



Town of Vegreville

"A FRIENDLY PLACE TO LIVE"

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The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister
Hill Office House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario
Telephone: 613-995-0253 | Fax: 613-947-0310
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Re: Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Case Processing Centre, Vegreville, AB, CANADA

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

"QUALITY OF LIFE is defined as the general well-being of individuals and societies. It observes life satisfaction, including everything from physical health, family, education, employment, wealth, religious beliefs, finance and the environment."

It is with dismay and frustration that I submit this letter of concern in response to the Federal Government's decision to close and relocate to Edmonton the Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Case Processing Centre (CPC) from its current location in Vegreville, Alberta.

The CPC was officially opened in Vegreville in 1994 and has provided secure employment for 200-300 local residents for the past 22 years. The Case Processing Centre is one of the largest employers in this community of less than 6000 people. The fabric of this community is built on its people.....individuals interacting with each other through work, school, groups, sports activities or offering their volunteer efforts making their community a vibrant place to live. Contrary to the belief that everyone wants to live in large urban centres, there are various reasons people choose to live in small town.....be it a slower pace of life, a safer place to raise a family, or a feeling of belonging. Having the choice to live in a small town is a dream many are unable to realize. The quality of life and satisfaction observed in Vegreville has been identified in the University of Alberta's School of Public Health's recent project "What Makes Vegreville a Healthy Community?", a project supported by Alberta Health. One of the recommendations submitted by a majority of survey participants is **"More awareness of and/or more job opportunities are needed in Vegreville."**

Mr. Trudeau....you champion yourself as a supporter of families....yet your ideological belief is opposingly polarized by the shocking news announced to Vegreville CPC employees last week. Please consider the financial impact and consequences to employees and their families. None of us are immune to disappointments and failure in our lives....but when this government makes a decision based on the bottom line \$ of a financial statement.....paying little or no regard to distractions along the way of reaching their end goal.....I must say they are not playing a fair game. The economic ramifications this will have on our community by the loss of 230+ jobs will be devastating to say the least. The state of the economy has not been a healthy one in Alberta for the past 2 years as a direct result of the oil and gas industry. Add to that the hardship facing many farmers in this region of not getting their crops off the field this year as an added blow. We desperately need to keep the CPC jobs in Vegreville.

Mr. Trudeau, I am asking you to let your conscience be your guide. Please reflect on the negative emotional effects your governments' decision will have on the residents of this community.

I urge the Federal Government to reconsider this decision to close and relocate the Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Case Processing Centre in Vegreville, and initiate a conversation with stakeholders to work towards achieving the greatest beneficial solution.....keeping the best interests of INDIVIDUALS at the forefront.

WE ARE ALL AFFECTED

Respectfully,

Marielle Brodziak
Deputy Mayor
Town of Vegreville

