



Ponoka County

Press Release

Response to Town of Ponoka Council Decision

From Ponoka County Council, July 13, 2017 – 11:30 a.m.

The Council of Ponoka County has recently learned of the decision of the Town of Ponoka Council to pay half only of an invoice issued by the County for replacement of equipment that had been stripped by the Town of Ponoka Fire Department prior to delivery of our fire response units.

The Town Fire Department actions in delivering less than fully equipped units put County residents at risk should an event have occurred the night of the transfer. In addition, the County incurred a cost of \$76,732.64 to replace the missing equipment. This is based on the Ponoka Fire Department's own equipment check lists for each unit.

County Council understands that our decision to establish a regional system may be an emotional issue for some. However, this immature and reckless action was totally unacceptable from people who hold positions of public trust. It is therefore inconceivable that the Council of the Town of Ponoka would not be anxious to rectify the situation and simply pay the amount owed.

Regretfully, their decision has forced Ponoka County Council to respond. While we will certainly continue to honor our financial commitments to support Town recreation facilities, libraries, etc., we cannot trust the Town Council to reciprocate. No longer will any ongoing support be forthcoming from the County with respect to provision of equipment and services. This includes the use of County facilities for meetings or other Town activities. This decision will be reviewed after the municipal election in October.

Ponoka County has intentionally avoided public confrontation and disagreement throughout this fire department saga and we are proud that we now have one of the finest regional fire services in the Province. In addition, it is our intention to continue to support groups and organizations with their projects as our financial resources will permit. However, we cannot and will not support an operation that does not honor its commitments and brings discredit to the institution of public service.

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