



Lac La Biche County
welcoming by nature.

Office of the Mayor

February 1, 2017

Reeve Steve Upham
St. Paul County
5015-49 Avenue
St. Paul, AB T0A 3A4

Dear Reeve Upham:

On behalf of Lac La Biche County Council, I am writing to you to ask for St. Paul County's support in lobbying the provincial government on a matter of interest to both of our municipalities.

As a Council, my colleagues and I believe that current sport fishing regulations in northeastern Alberta should be revisited, and our organization has sent the attached letter that explains our position to Environment and Parks Minister Shannon Phillips.

Fishing is a favourite pastime for both residents and visitors to our region and the many accessible lakes and rivers are highly attractive to anglers, but we feel some of the existing fishing regulations are restrictive. In particular, a zero-catch limit for walleye is in effect on many water bodies. While we recognize the importance of conservation, this makes it difficult to market ourselves and the rest of northeastern Alberta as a prime destination for fishing, preventing us from maximizing the economic benefits of tourism.

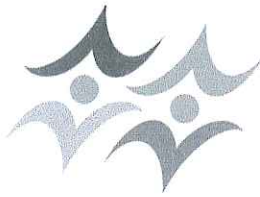
I am writing to you in the hope that you and your Council will support Lac La Biche County by sending a letter of your own to Alberta Environment and Parks. It is our wish to see the Alberta Fishing Regulations revised in a way that will benefit our communities and help us achieve our tourism goals.

Sincerely,

Omer Moghrabi
Mayor

Enclosure

cc: Lac La Biche County Councillors
Shadia Amblie, Chief Administrative Officer



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Honourable Shannon Phillips
Minister of Environment and Parks
208 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Phillips:

On behalf of Lac La Biche County Council, I would like to follow up with you on a matter of importance to Lac La Biche County and neighbouring municipalities in northeastern Alberta. The existing sport fishing regulations in our region make it difficult for us to diversify our economy, while at the same time harming the overall health of aquatic ecosystems by overprotecting predatory fish.

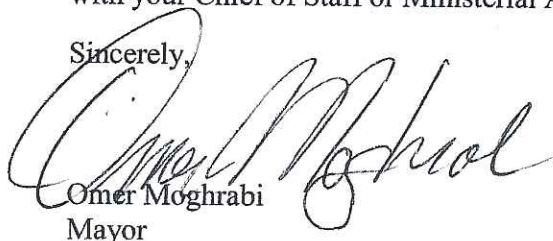
Fishing is a favourite pastime for both residents and visitors to our region, and the many accessible lakes and rivers are highly attractive to anglers. However, outdated regulations do not give us the ability to promote our region to fishing enthusiasts, nor do they protect the diversity of local fish populations.

While a zero-catch limit for walleye is in effect on many water bodies, anglers are casting their lines in Saskatchewan or Manitoba where regulations are less restrictive. As such, the ability to keep fish caught in our lakes is a key aspect of our tourism strategy moving forward. We also believe that updating the regulations will ensure the long-term sustainability of our lakes and their ecosystems.

I hope you and your staff will find time to correspond with us on this important matter. As I indicated in my letter to you in October, we would like to request your support and endorsement for a full review of fishing regulations in our province. Our desired outcome is to have between 10 and 15 lakes in our region opened to walleye fishing, and monitored and stocked if necessary.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We would like to meet with you to discuss further, however, in lieu of an opportunity to meet with you directly we would also be willing to sit down with your Chief of Staff or Ministerial Assistant.

Sincerely,



Omer Moghrabi
Mayor

cc: Lac La Biche County Councillors
Shadia Amblie, Chief Administrative Officer