



November 2, 2016

The Honourable John McCallum, P.C., M.P.
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1L1

Dear Minister McCallum:

I am writing to ask you to halt the plan to move the Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada centre from Vegreville to Edmonton.

The IRCC centre in Vegreville employs approximately 280 people. These workers process temporary and permanent residency applications, work permits and student permits. Most are members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada.

The centre is one of the largest employers in Vegreville, employing five percent of its population, and your plan to move the centre will devastate this community. The loss of the jobs at the centre will have broader economic effects. It will kill other jobs in the community, close businesses, devastate property values, and undermine the tax base, thus making it harder to operate hospitals, schools and other essential community services.

For example, children of the centre's employees represent 25 percent of the students in Vegreville schools. Many of the workers at the centre live on family farms. Their jobs at the centre help support those farms.

Our members who are federal government employees work hard to deliver quality public services to Canadians. I urge you to consider the potential implications of losing experienced staff, those workers who are not able to relocate to Edmonton. This will likely slow processing times, negatively impacting service delivery.

During the last federal election, the Liberal party promised to respect public services and the people who make those services possible. The lack of consultation with the workers in the Vegreville IRCC centre about this closure is an affront to that promise.

I urge you to put a stop to this initiative, and instead work with PSAC and our members at the centre, as well as the community of Vegreville, to come up with a solution that will

meet the government's goals in a way that will have better outcomes both for your government and for our members employed at Vegreville.

I look forward to your timely response on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robyn Benson".

Robyn Benson
National President

c.c.: Judy Foote, Minister of Public Services and Procurement
Chris Aylward, National Executive Vice-President
Marianne Hladun, Regional Executive Vice-President, Atlantic