



ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

AR112112

January 19, 2024

His Worship Jul Bissell
Mayor
Village of Elnora
PO Box 629
Elnora AB T0M 0Y0

Dear Mayor Bissell and Council:

Thank you for participating in the preliminary review conducted by Municipal Affairs in response to a petition requesting an inspection into the Village of Elnora. The preliminary review explored the concerns and issues that led to the petition.

Municipal inspections are extraordinary measures and are not undertaken lightly. While the review identified some concerns from the petitioners surrounding council's transparency with residents in communicating local government decisions; the process undertaken for the sale of the former municipal library property; and allegations of concerns with the performance of the chief administrative officer, I am satisfied the village is operating within its authority and has been made aware of its obligations with respect to legislative requirements for the sale of municipal property. For these reasons, I do not believe the situation warrants a full inspection at this time.

However, I expect the village will make every effort to ensure its governance and administration is conducted in good faith in accordance with the legislated requirements going forward. I encourage the village to access the advisory supports available through Municipal Affairs to assist in ensuring compliance with legislated procedures and processes. I have asked ministry staff to continue to provide advisory support to the village and monitor any ongoing concerns raised by residents.

I also believe the village would benefit from a roles and responsibilities workshop conducted by ministry staff. This workshop would include topics of municipal land sales and building positive relations with the public, among other relevant topics. I believe this workshop would be a positive signal to residents that the village is committed to continuous improvement for the betterment of the municipality.

There may also be grants available to provide the village with tools to build its relations and cooperative processes with residents. Please have village administration contact the ministry at 780-427-2225 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or ma.advisory@gov.ab.ca to schedule a roles and responsibilities workshop and discuss the Alberta Community Partnership – Mediation and Cooperative Process stream, including eligibility and the application process.

Thank you again for your cooperation. I wish the Village of Elnora well in all future endeavours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ric McIver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "M".

Ric McIver
Minister

cc: Honourable Devin Dreeshen, MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake