



ALBERTA  
JUSTICE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary - Elbow*

AR 34766

October 3, 2019

Her Worship Tara Veer  
Mayor  
City of Red Deer  
4914 - 48 Avenue, Box 5008  
Red Deer AB T4N 3T4

Dear Mayor Veer:

Thank you for your letter dated September 11, 2019, to the Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta, regarding the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service (ACPS) and the challenges facing the justice system in Red Deer and central Alberta. Premier Kenney has asked that I respond in my role as the Minister of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General and I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

In light of the *Jordan* decision, the ACPS is committed to prosecuting serious and violent crimes in a timely manner. It is a Crown prosecutor's professional responsibility to determine the priority of serious and violent criminal cases measured against all other criminal cases in their caseload. The ACPS will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that Albertans feel safe, secure, and protected.

The Government of Alberta is aware of the staffing issues affecting the ACPS in central Alberta and across the province as a whole. Our government is committed to spend \$10 million to hire 50 new Crown prosecutors and support staff. Decisions regarding the location of new Crown prosecutors will be finalized following the release of Budget 2019/20.

To measure performance and identify specific areas of need, the ACPS collects relevant data such as the number of stays and withdrawals, the workload of prosecutors in different offices, and the length of delays. Tracking these performance measures allows the ACPS to improve case management processes and identify priority areas to allocate resources. The specific circumstances of Red Deer will be considered as the ACPS uses data to make informed resource allocation decisions.

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Thank you for writing and for sharing your thoughts on safety in your community. Albertans deserve a justice system that protects them, their loved ones, and their property. I will continue to work closely with Alberta's prosecutors, police, and other justice system partners to address crime and improve public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Doug Schweitzer', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Doug Schweitzer  
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General

cc: Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta  
Honourable Adriana LaGrange, MLA, Red Deer-North  
Mr. Jason Stephan, MLA, Red Deer-South  
His Worship Richard Poole, Mayor Town of Blackfalds  
Her Worship Helen Posti, Mayor, Town of Eckville  
His Worship Jim Romane, Mayor, Town of Innisfail  
His Worship Grant Creasey, Mayor, City of Lacombe  
Ms. Paula Law, Reeve, Lacombe County  
His Worship Michael Muzychka, Mayor, Town of Olds  
His Worship Rick Bonnett, Mayor, Town of Ponoka  
His Worship Jim Wood, Mayor, Red Deer County  
Her Worship Tammy Burke, Mayor, Town of Rocky Mountain House  
His Worship Sean Nolls, Mayor, Town of Stettler  
His Worship Sean McIntyre, Mayor, Town of Sylvan Lake