



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada

December 19, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, PC, MP
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

I am writing to express my concerns with the lack of cooperation from Parks Canada in our efforts rebuild Jasper following the summer's wildfire. Alberta has committed to a nearly \$100 million investment in interim housing within Jasper for residents who lost their homes. Despite the lack of up-front financial support from the federal government, Alberta committed to this historic investment to ensure that Jasper can rebuild and once again welcome visitors from around the world. In order for the community to begin to recover, its residents need to have a place to call home.

Over the past four months, officials from both our governments have entered discussions on the installation of 250 units of interim housing in the town of Jasper. Our goal remains to ensure that interim housing, using modular technology, is rapidly deployed within the community and the interim housing will be able to remain in the community long-term to help address some of community's longstanding housing shortfalls.

To date Parks Canada has been unwilling to make sufficient land available to meet both the immediate and long-term housing needs for the Municipality of Jasper. While every effort has been made to look at multifamily housing options on the land provided, these options will take 12 to 18 months to be built. Only single-family homes can be deployed with the speed needed to deliver interim housing and return Jasper residents to their community, which is what Alberta is prepared to provide.

I want to be clear – any attempt by Parks Canada to use the serviced lots within the Municipality of Jasper for multi-family development instead of allowing interim housing from the province to be built will only serve the purpose of preventing Jasper residents from returning to their community. Preventing interim housing from being deployed in Jasper will also delay the much-needed economic recovery and the rebuild process across the community.

I know both our governments have a shared commitment to increasing the housing stock across Alberta to ensure that people have a place to call home. We are further agreed that public lands should be unlocked and utilized as an important tool in encouraging additional housing developments.

Alberta remains willing to make an unprecedented investment in interim housing for Jasper, even if some of the housing cannot remain permanently within the community. Alberta understands that deploying homes in this fashion would result in all of the currently available land for housing being utilized. In order to make such an investment viable and ensure the community can meet its future needs, I am seeking assurances that the Government of Canada is willing to support the project through the following measures:

- Committing to expanding the existing town boundary to ensure that current serviced sites can be used immediately for interim housing without limiting the future needs of Jasper.
- Permitting the deployment of housing units in the most expeditious manner and assuring that appropriate variances are provided.
- Covering any additional costs incurred by Alberta, that are not covered by existing disaster recovery programming, including costs related to disposing of the modular units, removing and reinstalling the units in another priority community (including Indigenous communities) and any reclamation costs within the Municipality of Jasper for units not remaining on a permanent basis.
- Ensuring that there are no further barriers to having shovels in the ground at beginning of construction season so that permanent rebuilds can start immediately.
- Ensuring immediate measures are taken to protect the community against future fire threats, including finally clearing the overgrowth on the west side of the Jasper townsite that continues to pose significant fire risk to the community.

In the early days following the fire, I very much appreciated your willingness to ensure that Jasper had the resources needed to begin recovery. By making additional land available for permanent housing and allowing the expansion of the townsite, you are helping ensure we can continue to move this project forward. Together, I know we will be able to ensure that Jasper can recover. I would request that a response to this letter is received by January 6th, 2025.

Sincerely,



Hon. Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta

cc: Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services