

**Portage Letter of Support to Town of Vegreville - June 15, 2017**

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Mayor Myron Hayduk  
Town of Vegreville  
4829 - 50 Street  
P.O. Box 640  
Vegreville, Alberta  
T9C 1R7

Dear Mayor Hayduk:

Portage College supports your bid to reverse the Federal Government's decision to remove the CPC office from Vegreville.

Rural communities are capable of service delivery within and outside of their regions. Governments consciously choose to facilitate urban drift and undermine the sustainability of rural communities when they selectively choose to dismantle core employment within them. This is particularly odious, as in the case of Vegreville, when there's no clear financial reason to support moving the employment to an urban centre, other than someone wishes to live elsewhere, perhaps. Human Resource challenges require innovative recruitment strategies, not the closure of a necessary public service to Canadians, particularly one breathing economic life into a community.

Regrettably, Portage College closed its rental facility in Vegreville due to budgetary pressures. Without the costs of being a tenant, we would be with you now. Portage remains committed to working with your community to meet its post-secondary needs in training for skill enhancement of the workforce. While we have no current foot print, Vegreville does indeed have a college partner. The suggestion that Vegreville cannot access post-secondary and professional training isn't accurate. In truth, on the multiple occasions we approached the CPC office we were routinely told no training was required.

We look forward to eventually returning to Vegreville, and opening a new owned location in Vegreville; perhaps one built in collaboration with the Federal and Provincial governments as our financial partners.

Yours in rural community partnership,



Dr. Trent Keough  
President and CEO

cc Reuel Thomas, Manager Continuing Education