

May 15, 2024

To:

Kelsey Peddle, Approval Officer, NRCB
John Van Driesten, Councillor, MD of Willow Creek
Brent Feyter, Mayor of Fort Macleod

Re: Proposed Confined Feeding Operation (CFO) Expansion

Madam/Sir,

This letter is to inform you of myself and my family's vehement opposition to Application LA24002 Van Huigenbos Farms Ltd. and the request for expansion of their CFO at SE 21-9-26 W4M. As members of the Deer Path Meadows community of Fort Macleod, we cannot support an operation so large to be built so close to our homes due to the inevitable impact will have on our quality of life.

Our concern extends not only to ourselves but the dozens of families living downwind from SE 21-9-26 W4M, which is less than 2 kilometers from the town of Fort Macleod boundary. This creates the potential for hundreds of residents of Fort Macleod to be negatively impacted by a large CFO. The wind is a factor that all of us were aware of when choosing to live in this area, but none of us are agreeing to be subjected to the smell or noise of a 16,500 head beef feeder calf operation upwind from us.

Not only is the smell and noise a concern of expansion with the CFO being so close, but the sheer size would significantly increase the demand for water, directly affecting the dozens of homesteads nearby that rely on local water aquifers to provide water to our homes. The risk of contamination and increased water usage has potential to drastically impact the health and safety of nearby residents, including those of us on Deer Path Meadows.

Further, the local gravel roads between Fort Macleod and SE 21-9-26 W4M are not adequately maintained. An expanded CFO at this location would create an increase in heavy machinery and large vehicles using these roadways which are the only roads available to the public to get to the highway or to town. Using these roadways is a daily commute for most residents in the surrounding area and increased traffic of heavy vehicles would cause even poorer road conditions, increasing safety risks and damage to personal vehicles.

It is unfortunate that the expansion proposal is at a location so close to town boundaries. We hope that an alternative option that does not impact the residents of Fort Macleod so severely can be considered.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ruby and Hayes McRae

