



RECEIVED
DEC 22 2016
TOWN OF VEGREVILLE



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

Dec 9, 2016

Vegreville Case Processing Centre Closure

Honourable Minister McCallum,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the 42 members of the Northeast Alberta Information HUB the regional economic development alliance of Northeast Alberta. Our alliance focuses on issues that include positioning the region for future growth, encouraging investment, labour force development and municipal collaboration. Vegreville is one of the 37 municipalities that make up our alliance. As Chair of the Northeast Alberta Information HUB I want to express our serious concern with the decision to close the Vegreville Case Processing Centre.

The planned relocation of this operation to Edmonton and the resultant loss of 228 skilled jobs in the Vegreville community will have significant detrimental effects not only for the town of Vegreville but for our entire region.

One of our focus areas endeavours to attract residents and employees as part of our mandate, therefore we would strongly encourage you to reverse your decision to relocate the CPC out of Vegreville.

The collective effect of this decision - at a time when Alberta specifically rural Alberta are facing significant economic challenges - will undoubtedly lead to a further blow to the local/regional economy and will negatively impact all local/regional businesses. This decision has implications that go beyond the CPC and its employees in ways that will undermine social networks and the sustainability of the community.

Based on the rationale given by your department to move this center from Vegreville we look forward to working with you to implement a strategy that addresses these reasons. We have worked with the Federal Government in the past on initiatives to address these issues and to grow "rural" Alberta and in fact some of these issues have been funded by Federal Government Departments.

We feel confident that the capacity exists to work collaboratively to identify a sustainable solution that will ultimately have a greater positive economic impact than the one currently being proposed.



Alberta HUB
Where opportunity comes to life



Sincerely,

Soren Odegard, Chair
Northeast Alberta Information HUB

- cc: Shannon Stubbs, Member of Parliament for Lakeland, Alberta
Jessica Littlewood, MLA Fort Saskatchewan - Vegreville
Mayor Hayduk & Council, Vegreville, Alberta