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December 3, 2008

**Final Land-use Framework reflects Albertans' input*****Framework ushers in new era of stewardship for the province***

*Edmonton...* After a summer and fall of further consultation, Albertans' feedback has strengthened the Land-use Framework with key improvements. With the addition of the Efficient Use of Land strategy, another planning region, and a priority to develop legislation, the final Alberta Land-use Framework will ensure future land development considers cumulative environmental impacts as well as social and economic factors.

"Albertans were clear that they want to control our impact on the landscape, while still meeting our economic and social needs," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "The Land-use Framework will help us do that through regional plans that consider the full impact of development on the land, air, water and wildlife."

"This is an exciting day for Albertans," said Sustainable Resource Development Minister Ted Morton, in releasing the framework. "The Land-use Framework ushers in a new era of stewardship for Alberta's air, land, water and wildlife. It ensures that the development of our resources will be responsible and sustainable."

The Draft Land-use Framework released in May 2008 included six strategies and a requirement to develop plans for six regions. More than 700 Albertans submitted responses to a workbook survey, stakeholders responded in meetings and through feedback reports, and Aboriginal feedback was collected through more than 50 meetings. Highlights of changes from this feedback include:

- A new strategy—the Efficient Use of Land—to reduce the human footprint on the land.
- A new region—the Red Deer Region—to better address southern Alberta's significant population, its number and size of municipalities, and the diversity of its landscapes.
- New names for the planning regions; these are now named for their major watersheds to better reflect integrated land-use and watershed planning.
- A new priority—legislation to support the framework, including regional land-use planning.

The government will announce more details on the Land-use Framework early in 2009, including the framework's implementation plan and the terms of reference for regional plans. Advisory council membership will include provincial, municipal, industry, non-government and Aboriginal representatives, as well as members from other planning bodies in each region.

The Land-use Framework, along with the public survey and feedback report, are available at: [www.landuse.alberta.ca](http://www.landuse.alberta.ca).

-30-

**Link:** Land-use Framework Regions Map

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