

SUMMER VILLAGE OF
GHOST LAKE

*Box 19554 RPO South Cranston, Calgary Alberta T3M 0V4
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November 27, 2019

The Honorable Ric McIver, Minister of Transportation
320 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

Calgary.Hays@assembly.ab.ca

Dear Minister,

Re: Highway 1A upgrade

The Council of the Summer Village of Ghost Lake is requesting clarification and communication regarding the Highway 1A upgrade, recently announced by the Province of Alberta. While we support the project in concept, we are concerned with the lack of communication and consultation our municipality has received since the project has been revived.

The summer Village sits on the banks of the Ghost reservoir and our only access road is Highway 1A, which runs along the north side of the Village Municipal boundary. Not only will this project affect access for all the owners and residents of the Summer Village of Ghost Lake, but Council is also concerned that our municipal boundaries may be impacted by the proposed realignment of the highway.

In earlier conversations with Alberta Transportation and representatives from the Provincial government, dating back as early as 1972 through 2010, alignment improvements were proposed that would see changes to both access roads from Hwy 1A, an encroachment on a section of municipal land, and a realignment of the curve at the west end of the village. In these conversations there was also considerable discussion regarding rebuilding the impacted section of our boundary fence, the replacement of mature spruce trees that will be impacted by the construction, and the possibility of the Summer Village acquiring the orphaned land that would be located between the new highway alignment and the municipal boundary at the west end.

As the design phase of this project progresses, the Summer Village of Ghost Lake Council seeks to understand the following:

1. Who is the main contact at Alberta Transportation for the Summer Village of Ghost Lake?
 2. Will the Summer Village have an opportunity to review the proposed plans and provide input during the design phase?
 3. Will there be any opportunity to engage the public such as an open house or information session?
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We would respectfully request your assurance in ensuring the Summer Village of Ghost Lake and its residents are provided the opportunity to have meaningful input in this project as the design phase progresses, especially where it impacts our municipality directly.

On behalf of the Summer Village of Ghost Lake, thank you for considering our requests regarding this critical piece of infrastructure. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Walsh', written in a cursive style.

John Walsh,
Mayor, Summer Village of Ghost Lake

cc: Miranda Rosin, MLA Banff-Kananaskis
Mr. Darren Davidson, P.Eng. Regional Director, Southern Region, Alberta Transportation



ALBERTA
TRANSPORTATION

*Office of the Minister
Deputy Government House Leader
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

December 12, 2019

AR 78344

His Worship John Walsh
Mayor
Summer Village of Ghost Lake
Box 19554 RPO South Cranston
Calgary, AB T3M 0V4

Dear Mayor Walsh:

Thank you for your November 27, 2019 letter regarding the Highway 1A widening project. I appreciate the time you took to write.

Alberta Transportation has been negotiating with the Stoney Nakoda Nation for many years to acquire the necessary land required to upgrade Highway 1A west of Cochrane. The recently announced agreement between the Nation and Alberta Transportation is a result of these negotiations.

In 1999, the department began an alignment study with involvement from the Summer Village of Ghost Lake, which provided its comments and concerns to the department. The department had ongoing communication with the Summer Village about the project until 2011, when the engineering design work was paused until the land transfer agreement with the Stoney Nakoda Nation could be completed. With the signing of the land transfer agreement, the engineering work will resume, and there will be ongoing communication with the Summer Village on the project in the future. The Summer Village will have the opportunity to comment on a number of aspects of the project; however, the highway alignment is set, as it was integral to the agreement and cannot be altered or changed.

We recognize that there will be some impacts to residents of the summer village and surrounding area as part of this project. In order to keep area residents informed, there will be some form of public information session, although an exact date is not yet available. Department staff and/or the engineering consultant will continue to update the Summer Village as the project moves forward.

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The main Alberta Transportation contact for the Summer Village of Ghost Lake regarding this project will be Mr. Darren Davidson, Regional Director. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Davidson by dialling 310-0000, then 403-381-5533, or by emailing darren.davidson@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you for sharing your concerns. I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,



Ric McIver
Minister

cc: Miranda Rosin, MLA for Banff-Kananaskis
Darren Davidson, Regional Director, Alberta Transportation