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July 8, 2021

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Canadian Heritage
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Guilbeault:

I am writing today on behalf of Edmonton City Council to urge your government to pass legislation to ensure a healthy news media ecosystem to serve all Canadians. We agree with your government's position that a strong and independent news media is crucial to a well-functioning democracy.

In Edmonton, local media plays an important role in our tradition of open, transparent and effective government. Journalists are able to hold leaders to account, amplify citizen voices and shine a light on the impact of government decisions. The result is a better-informed citizenry and a better-informed government, which in turn lead to better outcomes for Edmontonians.

Sadly, in my fourteen years at City Hall I have seen the press compliment dwindle here to a shadow of its former self. The Edmonton Journal used to post two reporters and a full-time civic affairs columnist at City Hall. Now there is one reporter providing content to both Postmedia newspapers, and that role has high turnover.

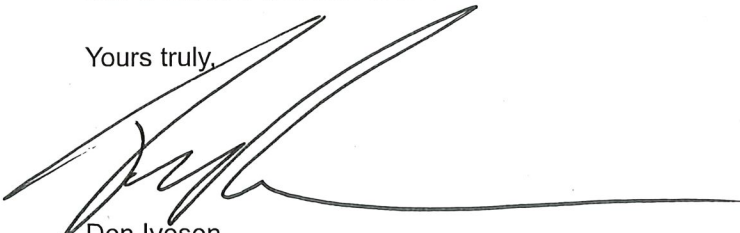
In recognition of this and in light of the challenges faced by Canadian news media, Edmonton City Council passed the following motion on June 7, 2021:

That City Council:

- *recognizes that a healthy, professional news media is essential to the proper functioning of democracy in our city;*
- *urges nearby municipal councils and across Canada to recognize that a robust news media is essential to the proper functioning of democracy in their jurisdictions;*
- *endorses legislation and regulations to support and rejuvenate news outlets across Canada; and*
- *urges the federal government to move quickly to pass legislation to ensure an ecosystem for a healthy news media to serve all Canadians.*

As the news media continues to be threatened further, it is crucial that your government pass legislation that secures a healthier and more sustainable news ecosystem. Thank you.

Yours truly,



Don Iveson
Mayor

c: Edmonton MPs
Edmonton MLAs
Joanne Vanderheyden, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Mayor Stuart Houston, City of Spruce Grove
Mayor John Stewart, City of Beaumont
Mayor William Choy, Town of Stony Plain
Mayor Rod Shaigec, Parkland County
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