

June 2, 2015

Re: Inter-municipal Collaboration Initiative

Mountain View County, Town of Olds Continue Positive Collaborations

Productive discussions and better understanding of the other's realities highlight the early stages of the Inter-municipal Collaboration Initiative (ICI) discussions between Mountain View County and the Town of Olds.

The two municipalities' negotiating teams have been working on developing a framework for the discussions which aim to end up in an agreement that will replace the current Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the two municipalities.

Under the guidance of facilitator Bill Sutherland, the two negotiating teams have been making progress over several joint meetings with honest and open discussions focused on understanding the financial realities, growth pressures and infrastructure needs facing each municipality. Discussions have also been held on the mutual protocols that will be used to build the framework for an agreement.

In addition, the negotiating teams will continue to identify opportunities for the municipalities, their councils and administration to work together in the future to find solutions that will benefit both the residents of the town and the county.

"From the County's perspective, we've been pleased with the positive working environment, the genuine understanding from the town's representatives and the willingness to work towards a progressive agreement that will benefit both our municipalities and provide value for the ratepayers in both communities," said MVC Reeve Bruce Beattie. "Negotiating agreements of this magnitude are never easy and are quite time consuming, but when there is a spirit of understanding, cooperation and goodwill, like there has been so far, I'm confident we'll reach a fair and equitable agreement, and that we'll do so in a timely manner."

"With our current Memorandum of Agreement set to expire in 2016, our ability to seek to understand each other is a priority," said Olds Mayor Judy Dahl. "We have learned a great deal from our first 10-year agreement and I am confident that our second agreement will raise the bar. All indicators are suggesting that we will create positive relationships that will lead the province in regional cooperation."

The current MOA between Mountain View County and the Town of Olds is set to expire in 2016. The MOA outlines many different facets of inter-municipal cooperation, including financial contributions by the County to provide rural residents access to recreation, library and other services within the town. The MOA also outlines how the municipalities will handle negotiations and disputes over land, infrastructure improvements, large capital projects and other issues that affect both parties.

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