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October 27, 2016

Attention: Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Honourable John McCullum
Honourable Judy M. Foote

RE: CLOSURE OF IMMIGRATION CASE PROCESSING CENTRE IN VEGREVILLE

This morning we found out that the Federal Government is closing the Case Processing Centre (CPC) in Vegreville and moving the office to Edmonton. This announcement was made in a staff meeting and the concerned employees reached out to us, their Municipal Government for help.

The reasons given to the staff for the move to Edmonton were: more bi-lingual access; closer to post-secondary education centres and there was space in Crown owned or leased facilities in Edmonton. It was also announced that the decision was already made. The current lease on the building expires in February 2019, and the move would be completed by December 2018.

This Council is expressing very deep concern that we are losing one of our community's largest employer and this is being done with no prior consultations with the public or municipality on this closure. Our understanding is there would be up to 220 employees affected, which in a smaller community, can be far reaching in the ripple effect.

As stated earlier, the CPC is one of the largest employers in Vegreville, and employs citizens from the surrounding counties and municipalities. The steady employment and income that is created by this office has introduced new people to the area, increased real estate values, increased the municipality's tax base which allows the Town to offer more programming, and is a solid foundation for attracting new business to the community.

The Town and Council are more than open to discuss alternatives to the closure, from helping with lease negotiations, to looking at alternative locations. There were no reasons given that cannot be accommodated with talks and negotiations.

Council looks forward to hearing from you in regards to this very pressing matter.

Respectfully,

Mayor Myron Hayduk