



Town of Vegreville

"A FRIENDLY PLACE TO LIVE"

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RE: Closing of the Case Processing Centre

Vegreville, Alberta, Canada

On October 27, 2016 I was informed that the Federal Government is planning to close the Case Processing Centre in Vegreville, AB, Canada. The reasons given to the staff were as follows:

- . More bilingual access
- . Closer to Post Secondary Centres
- . Space in Crown Owned or Leased facilities in Edmonton

It is my belief these reasons are based on lack of information and knowledge never mind how the decision will affect the region as a whole. There is no sense to this decision.

- More bilingual access is an unrealistic excuse as we have bilingual people employed already not to mention the fact that all cases presented are in written form.
- Another unrealistic reason being proximity to Post Secondary Institutions shows the deciding parties are lacking in awareness that Vegreville is approximately 1 hour to city centre. There are MANY young, educated individuals qualified to work within our region and are NOT given many opportunities to be employed through the Vegreville CPC. How or why would this be any different if it was moved to Edmonton?
- Regarding the lease on this facility, I guarantee the leasing of this office space is more expensive in Edmonton as opposed to Vegreville.

It was stated that 220 jobs will be affected.

These 220 jobs WILL NOT have much of an impact on Edmonton's Economic future nor will it affect their school systems, Real Estate values, Municipal tax base, volunteer groups, service clubs, minor sports groups, retail outlets or professional business. IT WILL however, have a devastating impact for Vegreville and surrounding communities.

To lose so many valuable members of our community is yet another blow to small town Canada to which our government shows no empathy or respect.

For 20 years these people have done a very good job, built a life, are a vital part of our small communities and are accustomed to a small town lifestyle.

Why is it that the employment opportunity is pushed to the larger urban centres? Why can't small town residents be afforded the same opportunities to raise their families in smaller communities as those in the larger centres? Why aren't they permitted the opportunity to work for the government in a small town environment? This facility has been in Vegreville for 20 years. Why the change now?

Had our municipality been informed and included in this very important process, we would have been able to avoid such turmoil. This decision is NOT based on fact and the obvious ramifications have not been considered for this small community and it's residents.

In closing, I implore you to reconsider your decision to move the Case Processing Centre from Vegreville to Edmonton. We look forward to a meaningful negotiation to achieve the best possible outcome for ALL parties involved.

Respectfully

Tim MacPhee
Vegreville Town Council

