

Rainy River Cattlemen's Association  
Murray McDonald – President  
Box 388  
Emo, ON P0W 1E0  
[rainyrivercattlemens@gmail.com](mailto:rainyrivercattlemens@gmail.com)



March 1, 2017

RE: Supporting the Township of Emo

Town of Fort Frances  
P.O. Box 38 320 Portage Avenue  
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

Dear Town of Fort Frances;

Hello, we the Rainy River Cattlemen's Association are sending letters to all the local Municipalities in an attempt to help support and save our District Abattoir before it is too late. As you are likely aware the Rainy River District Regional Abattoir (RRDRAI) is struggling to keep its doors open. The board of the RRDRAI continues to work hard to increase revenue and decrease expenses. It will be of no surprise that taxes, insurance and hydro are quickly putting this not for profit business in jeopardy. The board of the RRDRAI has been working diligently to try and come up with a solution with the Township of Emo. Currently the RRDRAI owes over \$35,000 in tax arrears and in March they will be hit with another \$10,000 bill. The Abattoir is classified as Industrial which means a higher tax rate. The board of the RRDRAI has asked the township to at minimum waive the penalties that are occurring each month. This money would not be part of their budget if RRDRAI was able to keep up with tax payments. The RRDRAI has continually looked to the community for help and donations. We know that as a municipality you are unable to donate to community groups such as this. We thought that it was worth asking each municipality of the District to consider making a donation to the Township of Emo to help them offset these fees.

The abattoir adds value to every property in our District, not just the farms. As a municipality having access to good, healthy, Local Food should be a priority. Without the Abattoir none of us will have access to Local Food. Losing the Abattoir would be moving us in the wrong direction. We need to think about building more infrastructure to push our District forward.

RRRAI is not the only small, community owned plant that is struggling. We are frustrated that the currently the Government continues to talk about Local Food and the importance of it but they are not standing behind their talk.

If we lose our Abattoir we will potentially lose another important business in our District as well; i.e. Rainy River Meats. The Rainy River District 4-H Steer Auction will fold because of not having access to an abattoir. The local stores, restaurants and health care facilities that are using Local Meat will not have that option.

We hope that you will consider helping with our request to support and help save our District Abattoir!

If you have any suggestions, or would like to discuss anything further please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Murray McDonald", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Murray McDonald  
President / RRCA