



## Media Release

*For Immediate Distribution*

### **Safe Dioxins Levels Established by Alberta Environment and Parks** *Levels confirm that residential community of Verte Homesteader is safe*

(December 13, 2021 – Edmonton) – On December 10, the Government of Alberta’s Ministry of Environment and Parks (AEP) released information about the criteria for dioxins as it relates to the soil review undertaken by AEP in the Verte Homesteader neighbourhood in Northeast Edmonton: <https://www.alberta.ca/contaminant-management-domtar.aspx>

AEP has established criteria for dioxin levels at 330 parts per trillion (ng/kg).

Soil testing in the community confirms that **no** areas of the existing developed residential community are affected, and that a small amount of the **undeveloped** section of the Verte Homesteader Community may have levels over the criteria.

John Dill, Managing Partner of Cherokee Canada commented, “We appreciate the work of the Ministry of Environment and Parks, and the many scientific experts in establishing a residential criterion for dioxins as it allows us to move forward with remediating the very small amount of undeveloped area in the community. We also appreciate that this confirms that the existing residential community that we have developed is safe and that there are **no** health concerns in the soil of homeowner’s properties in the neighbourhood.”

“These findings confirm what we have been saying all along,” said Dill. “In advance of any development in this area, we reviewed some 800 different third-party soil samples which were part of the development process. We would have never embarked on this project had we not been absolutely certain of the safety of the area,” said Dill.

Although AEP had established a December 15 deadline to receive plans from Cherokee for both remediation and risk management, Cherokee has already submitted both a *Remediation Plan* and a *Risk and Management Plan* to AEP and is now waiting for their approval. According to Dill, “Once these plans are approved by the AEP, our intention is to move quickly with the small amount of remediation required. Given limitations imposed by winter, it is our hope the site will be ready for final remediation and residential development in 2022.”

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