



DRUMHELLER

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



May 11, 2016

Residents of Lehigh

RE: NO BERM FOR LEHIGH RESIDENTS

Further to the meeting held with the residents of Lehigh on May 9, 2016, I wish to advise that the Province has confirmed that they will not approve funding for a berm for Lehigh now or in the future based on the benefit-cost ratio (B/C ratio) for Lehigh. The total assessed value of the Lehigh properties versus the cost of providing protection to Lehigh is a factor of .5 and the Province indicated that they would not fund a benefit to cost ratio of less than 1. Council would not have moved forward even if a berm had been funded knowing now that the Lehigh residents were not in favour of it. As presented at the meeting, there are no further options available other than buy-outs. This process will require further consultation with the Lehigh residents and if the Town and residents wish to proceed with this alternative, the information would be packaged in an application to the Province for their approval. If approved, the Town may be responsible for 10% of the buy-out costs as well as 100% of the costs for returning the land to its natural state. However, the Town's position remains that the dykes are 100% owned by Province and based on commitments back to 1985, the Town expects the Province to fund the construction of berms and buy-outs at 100%.

The Town of Drumheller wishes to advise that the Province provided approximately \$1 million dollars for the purchase of emergency preparedness equipment and the Town is now in a better position to respond to any future high water event. As well, the Town is working together with our neighboring municipalities to develop a joint emergency management plan for a response in the event of any flooding or other disasters.

Trusting that we will work together for the betterment of our community.

Yours truly,


Terry Yemen
Mayor

TY/lh

Cc: Drumheller Council
R.M. Romanetz, P. Eng., CAO

Town of Drumheller
Town Hall
224 Centre Street
Drumheller, AB T0J 0Y4



Telephone: (403) 823-1306
Fax: (403) 823-8006
E-mail: mayor@dinosaurvalley.com