

January 27, 2017

Honourable Ahmed Hussen, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Minister,

RE: Relocation of the Immigration Case Processing Centre in Vegreville

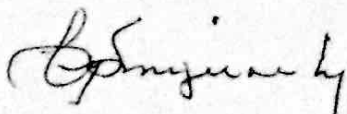
On behalf of Smoky Lake Region and the Regional Community Development Committee, the economic development arm of the municipalities of Smoky Lake County, Town of Smoky Lake, Village of Waskatenau and Village of Vilna, we are respectfully asking that you reconsider your decision to move the Immigration Case Processing Centre from Vegreville to Edmonton.

The closure of this employer in Vegreville will have devastating effects to our neighbouring community. The loss of 228 jobs within the Town of approximately 5800 people will impact not only the personnel that work at this location, but their families, schools, churches, businesses, retailers, and community clubs. The economic impact will be far reaching, into the surrounding communities as well. Rural communities play a vital role in Canada, and we need to ensure that our communities stay vibrant and strong.

Our Council is expressing its deep concern for the Town of Vegreville and surrounding area on losing such a large employer. We advocate to you and the Honourable Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship to keep this vital facility in the Town of Vegreville.

We look forward to hearing from you on this very pressing matter.

Sincerely,



Cary Smigerowsky
Chairperson
Smoky Lake Region, Regional Community Development Committee

cc: Mayor Myron Hayduk and Town Council