Chief Administrative Officer Report
June 28, 2024

June 17 to 21 – Local Government Administration Association Conference
June 26 – Telus Meeting

At the June 18 Regular Meeting of Council, Council made a motion for Administration to compile a list of Capital projects that were planned but not completed due to lack of funding and report to ABMunis. We have no projects for this list.

I attended the CAMA (Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators) conference and attended the following sessions: Mastering key relationships in local government; Developing Positive Workplace Culture; Empowering Municipal Leaders Communication Strategies; and Discovering Banff's Tourism Backbone: A Comprehensive Infrastructure Tour. The networking and information sessions were worthwhile and educational.

Tanis and I also attended the LGAA (Local Government Administration Association of Alberta) conference and attended the following sessions: Keynote on Building trust in relationships and strategic communications; Engineering grants - looking at options for next ACP grant intake; What's up in your world – communities less than 1,00 population; Abuse or discord amongst Council or between Council and Admin; Lessons learned post Cuff; CAO Employment agreements; and A Conversation with Municipal Affairs. Again, the networking and information sessions were worthwhile and educational.

The County of Grande Prairie, who heads the Rural Renewal Stream Program for regional partners Beaverlodge, Wembley, Sexsmith, and Rycroft, has made a decision to pause the program. Here is their notice:

> *I am writing to inform you of a decision made regarding administration of the Province's Rural Renewal Stream Program (RRS). After careful consideration of various factors affecting its efficacy, we have decided to implement a temporary pause on the program.*
> *The RRS program, while initially promising, has encountered several challenges that have significantly impacted its effectiveness:*
> *Housing and Resource Constraints: The availability of affordable and adequate housing within our partner municipalities has been a persistent issue.*
> *Regulatory and Operational Challenges: Regulations from the Province regarding residency requirements for newcomers have added complexity.*

Uncertainty persists regarding whether newcomers can reside in one municipality and work in another, complicating the program's operational logistics.
Retention Issues: Many newcomers have been leaving the region upon obtaining permanent residency status, which undermines the program's goal of fostering long-term settlement and integration.
Lack of Transparency and Support: Insufficient information sharing from provincial authorities regarding approval or denial of applications has hindered our ability to assess and improve the program effectively.
Given these challenges, and in consultation with our partner municipalities who support this decision, we believe that pausing the program is necessary at this juncture. During this pause, we intend to address these issues comprehensively.
We understand that this is not the desired outcome that the participating businesses had hoped for, however, the steering committee is continuing to support all existing endorsement letters written.
Current approved employers will have until July 12, 2024 to submit eligible newcomer applications to the steering committee for review.
All criteria for the eligible positions and newcomers are still in effect.
Please note that there are other streams that are open through Alberta Immigration and additional information can be found here: https://www.immigration.ca/alberta-immigration/
Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support. We will keep you informed of any developments and look forward to resuming our collaboration in due course.

During the course of the program, I did send one endorsement letter for a worker at the Smitty’s restaurant.