



March 9, 2011

Honourable Hector Goudreau
Minister of Municipal Affairs
#104 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Goudreau:

The Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association (AOWMA) and your Ministry continue to exemplify the spirit of cooperation through numerous shared initiatives. Only several short months ago, your department, along with the Safety Codes Council, promptly responded to our concerns with respect to enforcement standards under the Safety Codes Act. This is translating into meaningful government - industry collaboration that is addressing some of the most pressing issues the provincial onsite wastewater industry faces today.

However, the origins of our collaborative efforts date further back. Arguably our most notable shared achievement was marked by the establishment of a 2003 training program for private sewage system installers. Today, that AOWMA-administered course is considered by industry experts as the leading program of its kind in Western Canada.

The AOWMA is pleased to see that your Ministry's strategic plan for 2011- 2014 includes provisions that closely align with the goals of our association and its industry members. Specifically, one of your priority initiatives states:

“ . . . augment construction and maintenance standards, and administrative frameworks for private sewage treatment systems.”

This builds upon your business plan of last year, where it states:

“ . . . Municipal Affairs and its partners deliver effective community-focused public safety programs and services for . . . private sewage systems.”

It further states:

“ . . . address public safety, land-use planning and water and environmental protection issues associated with private sewage disposal systems.”

The AOWMA holds the position that a well-trained base of professional certified installers is the foundation upon which effective onsite wastewater treatment systems are constructed and maintained, offering safe wastewater management for Albertans and the environment.

. . /2



Honourable Hector Goudreau
Page 2

Furthermore, the association is in a solid position to support the strategic direction of your department by strengthening the current onsite wastewater systems installer training program.

We have already demonstrated our willingness and administrative capacities. In May 2005 we presented to your Ministry our report *Continuing Education for the Onsite Industry*. This forward-looking document formed the framework to implement ongoing training for industry professionals.

In addition, the AOWMA put forward plans in 2009 to launch four new phases to its current training program. This was done in response to increased training requests from our members, and the growing recognition of the important role treated wastewater plays in the preservation of our soil and groundwater environments.

We complemented this initiative through our work with several of your department staff in developing a centralized onsite wastewater permit and training tracking database system. Once in place, this database will serve as a valuable administrative tool that will monitor several critical components, namely prescribed maintenance standards for all onsite systems in the province, and intervals at which these systems are serviced. You will note that this relates directly to your department's strategic intent to augment construction and maintenance standards for private sewage treatment systems.

The strengthened training program and the central onsite wastewater database address harmonized objectives of Municipal Affairs and the AOWMA. It is now time to build upon our solid partnership by furthering these objectives while serving the interests of public health and safety, and responsible environmental stewardship.

On behalf of the AOWMA Board of Directors and the members we serve, I would like to arrange a time where representatives of our organizations can further discuss these objectives, and explore opportunities for the Province to apply fiscal resources to our mutual areas of interest.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale McLure". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "M".

Dale McLure
President

cc: Ivan Moore, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Division
Chris Tye, Executive Director, Safety Services Branch
Alf Durnie, Chief Inspector, Private Sewage, Codes and Standards