

Collaboration Efforts Move Forward as Grant Funding Secured

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Phase Two of the Flagstaff Regional Governance Project is underway as the Province approved three separate grants for the Flagstaff Intermunicipal Partnership (FIP).

“This is great news for people in the region,” said Bob Coutts, Deputy Mayor of Forestburg and FIP Chair. “This funding will allow us to develop home-grown, regional solutions to help ensure the sustainability of our communities.”

Between February and April, Alberta Municipal Affairs approved three grants that allow FIP to move forward with collaboration discussions:

- Develop a business case for collaboration options (\$150,000)
- Conduct an assessment of underground infrastructure (\$350,000)
- Hire a firm to help manage the project (\$40,000 grant plus an additional \$40,000 requisitioned from FIP members)

“Our communities are facing challenges that we haven’t faced in the past,” added Coutts. “Thinking and competing as a region makes us stronger and more likely to build and grow sustainable communities that have the services people want.”

Part of the project includes a robust public and community engagement strategy to ensure the voices and opinions of the region’s citizens are included in the research. More information on how people can engage in the process will be shared in the coming weeks, as details are finalized.

The Flagstaff Intermunicipal Partnership is a committee made up of representatives from all municipalities within the Flagstaff Region: Towns of Daysland, Hardisty, Killam and Sedgewick, the Villages of Alliance, Forestburg, Heisler and Lougheed and Flagstaff County.

The committee was established in 2003 to find local solutions for regional issues. Successful initiatives include: Regional Emergency Services Communications System; Regional SCADA System for Water Treatment Plants; Regional Assessment Review Board; and the Regional Subdivision and Development Appeal Board.

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