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ALBERTA

TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake*

May 30, 2024

AR 93921

His Worship James Verquin
Mayor
Village of Rycroft
Box 360
Rycroft, AB T0H 3A0
james.verquin@rycroft.ca

Dear Mayor Verquin:

The Honourable Todd Loewen, MLA for Central Peace-Notley, forwarded your letter and supporting documentation regarding the property located at 4911-46 Avenue in Rycroft. The Honourable Pete Guthrie, Minister of Infrastructure also forwarded your October 4, 2023 letter. As Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, I am able to provide the following information.

I understand the Village of Rycroft's desire to see the property restored to a usable condition so that it can be transferred or sold to private ownership. Transportation and Economic Corridors is working to continue site investigations. The delineation of contamination to determine the environmental footprint is ongoing. This process usually takes several years to complete. Specifically, we anticipate submission of the Risk Management Plan to the regulator as early as 2026 with estimated approval in 2027. These timelines are subject to change, and I have directed department staff to keep you informed of the progress with regular updates.

While the Government of Alberta is supportive of growth and development, we first have a duty and obligation to ensure the environmental footprint is properly managed. The Government of Alberta has policies specific to selling contaminated lands, which are rooted in the "Polluter Pay" principles of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.

Alberta Infrastructure is responsible for leasing and would be pleased to discuss opportunities for the parcel of land's usage while remediation is underway. I would invite you to contact the office of Assistant Deputy Minister Dale Beesley at 780-422-7387 to schedule a meeting between the village's representatives and Alberta Infrastructure.

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If the Government of Alberta determines it can sell the property as part of the normal surplus property disposition process, sale of the property would need to be circulated to government ministries to determine whether there is a government need for the property. If there is no government need identified, the property may become surplus, and the village will have the first opportunity to acquire the property for municipal purposes at fair market value.

If you have any questions regarding the progress of the delineation process, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Leah Baer, Environmental Engineer. Ms. Baer may be reached toll-free at 310-0000, then 780-298-5114, or at leah.baer@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Honourable Devin Dreeshen, ECA
Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

cc: Honourable Pete Guthrie, ECA
Minister of Infrastructure

Honourable Rebecca Schulz, ECA
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

Honourable Ric McIver, ECA
Minister of Municipal Affairs

Honourable Todd Loewen, ECA
MLA for Central Peace-Notley

Dale Beesley
Assistant Deputy Minister, Properties Division, Alberta Infrastructure

Leah Baer
Environmental Engineer, Transportation and Economic Corridors