



December 7, 2020

Honourable Jason Nixon, M.L.A.  
Minister of Environment and Parks, House Leader  
Office of the Minister  
Environment and Parks  
323 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

**Re: Lower Highwood Flood Mitigation Program Funding**

Dear Minister,

In July of this year, you sent a letter to Foothills County recognizing the concerns that had been expressed to you regarding continued provincial funding for the Lower Highwood Flood Mitigation Program. In your letter you suggested that the County continue to work with the Director of Resilience Grant Programs to explore opportunities to leverage existing grant funding to ensure its most effective use in the search for ways to alleviate risk for Foothills landowners who have been negatively impacted by the mitigation measures constructed to protect the Town of High River.

Administration from Foothills County and the Town of High River recently met to discuss the possibility to expand the scope of grant funding received by the Town for the construction of the south-west dike so that funds that are remaining subsequent to the completion of construction could be utilized to enable buy-out of downstream properties under the Lower Highwood Flood Mitigation Program. The Town supports this direction, and in discussions with staff from the Resilience and Mitigation Branch of Alberta Environment and Parks, it appears that it is feasible. However, the residual funding will likely be insufficient to complete the Lower Highwood buy-outs and the Town will not be able to proceed with utilizing these funds to purchase impacted properties until all of the appeals regarding the construction of the southwest dike are resolved.

For these reasons, the Town of High River and Foothills County urge your government to find a way to fund another installment of \$2,000,000 so that we can continue this important work and assist these landowners who have been living with increased risk of flooding for over seven years now as a result of the protection that has been constructed to ensure that residents of High River are protected in future extreme flood events.

We are therefore enclosing an application from Foothills County requesting an installment of two million dollars for the 2020/2021 fiscal year to support the continuation of the Lower Highwood program.

Respectfully yours,

**FOOTHILLS COUNTY**

Suzanne Oel  
Reeve

**TOWN OF HIGH RIVER**

Craig Snodgrass  
Mayor

- cc. Alberta Environment and Parks – Mark Comerford  
Mr. Roger Reid, M.L.A, Livingstone-Macleod  
Mr. R.J. Sigurdson M.L.A Highwood