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April 27, 2021

Honourable Kaycee Madu
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
424 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

RE Town of Magrath Support for the RCMP

Dear Minister Madu,

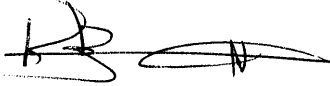
The Magrath Town Council is disappointed by the Province of Alberta's reluctance to accept the results of its own consultative process by pressing forward with an agenda that appears to want to replace the RCMP with an Alberta Provincial Police Service. Given such, we seek to add our support to the letters sent by the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, the Town of Morinville, and the County of Paintearth No. 18.

While we are confident that through the hard work of those employed either option would provide high quality police services to Albertans, we are more than a little concerned about the bureaucratic transitional costs that would be needed to complete such a change. Our RCMP detachment serves our community's needs, is consultative with our Council, and is recognizable within our community.

It is not the RCMP, but the downloaded costs from the Province's own initiatives for the Rural Crime Initiative and Police Funding model that are having negative impacts on our municipal services. Ultimately, these provincial invoices will require additional taxation on to municipal residents just to be able to pay back the Province. In such uncertain and challenging economic times our Council feels it is unwise for you to press forward with this plan. It would show leadership for your government to, at the minimum, step back and take a pause.

Preferably, now is the time to listen to the respondents of the Fair Deal Panel's consultations, scrap this idea entirely and refocus your efforts on the issues which are of significant concern to Albertans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russ Barnett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Russ Barnett
Mayor

CC: The Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier
Rachel Notley, Leader of the Opposition
Joseph Schow, MLA
Irfan Sabir MLA Critic for Justice and Solicitor General
AUMA Members
RMA Members