



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

January 29, 2018

Honourable Joe Ceci
President of Treasury Board, Minister of Finance
Office of the Minister
Treasury Board and Finance
323 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6



Dear Minister Ceci,

As you move forward in your 2018 and future budget deliberations, the Mid-Sized Cities Mayors Caucus would like to formally bring to your attention our recommendations regarding the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) fund. As you are well aware municipalities are responsible for over half of the public infrastructure in our Province, yet have limited ways in which we are able to fund infrastructure growth and maintenance.

As Mayors that represent nearly one million Albertans, we can assure the Provincial Government that there has been significant economic benefit realized from MSI investments in our communities. Consistency in funding through long-term, predictable revenue sharing would go a long way to ensure all Alberta citizens have access to safe, efficient, and well-maintained infrastructure. Provincial revenue sharing programs, such as MSI, allow municipalities to fund our capital plans, sustainably plan for projects and ensure efficient operating budgets. In the 2018 budget, we believe that the Provincial Government should commit to the implementation of an enhanced long-term predictable provincial revenue sharing program, similar to MSI, by making the funding permanent in the Provincial budget.

A significant concern for the Mid-Sized City Mayors' Caucus is the speculation that the Provincial Government is looking to cut MSI funding to municipalities in order to improve the bottom line of the Provincial budget. We fully understand the budgetary challenges that the Province is in, but all orders of Government in Alberta are facing budgetary challenges; especially in the context of slow economic recovery. As always, our municipalities are doing our part to find ways to provide efficient and effective services to our citizens with limited resources in this era of diminishing revenues. Municipalities are additionally contending with the added burden of downloads from other governments such as the: carbon levy, unknown costs of newly imposed legislation and regulations, and grants-in-lieu. If the Province is indeed considering reducing MSI, we would ask the Government to strongly reconsider this highly detrimental cost cutting measure that could significantly affect the financial sustainability and progress of our communities.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response, and as always, please feel free to contact us if you would like to further discuss any of the above.

Regards,

Mayor Tara Veer

Honourable Joe Ceci
Minister of Finance
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Sent on behalf of the Mid-Sized Cities Mayors Caucus

Peter Brown, Mayor	City of Airdrie
John Stewart, Mayor	Town of Beaumont
Barry Morishita, Mayor	City of Brooks
Norman Mayer, Mayor	City of Camrose
Marshall Chalmers, Mayor	City of Chestermere
Jeff Genung, Mayor	Town of Cochrane
Craig Copeland, Mayor	City of Cold Lake
Gale Katchur, Mayor	City of Fort Saskatchewan
Bill Given, Mayor	City of Grand Prairie
Grant Creasey, Mayor	City of Lacombe
Robert Young, Mayor	City of Leduc
Chris Spearman, Mayor	City of Lethbridge
Gerald Aalbers, Mayor	City of Lloydminster
Ted Clugston, Mayor	City of Medicine Hat
Bill Robertson, Mayor	Town of Okotoks
Tara Veer, Mayor	City of Red Deer
Stuart Houston, Mayor	City of Spruce Grove
Cathy Heron, Mayor	City of St. Albert
William Choy, Mayor	Town of Stony Plain
Rod Frank, Mayor	Strathcona County
Tyler Gandam, Mayor	City of Wetaskiwin

c: Minister of Municipal Affairs, Honourable Shaye Anderson
Mid-Sized Cities Mayors Caucus
Red Deer City Council
City Manager, Craig Curtis
Intergovernmental Strategist, Andrea Smotra



City of Airdrie



Town of Beaumont



City of Brooks



City of Camrose



City of Chestermere



Town of Cochrane



City of Cold Lake



City of Fort Saskatchewan



City of Grande Prairie



City of Lacombe



City of Leduc



City of Lethbridge



City of Lloydminster



City of Medicine Hat



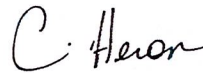
Town of Okotoks



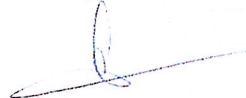
City of Red Deer



City of Spruce Grove



City of St. Albert



Town of Stony Plain



Strathcona County



City of Wetaskiwin