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May 6, 2021

Mr. Damien C. Kurek  
Member of Parliament  
Battle River – Crowfoot  
4945 50<sup>th</sup> Street  
Camrose, AB  
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Dear Mr. Kurek,

Re: Rural Alberta Vaccine Provision

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MP Kurek, COVID 19, has shown no geographic limitations, nor boundaries throughout Canada and the world. Rural Alberta has been affected by the pandemic on a different level than our major urban centres, if not, in some cases worse. And these scenarios continue to worsen by the day. Rural Alberta sees the population consisting of people from the very young to those being our most vulnerable and many of these being seniors.

Living in rural Alberta provides many opportunities that our urban centres can not provide, such as, tranquility, a quieter way of life and the comfort in knowing your neighbors and surroundings. However, a large challenge has presented itself, most recently in the way of vaccine provision. Tofield has been fortunate in vaccine provision, however, continues to run out. The provision of Moderna would be ideal, as our Pharmacists have identified this as the “perfect rural vaccine” this is based upon shelf life, storage, and the ability to have these vaccines administered. However, even with this, we still have well over 400 citizens on the wait list for this vaccine. This number in the Tofield area alone is widespread and deeply felt.

The other conflict is administering these injections to our seniors, vulnerable, disadvantaged, and incapacitated. These people often do not have the means to access the vaccine. These people can not access services in the larger centres which have been able to secure the bulk of vaccines. MP Kurek, frankly, this is wrong as well as very concerning that not all Albertans are provided the same opportunity. It is not easy having these vaccines available in major urban centres and expecting these people to find a way to access this service.

Damien C. Kurek  
Member of Parliament  
Battle River - Crowfoot  
Page 2

Many rural Alberta communities have yet to receive a single dose of vaccine. How do these people obtain a very necessary service? Please take into consideration what has just been provided, Tofield and other rural communities can not administer vaccine to those in their communities due to shortages, as well as transportation issues, how then can communities without vaccine possibly have their citizens looked after?

With several rural towns, villages and counties being commuter communities for the purposes of work, providing essential services and people traveling to and from these communities from urban centres to get to their places of employment (E.g. Ft. MacMurray, Wainwright, Calgary, etc.)

A person would think that getting vaccines out to these areas would be considered an important resource in the effort to bend the curve. Everyone in Alberta is affected by the pandemic and everyone should be protected.

MP Kurek, we understand the challenges that COVID has provided to your Government and Alberta. We understand that there are issues with supply of vaccine, however there must be a better solution for distributing a portion of what supply there is to rural Albertans. MP Kurek, this is a plea to help those not in the urban centres. This is a plea from your constituents.

Mr. Kurek, at this time, the feeling amongst not only Tofield, but many in rural Alberta is that both our Federal and Provincial Governments have both failed us and forgotten about us. Rural Alberta is the lifeblood of our Province and can not be forgotten. MP Kurek, we need a strategy, we need a metric to act within and we need timely results.

Sincerely,

*Debora L Dueck*  
Debora Dueck  
Mayor

C.C     AUMA Membership  
          RMA Membership  
          Jackie Lovely, MLA