



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brazeau County and Town of Drayton Valley talk regional cooperation and priority setting

Drayton Valley, Alberta, September 8, 2014 — On September 4, 2014, Brazeau County and the Town of Drayton Valley held a facilitated workshop to discuss municipal cooperation and collaboration as it relates to various municipal services, infrastructure and financial viability.

Building on the successes that have resulted from the inter-municipal cooperation agreement, the strategy session was an open dialogue on how the two Municipalities can collectively gain more success and leverage maximum provincial and federal funds. Numerous initiatives were discussed, including roads, water and sewer, animal control service, airport, Clean Energy and Technology Centre, and various joint projects, to name a few.

Mayor Glenn McLean is enthusiastic about the collaboration between the Town of Drayton Valley and Brazeau County. “We are working together on several initiatives that will benefit the community. We are facing economic challenges in areas such as housing, recreation, and infrastructure in general. To access federal and provincial grant funding it is imperative that we put forward a joint effort. This will lead to increased success in meeting our challenges and providing better services.”

The outcome achieved by the end of day was the desire for the formation of a regional cooperation protocol to guide the Municipalities in enhanced cooperation and communication to:

- Achieve optimum cost and quality for existing services;
- Provide new services in response to emerging community needs;
- Maximize citizen access to local services;
- Share resources to deal with priority needs;
- Avoid duplication of services;
- Save money on current and future expenditures; and
- Guide new revenue sources and access new external resources.

Most notable, by working cooperatively, the Municipalities will have more success in leveraging dollars from both the provincial and federal governments. As a result of the workshop, a joint grant application will be submitted to Municipal Affairs’ Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) program in an effort to draw on provincial funding dollars to develop long term financial viability strategies for both Brazeau County and the Town of Drayton Valley. The objective of the ACP is to improve the viability and long-term sustainability of Municipalities by providing support for regional collaboration and capacity

building activities, including project implementation costs. The other source of funding identified is the Building Canada Fund.

Reeve Pat Vos expresses, “With Municipalities across Alberta facing growing infrastructure deficits the need to explore new infrastructure solutions is now. We need a shovel-ready project application to access the \$53 billion dollars set aside for the next series of the Building Canada Fund grants. Applications that demonstrate cooperation of Municipalities are most certainly encouraged.” She further adds, “the priority setting process was certainly the highlight of the workshop for me.”

For further information:

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