

Our Partnership

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER– DECEMBER 2005



Airdrie
Banff
Black Diamond
Calgary
Canmore
Chestermere
Cochrane
Crossfield
High River
MD of Big Horn
MD of Foothills
MD of Rocky View
Nanton
Okotoks
Redwood Meadows
Strathmore
Tsuu T'ina Nation
Turner Valley
Wheatland County

MUNICIPAL SERVICES
SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTS
PROSPERITY

CALGARY
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Thinking regionally... acting locally

TOGETHER. 2105 — Leading the Way Toward Sustainability

By Colleen Shepherd
Project Manager, Together. 2105

Sustainable development is being debated across all levels of government, industry, and the private sector. CRP members are leading the way by creating a 100-year vision for a healthy and sustainable Calgary Region, and TOGETHER. 2105 is ready to support communities as they take action at the local level.

The federal government's "New Deal for Cities and Communities" will require every municipality to implement an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) as a condition of the federal gas tax allocation. "What this will mean for Alberta municipalities remains to be seen. Members of the CRP will be able to take on the task with the help of TOGETHER. 2105," says CRP Chair and Airdrie Mayor Linda Bruce. "Through participation in the regional visioning process, CRP members will have the job either well-underway or completed."

"TOGETHER. 2105 provides an opportunity for local citizens and municipal leaders to create a region-wide vision and goals for sustainability while at the same time enhancing their own local plans," says MD of Rocky View Councillor

Gordon Branson. The TOGETHER project will gather local citizen input to five key visioning questions, which will complement the *imagineCALGARY* 100-year visioning project.

The information from the five questions will provide feedback on what's important to citizens across the region. This database of both community-specific and region-wide information will then be used to build or enhance local sustainability plans. At the same time, the information will assist the CRP in developing a region-wide vision and a set of principles for working together towards a sustainable region. The regional vision will form the basis for targets and indicators to help track regional trends toward sustainability.

TOGETHER. 2105 representa-

tives plan to visit member municipalities starting in November to obtain each Council's commitment to participate in the project at the local level. The team's goal is to make it as easy as possible for municipalities. Councils will be asked to include the five-question survey in local tax and/ or utility bill mailings. The team will also be requesting copies of local vision statements, planning documents and economic development strategies. An inventory of local plans from across the region will provide critical input to the regional vision ensuring it is based on community aspirations.

We encourage you to visit us at www.calgaryregion.ca and answer the five visioning questions — and possibly win a hot air balloon ride around our beautiful region!



Regional Asset Inventory a Tremendous Success

By Diane Berreth
Project Manager
Economic Development Forum

A new regional asset database will vastly improve information available to both local and outside stakeholders looking for information on the Region and its business environment.

The process of completing the regional asset inventory included updating or adding to records of more than 6,500 businesses to provide key information for economic development planning, including categories such as industry classification, employment by size, and interest in exporting.

"This information will provide the cornerstone for regional economic development planning and give us a better understanding of the region's business landscape which

can be used for investment purposes," says Bill McAlpine, Mayor of Okotoks and Past Chair of the CRP.

The project boasts an 83% success rate in data collection and reporting — a testament to the overwhelming support for the project from the CRP membership and its partners. Communities throughout the region have committed to rethinking local processes for collecting business information, and a direct link to the business community is being forged. As well, municipalities have realized the necessity of contributing information on an ongoing basis so that business directory information remains current.

The involvement of the regional Community Futures partners -- Wild Rose EDC, BDC West and High-

wood BDC, along with the funding and commitment provided by Western Diversification, were also critical factors in the project's success.

The database inventory is organized using the Business Attraction Information System (BAIS) — the province's tool for showcasing businesses and communities online on the AlbertaFirst website. Using BAIS, general information on businesses is available to the public, with more detailed information available for marketing and planning. The project also led to significant progress in updating community profiles on the Alberta-First, CRP and member websites. Using International Economic Development Council standards, uniform information on communities is now available to stakeholders and investors around the world.

Our Partnership is published quarterly and is distributed electronically to Partnership members and Friends of the Partnership. For more information, or to provide comments or suggestions, please contact us at 403.851.2509 or by e-mail at info@calgaryregion.ca

Project Updates

BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION

WORKING TOWARD AN ORGANIZATION CRP General Assembly — November 4, 2005

The CRP General Assembly (GA) provides an exciting agenda with an excellent opportunity for networking with CRP members and other partners. Hon. Rob Renner, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and Hon. Clint Dunford, Minister of Economic Development will address the group. This fall's agenda will focus more internally on

the organization – including consultant Bill McMillan outlining his preliminary findings of the CRP governance review. Mr. McMillan is a highly sought after facilitator and strategic thinker who assisted the Partnership in its formational years. The CRP Business Plan and details of the Partnership's successes will also be presented. The GA will be held Nov. 4 at Fort Calgary. The agenda starts at 9 a.m. and will continue until lunch, which will be provided. See you there!

Funding in Place — With Thanks Alberta Municipal Affairs has funded a CRP request for \$700,000 towards the 2004-06 Business Plan and is considering possible funding for a Regional Global Information System project. Alberta Economic Development is providing a second installment in its three-year agreement with CRP to the tune of \$76,000. These funding sources represent a significant percentage of the Partnership's budget. Other funding comes from a variety of

partners, along with annual membership fees totaling more than \$240,000.

CRP Communications

Visits to the CRP website had been growing significantly the past two years but are now flat if not dropping slightly. The communications committee is redesigning the website to take it to the next level.

Check out our website. It's full of current info, but we are continuously improving!

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

MOVING ON TRANSPORTATION Specialized Transportation Service Project

This project has fostered many open house discussions amongst users, service providers and other stakeholders. In November, the CRP Executive Committee will consider an innovative demonstration project which will help fill gaps in the current mix of community specialized transportation services and enhance the efforts of local providers of transportation

services to the aging and disabled.

ENHANCING OUR EMERGENCY RESPONSIVENESS

Emergency Communications This initiative has been deferred due to the large financial commitment required to create a seamless emergency communications system across the region. By deferring the project, the CRP hopes to capitalize on emergency communications systems being considered at the provincial level, including the planned transfer of ground

ambulance service to the Health Region.

Regional Servicing

"The Regional Servicing Study will bring regional thinking to water and wastewater servicing plans."

In the context of sustainable environments and recognizing the Province's commitment to *Water for Life*, a CRP-guided regional services study will examine issues surrounding water supply, waste-

water disposal and practices related to water and wastewater servicing and management. The study will bring regional thinking to water and wastewater servicing plans. A Call for Expressions of Interest has been released and the study is expected to start in January. This study will update a 1980 AB Environment study. Infrastructure Minister Hon. Lyle Oberg, AB Environment and municipal leaders are looking forward to the study. Preliminary results are expected in October 2006.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTS

MANAGING OUR WATERSHEDS Watershed Information Management Support System and Regional GIS System

A Global Information System (GIS) proposal has gone to the province for assessment of the feasibility and planning of a Regional GIS system to service regional and local needs. GIS is a technology that manages, analyzes and disseminates geographic information. The GIS project will support various local and

Partnership initiatives including the current watershed mapping and emergency address mapping projects, along with future mapping-

Regional GIS will improve planning on many fronts.

related projects such as pathway systems, transportation systems, solid waste catchments and economic development assets. The GIS initiative will improve planning

and analyzing projects from both the local and regional perspective.

REDUCING OUR WASTE From Waste to Valuable Resource

A huge component — almost 50 per cent — of the waste that goes into our landfills every year isn't waste at all. Much of this waste is either organic material, paper, cardboard, or wood — and we are throwing away valuable resources everyday. With the tremendous rate

of growth in the CRP region, this component of waste will increase exponentially with the population growth. A study, to be completed by the spring of 2006, will provide on-the-ground recommendations and outline potential methods for our region to turn this "waste" into valuable resources, such as compost or other economically feasible products. Solutions being considered include regional recovery systems and facilities.

PROSPERITY

INCREASING OUR COMPETITIVENESS Regional Economic Development Strategy

Monthly forums have been held by the participating municipalities in order to share information and provide a foundation to implement regional projects. The participation is broad and includes member municipalities, Calgary Economic Development, Alberta Economic Development, Regional Community Futures Groups, Western Economic

Diversification and International Trade Canada. The CRP has recently appointed Diane Berreth to fill the position of Economic Development Project Manager. Second-year funding has been received from Alberta Economic Development.

Business Development

The Executive Committee has approved a proposal and project funding to study the feasibility of a film studio to support the film industry in the Calgary Region. In addi-

tion, Calgary Economic Development, in co-operation with the CRP, has developed regional sector profiles which will be used to promote the region's economic drivers.

Marketing

Several marketing and promotional initiatives have been undertaken within the CRP. On October 3rd, the CRP, together with Calgary Economic Development and International Trade Canada, gave a presentation to Federal Post Officers from around the world.

A marketing committee is also working on the development of a regional marketing plan using the data recently collected from the regional asset inventory project. Efforts are also underway with other regions for cooperative marketing of the *Northern Tiger*: The Calgary—Edmonton Corridor.

....marketing of the Northern Tiger....

For additional information on projects and the partnership, visit the CRP website at www.calgaryregion.ca