



ALBERTA  
JUSTICE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

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*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary-Acadia*

AR 52074

Sent via email to [jedwards@tofieldalberta.ca](mailto:jedwards@tofieldalberta.ca)

August 26, 2022

Her Worship Debra Dueck  
Mayor  
The Town of Tofield  
P.O. Box 30  
5407 – 50 Street  
Tofield AB T0B 4J0

Dear Mayor Dueck:

Thank you for your letter of August 23, 2022 regarding the provincial changes to victim services announced July 19, 2022. I would like to reassure you that these changes, including the new zonal governance model, have been designed to ensure services to victims of crime remain consistent and uninterrupted across all regions of the province, including Tofield, while also ensuring that victims are supported locally from within their own communities. I appreciate the opportunity to provide further information about the redesign work that has occurred to date as it relates to your municipality and others like it.

I would like to ensure that you have the most up-to-date information about the consultations and engagements completed during, and following, the MLA led Review of Victim Services that took place over 2020/2021. The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) and the Alberta Municipalities (AM) were invited to, and attended, the engagements. This was intentional to ensure a linkage and a mechanism for information sharing. In addition, a specific meeting was held with the RMA and AM to ensure they were comfortable with this approach, and by all indications they were. Further, all MLAs were also invited, regardless of political affiliation.

Other engaged individuals and organizations included:

- Volunteers, staff, and board members of police-based victim services units;
- Victim-serving community and specialized organizations such as child advocacy centres, sexual assault centres, and domestic violence service providers;
- Representatives from the Alberta Police-based Victim Services Association;
- The Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police;

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- The Alberta Federation of Police Associations;
- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police;
- Legal community representatives such as the Criminal Trial Lawyers Association and Legal Aid Alberta; and
- Indigenous organizations such as the Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society, and Métis Child and Family Services Society.

I can advise that the changes to victim services are particularly centred around stabilizing and improving program governance and leadership at a high level, in addition to the significantly enhances supports and services available to victims. There are no plans to interrupt service delivery within communities or at detachments, nor to disrupt victim service workers from continuing to engage in the important work they do. In fact, it is intended that these same locally based services will continue to be offered through the new zonal governance model, in the same co-located manner as they are now, but with more flexibility and sustainability than could be offered under the current governance model. In the new model, local front-line victim services workers will be supported by a core of professional support staff at the zonal level that will provide financial, legal, and human resource services; direct supervision and resource coordination; and personal support and guidance for each employee. There is no reduction in paid positions within the new model, in fact with the new professional support staff there will be approximately 40 additional positions available to Albertans.

To ensure that you and your colleagues have the most accurate and up to date information as to how the new victim services zones will operate, I encourage you to follow up with Trent Forsberg, the director of Victim Services at [Trent.Forsberg@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Trent.Forsberg@gov.ab.ca). He would be happy meet with you and relay further detailed information about the changes to victim services programs, and provide you with the opportunity to ask specific questions.

I also understand that you have a requested a meeting with MLA Jackie Lovely. I welcome the opportunity to have representatives from my office and our department staff who are leading this work attend this meeting. To schedule a meeting, please contact my scheduling coordinator Lisa Gentles at [Lisa.Gentles@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Lisa.Gentles@gov.ab.ca).

I am appreciative of any time you would be willing to dedicate to gaining a complete understanding of the improvements planned to the systems that serve victims of crime in Alberta. Thank you for ensuring the needs of victims in your community continue to be met.

Sincerely,



Honourable Tyler Shandro, QC, ECA  
Minister

cc: Jackie Lovely, MLA Camrose  
Alberta Municipalities  
Rural Municipalities of Alberta