



Appendix C
Spruce Grove – Parkland County Annexation: Memorandum of Understanding





Spruce Grove – Parkland County Annexation

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The City of Spruce Grove

And

Parkland County

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets the terms and understanding between the City of Spruce Grove and Parkland County to allow for a successful annexation and the completion of a Regional Plan.

WHEREAS Parkland County and the City of Spruce Grove agree to complete all required regulatory processes in this annexation and in the development of a Regional Plan without prejudice and in a spirit of co-operation and collaboration;

AND WHEREAS it is the intent of the City of Spruce Grove to retain adequate land supply, as identified in Spruce Grove's Growth Study;

AND WHEREAS Parkland County recognizes and respects Spruce Grove requires land from Parkland County to retain an adequate land supply;

AND WHEREAS both parties have agreed to the need for a short- and long-term solution to growth in the region;

AND WHEREAS Parkland County and Spruce Grove have agreed to partner in the development of a Regional Plan;

AND WHEREAS Parkland County as a primary affected coal community has a current opportunity to receive funding if partners support a Regional Plan;

NOW THEREFORE the Parties agree to the following:

1. Spruce Grove and Parkland County agree to identify seven (7) quarter sections more or less of land to serve as the short-term annexation area. The City of Spruce Grove will undertake a study that will identify which lands will best meet their short-term growth needs taking into account all financial, environmental, engineering and planning impacts. Upon completion of the study, the City of Spruce Grove and Parkland County will endeavor to agree on what land will be included in the annexation application.
2. Parkland County agrees to amend its land use bylaw, on an interim basis, to protect the lands identified in Spruce Grove's Growth Study from fragmentation and conversion to non-agricultural land uses until the Regional Plan is approved by both Councils.
3. Parkland County and the City of Spruce Grove formally agree to jointly develop a Regional Plan as identified in Appendix 1. Both parties will extend an invitation to the Town of Stony Plain to be a partner in the development of the Regional Plan.
4. Parkland County and the City of Spruce Grove agree that the intent of the Regional Plan is to guide future economic development, land use, and sustainability.
5. Parkland County and the City of Spruce Grove agree to develop a joint communications strategy.
6. This MOU is not intended to create any legally binding obligations. The Parties will work collaboratively in good faith towards implementing the terms of this MOU.
7. This MOU may be amended by mutual agreement of the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this Memorandum of Understanding has been duly executed by the Parties on the 15 day of January, 2019.

THE CITY OF SPRUCE GROVE AND PARKLAND COUNTY



Mayor Stuart Houston
City of Spruce Grove



Mayor Rod Shaigec
Parkland County



Robert Cotterill
City of Spruce Grove CAO



Mike Heck
Parkland County CAO

Appendix 1 - Regional Plan Terms of Reference

The Alberta, Canadian and global economic markets are changing rapidly. With a greater emphasis on sustainability, technology, and transparency, municipalities are facing greater pressure to manage their limited resources in a responsible and efficient manner. Regional collaboration has been identified as one way to approach these challenges and ensure that municipalities recognize cost efficiencies and more effective service delivery thereby becoming more competitive in attracting residents and business investment.

Opportunity

By undertaking strategic analysis, under the umbrella of a regional plan, we can collectively leverage the resources and expertise across the region, ensuring a more effective return on investment. Coordination and integration of networks, programs, and systems will also support the mitigation of environmental impacts while reducing the financial burden on ratepayers.

Without alignment in key areas it is likely that economic development will remain uncoordinated. This may result in conflicting development along border interfaces and municipalities will experience lost opportunities for economies of scale in infrastructure and facility construction. The result will be greater costs being incurred by each municipality's respective ratepayers and more severe environmental impacts.

The Regional Plan can replace the need for Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs) and Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDPs) to provide a holistic and coordinated approach to better manage and shape the future of the region for generations to come.

Outcome

The goal of the Regional Plan is specific and strategic; to support focused and coordinated investment, planning and development and relationship development. The result will be responsible stewardship of financial, environmental, and human resources to create beneficial and sustainable growth for the entire region.

The Framework

A Regional Plan Drives Focused Investment. Shared Investment for Shared Benefit

The Regional Plan will define a focused investment and growth strategy for the region, leading to a more efficient and effective use of resources and greater economic, financial, and social success for all as a result.

Key principles of the plan:

1. Focused Economic Development
 - 1.1. Define actionable economic drivers that have immediate impacts to the local economy.
 - 1.2. Effect change through technology in key market segments.
 - 1.3. Promote prosperity and economic competitiveness in the region in a consolidated manner.

2. Coordinated Growth and Development

- 2.1. Plan and collaborate to manage growth responsibly.
- 2.2. Ensure the region supports the diversity of communities and promotes quality of life through coordinated efforts.
- 2.3. Provide a coordinated effort in the development of critical infrastructure.
- 2.4. Develop effective regional transportation infrastructure as a driver for economic growth and for public safety.
- 2.5. Ensure responsible development that considers current and potential future land uses including residential, commercial, industrial and agriculture.
- 2.6. Protect environmental and living systems.

Process and Timeline

This plan is anticipated to be developed over the course of 2019-2020. The process for the development of the Regional Plan is subject to change, based on the proposed approach by the successful consultant; however, a draft process is outlined below:



