



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parkland County presents Inter-municipal Cooperation Report

Parkland County joined five other local municipalities to generate a position paper outlining recommendations for improved inter-municipal decision making and collaboration.

The paper was presented to Premier Ed Stelmach, Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Ray Danyluk and the government caucus on July 19th and was written in response to the Province's initiative to examine inter-municipal cooperation and coordination. In addition to Parkland County, the counties of Lamont, Leduc, Strathcona and Sturgeon as well as the Town of Redwater contributed to the document.

"This is one way that we, as municipalities, can directly contribute to these discussions," said Parkland County Mayor Phyllis Kobasiuk. "The recommendations demonstrate how we can work together to the benefit of all municipalities in the region."

The paper recommends the best approach for addressing growth is through what is referred to as a Regional-Cooperative Model. Using this model, costs (not revenues) would be shared, municipal autonomy would be preserved, and local decision makers would remain accountable for ensuring their taxpayers receive best value. Cost-sharing would apply when it could be demonstrated one municipality was bearing an unfair share of infrastructure and other costs where there is a clear benefit to all regional residents; for example, the development of Anthony Henday Drive in the Capital Region.

A new mechanism is recommended for resolving inter-municipal disputes in a timely manner, using preliminary steps of “good faith” negotiation and mediation prior to binding arbitration.

Among the fundamental principles cited in the position paper is respect for municipal autonomy and direct accountability to local taxpayers. The paper endorses the provincial government’s commitment that amalgamation and a new order of government are not being considered. The position paper also supports the Province’s decision to involve elected representatives from 24 municipalities in creating a growth management plan for the Capital Region.

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