ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Hays

AR113106

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

Since 2022, Municipal Affairs has been working with the Assessment Model Review Stakeholder Steering Committee consisting of industry representatives and municipal partners, such as Alberta Municipalities and Rural Municipalities of Alberta. The committee was tasked with designing an engagement process that will assist in updating the regulated property assessment models in a fair and transparent manner. I am now carefully considering the committee's proposed engagement plan.

As you are aware, in 2020, a number of tax incentives were put in place when Alberta's previous review of regulated property assessment was paused. A three-year property tax holiday on new wells and pipelines was introduced to promote new investment and economic activity in the energy sector. This tax holiday will end, as planned, after the 2024 municipal tax year. The Well Drilling Equipment Tax was also eliminated, and there are no plans to reinstate it.

Two assessment-based measures to support the viability of mature oil and gas assets were also implemented at that time: the continuation of the 35 per cent assessment reduction for shallow gas wells and pipelines (first introduced in 2019), and additional depreciation adjustments for lower-producing wells. These two measures were intended as a bridge to the implementation of new assessment models and will therefore be extended until the Assessment Model Review is completed and the regulated assessment models for wells are updated.

Thank you for continuing to work in partnership with the province. I look forward to sharing more information in early 2024 regarding further engagement on the Assessment Model Review.

Sincerely,

Ric McIver
Minister

cc: Chief Administrative Officers
Tyler Gandam, President, Alberta Municipalities
Paul McLauchlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta

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