



Site selection criteria for Federal Offices

Background

The Federal department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has announced a decision to close the Case Processing Centre (CPC) in Vegreville and moving up to 280 employee positions to Edmonton in December of 2018. The IRCC has never provided a clear business case demonstrating the benefits of moving the facility to a major urban centre and there was no economic impact assessment of the decision, no consultation with the community, and no opportunity to provide input prior to or after this decision.

The only criteria provided for relocating the CPC to the nearest major city was necessary due to

“the proximity to universities, the availability of public transit and housing options, and career growth opportunities within the federal government will make it easier to recruit and retain both qualified and bilingual employees and to meet our growing needs.”

The application of this criteria means most rural communities would not be able to accommodate a federal government facility. Relocating long-term federal facilities from rural communities to urban centres is at odds with the Federal government's campaign commitment to *'strengthen our communities by investing in the things that make them good places to live'*.

The Alberta Chambers recommends the Government of Canada:

1. Direct Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) establish clear performance criteria for federal facilities in rural communities.
2. Submit an economic impact analysis to PWGSC and consult with impacted communities prior to any decision by a federal department on relocating a federal facility