

ALBERTA  
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

---

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

AR115971

August 26, 2024

Her Worship Dawna Martin  
Mayor  
Village of Empress  
PO Box 159  
Empress AB T0J 1E0

Dear Mayor Martin and Council:

I am writing today in relation to the Village of Empress gravel pit. As you are likely aware, information was shared with my ministry that alleged a theft of approximately \$3.2 million of resources from the village.

In response to these concerns, ministry staff contacted village administration for further information. As a result, we learned about the changes in accounting practice for the gravel pit implemented in the 2021 financial year, which appear to have been misinterpreted by some individuals, leading to the erroneous conclusion that the village was missing some \$3.2 million worth of gravel.

I am pleased and relieved to learn there does not appear to be any significant loss of gravel or revenue relating to the village. I understand the village will be exploring options to confirm the remaining resource available at the gravel site and would appreciate receiving updates on any new developments in this matter.

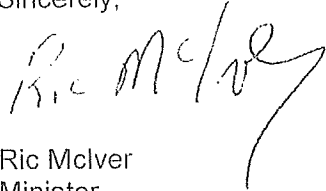
I also understand this situation has caused some concern among residents, amplified by inaccurate reporting that was shared on various media outlets. I encourage council to share a comprehensive response with residents on the resolution of this situation.

I also understand there is still a dispute over the details of a gravel mining contract. Since municipalities are subject to the same contract law as individuals and private businesses, I will leave it up to interested parties to determine what, if any, actions are required on this specific matter.

...2

Finally, I want to extend a sincere thank you to village administration for their attention and efforts working with ministry staff to better understand the situation in the village.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ric McIver". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Ric McIver  
Minister

cc: Angela Duncan, Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Empress