



GROWTH Alberta
Your Business. Our Future.

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DEC 13 2016

TOWN OF VEGREVILLE

VIA email

December 01, 2016

The Honorable John McCallum
Minister of Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship
House of Commons, Ottawa

Re: Pending Closure of Case Processing Centre (CPC) in Vegreville, Alberta

GROWTH Alberta is a Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA), whose Board of Directors is comprised of Municipally elected officials. Located in North Central Alberta, GROWTH Alberta works in partnership with its rural membership, local industry, all levels of Government and a variety of other stakeholders to address the economic challenges, strategies and opportunities that face the region.

Rurally based with sparse populations and a large geography, we recognize the importance of attracting and retaining industry to the sustainability and vibrancy of our communities. The decision to centralize the Central Processing Centre from Vegreville to Edmonton will have a devastating impact to the community and its residents. With potentially losing up to 44% of a local labour force and 25% of its school aged youth at once, any community would be hard pressed to recover and remain sustainable. **As rural REDAs strive to attract residents and retain youth as part of their mandate, we would strongly encourage you to reverse your decision to relocate the CPC out of Vegreville and implement a strategy in collaboration with the community to attract the college educated and/or bilingual workers to Vegreville.**

We look forward to your response to this correspondence with further detail as to your review criteria and final evaluation regarding this very important and impactful decision.

If you have any questions or concerns in the interim, our administrative office can be contacted at 780 674-3140 or alternatively via email at manager@growthalberta.com.

Sincerely,

Chad Merrifield,
Chairperson, GROWTH Alberta

CC: The Honorable Judy Foote
GROWTH Alberta Board of Directors
Alberta Information HUB Board of Directors
Town of Vegreville