

PRESS RELEASE
COUNTY ABANDONS TALKS
ON CRITICAL ICF NEGOTIATIONS WITH TOWN

TOWN OF MAYERTHORPE
P.O. Box 420
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- ✓ Government of Alberta mandated process
- ✓ Town ratepayers bear the burden
- ✓ County's fundamental responsibility

Mayerthorpe, Alberta, February 26, 2021 – The Government of Alberta mandated Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs) on October 26, 2017 for the purpose of fostering cooperation between neighboring municipalities. The key areas of focus are transportation, water/wastewater, solid waste, emergency services, recreation and any other services that benefit residents in more than one of the municipalities who are party to the ICF.

The legislation specifically mentions cost-sharing to ensure municipalities contribute adequately to facilities and services that benefit their residents, including those supplied by another municipality. Although not rooted in finances, out of necessity, these ICF negotiations must include discussions about the dollars and cents.

In addition, the legislation states that efficiencies must be sought through integrated strategic planning and delivery of services and that thoughtful stewardship of scarce resources be at the forefront of the conversations.

'I'm disappointed in this turn of events. The Town's ICF Committee members were determined to remain optimistic during often tense talks with the County. In an effort to foster a productive relationship with our County colleagues, we embraced the process, even though we knew it wasn't going to be easy.' – Mayor Janet Jabush

Users from around the region enjoy the services and facilities available in the Town of Mayerthorpe. The burden of funding these public services has long been disproportionately borne by the Town's ratepayers. Securing a more equitable arrangement was the goal of the Town's ICF Committee members, current Council, and previous Councils.

From the outset, the Town of Mayerthorpe has provided consistent, factual data to Lac Ste. Anne County in support of its position. Using modelling developed by Stantec and vetted by both the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), the Town has proposed that the County fairly contribute to the facilities and services their ratepayers enjoy in the Town of Mayerthorpe.

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The distinct differences between the Town of Mayerthorpe and other municipalities within the County's borders must be recognized. Not all municipalities offer the same access to facilities and services nor do they bear the cost of operating those amenities.

Mayor Jabush states, "After years of enjoying services and facilities within the Town, the County is being asked to contribute proportionally to its usership. This is all about responsibility. We need a more equitable arrangement."

The Town of Mayerthorpe will continue to act professionally and in the best interests of its citizens. It is unfortunate the mediation process failed. It leaves the parties with no choice but a costly arbitration process.

Relying on processes established by the Government of Alberta, the Town will participate in good faith throughout the arbitration process in pursuit of a fair and equitable arrangement for the citizens of our community.

