



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Brazeau County Responds to Linear Assessment Decision**

BRAZEAU COUNTY, October 26, 2020 — Brazeau County Council appreciates the recent decision by the Alberta government to find middle ground in its decision regarding changes to linear assessment and the taxes paid to municipalities.

The decision to decrease the assessment of lower-producing wells, offer a three-year tax holiday for new oil and gas infrastructure, and eliminate the well drilling equipment tax will reduce Brazeau County revenues by \$733,630 per year (3% of total property tax revenue). This is a significant impact, but Council applauds Municipal Affairs Minister Tracy Allard for rejecting the original four scenarios considered by the government that would have resulted in severe outcomes for many municipalities, including Brazeau County.

Council is also gratified to see that Minister Allard has listened to municipalities, and supports Brazeau County's localized approach. Reeve Bart Guyon met earlier this fall with representatives of the oil and gas, service sectors, as well as Minister Allard to come up with ways to work together to maintain the viability of both industry and the municipality.

"We're proud that Minister Allard is encouraging other municipalities to follow in our footsteps by focusing on core services and reducing taxes and red tape," says Reeve Bart Guyon. "Brazeau County believes that by leaving money in the pockets of our citizens, they can make their own choices on how to spend that savings, whether on recreation or roads, or anything else in between. If we all share in the pain, we may all be able to share in the gain after these current crises."

Guyon adds: "We're proud to have such engaged and passionate residents, who added their voices to many others in rural Alberta rejecting the original four disastrous proposals. Your voices were heard loud and clear, and I believe it helped steer the government toward this milder, more targeted approach to balance the needs of rural municipalities and our oil and gas industry."

Brazeau County will continue to cut red tape, encourage economic growth and diversification, and support its residents as it considers the 2021 budget and beyond. Public budget meetings will be held November 20, 24, 25, and 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We look forward to working constructively with the Government of Alberta on other issues impacting Brazeau residents in the future.