



**News Release**

June 21, 2018

## **Town of Ponoka Plans to Resume Discussion with AUPE after Canada Day**

*(June 21, 2018 – Ponoka, Alberta)* – The Town of Ponoka has reached out to the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) and made arrangements to sit down and resume discussion during the week following Canada Day.

The Town received official confirmation by the Alberta Labour Relations Board on June 15 that a strike vote taken on June 13 by Town employees who are members of AUPE Local 118, Chapter 004, was in favour of strike action. The strike vote has triggered a 120-day window within which the Town’s AUPE employees can strike after first giving the Town 72-hours of notice.

“It is our wish to keep the dialogue open and try to find a way forward,” says Town of Ponoka Mayor Rick Bonnett. Ponoka Town Council discussed the AUPE strike vote in camera at its Committee of the Whole meeting this week and directed Town Administration to contact AUPE with a request to meet.

In the event of a possible labour strike by Town employees, Chief Administrative Officer Albert Frootman says the Town is prepared and has a contingency plan in place that will ensure the Town continues to function and provides essential services to residents.

“We certainly hope a strike doesn’t happen but we have to be prepared for that possibility. Our contingency plan will ensure that we can continue to provide essential services to our residents,” says Frootman.

### **For Media Inquiries:**

Sandra Smith  
Communications Manager  
Town of Ponoka  
403-783-0158  
sandra.smith@ponoka.ca