

Managing growth pressures

June 12, 2007

Revised

Capital Region municipalities' cooperation strategy unveiled

Edmonton, neighbouring municipalities to manage growth together

Edmonton... Premier Ed Stelmach has announced the terms of reference for a Capital Region Integrated Growth Management Plan, to be completed by January 2008.

The terms of reference will allow the 24 municipalities in the Capital Region and the Industrial Heartland to develop a long term, integrated management plan to support economic growth, with particular attention to the economic, social and environmental impacts on all residents of the region.

All partners recognize the need for, and desire more formal co-ordination of their efforts. Provincial leadership is essential to ensuring the highest quality of life for all residents of the Capital Region - and all Albertans - through the capture of value added activity.

"It's a fundamental part of my vision that we co-operate in building Alberta's future. To manage growth, I believe leadership by the Province and joint action by our municipalities is key to the efficient, cost-effective delivery of services," said Stelmach. "So today I'm releasing a road map towards that goal, and I'm confident it will lead to a long-term plan to support anticipated development in the Capital Region over the next 20 to 50 years."

There is approximately \$46 billion in construction projects planned, recently completed or underway in the Capital Region. Demands for public sector infrastructure will be in the billions. Meeting those requirements will require concerted and co-ordinated effort from municipal, provincial and federal governments as well as industry to minimize the impact on taxpayers.

Municipal Affairs Minister Ray Danyluk will meet with affected municipalities shortly, and a Deputy Minister steering committee, and project manager will work with municipalities to complete the plan by January 2008. Implementation of the plan will commence in Spring 2008.

- 30 -

Revised:

This news release was amended June 14, 2007, the terms of reference backgrounder added.

Media enquiries may be directed to:

Tom Olsen
Office of the Premier
(780) 422-4905
(780) 718-3034 (cell)
tom.olsen@gov.ab.ca

To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Backgrounder

Terms of Reference	
Title	Capital Region Integrated Growth Management Plan
Purpose	Development of a long term integrated growth management plan is needed to support anticipated economic growth over the next 20-50 years in the Capital Region, with particular attention to the economic, social and environmental impacts on all residents of the region.
Rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inventory of Major Alberta Projects database for March 2007 indicates that there is approximately \$46 billion in construction projects planned, recently completed or underway in the Capital Region. • Demands for public sector infrastructure projects will be in the billions. • Meeting the infrastructure requirements associated with this growth will require a concerted and coordinated effort from municipal, provincial and federal governments as well as industry to minimize the impacts on taxpayers. All partners recognize the need for, and desire more formal coordination. • Provincial leadership is essential to ensuring the highest quality of life for all residents of the 24 municipalities and all Albertans through the capture of value added activity.
Scope	<p>This initiative will develop i) a regional growth management plan and ii) create a management structure to implement it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planning for core infrastructure and services will focus on economic development, utilities (water/wastewater, waste management, electricity, pipelines, environmental management) and transport (railways, highway/roads, airports, public transit). • The social infrastructure and services to be reviewed include elements in the areas of workforce, housing, education, health care, emergency services, policing and social services. • The plan will integrate both the core and social infrastructure and services planning needs. <p>The ultimate goal is strong communities and efficiency for the tax payer, resulting from optimal economic and community growth and sustainable environmental management. This plan will not result in amalgamation, but rather the efficient delivery of public services.</p> <p>The plan will be developed based on the principles of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring community identities are supported

- All residents in the Capital Region benefit from the anticipated economic growth.

The plan will apply to the following 24 municipalities:

Beaumont
Ft. Saskatchewan
Morinville
Stony Plain

Bon Accord
Gibbons
New Sarepta
Strathcona County

Bruderheim
Lamont County
Parkland County
Sturgeon County

Calmar
Leduc
Redwater
Thorsby

Devon
Leduc County
Spruce Grove
Wabamun

Edmonton
Legal
St. Albert
Warburg

Execution Plan

- Commence in June 2007 and will be completed by January 2008.
- Implementation of the plan will commence in Spring 2008.
- Announce the initiative based on an approved communication plan.
- Engage municipal leaders at a meeting to discuss the planned approach.
- The province will appoint an implementation committee consisting of provincial deputy ministers and municipal representatives.
- Engage industry and the federal government partners.

The project will result in 2 deliverables which will be developed concurrently:

1. Regional Growth Management Plan

The plan will integrate the following elements:

a. Growth Scenario and Plans Inventory

- Develop a realistic and comprehensive scenario(s) of significant industrial projects and economic growth most likely to be pursued over the next 20-50 years.
- Complete an inventory of existing industry, provincial, federal, and municipal government initiatives/plans/assessments for infrastructure and service expansion.

b. Core and Social Infrastructure Planning

- Assess current core and social infrastructure and service plans against likely growth scenario and identify gaps.
- Create a plan to address gaps (who, what, where and when).
- Develop preliminary cost estimates.
- Develop an implementation plan.

c. Land Use Planning

- Assess current land use plans against likely growth scenarios, core and social infrastructure and service needs and environmental impacts.
- Develop an integrated land use plan.
- Develop an implementation plan.

2. Regional Growth Management Structure Development

- Create a governance model for implementation of the regional growth management plan.
- A new order of government will not be created. A board will be established to implement the plan consisting of municipally-elected representatives of the existing 24 municipalities in the Capital region.
- The board must be empowered to make timely decisions. The voting model will balance the principle of representation by population, blended with the principle of one council one vote, as recommended by the Minister's Council on Sustainability.
- Identify timelines, roles, responsibilities and funding for the plan.
- Draft legislation if required.

Return to Government Home Page

Return to [Government Home Page](#)