



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **PEMBINA PLACE WILL FOLLOW THE PROVINCIAL RESTRICTION EXEMPTION PROGRAM**

*Public consultation strongly supported the Town of Redwater implementing the Alberta Government's Restriction Exemption Program at Pembina Place*

**Redwater, AB, (October 6, 2021)** – The Town of Redwater continues to approach our COVID-19 response with care and consideration for our residents' safety and concerns. With increased regulations from the Alberta Government in the current fourth wave, Council had to decide about how best to keep Pembina Place safely open to the public while respecting resident privacy and choice. Under the current Provincial regulations, Pembina place could remain open with two options:

1. Limit capacity to 1/3rd of full capacity.
2. Follow the Restriction Exemption Program (REP) which requires patrons ages 12 and over to provide proof of vaccination, a negative rapid test result taken within 72 hours of entry, or documentation of a medical exemption.

Both options require patrons to follow masking and social distancing practices.

Following the initial announcement, Council chose to comply with the 1/3 capacity limit to remain open. This decision was made to ensure public safety while also providing time to conduct a public engagement exercise to gauge Redwater user group and public opinion on the situation.

Council directed administration to survey the public and consult with Pembina Place user groups to gather evidence for Council consideration to make a final decision. The user groups, including Redwater hockey and curling teams, were unanimous with the request to join the REP and 74% of survey respondents were in favour of joining the REP program for Pembina Place.

Feedback indicated that access to Pembina Place is a benefit to the mental and physical health for many residents. With the REP in place, more residents will be able access the centre amenities for themselves, their families, and their teams.

Council felt that it was important to consult with the public and follow a democratic approach in making this decision. Using the results of this public consultation, Council has implemented the REP at Pembina.

This is a challenging time for communities across Alberta. Redwater staff are here to serve residents faithfully through this difficult challenge. We respectfully ask that patrons treat the front-line employees who are responsible for implementing this program with kindness and respect.