



Regional Governance Initiative Still Working On Details

-Region residents to be asked to provide feedback when details completed-

June 12, 2017 – For Immediate Release

Public meetings initially scheduled for June will be delayed while the Flagstaff Intermunicipal Partnership (FIP) fleshes out more detailing of a proposed single-tier governance model region communities.

“Public feedback to date has told us that people want more details to consider - particularly around implications for taxes and services – to be able to determine if and how a proposed regional governance model offers benefits vs. the status quo, said Bob Coutts, FIP Chair. “While we have made some good progress on what governance can look like, at this point we don’t feel we have made enough progress on services, and taxation and debt. It’s a complex subject, and to avoid frustration we believe we need to put a reasonably detailed picture of regional governance on a wall for residents to make comment on and provide further suggestions.”

FIP has established a working group of elected officials and municipal Chief Administrative Officers from each region community to develop further governance model details. A best case scenario will see a regional governance framework completed by the Fall of 2017. FIP will then go back to region residents with a public consultation process that seeks feedback. A Regional Governance Initiative summary will be generated prior to municipal elections in the Fall of 2017 so that there is transparency about the initiative in advance of municipal elections. New Councils will be asked to review the proposed framework following municipal elections in October, 2017. A further round of public feedback may be pursued in late 2017 depending on modifications required as a result of resident engagement and consideration of new Councils. Each municipality - by motion of Council - will then subsequently decide whether their community will participate in a single tier governance model (amalgamation).”

The details that will be worked on over the summer are guided by four guidelines:

- **Governance:** Developing a governance model (boundaries/divisions) to ensure citizens are properly represented by elected officials.
- **Services:** Establishing service choices and service levels for all communities. *Note: a summary of current services offered in the region is provided as a Backgrounder to this release.*
- **Taxation and Debt:** Balancing service levels with taxation levels and ensuring debt remains the responsibility of the community that incurred it.
- **Identity:** Ensuring each community retains its unique identity under a new regional context.

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FIP has completed significant regional governance initiative research, including the following:

- 1) Evaluation of regional governance models in Canada
- 2) A regional services survey
- 3) Infrastructure assessment
- 4) Four public open houses
- 5) Municipal report card of current municipal operations

Informed by this research, FIP member communities unanimously voted to pursue detailing of a proposed single tier governance model – from a number of potential governance models considered - as a best means to position region communities for the future.

FIP is comprised of representatives from all municipalities within the Flagstaff Region: the Towns of Daysland, Hardisty, Killam and Sedgewick, the Villages of Alliance, Forestburg, Heisler and Loughheed, and Flagstaff County. More information on the FIP Regional Governance Initiative can be found at www.flagstaffunited.ca

For more information, contact:

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-Backgrounder-

Flagstaff Region Current Services Summary

Note: the following is a list of current services that the Flagstaff Intermunicipal Partnership (FIP) has identified as currently being offered in communities in the region. The FIP working group is using this list, in addition to desired services/amenities identified in a regional services survey in 2016 – indicated at the end of this list, as a foundation for enough detailing of services considerations to be presented in a proposed regional governance model (e.g. what services, where, and service levels) so that residents can get a picture of what a proposed regional governance model looks like. Residents will be asked for feedback about this proposed regional governance model at a future date.

GOVERNANCE
COUNCIL
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (human resources, finance (incl. assessment and assessment review board), records management, information technology, health and safety, public health, risk management)
AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD
PROTECTIVE SERVICES
PEACE OFFICER
FIRE
BYLAW ENFORCEMENT
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SUBDIVISION
SUBDIVISION APPEAL BOARD
PLANS (e.g. land use bylaw, municipal development plan)
BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT PERMITS
BUILDING INSPECTION
PUBLIC WORKS
ROAD CONSTRUCTION
ROAD/BOULEVARD/SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE
BUILDING MAINTENANCE
SNOW REMOVAL
BEAUTIFICATION (E.G. PLANTING)
UTILITIES
WATER
WASTEWATER
GARBAGE
RECYCLING
NATURAL GAS
SOCIAL SERVICES
FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

RECREATION
PARK
PATHWAY
BALL DIAMOND
SOCCER FIELD
PLAYGROUND
ARENA
POOL
GYM/FITNESS CENTRE
CURLING
BOWLING
TENNIS
GOLF
FOOTBALL FIELD
BASKETBALL COURT
PICKLEBALL COURT
CAMPGROUND
CULTURE
LIBRARY
ART GALLERY
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
MUSEUM
AGRIPLEX
COMMUNITY HALL
SENIORS CENTRE
COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING
RECREATION PROGRAM
LEISURE LEARNING
OTHER
SENIORS HOUSING
AIRPORT
CEMETERY
IDENTIFIED AMENITY GAPS
<i>(surveyed in 2016 – greater than 12% response...can mean perception of need for enhanced quality, quantity, and/or access to service if it already exists)</i>
<i>MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY (daycare, yoga, etc.)</i>
<i>SPRAY PARK</i>
<i>HIKING/BIKING TRAILS</i>
<i>COMMUNITY CENTRE (meeting rooms, event capacity, youth/seniors centre, etc.)</i>
<i>FITNESS CENTRE</i>
<i>PLAYGROUND</i>
<i>INDOOR ARENA</i>
<i>SKATEBOARD PARK</i>
<i>EXPANDED LIBRARY</i>