

Sandul Welding Ltd.  
P.O. Box 807  
Spirit River, Alberta T0H 3G0  
Phone: (780) 864-4010

RECEIVED  
SEP 05 2024

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Village of Rycroft  
4703 51 Street  
Rycroft, AB T0H 3A0

**Concerning: The Expansion of The Spirit River Regional Airport**

To Whom it Concerns,

We, on behalf of Sandul Welding Ltd., are writing to all parties concerned about the expansion of the Spirit River Regional Airport.

As lifelong residents, it is an exciting period in the area, considering the developments by the Grande Spirit Foundation of \$24 million and the fantastic agreement between the Town and MD of Spirit River to foster growth by purchasing land for \$800 thousand to help with the growing need for housing. However, all of this is dependent on the Central Peace Regional Hospital remaining as a hospital and not a first aid station in our community.

Our family is a 5th-generation family of the Peace Country and agrees with the Spirit of The Peace July 2024 newsletter, which states the critical role of the Spirit River Regional Airport in Alberta's community infrastructure. One of the threats identified by the SWOT analysis is land use compatibility.

Our investigation of the cost of a new airport would be \$15 million plus. This does not include the purchase of the land and new structures and hangers. Considering the work involved with this it would probably take more than 5 years to replace if such a path was chosen.

We know that Alberta Health Services is astute with its budgeting and constantly works to eliminate unsustainable costs. A hospital without year-round access to air ambulance is not sustainable. The situation concerning the airport needs to be addressed immediately so we all do not lose this vital asset to our community.

We own the property to the west of the airport which would allow the expansion of over 848 ft of length and allow you to widen the runway. We would be willing to make a cash transaction immediately so the airport could start surveys and soil studies this fall. It is far cheaper, simpler and easier to expand the airport than replace it.

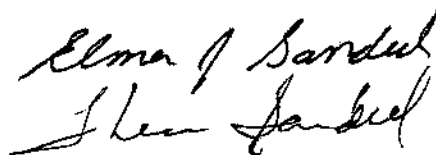
Land used for railway expansions, primary road arteries, ports and airports is sold at a premium due to a lack of options and necessity. Based on recent and historical sales of similar we think the ±12 acres we own would sell for \$1.75 million. As we are lifelong residents and believe in our community we are willing to sell the entire property for \$1.2 million.

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The five municipalities will all be negatively impacted if we lose the hospital: be it for health, economic opportunity, or the lives of all our loved ones in our community. Considering the operating budgets of all the organizations the amount is not unreasonable. This situation needs swift action.

We are eager to help continue the growth of our shared community.

Kind Regards,

Handwritten signatures of Elmer and Theresa Sandul in black ink. The signature 'Elmer Sandul' is on top and 'Theresa Sandul' is below it.

Elmer and Theresa Sandul

Owners

Sandul Welding Ltd.

CC:/

- Alberta Airports Management Association
- Saddle Hills County
- Municipal District of Spirit River MD 133
- Town of Spirit River
- Birch Hills County
- Village of Rycroft
- Honourable, Danielle Smith Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Relations
- Honourable, Mike Ellis Deputy Premier and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services
- Honourable, Pete Guthrie Minister of Infrastructure
- Honourable, Devin Dresshen Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors
- Honourable, Todd Lowen MLA of Central Peace-Notley
- Grande Spirit Foundation Administration Office
- Alberta Health Services President & CEO Office
- STARS Grande Prairie Base
- STARS Calgary Base - Head Office