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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

November 1, 2017

Ken Kobly
President
Alberta Chambers of Commerce
1808, 10025 - 102A Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2Z2

Dear Mr. Kobly:

On behalf of the Town and residents of Vegreville, I would like to convey our sincere appreciation for the Alberta Chambers of Commerce's ongoing support and efforts to protect rural communities across Canada.

The success of our resolution this past September at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting in Fredericton is one of great significance. As you know, the federal government's unilateral Case Processing Centre (CPC) decision a year ago, left our residents and business community in shock and disbelief. With the stroke of a pen, 10% of our community's working population was eliminated and almost \$16 million in annual GDP revenue was lost.

While the prospect of a permanent drop in population, lower property values, and increased unemployment were distressing, equally concerning was the fact that a decision of this magnitude could be made without a detailed business case, economic impact assessment or community consultation. It was all very difficult to rationalize and to accept.

As our story unfolded, and the ensuing fight to protect the livelihood of our community gathered momentum, so too did a movement to ensure that no other municipalities in Canada should suffer the same fate as Vegreville.

It has been extremely encouraging to have people join us in our efforts to understand and learn from this unfortunate error. The Alberta Chambers of Commerce have been a strong and enduring source of support.

In particular, we would like to extend our gratitude to Policy Manager Jonathan Seib, who not only worked hard to help us prepare in the lead up to the FMC forum, but also made a significant contribution on the ground, sharing information and rallying support from the provincial caucuses. The commitment and support of the entire ACC has been fundamental to our progress on this file.

With the help of our valued partners, Vegreville is moving forward and rising to the challenges facing rural Canadian communities. We are very grateful to the Alberta Chambers of Commerce and thank you again for your continued efforts, leadership and support.

Sincerely,



Tim MacPhee
Mayor

Cc Chris Dugan, Chair