



TOWN OF HINTON

October 1, 2024

Vista Coal Mine Phase II Expansion Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
9700 Jasper Avenue, Suite 1145
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4C3
Telephone: 780-495-2037
Email: vistamine-minevista@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

The Honorable Steven Guilbeault MP
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
200 Sacre'-Coeur Boulevard
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3
Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca

Dear Honorary Mr. Guilbeault, Minister of Environment & Climate Change, Canada,

Hinton is a small community that was established many years ago around the coal mining and forestry industries. The Town of Hinton and our surrounding communities have relied heavily on these industries to sustain our growth and survival. These Albertan industries also helped other provinces by providing equalization payments during financially strained times throughout Canadian history. As a result, I hope you can see the importance of these industries as contributing to the Canadian economy as a whole - not just that of Alberta.

There have been many good years of work in these sectors here in Hinton. However, we have also endured our share of ups and downs, especially recently. In the last 10 years, two coal mines have closed, and we have witnessed a drastic decline in both the forestry and the oil and gas sectors. The Vista Mine has brought some much-needed optimism back to the citizens of this region, those who rely on the jobs and the economic stimulation this project has provided.

Hinton is an extremely "natural resource reliant" community and threatening to prevent advancement in this area could have a very negative effect on our community. In the absence of Phase II, when Phase I reserves are depleted, the mine would cease to operate, and there would be an associated decline in revenue and employment in Hinton.

It is an important fact that the Phase II portion of the Vista Mine is not a new mining project; rather, it is a continuation of the existing mine. Current production levels are expected to be maintained when production from the existing Phase I mining area ramps down; production from Phase II will ramp up. Mined areas will be progressively reclaimed.

The Town of Hinton supports the Vista Mine, and the designation of Phase II will have potentially devastating social and economic consequences for Hinton and the surrounding area. We ask that you do not move to designate the project.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Nicholas Nissen
Mayor
