



ALBERTA
ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Lethbridge-West*

JUN 01 2017

His Worship Terry Yemen, Mayor
Town of Drumheller
224 Centre Street
Drumheller, AB T0J 04Y
mayor@dinosaurvalley.com

Dear Mayor Yemen:

Thank you for your letters regarding Floodway Development Regulation, Mitigation and Flood Hazard Mapping. It is my understanding that all of the items from your November 7, 2016, letter were discussed at a very productive meeting between the Town of Drumheller and Environment and Parks staff in Drumheller on December 6, 2016. I welcome the opportunity to provide information in response to both of your recent letters.

As you are aware, the 2013 *Flood Recovery and Reconstruction Act* enabled regulation-making powers under the *Municipal Government Act* and the *Emergency Management Act*. At this time, the Floodway Development Regulation does not exist for legislative purposes; therefore, there is nothing to be exempted from and the legislative environment remains similar to the pre-2013 situation. The exemption offered to Drumheller in 2013 was a conditional exemption to the future Floodway Development Regulation. It should be noted that, as stated in the August 21, 2013, letter from Minister Griffiths, that the exemption was conditional on adequate measures being in place against 1:100 protection.

We wish to clarify the statement that the flow of 1,890m³/s is the mutually-agreed design flow deemed sufficient to meet the 1:100 requirement for exemption to the Floodway Development Regulation. As discussed during the December 6, 2016, meeting with Environment and Parks staff, the Town of Drumheller and our department have agreed to the design elevation of 1,640m³/s + 0.75m of freeboard. This flow plus freeboard is deemed sufficient to meet the exemption requirements laid out in the August 21, 2013 letter. Under the current model and in some areas, that may equate to 1,890m³/s but this is not necessarily true everywhere in Drumheller or in the future.

As discussed at the meeting, there are no plans to proceed with new mapping. Mapping policy and practice have not changed; therefore, any new mapping will not result in the three zone flood map as you have requested. The current flood hazard mapping of Drumheller identifies the flood hazard areas using two zones according to current policy and practice. That policy and practice has not changed and so new hazard mapping would simply reflect updated hydrology and topographic conditions.

I understand that the questions from your December 13, 2016, letter in regards to property buyouts have been addressed in a separate letter from Assistant Deputy Minister Rick Blackwood. Our department continues to investigate the feasibility of a life lease as an alternate to buyouts; however, this alternative is unlikely to be pursued by the province. Buyouts under the Alberta Community Resilience Program will be voluntary and will be based on the most recent tax-assessed value of the property. Property owners are welcome to remove any structures and personal property at their own expense when they vacate the property. Grants for buyouts will be administered under the program similar to any other project where funding is provided to the town and the town will be responsible for the entering into agreements with property owners.

I understand that during your December 6 meeting, the town raised concerns regarding future access to the Disaster Recovery Program. Please be advised that any questions regarding the Disaster Recovery Program should be directed to my colleague, Honourable Shaye Anderson, Minister of Municipal Affairs. Minister Anderson can be reached at 780-427-3744 (dial 310-0000 for a toll-free connection), or by email at minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca.

Please know that Mr. Blackwood and Environment and Parks staff will continue to work with the Town of Drumheller on flood-related matters. It is strongly recommended the Town of Drumheller keep Environment and Parks apprised of all planned and recently completed flood mitigation works. Please provide these updates to Mr. Andy Lamb, Director of the Alberta Community Resilience Program. Mr. Lamb can be reached at 403-340-4326, or at andy.lamb@gov.ab.ca.

Sincerely,



Shannon Phillips
Minister

cc: Honourable Shaye Anderson, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Assistant Deputy Minister Rick Blackwood, Environment and Parks, Strategy Division
Andy Lamb, Environment and Parks
Cathy Maniego, Environment and Parks