



ALBERTA

SENIORS, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Office of the Minister

Honourable Steven Guilbeault, PC, MP
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Parliament Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

JAN 20 2025

Dear Minister Guilbeault:

From day one of the fire in Jasper National Park, the top priority of Alberta's government has always been to successfully get displaced Jasperites back into homes as soon as possible, and to ensure a fast recovery for the Jasper community. However, Alberta's government has been shocked and frustrated by the lack of response and action by the federal government in areas of their clear jurisdiction.

Following last summer's tragic wildfire in Jasper, Alberta's government took action to support those who lost their homes and committed an unprecedented \$112 million to construct housing to support displaced Jasper residents. We are ready and waiting to build these homes. All that is needed is sufficient land on which to build.

It is deeply disappointing that sufficient land has not been made available by Parks Canada on which to deploy homes. In fact, several hectares that were originally offered have been made unavailable, reducing the amount of available land by half and significantly reducing the number of homes that could be built in Jasper. Without land on which to build homes, it is not possible for Alberta's government to proceed with this \$112 million housing investment.

Conversations between Parks Canada, the Municipality of Jasper, and Alberta's government demonstrate the lack of recognition by Parks Canada that Jasper's recovery is a matter of great urgency. To date, leases have only been offered to the province for 8 permanent homes. The expectation that Alberta's government would install housing, and then tear down and throw away those homes after only a few years of use, losing over \$100 million of housing that could be utilized by Jasperites, is not acceptable to the province, especially when housing is so desperately needed.

Additionally, Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper continue to insist on high density housing, which would take more than a year to build and does not address the pressing urgency for homes in the community today.

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Alberta's government recognizes that the townsite boundary constrains the amount of land available for Jasper today and in the future. Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta, wrote to the Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, on December 19, 2024, to request the removal of several roadblocks to Jasper's recovery, including a request for a commitment to expand the town's boundary; assurance that variance for any housing units be confirmed quickly; confirmation that the federal government would cover additional costs related to deploying provincial housing to Jasper; assurance that no further barriers to building would be put in place by Parks Canada or federal processes; and a commitment to protect the community from future fire risk. The Prime Minister has failed to respond to Premier Smith. Alberta's government remains concerned by the lack of leadership and direction from your government in this area of clear federal jurisdiction.

Should the position of Parks Canada and Jasper change and sufficient land be made available, the Government of Alberta would be willing re-engage on an agreement. Until such time, we look forward to continuing providing support to Jasper residents by rebuilding the Pine Grove Manor seniors housing complex that was lost in the fire.

From the moment the fire began in Jasper National Park, Alberta's government has acted quickly to support Jasper and its residents. Alberta's government will continue to push the Municipality of Jasper and Parks Canada to expedite site clean up to ensure that rebuild on most properties can begin in spring 2025. We will also continue to provide other support for Jasper's recovery within areas of our provincial jurisdiction. It is imperative that other governments, in particular the federal government who has clear responsibilities to Jasper National Park, do the same.

Sincerely,



Honourable Jason Nixon, ECA, MLA
Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services

cc: Honourable Danielle Smith, ECA, MLA
Premier of Alberta

Honourable Ric McIver, ECA, MLA
Minister of Municipal Affairs

Honourable Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, PC MP
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities

Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, PC MP
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Finance

Ron Hallman, President and Chief Executive Officer
Parks Canada Agency