

September 2023

Attn: Premier Danielle Smith

Deputy Premier and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services Mike Ellis

Minister of Justice and Deputy House Leader Mickey Amery

Minister of Mental Health and Addiction Dan Williams

Minister of Municipal Affairs Ric McIver

Re: Impacts of Peace River Correctional Centre release process on the Town of Peace River

To our Honourable Premier and Ministers,

The current inmate release process at the Peace River Correctional Centre (PRCC) has had a noticeable, negative impact on the Town of Peace River. Inmates having no personal means of transportation home at the time of their release from the PRCC are being transported by corrections staff to downtown Peace River, where they are dropped off.

The Town of Peace River has seen a noticeable increase in homelessness since the number of inmates released into our downtown core has risen, putting a lot of pressure on those who own businesses and who work downtown, and on those of us who want to explore, support, and maintain our wonderful downtown area, and active river valley trail system.

- Nearly all downtown businesses have been impacted by inmate release procedures, including many that have experienced financial burdens.
- There has been an increase in nuisance and criminal activity taking place downtown, including breaking and entering, theft, loitering, vandalism, trespassing, petty theft, and ongoing intimidation of residents.
- There has been a significant amount of inappropriate behaviour exhibited within downtown Peace River since the PRCC implemented the practice of transporting released inmates into downtown last fall, including public intoxication, disruptive behaviours, and intimidating actions or outbursts.

These issues have resulted in a reduced feeling of safety in our beautiful Town. We ask, respectfully, that this problem be addressed by the province.

Thank you,

Printed Name

Signature

Date

Address