

May 17, 2022

Via email: info@auc.ab.ca

Alberta Utilities Commission
106 Street Building
10th Floor, 10055 106 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 2Y2

RE: Increasing Utility Fees

Dear Alberta Utilities Commission,

Please accept this correspondence as a letter of support in addition to that of the Town of Fox Creek, dated March 23, 2022.

As you are aware, there have been many challenges in the last two years. A pandemic, which is still in effect, continues to burden our health care system and overall social, emotional, and financial wellbeing. These effects are evident with our province's unemployment rates, which reached a staggering 11.4% in 2020 and remained higher than it has been in 40 years for the better part of 2021. Now is not the time to increase utility fees, especially when many families, businesses, industries, and not-for-profits have yet to fully recover from these hardships.

We, as a municipality, have also been impacted by the financial strain of these decisions, with lower MSI funding allocations and an inflation rate of 6.7% - an all time high in 31 years. Nevertheless, we remain dedicated in assisting our residents to alleviate financial stressors, including reductions in waste collection fees and franchise fees in 2021, and no tax rate increases since 2020.

The Town of Bon Accord stands united with the Town of Fox Creek in support of a thorough review of the Commission's fees and corporate profits gained from proposed increases.

As a "trusted leader that delivers innovative and efficient regulatory solutions for Alberta", we ask, what will the Alberta Utility Commission do to help its fellow Albertans? When the light at the end of the tunnel finally appears within reach, will you help close the gap or will you turn off the light?

Our residents, businesses and non-profits appreciate your time and consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,



Brian Holden
Mayor
Town of Bon Accord

Cc: Town of Fox Creek
Honourable Dale Nally, MLA, Morinville – St. Albert
Mr. Dane Lloyd, MP, Sturgeon River – Parkland
Alberta Municipalities

Sources:

<https://economicdashboard.alberta.ca/unemployment>
<https://tradingeconomics.com/canada/inflation-cpi>
<https://www.auc.ab.ca/our-mission/>