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Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary-Hays

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Her Worship Heather Joanne Colberg  
Mayor  
Town of Drumheller  
224 Centre Street  
Drumheller AB T0J 0Y4

Dear Mayor Colberg and Council:

I am writing to inform you of the results of the review of the petition requesting an inspection into the Town of Drumheller.

Section 571(1)(c)(i) of the *Municipal Government Act* states a petition requesting an inspection must be signed by a number of town electors equal to at least 20 per cent of the population of the town to be sufficient. The person appointed to carry out the duties of reviewing the petition has reported the petition as sufficient.

The *Municipal Government Act* requires petitioners to be excluded if they do not meet specific criteria. At the time the petition was received, the population of the town was 7,982; therefore, 1,597 signatures were required for the petition to be sufficient. The petition received contained 2,270 signatures. Of these, 96 signatures were removed due to invalid addresses, 25 signatures did not have a printed first or last name, five signatures were excluded for being ineligible or duplicates, two signatures were removed because there was no signature date provided, and one signature was not witnessed, resulting in 2,141 signatures remaining on the petition.

While the petition was deemed sufficient, I do not have sufficient information at this time to determine what actions, if any, would be beneficial to address the concerns brought to my attention. Prior to a final decision in response to the petition, ministry staff will conduct a preliminary review into the concerns that led to the petition. The purpose of this process is to determine the underlying reason for the request and to ensure an appropriate response is taken.

The preliminary review will include interviews with councillors, administrative staff, and the petition representatives. The preliminary review is to provide context for my decision in responding to the petition from town electors. It is not intended to be a verification process and cannot result in the issuance of directives. No written submissions or documents will be received during the preliminary review.

While the review is a voluntary process, and you have a choice regarding your participation, I encourage your full cooperation and participation in order to assist me in making an informed decision. I am hopeful that, with your cooperation, the preliminary review process can take place before nomination day. Once the general municipal election concludes and I review the background from the preliminary review, I will advise you of my decision as to what further steps, if any, will be taken.

Lastly, the ministry has a policy whereby, based on the financial capacity of a municipality, costs for an inspection may be charged back to the municipality. Based on the Town of Drumheller's audited financial statements, the town would be charged back the full cost of an inspection, which typically ranges between \$60,000 to \$75,000 depending on the scope and magnitude of the inspection.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation as we move forward. Ministry staff will contact the town office to initiate the preliminary review process.

Sincerely,



Ric McIver  
Minister

cc: Honourable Nate Horner, MLA, Drumheller-Stettler