



ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister
Deputy Government House Leader
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

AR105139

JUL 14 2021

Mayor Maggie Kronen
Town of Cardston
PO Box 280
Cardston AB T0K 0K0
info@cardston.ca

Reeve Randy Bullock
Cardston County
PO Box 580
Cardston AB T0K 0K0
randy.bullock@cardstoncounty.com

Dear Mayor Kronen, Reeve Bullock, and Councils:

I understand, based on the correspondence I have received to date, that your municipalities have not been able to ratify your Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF).

As stated in my email of May 4, 2021, I have provided your municipalities with time to consider this locally; however, in the absence of ratification, I am prepared to use my authority under section 708.412(1) of the *Municipal Government Act* to address the situation. Unless your councils are able to ratify the ICF, I intend to establish your ICF based upon your current agreement in principle on municipal services, without the inclusion of library services. The rationale for not including library services has been clearly communicated by previous correspondence from both myself and the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs.

In order to finalize your ICF, my ministry requires further documentation from your municipalities, most notably copies of your service agreements, meeting minutes, and any other information deemed necessary. I encourage each of you to cooperate fully in the provision of this information. I also note that the version of the ICF agreement that has been provided to the ministry to date does not include a dispute resolution mechanism nor a term of review, and, as such, I will be determining these matters as part of my Order.

I also want to address the issue of library services. While ICFs are not the appropriate tool to address cost-sharing for library services, I do expect that all municipalities will contribute fairly to the costs of local services that benefit their residents. As the Town and County have not been able to resolve your differences regarding cost-sharing of library services, I recommend that you consider mediation as an option for resolving this dispute. I am willing to consider the provision of grant funding to contribute to the costs of mediation, upon submission of a completed grant application.

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Lastly, I also want to express my disappointment in learning of the town's threat to seek judicial review should I use my legislated authority to impose an ICF. The MGA is quite clear in addressing this issue, including the authority specifically granted to the Minister to impose an ICF if that action is deemed necessary. While I understand that the Town has proposed a "without prejudice" meeting, I can inform you that it is not my practice to meet with individuals or organizations who have threatened or are engaged in legal action against the Minister or ministry.

I believe that I have clearly laid out my expectations in this matter, including not only my intended course of action but also an opportunity for your two municipalities to move forward productively not only on your ICF but on the issue of cost-sharing for library services.

Ministry staff will be contacting your administrations shortly to request the required supporting information regarding your ICF. Once I have had the opportunity to review that information, I will inform you of my final decision to establish your ICF.

Sincerely,



Ric McIver
Minister

cc: Brandy Cox, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs
Jeff Shaw, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Cardston
Murray Millward, Chief Administrative Officer, Cardston County
Gary Sandberg, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Services Division, Municipal Affairs
Michael Scheidl, Intermunicipal Relations Manager, Municipal Affairs