



ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Peace River*

AR122414

April 20, 2026

His Worship Rick Henderson
Mayor
Town of Gibbons
4807 - 50 Avenue, Box 68
Gibbons AB T0A 1N0

Dear Mayor Henderson and Council:

Thank you for your letter of April 7, 2026, expressing your concerns regarding Bill 28: Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026, and its potential impact on the expedited viability review underway for the Town of Gibbons; a viability review that the Gibbons Town Council asked me to initiate.

While I understand that the town was surprised to learn of the proposed change impacting the vote of electors that follows a viability review, this information could not have been shared with stakeholders in advance. In the provincial legislative process, Cabinet policy decisions that propose new or amended legislation cannot be disclosed until the legislation is tabled through first reading.

You may also be aware that my mandate letter from the Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta, includes a commitment to "review and make recommendations to strengthen Alberta's municipalities to ensure all Albertans are served by strong viable communities with the appropriate capacity to efficiently and effectively deliver necessary services." This proposed legislative change is the first policy change to advance this mandate, and this work will be informed by, and proceed alongside, Bill 28 as it moves through the legislative process.

I recognize discussions about municipal viability are complex and the nature of viability is a topic where we need to have honest conversations across all of rural Alberta. It is worth mentioning that the Town of Gibbons is one of five municipalities in the province currently undergoing viability reviews, and this proposed policy change impacts all the reviews currently underway. I assure you that regardless of Bill 28, the results of a vote of electors will remain a very important consideration, and Cabinet will still retain final decision-making authority over any potential dissolution.

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I would like to meet virtually with your council on May 7, 2026 @ 12:45pm. My scheduling coordinator, Harleen Kahlon, will contact you to confirm.

Thank you again for writing and sharing Council's perspectives.

Sincerely,



Dan Williams, ECA
Minister of Municipal Affairs

cc: Harold Johnsrude, Official Administrator, Town of Gibbons
Tim Duhamel, Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Gibbons
Jonah Mozeson, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs
Harleen Kahlon, Scheduling Coordinator to the Minister of Municipal Affairs



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MINISTERIAL ORDER NO. MSD:025/26

I, Dan Williams, Minister of Municipal Affairs, pursuant to Section 130.1(1)(b) of the *Municipal Government Act*, and Section 6 of the *Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA)* make the following order:

1. That a vote be held in the Town of Gibbons to determine electors' opinion on the dissolution of the town.
2. That a vote be held between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on June 24, 2026, and 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on June 25, 2026, in the Gibbons Community Cultural Centre, 5115 51 St, Gibbons, Alberta, T0A 1N0.
3. That the wording on the ballot be as follows:

Based on the findings of the Town of Gibbons viability review, which one of the two options below do you support for the future of Gibbons? (Select one only)

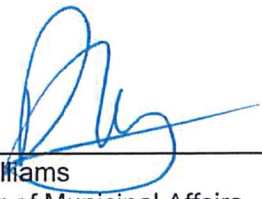
Option 1. The Town of Gibbons remains a town.

Option 2. The Town of Gibbons dissolves and Gibbons becomes a hamlet in Sturgeon County.

4. That special ballots be provided, in accordance with Sections 77.1(1) and 77.1(1.1) of the *LAEA*, by application to the Returning Officer in writing, by telephone, or by email.
5. That an elector who is unable to vote at the voting station on the election days, and whose name is contained in the permanent elector register may apply to vote by special ballot.
6. That the special ballots must be received by the Returning Officer no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on June 23, 2026.

7. That the Returning Officer may modify (Form 24), Special Ballot Voting Instructions (Local Authorities Election Forms Regulation), to reflect a vote on a question, and to reflect the time and date established in clause 6 of this Order.
8. That the Notice of Vote (Form 8) of the Local Authorities Election Forms Regulation be modified to include notice of the special ballot.
9. That Aline Brousseau be appointed as the Returning Officer.
10. That Ross Zimmermann is appointed as the first substitute Returning Officer, and Denise Lines is appointed as the second substitute Returning Officer, if Aline Brousseau becomes incapable of carrying out the duties of the Returning Officer.

Dated at Edmonton, Alberta, this 20th day of April, 2026.



Dan Williams
Minister of Municipal Affairs