



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

### Town of Blackfalds Council 2017-2021

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February 26, 2021

Honourable Jason Kenney  
Premier of Alberta  
307 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Kenney:

### **RE: Alberta Registries Service – Blackfalds, Alberta**

I regret to inform you of the discourse the Town of Blackfalds has experienced in trying to work with the Ministry of Service Alberta to bring an Alberta registries service outlet to our community. It is the hope of our Town Council that you will take the time to become apprised of the events that have led up to our conviction to write this letter to you.

The Town of Blackfalds has been lobbying Service Alberta to bring a new registries service to the community for well over 10 years. Due to a significant increase in population in the last decade and surpassing the 10K population threshold in 2018, Blackfalds is justified in seeking this service locally. It has been nine years since Service Alberta identified Blackfalds as one of the next communities to be provided this service, yet we still find ourselves lacking this important service.

In recent years we reviewed options with Service Alberta administrative personnel that included having the service operated out of the town office located in the Civic Centre and provided by the Town of Blackfalds. This option was looked at in earnest due to the RFP process through Service Alberta, which, we were informed, would take approximately 18 months to implement. The Town followed the guidelines provided by the Ministry in pursuit of this option, however, with the upcoming election and other factors, it was decided this was not a viable option.

During the initial meeting in August of 2019, Minister Glubish provided significant optimism that our concerns were being taken into consideration, but as time passed we received little communication and saw no significant progress made.

On November 3, 2020, during a follow up discussion with Minister Glubish, he informed us that the Minister's position was that Blackfalds would not be considered as a service area for a registries office. Since that time, we are certain that the reasons given for his decision were not factually correct, which we addressed in a response letter to Minister Glubish dated November 18, 2020. The letter addressed how the Ministry's population



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growths statistics were severely underestimated and was based on inaccurate data due to basing their findings on one postal code, and not taking into account Canada Post's upgrades that significantly increased Blackfalds' number of postal codes.

As we continue to grow in population, which, according to the province puts us at 11,656, bringing this service to Blackfalds is even more warranted. A registries office provides not only convenience to residents, but, in following current public health measures, can offer the service locally rather than making citizens travel to other communities.

Unfortunately, our pleas to issue an RFP for a registry office have been ignored; and, we strongly feel, have largely been disregarded by Minister Glubish. Council and I are beyond frustrated at this point and intend to bring this matter forward to you for your consideration, in what we hope to be a prompt call for action. While the province has advocated reducing so-called "red tape," we, as a municipality, have continually found ourselves up against a "red wall."

If you require any further information or wish to connect with myself or CAO Thompson on this matter, I invite you to do so. Thank you so much for your time and consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Poole  
Mayor, Town of Blackfalds

cc: Honourable Nate Glubish, Minister of Service Alberta  
Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Mr. Ronald Orr, MLA Lacombe-Ponoka  
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association

Attachment: Blackfalds Chamber of Commerce – Letter of Support