



ALBERTA

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Minister

MLA, Calgary-Hays

AR105523

August 5, 2021

His Worship James Verquin
Mayor
Village of Rycroft
PO Box 360
Rycroft AB T0H 3A0

Dear Mayor Verquin:

On October 18, 2021, the Government of Alberta intends to conduct a provincewide election of nominees for Canada's Senate, as well as a referendum. Senate and referendum voting will be conducted alongside the general municipal election. To support local governments administering these votes, the Senate Election Grants Regulation under the *Alberta Senate Election Act* and Referendum Payments Regulation under the *Referendum Act* require the Minister of Municipal Affairs to make payments to the local authorities that are administering the votes.

The regulations state:

- where an election under the *Local Authorities Election Act* is required in a municipality or ward, the elected authority or other body that conducts the vote under the *Alberta Senate Election Act* or *Referendum Act* in that municipality or ward shall be paid a grant of \$1 per capita or \$1,000, whichever is greater; or
- where no election under the *Local Authorities Election Act* is required in a municipality or ward, the elected authority or other body that conducts the vote under the *Alberta Senate Election Act* or *Referendum Act* in that municipality or ward shall be paid \$2 per capita or \$2,000, whichever is greater.

Given there will be both senate elections and referendum questions occurring as part of the 2021 municipal general election, municipalities holding local elections will be eligible for a grant of \$1 per capita or \$1,000 (whichever is greater) for the senate election vote and \$1 per capita or \$1,000 (whichever is greater) for the referendum for a total interim grant of \$2 per capita or \$2,000 (whichever is greater).

Should it then later be determined that a municipality does not need to hold a local election, the municipality will then be eligible for an additional grant of \$1 per capita or \$1,000 (whichever is greater) for the senate election vote and \$1 per capita or \$1,000 (whichever is greater) for the referendum for a total combined grant of \$4 per capita or \$4,000 (whichever is greater).

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Based on this formula, and to streamline the process, the **Village of Rycroft** will receive an initial grant payment of **\$2,000** in August to conduct the 2021 Senate election and referendum. If a local election is not held under the *Local Authorities Election Act* in the **Village of Rycroft** on October 18, a second payment of **\$2,000** will be made in October.

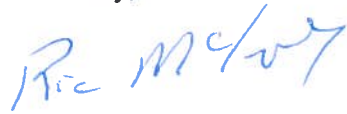
If the Senate election and/or referendum are cancelled, the **Village of Rycroft** will be required to return the initial grant payment to the Government of Alberta, if requested by the province.

Some municipalities may be administering the Senate election and referendum on behalf of the Minister of Municipal Affairs for a neighbouring entity, and will receive the payments calculated for the neighbouring entity. These municipalities will receive a separate letter confirming the additional amounts once the contracts are finalized.

Conducting the Senate election and the referendum at the same time as local elections will leverage efficiencies and economies of scale, while ensuring all Albertans have the ability to participate in the vote.

Thank you for your work in strengthening democracy in Alberta.

Sincerely,



Ric McIver
Minister

cc: Peter Thomas, Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Rycroft