



# News Release

August 6, 2020

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## **Clearwater County reacts to awarding of grant for municipal restructuring study**

(Rocky Mountain House, AB) – Clearwater County is disappointed in a recent decision by Minister of Municipal Affairs Kaycee Madu to turn down its grant application to fund a municipal restructuring study.

The decision to deny an Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) grant application ignores previous and ongoing efforts between Clearwater County and the Village of Caroline. While Clearwater County's application was denied, a competing application that includes the Town of Rocky Mountain House was approved. This application was not supported by the County nor the Village.

“Our residents have spoken loud and clear and they are not interested in amalgamation with the Town.” said Reeve Timothy Hoven. “While we are continuously looking to maximize efficiencies by partnering with neighbouring municipalities, the County is not interested in opening talks with a third municipality that are not supported by the participants.”

The refusal to financially support ongoing dialogue between Clearwater County and the Village of Caroline represents significant conflicting messages from the provincial government. In a June 9, 2020 letter to the Town of Whitecourt, Premier Kenney stated that, “A mass municipal restructuring was not part of our mandate from Albertans, and I believe such a significant shift in direction, affecting all Albertans, would require broad-based public dialogue and should not be undertaken hastily.”

Despite the setback, the County intends to move forward with existing efforts involving inter-municipal collaboration to address priority issues.

For more information, visit [www.clearwatercounty.ca](http://www.clearwatercounty.ca) or call 403-845-4444.

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