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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Jenny Kwan

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Constituency

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17th July, 2017

Open Letter to Minister Ahmed Hussen

Dear Minister,

I am once again writing to urge you to reconsider the decision to close the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Case Processing Centre (CPC) in Vegreville, Alberta.

Your government has made the unilateral decision to close CPC Vegreville at the end of 2018 and relocate its operations to Edmonton, Alberta. Despite this, everyone in the community of Vegreville has been working hard on a campaign to save Vegreville CPC, in particular developing solutions to directly address the reasons your government cited as justification for closing it.

There has been much progress on this front. As you know, on June 26, 2017, the Government of Alberta offered to provide labour attraction and retention supports to facilitate connections with labour pools in Vegreville and its nearby communities and to explore partnerships with post-secondary institutions to help develop a sustainable source of workers for CPC Vegreville. Portage College has committed to providing broader access to post-secondary training for skill enhancement of the local workforce. Additionally, the Notley government has stated on the record that it is prepared to explore the possibility of seconding Alberta public service employees to Vegreville CPC. As well, the investors of Hotello made a presentation to Town of Vegreville Council on June 7, 2017 requesting that a portion of the hotel be converted into apartments. Council approved the request—unanimously.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of your intervention to halt the plans to close CPC Vegreville. This decision will result in the loss of 280 jobs as well as more than 2000 years of employment experience at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. As workers and their families have repeatedly explained to you, relocating is unrealistic for most CPC Vegreville staff. The closure will thus devastate the town, impacting every aspect of community life. It will also cost the government a considerable amount in terms of (re)training employees and slow processing times during this (re)training period.

In short, the decision to close CPC Vegreville is wrong. The community stands ready to work with you. I respectfully urge you to listen to its many, many voices and to reverse your plans to close CPC Vegreville.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Kwan', written in a cursive style.

Jenny Kwan
Member of Parliament for Vancouver East
NDP Critic for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
NDP Critic for Multiculturalism