

**Ottawa**  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

+1 613-995-1561



**Greg McLean**  
Member of Parliament  
Calgary Centre

**Community Office**  
Mount Royal Place, Suite 445  
1414 – 8 Street SW  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 1E4

+1 403-244-1880

CALGARY  
20 August 2025

Case ID: 1656335

Her Worship Jyoti Gondek  
Mayor, City of Calgary  
and Members of Calgary City Council  
Calgary City Hall  
720 Macleod Trail SE  
Calgary, Alberta T2G 2M3

**Subject: River Run Families – Legal Costs and City Conduct**

Dear Mayor Gondek and Members of Council,

I write to you with urgency regarding the City of Calgary’s treatment of the River Run families-- and the City’s continued defiance of lawful Orders issued under Alberta’s Expropriation Act.

The July 2023 Inquiry Officer’s Report was a scathing indictment of the City’s conduct. It found the City’s actions to be “irresponsible,” “high-handed,” and “not fair.” The Inquiry Officer concluded that the families were subjected to an “unduly prejudicial” process that left their lives in “limbo” for years. These are not abstract findings—they reflect real harm inflicted on real people.

These families—many of them seniors, professionals, and long-time residents—have lived under the threat of expropriation since 2019. They have endured years of uncertainty, misinformation, and pressure. One family, elderly and in poor health, recently withdrew after six years of struggle. Others remain, organized and resolute, but exhausted. Their homes are not just assets—they are communities, memories, and lives built with care and intention.

The City was ordered to reimburse the families’ reasonable legal costs for participating in the Inquiry. After nearly two years of delay, the City issued a cheque for \$310,935—but only on the condition that \$167,273 be held in trust for the City’s benefit. This conditional payment violates both the spirit and the letter of the Order. It forces families to choose between no reimbursement or half of what they are lawfully owed.

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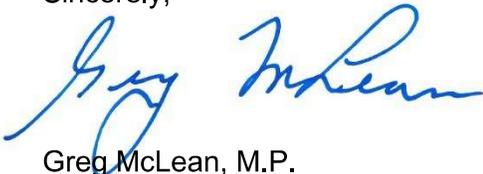
This is not just a legal failure—it is a moral one. The Inquiry Officer found that the City’s refusal to cover reasonable costs, unless owners agreed to transact, was “unduly inflexible” and “high-handed.” She emphasized that with great power comes great responsibility. The City has failed to meet that responsibility.

I urge Council to act immediately and decisively:

1. **Authorize full and unconditional payment of the \$310,935 as ordered**, without any funds withheld or held in trust.
2. **Affirm Council’s commitment to respecting the rule of law**, including Orders issued under the Expropriation Act.
3. **Engage directly with the River Run families** to ensure that future dealings are conducted transparently, respectfully, and in good faith.

The City’s continued defiance undermines public trust and damages the integrity of municipal governance. It sends a chilling message to all Calgarians about how their government treats its own citizens. I ask that you correct this injustice—not only because the law demands it, but because decency does.

Sincerely,



Greg McLean, M.P.  
Calgary Centre

**CC: Premier Danielle Smith**, Government of Alberta

**Hon. Dan Williams**, Alberta Minister of Municipal Affairs

**Hon. Mickey Amery**, Alberta Minister of Justice and Solicitor General

**Hon. Martin Long**, Alberta Minister of Infrastructure