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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ALBERTA

Chris Nielsen, MLA
Edmonton-Decore Constituency

February 6, 2017

The Honourable Ahmed D. Hussen MP
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1L1

Dear Minister Hussen,

Re: Immigration Refugee, Citizenship Case Processing Centre

First, let me take a moment to congratulate you on your appointment as the Minister responsible for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. This is a position which we all know is critical to the success of new Canadians and their families. I wish you all the best as you take on this important role.

I write to you today with a sincere concern for the workers and families of Vegreville, Alberta regarding the recent decision to relocate the Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Case Processing Centre that is currently in Vegreville and will be moved to Edmonton.

Public Sector jobs such as those with the Federal Government bring economic security and family stability while creating local purchasing power. This is especially noticeable during the economic downturn that Alberta currently still finds itself in, and is acutely felt in the rural communities of Alberta such as Vegreville.

To lose 280 jobs in a community of only 6,000 people is equivalent to losing approximately 35,000 jobs in the City of Edmonton where my riding is located. To put that into perspective ... it would mean that 75% of the residents of Edmonton-Decore would now be unemployed. The

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negative economic effects will be devastating as families could be uprooted. The loss of this local purchasing power then means a loss of revenue to local small businesses and ultimately a loss of taxes to the municipality. As you can see this becomes a serious ripple effect.

In closing, I would respectfully ask that the decision to close this Centre, which new Albertans rely upon for these services, be reconsidered. I would invite you to renew your consultation with the local workers through PSAC (Public Service Alliance of Canada) and the Town of Vegreville.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for local Albertans.

With hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Nielsen'.

Chris Nielsen
MLA Edmonton-Decore

Cc MLA Jessica Littlewood, Ft. Sask. Vegerville
Cc Town of Vegreville
Cc MP Shannon Stubbs, Lakeland
Cc Honourable Christina Gray, Minister of Labour