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## Important Update about Verte Homesteader Community

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

Dear Resident of the Community of Hermitage:

You may have recently heard that the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Environment and Parks (AEP) has established a safe residential dioxin level for soil as part of its review of the community of Verte Homesteader: <https://www.alberta.ca/contaminant-management-domtar.aspx>  
The criteria set for dioxin levels is 330 parts per trillion (ng/kg).

In addition to the over 800 soil samples undertaken by Cherokee in advance of the development of the community, in 2020 AEP undertook hundreds of additional soil testing in both developed and undeveloped areas of Verte Homesteader. The results from this testing confirm:

1. **No** areas of the existing recently developed areas of Verte Homesteader exceed the residential dioxin levels and confirm and that there are **no** health concerns in the soil of homeowner's properties in the neighbourhood.
2. In the **undeveloped** area of Verte Homesteader, a small percentage of the total area is over 330 parts per trillion. This impact is in surface soil less than one metre deep.

Although a December 15 deadline was established by AEP, Cherokee has already submitted a *Remediation Plan* and a *Risk and Management Plan* which will address next steps. Depending on the length of time it will take for AEP to approve the plans, it is our hope that the site will be complete within 6 months of equipment mobilization on the site. Given limitations imposed by winter, it is also our hope that the site will be ready for final remediation and residential development later in 2022.

Given this announcement, Cherokee can finally return to the community and undertake a site cleanup, including the establishment next Spring of a regular grass cutting and a weed control program. More information including dates and details about the clean-up plans will be announced in the coming weeks.

We are committed to keeping you informed of our progress, and we encourage you to visit our website [www.homesteaderresponds.ca](http://www.homesteaderresponds.ca) for updates. In addition, please do not hesitate to send any questions you may have directly to me. We are continually updating our **Frequently Asked Questions** section on the website and will add responses to your questions as received.

Sincerely,

John Dill, Managing Partner  
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