



Aug 2016: Collaborative momentum ends in forward-thinking growth plan

When I arrived at the Capital Region Board 20 months ago, the Growth Plan Update Task Force had just completed its first phase of work for the required five-year update of the Board's 2010 Regional Growth Plan - the Plan Review and Policy Evaluation. Importantly, a clear set of principles was established to guide the remaining work.

So I have been privileged to be part of the journey of this project since; from the adoption of a Regional 50-year Vision, to the analysis of the plan review results, to the scenario testing based on the most recent and relevant research around.

That standard of rigorous analysis continued throughout the process, which moved over the next year from policy direction to policy development. All done in preparation for the doubling of the regional population to 2.2 million people and 1.2 million jobs in 30 years or so.

Earlier this year the hard work of pulling together all the many elements of preparing the new version of the growth plan began. The first draft plan was delivered in late March, prompting further consultation and deliberation. It was an exciting and fruitful process.

In the end I believe we have created a significantly improved updated plan that can reap immense rewards in regional savings (e.g. 250 quarter sections of land). It has benefitted from the time taken to ensure measurable outcomes and, as Task Force Chair Roxanne Carr has often said, to "get it right".

On September 8, the Board will see the final draft and consider, and hopefully make a decision on, the last outstanding issue in the new Plan - Country Residential. Pending that decision, there will be a Notice of Motion for October 13: To approve the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan put before the Board. The end of this transformative journey will be in sight.

Along the way I have been encouraged by the thoughtfulness of all those involved and impressed by the staunch commitment to the best interests of the whole region that has been at the heart of this conversation. Some of the highlights are:

We are more clear about who we are because we have drawn out the story of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region: that we see already ourselves as a diverse, but borderless region, smart, resilient and forward thinking...

Because of that story, we have clarified the purpose of the Capital Region Board, that is, the CRB serves regional citizens and businesses, in all our diverse and connected communities, to ensure more sustainable and efficient growth for all in the future.

We have created the forward-thinking, inclusive and comprehensive Growth Plan, built upon its predecessor, that our people deserve - with a vision for the next 50 years in a single, readable document based on the best regional thinking we could assemble.

This is something to celebrate; a job well done. This is a plan that will guide sustainable and responsible growth in our region for the foreseeable future.

And the first step begins September 8.

**Malcolm Bruce, MSM
CRB CEO**

Quick & Noteworthy

Capital Region Golf Tourney another success

Many thanks to this year's host organizers from Fort Saskatchewan for another successful annual regional Golf Tournament held August 6. The gauntlet has been thrown and St. Albert has accepted the challenge to host next year!

Annual Report

The hard copies of the new 2015/16 Annual Report Building Momentum, will be distributed to the Board September 8. The format is smaller and more readable. It captures the story of the last year; how all the Board's projects built momentum in some way towards delivery of the updated Growth Plan, now almost ready for Board approval. The Annual Report is also available for download now on the CRB website homepage.

Complete Communities Symposium ready to go September 15

The Housing Committee is proud to sponsor the 2016 ReEnvision Housing Symposium, Complete Communities, on September 15 at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre. It will be a fresh take on housing and community in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region...Not to be missed!

Growth Plan Update Task Force ends on a high note

On August 18 the Growth Plan Update Task Force held its final meeting. After reviewing the next-to-final draft of the Edmonton Metropolitan Growth Plan it has shepherded for 30 months, Task Force members made some last-minute revisions and, in a small ceremony, celebrated the plan's completion. Chair Roxanne Carr will present the plan to the Board September 8.

Register for September 8 Alberta Health Services Breakfast

Alberta Health Services (AHS) invites you to join them for a pre-Board meeting networking breakfast featuring Deb Gordon, Vice President & Chief Health Operations Officer and Dr David Mador, Vice President & Medical Director who will bring AHS updates.

Date: Thursday, September 8, 2016

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Location: St. Michael Room, Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Centre, 11727 Kingsway

**Please send your RSVP by September 2 to Elizabeth Grierson at:
elizabeth.grierson@ahs.ca**

September Board Highlights:

- Consideration of Country Residential parameters as recommended by Growth Plan Update Task Force
- The final draft of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan will be presented as a Notice of Motion for approval at the October Board meeting.
- REF Process Update
- Advocacy & Monitoring Committee will report on meeting with Minister of Municipal Affairs and present overview of fall advocacy plan

Up and Coming

September 24 - Bon Accord Dark Sky Community EQUINOX 2016, featuring Col. Chris Hadfield