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**Sent:** October 10, 2024 5:09 PM

**To:**

**Subject:** Follow-Up on Commodity Flow Values Map and Request for Criteria Suggestions

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Good afternoon,

Please find attached a letter from MLA Cyr, following up on the previous draft Commodity Flow Values Map letter and soliciting suggestions for new criteria to be included.

Thank you,



**Philip Schienbein**

Constituency Assistant for

**MLA Scott Cyr - Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul**

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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

October 10, 2024

Dear Mayors and Reeves,

I trust this message finds you well. I am writing to follow up on the letter I sent in September regarding the draft Commodity Flow Values Map being developed by Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors (ATEC).

Since our last correspondence, I have had the opportunity to discuss our concerns with the Minister responsible for ATEC. I am pleased to share that the Minister has expressed a willingness to explore other criteria that could more accurately reflect the economic activity in our region. This is a positive step forward, and I believe it opens the door for us to work collaboratively to ensure our area's significance is properly represented in this initiative.

It is important to note that the data currently being used in the map comes from Statistics Canada and only incorporates trips of more than 80 kilometers. This approach unfortunately eliminates many oil truck haulages and regional transport between Bonnyville, Cold Lake, and St. Paul. Additionally, the map currently shows the value of items transported on the roads but does not account for the province's wealth that is serviced and created by these roads. For example, while the Deerfoot Trail transports \$34 billion in economic activity, it does not generate \$34 billion in economic activity. In contrast, Highway 28 may carry far less in terms of transported goods but is responsible for creating and servicing far more economic value through the industries it supports. The current data set only includes road transportation, with no consideration given to the pipelines serviced by the road that transport out immense wealth. This oversight significantly undervalues our region's contribution, as 30% of Alberta's oil and gas royalty revenues—amounting to billions upon billions of dollars—are produced in our area but are transported primarily via pipelines, rather than back down Highway 28.

Furthermore, Highway 28 is vital to numerous other economic sectors in our region. It services a significant logging industry, which is crucial to both local businesses and Alberta's broader forestry sector. It also supports the beef industry, major agricultural operations, manufacturing facilities, and mining activities that are critical to our regional economy. These industries depend heavily on Highway 28 for the transportation of goods, raw materials, and products, further highlighting the road's integral role in supporting Alberta's economy.

Additionally, as we look to the future, the Pathways Alliance carbon capture project will be a significant development in our area. Highway 28 will play a key role in creating and servicing this project, ensuring that the necessary equipment, materials, and personnel can move efficiently throughout the region. This is yet another reason why the economic value associated with Highway 28 must be properly represented in the Commodity Flow Values Map.

It is also important to emphasize the strategic significance of CFB Cold Lake for the military defense of Western Canada. As one of Canada's largest air force bases, CFB Cold Lake plays a crucial role in our national security, especially with the stationing of the new F-35 fighter jets. Highway 28 is essential for delivering large quantities of jet fuel and other supplies to the base, directly supporting its operations and, by extension, the defense of our region and the country. This critical military infrastructure further underscores the importance of accurately reflecting Highway 28's economic and strategic contributions in this initiative.

Moreover, here in the Northeast, we have approximately 2,400 active oil wells, 21.5 million cubic meters of natural gas, and \$8.4 billion in ongoing major projects. The current map does not adequately reflect that our region's major highways serve a significant portion of these economic activities. This is why it is crucial that we come up with criteria that truly represent the highways' actual importance to Alberta's economy.

In light of this, I am reaching out to solicit your input. We would greatly appreciate it if you could provide any suggestions or ideas for additional criteria that you believe should be considered in the Commodity Flow Values Map. These criteria could include, but are not limited to, local industry output, transportation volumes, resource extraction data, or other economic factors that are unique to your municipality.

Our intention is to gather these suggestions and present them to the Ministry, advocating for a more comprehensive and accurate depiction of the economic contributions from our region. Your insights will be invaluable in shaping a response that truly reflects the diverse strengths of our communities.

Please feel free to share your ideas at your earliest convenience. If you would like to discuss this matter further, I am always available to listen to your thoughts and perspectives.

Thank you once again for your commitment to ensuring our region receives the recognition it deserves in this important project. I look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,



Scott Cyr, MLA  
Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul

**Cc:** Josh Bilyk - Chief of Staff, Transportation and Economic Corridors

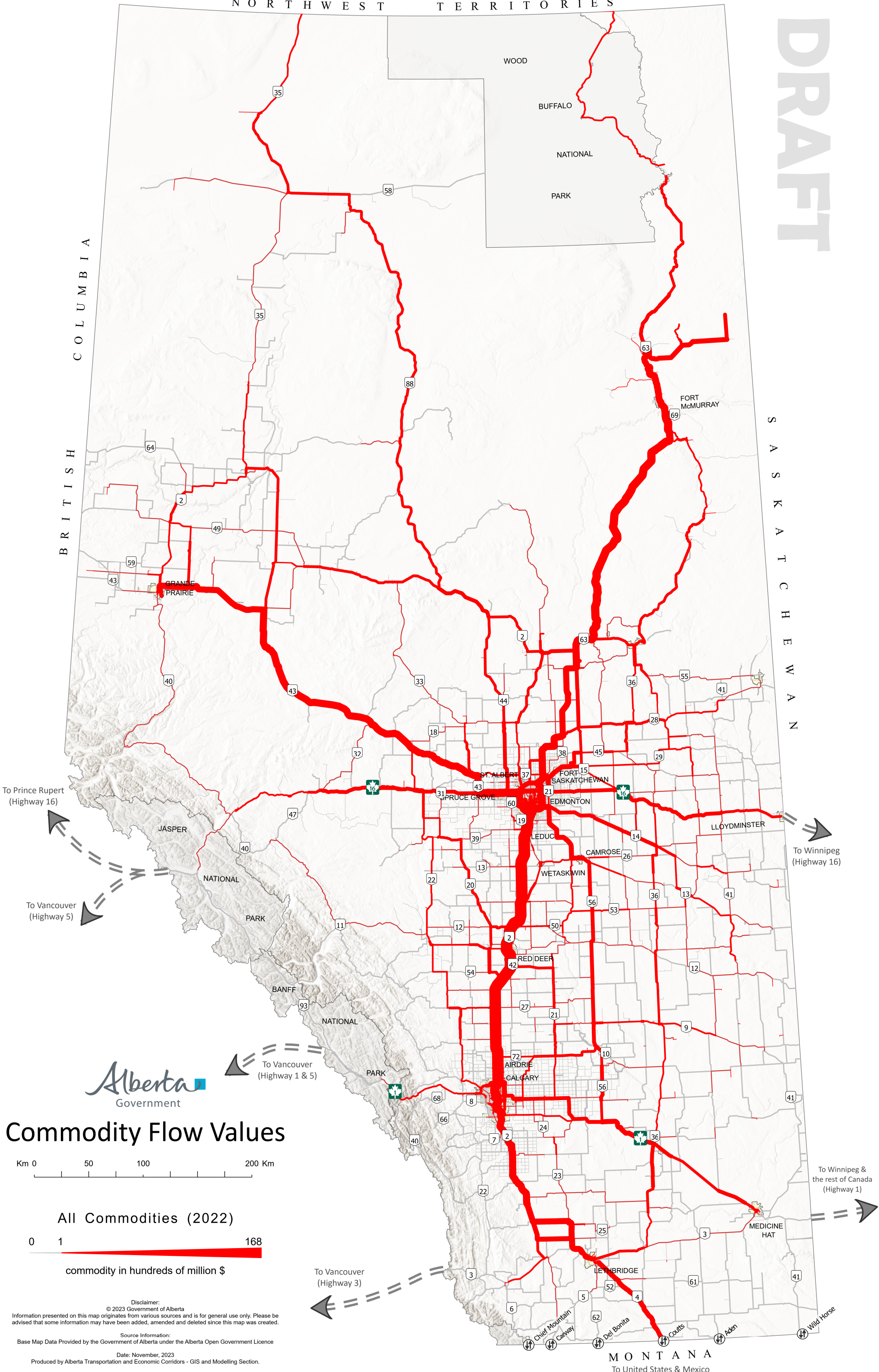
Colonel M.C. Hickey - Commander, CFB Cold Lake,

Gerald Aalbers - Chair, Alberta HUB

Bob Bezpalko - Executive Director, Alberta HUB

Amy Cherniwchan - Chair of the Northeast Alberta Alliance for Growth and Opportunities

Orlando Rodriguez - Director, Modelling and GIS



# Commodity Flow Values

Km 0 50 100 200 Km

All Commodities (2022)



commodity in hundreds of million \$

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Source Information:  
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MONTANA  
To United States & Mexico