

**Building Tomorrow**

July 15, 2008

**MLA committee to support work on key land-use priorities**

*Edmonton...* An MLA committee will assist the Alberta government with implementation of key priorities of Alberta's Land-use Framework, including the development of a transportation and utility corridors strategy and a recreation strategy and a review of landowner's rights legislation.

"This committee will build on the good work done to date on the development of the *Draft Land-use Framework* by the government, stakeholders and Albertans," said Sustainable Resource Development Minister Ted Morton. "They will spend the next eight months working on critical priorities to ensure the policy that flows from the Land-use Framework responds to a broad range of interests and concerns."

The committee will be chaired by Evan Berger, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod and Parliamentary Assistant for Sustainable Resource Development. In addition to Berger, MLA members include Jonathan Denis (Calgary-Egmont), Janice Sarich (Edmonton-Decore and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education), and Jeff Johnson (Athabasca-Redwater). They will work on a variety of projects, including supporting the development of transportation and utility corridors strategy and a recreation strategy, reviewing the *Surface Rights Act* and the *Expropriation Act*, and linking implementation of the Land-use Framework to initiatives undertaken through the Capital Region Plan. The chair of the committee will report back to the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development.

"Work has already begun on some of the immediate planning priorities and this committee will help ensure the different interests are represented and engaged," said Morton. "Their work will help us meet our goal of developing priority provincial strategies and regional plans by 2010."

The *Land-use Framework* is a provincial initiative involving partner ministries Sustainable Resource Development; Energy; Environment; Agriculture and Rural Development; Municipal Affairs; Infrastructure; Transportation; Tourism, Parks and Recreation; and Aboriginal Relations as well as other departments. For more information on the Land-use Framework, visit [www.landuse.alberta.ca](http://www.landuse.alberta.ca).

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**Attachment: Committee members' biographies****Media inquiries may be directed to:**

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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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## **Land-use Framework MLA Committee membership**

*Edmonton...* Following are the names, responsibilities and biographies of the Land-use Framework MLA Committee.

### **Evan Berger, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development**

Berger will chair the committee.

Prior to serving with the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, Berger served as a member of council in the municipal district of Willow Creek, nine years of which were spent as reeve and six as chair of the Municipal Planning Commission and the Agricultural Service Board. Additionally, Berger has spent most of his life in the farming/ranching industry. Berger has been a member of the Mosquito Creek Foundation, the Nanton Recreation Board, the Willow Creek Regional Fire Services Committee and other community groups. He currently serves on the Cabinet Policy Committee on Resources and the Environment.

### **Jonathan Denis, MLA for Calgary-Egmont**

Denis will review the *Surface Rights Act* and the *Expropriation Act* with respect to private property rights and will review, report on and suggest updates to methods of compensation under those acts.

For eight years prior to his election, Denis practiced law. Most recently he was a senior associate with a national law firm. He has also been the president of a national communications firm. He was also a director of the Institute for Public Sector Accountability. Denis holds degrees in both commerce and law. Denis has been a volunteer with the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Canadian Cancer Society and has acted as a health care advocate for patients throughout Calgary. Denis currently serves on the Cabinet Policy Committee on Health.

### **Janice Sarich, MLA for Edmonton-Decore and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education**

Sarich will work on linking the implementation of Land-use Framework to initiatives that flow from the Capital Region Plan.

Sarich served as the Ward 2 school board trustee from 2001 to 2007. Before entering public service, she was president of her own business consulting company. She holds a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's of education degree from the University of Alberta, as well as project management and project leadership certificates from NAIT. Sarich has been involved in many community organizations including the Junior League of Edmonton, Catholic Social Services and Public Interest Alberta. She currently serves on the Cabinet Policy Committee on Community Services.

### **Jeff Johnson, MLA for Athabasca-Redwater**

Johnson will assist with the cross-ministry development of a transportation and utility corridors strategy. He will also support the development of a recreation strategy for Alberta and, as chair of the Alberta Recreation Corridors Coordinating Committee, develop criteria, standards, policies and guidelines for establishing an Alberta Recreation Corridor Designation Program aligned with the Land-use Framework.

Johnson was the president and owner of Xpert Office Solutions, the largest rural Xerox sales agency in western Canada, and has worked in financial markets as a futures trading floor pit boss and as a salesperson for life insurance and related investment funds. For the last 16 years he has owned and operated several small businesses. Johnson has coached and trained hockey players at the junior, college and pro levels and is a past co-ordinator of the Viking Cup international hockey tournament. Johnson has a bachelor of arts in psychology from Camrose Lutheran College. He currently serves on the Cabinet Policy Committee on Community Services.

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