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PRESS RELEASE

TOWN APPROVES MINISTERIAL ORDER ALLOWING COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICER TO CONTINUE ENFORCEMENT OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Mayerthorpe, Alberta, March 9, 2021 – The Town of Mayerthorpe has authorized the use of Community Peace Officers (CPOs) to enforce Ministerial order 13/2021 which recognizes that an emergency exists that requires the services of one or more peace officers with the consent of their authorized employers.

The Ministerial Order declares the peace officer classifications listed in the Order have jurisdiction anywhere in Alberta to enforce Alberta's *Public Health Act* and all of Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health's Orders pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. This applies to CPOs levels 1 & 2 and shall remain in effect for a period of 90 days, as of March 4, 2021.

Alberta's State of Emergency was lifted at midnight, February 26, 2021, which ended the authority of Community Peace Officers to Enforce Alberta's Public Health Act for COVID-19 infractions and investigations. Several municipalities contacted Minister Madu with concerns around the lifting of this authority while several cases of the virus still exist that include new variants in circulation.

The Town will continue to respond to complaints from citizens relating to matters of non-compliance with the Orders of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta.

"I'm glad Minister Madu granted municipalities the authority to empower our local Peace Officers to continue enforcing the Public Health Orders," states Mayor Janet Jabush. "Peace Officers seek to educate rather than enforce, but the mechanism for that enforcement must be available if its needed."

For questions or additional information please contact Mayor Janet Jabush at Janet.Jabush@mayerthorpe.ca or contact the Town Office.



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