



STAFF REPORT

Title: Letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs

Meeting Date: February 19, 2019

Executive Summary:

On December 13, 2018, after news regarding the possible relocation of the Aerospace Engineering Test Establishment (AETE) from CFB Cold Lake surfaced, a letter was sent to the Honourable Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta, detailing the financial challenges faced by the City of Cold Lake.

The letter to the Premier was prompted by a message posted to the Premier's social media accounts pledging to "...keep standing up for Cold Lake and the women & men who serve our country..." in the wake of the news that a significant source of high paying jobs in the community could be lost.

Premier Notley forwarded the City's letter to the Honourable Shaye Anderson, Minister of Municipal Affairs, for a response. The response has been attached to the agenda along with the original correspondence.

Background:

The City of Cold Lake's letter, dated December 13, 2018, raised the following concerns:

- 1) The effects of a deep and continued economic downturn in the oil patch.
- 2) The effects of a protracted dispute with the federal government over PILT.
- 3) The news that AETE could be moved away from CFB Cold Lake, taking high paying jobs with it.
- 4) The indefinite postponement of Exercise Maple Flag.
- 5) The impacts of the provincial government's unilateral change to the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range Agreement, absent meaningful consultation with the City and 4 Wing.

While the Minister of Municipal Affairs' response notes that Cold Lake is facing "unique challenges" it does not touch upon any of the points noted above, save to say that the minister feels the consultations in regards to the CLAWR deal, and their outcome, were adequate.



At its regular meeting on December 11, 2018, Council unanimously passed the following motion:

That Council authorize a letter of concern to the Premier regarding the Aerospace Engineering and Test Establishment (AETE).

The letter was prompted by news reports and discussion in the House of Commons that plans surrounding the relocation of AETE were being considered. Shortly thereafter, news that Exercise Maple Flag would be postponed indefinitely was made public.

Based on the letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, administration is not anticipating a response from the Premier.

Alternatives:

- The committee may recommend that council consider a motion to authorize a letter on behalf of the City of Cold Lake to the Premier of Alberta or the Minister of Municipal Affairs or both.
- The committee may accept the letter as information.

Recommended Action:

Administration recommends that the Corporate Priorities Committee accept the letter as information.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

No

Submitted by:

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer