.

The purpose of the Order is to help protect Albertans from the exposure to and spread of COVID-19 by prohibiting persons from attending certain locations for certain periods of time and subjecting such persons to any conditions that the CMOH considers appropriate including prohibiting persons from engaging in activities that could transmit an infectious agent and which the CMOH considers necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency. In addition setting such conditions as the CMOH considers appropriate or necessary on businesses and entities to lessen the impact of the public health emergency when those business or entities are offering goods or services to the public.

Pursuant to Section 74 of the Order the CMOH may exempt in writing persons or classes of persons from the operation of the Order.

The Office of CMOH has received three requests to exempt access to hotel meeting rooms in Alberta for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial hearings by agencies or bodies formed to undertake such hearings under the legislation or upon invitation of a Minister or for the purpose of conducting labour negotiations that are unable to be conducted virtually.

Pursuant to Sections 42 the Order and Section 3 of the Appendix A this facility must be closed to the public except where a facility is being used for a purpose set out in Section 43 of the Order.

Pursuant to Section 74 of the Order I am satisfied that an exemption from Section 1 of Appendix A be granted to allow hotel meeting rooms to be used for the specified hearings and labour negotiations under the following conditions:

- I. Subject to the conditions in paragraphs II and III, hotel meeting rooms may allow bookings to businesses, government agencies, organizations or entities purpose of conducting quasi-judicial hearings by agencies or bodies formed to undertake such hearings under the legislation or upon invitation of a Minister or for the purpose of conducting labour negotiations that are unable to be conducted virtually.
- II. For further clarity, this exemption does not permit the location described in paragraph I from engaging in activities that are not permitted elsewhere in the Order - specifically those activities described under section 2 of Appendix A of the Order;
- III. The hotel meeting rooms that provide meeting facilities for the persons described in paragraph I shall follow further public health conditions or requirements that relate to public health and safety that may be provided in writing from time to time by Alberta Health or Alberta Health Services.

Although the businesses and entities identified above are exempt per Section 74 of the Order, all persons who are identified in this exemption are subject to the appropriate hygiene, masking and other barriers or PPE as appropriate to the activity, distancing of a minimum of two metres from any other persons, and all other measures identified by public health authorities to protect these persons and other Albertans from further transmission of COVID-19.

The exemption may be terminated or modified by the CMOH in writing without notice and for any reason as determined by the CMOH.

This exemption comes into effect on February 19, 2021 and terminates when CMOH Order 02-2021 is rescinded.

We trust this is satisfactory

Yours Sincerely



Deena Hinshaw
Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta