



RESORT VILLAGE OF MANITOU BEACH

701 Lakeview Avenue, Manitou Beach SK S0K 4T1

P:306-946-2831 F:306-946-2017

www.manitoubeach.ca

July 14, 2024

The Honorable Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan,

The Honorable Don McMorris, Minister of Government Relations,

The Honorable Donna Harpauer, Minister of Finance

The Honorable Laura Ross, Minister of Parks, Culture, and Sport

The Honorable Everett Hindley, Minister of Health

Executive Council for the Province of Saskatchewan

RE: Revenue Sharing Inequity

Dear Respected, and Honorable Officials of the Province of Saskatchewan,

The objective of this letter is to highlight a matter of significant concern that affects the sustainability and growth of our community, and other communities that have large seasonal populations. In highlighting this concern, we are willing to work actively with the province to find a resolution. Our concern is that the current provincial revenue sharing structure *does not adequately reflect the unique circumstances of resort villages, particularly the influx of seasonal residents that contribute to our population.*

Seasonal communities are vibrant hubs of activity, during peak seasons. The seasonal population contributes to the local, seasonal economy and seasonally utilizes municipal services, but our seasonal population is not counted in our revenue sharing calculation. The influx of seasonal residents attracts seasonal businesses but does not attract a sustainable business/commercial tax base. Tourism is marketed and promoted by the province, yet this is not mirrored in the financial support we receive from the province through revenue sharing.

For example, our village 2021 census population is 364, but with seasonal units of 552, at a two-person occupancy rate equalling 1,104, leaves us with a more accurate population of 1,468 (seasonal 1,104 plus census year-round residents 364= 1,468). Not to mention, Camp Easter Seal, a unique non-profit, ran through SaskAbilities, that hosts and accommodates hundreds of people with disabilities each year, plus support staff.



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The infrastructure, from roads and water systems to emergency services and recreational facilities, must be designed to accommodate not only the permanent residents but also the seasonal influx. This creates a disparity, as the current revenue sharing formula is based on a permanent population count, which fails to account for the considerable number of seasonal residents. This discrepancy leads to a funding gap that places an undue financial burden on our village to maintain and provide essential municipal infrastructure and services.

We propose a revision of the revenue sharing structure that considers the actual usage of municipal services and infrastructure. A more equitable model would consider the total number of residents, both permanent and seasonal, ensuring that resort villages receive fair and adequate funding to support all who live in and enjoy our beautiful province. The vitality of our resort villages is integral to the province's appeal as a tourist destination and to the overall economic health of Saskatchewan. By addressing this inequity, we can ensure that our seasonal communities continue to thrive and contribute to the province's prosperity.

We urge you to consider our request for a more equitable revenue sharing structure that recognizes the unique challenges faced by resort villages and communities with seasonal populations. We are committed to working collaboratively with the provincial government to find a solution that benefits all stakeholders.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response and the opportunity to discuss this further.

Respectfully,

Elise Dale

CAO for the Resort Village of Manitou Beach

cc. Her Worship Mayor Pauline Petersen, Resort Village of Manitou Beach

cc. Deputy Minister Laurier Donais, Government Relations

cc. Deputy Minister Max Hendricks, Finance

cc. Deputy Minister Greg Gettle, Parks, Culture, and Sport

cc. Chief of Staff Clint Fox, Health