

August 31, 2009

His Worship Ralph Johnston, Mayor
Summer Village of Itaska Beach
Suite A, 5515 - 44 Avenue
Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 0C8



Dear Mayor Johnston:

Thank you for your recent letter reiterating your council's desire to remain a summer village, and for sharing the results of discussion on this issue from the Annual Meeting of the Summer Village of Itaska.

Consistent with my mandate from Premier Stelmach to promote strong and vibrant communities, I have also been given responsibility for developing a municipal strategy for Alberta to improve the long-term viability of municipalities across the province.

I have had ongoing discussions with municipal associations and individual municipalities, including summer villages and their association, with respect to the challenges facing municipalities, and will continue these discussions in the months ahead.

I value the input I continue to receive. Many of the factors you mention in your letter, such as the health and safety of residents, retention of qualified staff, and provision of services on a regional basis, are concerns of mine as well. These factors will be taken into consideration in developing the long-term strategy.

Thank you, again, for writing.

Sincerely,



Ray Danyluk
Minister