



March 27, 2017

The Honourable Judy M. Foote, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Public Services and Procurement  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

Each year at FCM's March and September Board meetings, and again at our Annual Conference in June, FCM's Board of Directors considers resolutions submitted by its membership. Resolutions adopted by FCM's Board of Directors help inform FCM's policy and advocacy priorities with the Government of Canada. Adopted resolutions represent municipal issues of national significance that fall within federal jurisdiction and therefore require a strong federal partner to help find a solution. The attached resolution, **Site Selection Criteria for Federal Offices**, was sponsored by the Town of Vegreville, AB and adopted by FCM's Board of Directors this month at its meeting in Whistler, BC. This resolution will also be presented at FCM's Annual Conference in Ottawa in June 2017 for consideration and debate among FCM's full membership.

In October 2016, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) informed its staff that it would be relocating its case processing centre in Vegreville, AB to Edmonton, AB costing the 5,700-person town over 200 jobs. The municipality has argued that the relocation of one of its major employers will have a significant economic impact on the town and that IRCC has not presented a clear business case to justify the relocation, nor has it adequately consulted the community to understand the impact of the relocation.

FCM has repeatedly urged the federal government to ensure meaningful consultation with municipalities on the location of federal facilities and federally-regulated entities and for federal decision-making to consider the unique circumstances and challenges in rural communities. This resolution calls on the federal government to improve its policy framework related to the location, closure and relocation of all federal facilities in rural communities through enhanced performance criteria and a mandate to consult the impacted community.

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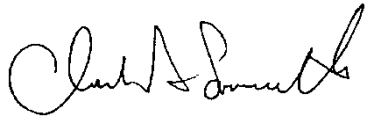
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In support of the attached resolution, FCM urges the Government of Canada to (1) establish clear performance criteria for federal facilities in rural communities and, (2) prior to any decision by a federal department on relocating a federal facility, that a business case including an economic impact analysis be submitted to Public Services and Procurement Canada and that the local community be fully consulted on the relocation.

FCM looks forward to working with you and your government to ensure that the impact on rural communities is duly considered prior to the relocation of any federal facilities. If you or your staff have any questions or require further information, please contact Marc LeBlanc, Policy Advisor, at 613-907-6368 or [marc.leblanc@fcm.ca](mailto:marc.leblanc@fcm.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clark Somerville". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Clark" being more prominent than the last name "Somerville".

Clark Somerville  
Councillor, Regional Municipality of Halton  
FCM President

Enclosure

- c: The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration,  
Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- c: Lisa Holmes, President, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
- c: Al Kemmere, President, Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties

January 9, 2017

## Site Selection Criteria for Federal Offices

**WHEREAS**, The Federal department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has announced a decision to close the Case Processing Centre (CPC) in Vegreville, and moving up to 280 employee positions to Edmonton in December of 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, The CPC operated efficiently and effectively in the community for the past 22 years; and

**WHEREAS**, The IRCC has never provided a clear business case demonstrating the benefits of moving the office to a major urban centre; and

**WHEREAS**, There was no economic impact assessment of the decision, no consultation with the community and no opportunity to provide input prior to or after this decision; and

**WHEREAS**, The only criteria provided for relocating the CPC to the nearest major city was necessary due to *“the proximity to universities, the availability of public transit and housing options, and career growth opportunities within the federal government will make it easier to recruit and retain both qualified and bilingual employees and to meet our growing need”*; and

**WHEREAS**, The application of this criteria means most rural Canadian communities would not be able to accommodate a federal office; and

**WHEREAS**, Relocating long-term federal facilities from rural communities to urban centres is at odds with the Federal government's campaign commitment to 'strengthen our communities by investing in the things that make them good places to live'; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, That FCM recommend that Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) establish clear performance criteria for federal facilities in rural communities; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That prior to any decision by a federal department on relocating a federal facility that a business case including an economic impact analysis be submitted to PSPC and consultation with the impacted community occur.

*Town of Vegreville, Alberta*

**2017 MARCH BOARD DECISION: Category A - concurrence**

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