



Town of Vegreville

"A FRIENDLY PLACE TO LIVE"

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Dear Prime Minister,

A number of years ago during your run for the leadership of the Liberal Party, you stood in the Vegreville Train Station and spoke with passion and vigor about the need for senior levels of government to make decisions which are in the best interests of the common man. We met afterwards, you shook my hand and asked me for my name.

You had, in that moment, made a strong positive impression upon me that yes, there are still leaders out there who are making the effort to see that fairness and opportunities are made available to anyone in this great nation.

Mr. Prime Minister, I do not believe that you were aware of the decision to relocate the Case Processing Center from Vegreville to Edmonton, as has been announced effective the end of 2018. I am however, imploring you to become aware of the situation now, and to take a moment to consider the consequences that this decision will have on our community.

While I understand the decision-makers involved considered a location in a major urban center to be advantageous for the proximity of post-secondary education, I ask that you, sir, remind them of the Government's overarching responsibility to create equality among citizens and not to function solely from a business perspective. The void that stands to be left behind in our community is substantial. 280 jobs lost in a community where the working population is approximately 2915 (2015 Stats Canada) represents a ten per cent jump in unemployment, over and above the average five per cent. Vegreville simply cannot sustain a 15 per cent unemployment rate, particularly during already challenging economic times.

As a member of the Council of the Town of Vegreville, I ask that you give consideration to sitting down at the table with us, and helping us to arrive at a conclusion which protects the small-town Canadian way of life that sustains our culture, keeps our community strong and proud, and on an equal footing with other Towns across Canada.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Regards,


Michael Simpson
Councillor, Town of Vegreville

