



### Home of the Volunteers

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28 Apr 2025

Dear Mr Barry Kalinski, Reeve of MD of Bonnyville,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Cold Lake Agricultural Society, a not-for-profit organization serving the Cold Lake community, to express our deep and growing concern regarding the escalating safety and financial challenges we are facing due to criminal activity against our building structures and contents.

Despite our ongoing and proactive efforts to protect our property, including the employment of private security, installation of surveillance systems, and active collaboration with local bylaw enforcement, we continue to face persistent break-ins, acts of violence and vandalism.

Our building grounds have seen a rise in unauthorized encampments. Although enforcement actions are taken, individuals often return shortly thereafter, creating a costly and frustrating cycle. The damage requires volunteers to step in, using their own time, tools and personal funds to complete the repairs, adding to the burden we are facing. Additionally, the time spent communicating with bylaw and RCMP detracts from their ability to focus on other critical responsibilities across the community.

These ongoing incidents are causing severe financial strain on our organization. As a not-for-profit with limited resources, we are now forced to spend thousands of dollars on repairs and replacements for stolen or vandalized property – costs that are not covered by insurance. This diverts critical funds away from our primary mission of serving the community.

In the most recent incident, an individual forcefully broke through a door and stole our cameras which are essential for projecting live feeds onto larger screens to assist individuals with visual impairments. This theft involved high-value technological equipment worth tens of thousands of dollars. These items can not be easily replaced. Just days later, the same perpetrator cut a hole in the garage door and gained access to our concession stealing food items.

The Cold Lake Agricultural Society plays a vital role in the region. We host a wide range of community events, including but not limited to Rodeos, Weddings, Funerals, Family Reunions, 4H Activities, Farmers Markets, and charitable events such as Skijoring for the MS Society. Our ability to continue to host these events is seriously threatened. In recent months, guests and volunteers have expressed their concern for their safety due to incidents involving individuals wandering the property with weapons, shouting aggressively, and breaking into vehicles. These

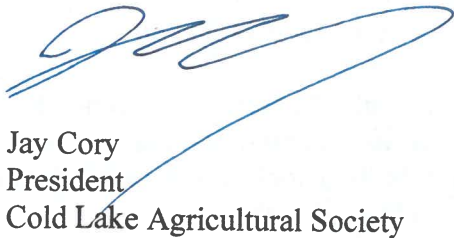
incidents occur during scheduled events. As a direct result, bookings are declining and our operations are at risk.

As a not-for-profit organization, we have explored every available option and now find ourselves in urgent need of support. We are writing to express our deep concerns and are requesting your assistance in implementing effective, realistic, and timely solutions. Whether through enhanced policing, investment in local housing, mental health and addictions services, or financial support for not-for-profits repeatedly impacted by security issues. Your leadership and advocacy are vital at this critical juncture. Our community is experiencing a troubling rise in dangerous activity in both our neighbourhoods and the downtown core. We are now calling on the MD to take a more active role in developing and sustaining meaningful solutions for Cold Lake, Alberta.

We request the opportunity to meet with you to share further details and discuss next steps. The future of our organization and the safety and well-being of our volunteers and those who depend on us is at a pivotal crossroads.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your timely response and your support.

Sincerely,



Jay Cory  
President  
Cold Lake Agricultural Society

Cc: Ben Fadeyiw