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TOWN OF VEGREVILLE

November 25, 2016

The Honourable John McCallum
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Minister,

RE: Relocation of the *Immigration Case Processing Centre*; Vegreville, Alberta

The Village of Holden Council has passed a resolution to contact our federal government and request that you consider the negative impacts of your decision to move the *Immigration Case Processing Centre* from Vegreville to Edmonton, Alberta.

This centre is a major employer in the Town of Vegreville and the surrounding area. Our Village is located 44 kilometers from the town, and we know that closure of the centre would have devastating effects. As a major employer in our region, the job losses would affect not only the individual workers, but also their families, local schools, the business community, and the not-for-profit / volunteer sector.

Not all of Alberta has enjoyed a hot economy over the years. In fact our east-central agriculture-based area is in a much more slow-and-steady economic situation. The *Immigration Case Processing Centre* has offered reliable employment that assists farm families, youth, workers from all backgrounds, people of all ages, and the region as a whole. Rural communities are vital to the health of our nation, and we know that across Canada there are many such regions that need the understanding and support of the federal government to remain vibrant and strong.

Our Council wishes to express deep concern for the region, and for the Town of Vegreville, if such a large employer is lost. Edmonton has so many thriving business opportunities, and our area has so much less. Why not support this region with a reversal of this decision?

We respectfully ask you to keep this vital facility in the Town of Vegreville.

Sincerely,

Mayor Mark Giebelhaus
Village of Holden, Alberta