



Strategic Priorities (2014-2017)

Summary Document





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Introduction

Every four years, as a new Council is elected, the County of Grande Prairie develops a new strategic plan and priorities that provide the roadmap and direction of what the County needs to achieve for the next four-year period and beyond. The plan and priorities build on the work done by previous councils and administrations and involve stakeholders throughout the County.

The Strategic Priorities (2014 - 2017): Summary Document is intended to provide any interested persons or organizations a brief overview of the County's vision, values and strategic themes.



VISION

The County of Grande Prairie No. 1 focuses on people, their quality of life and diversity of opportunity while enabling success through cooperation and progressive leadership.

VALUES

We believe that at the centre of everything that we do are the people that we serve.

We believe that our primary purpose is to provide quality of life in safe, viable communities and recognize that this is best done through good, progressive and responsive municipal governance; effective, professional Administration; quality, affordable services and infrastructure; and, lifestyle choice.

We value clean air, clean water, our natural environment, our open spaces and our agricultural heritage and recognize that we must balance our duty to be good stewards of all these assets, with our responsibility to manage growth in our community.

We value fiscal responsibility and good financial management.

We recognize that we as a municipality do not and cannot exist in isolation of our neighbour municipalities and believe that a key to our success lies in ongoing communication, cooperation and collaboration with them.

We also believe that ongoing communication, cooperation and collaboration extend to other orders of government, public sector agencies and the private and volunteer sectors.

We believe that our region has much to offer and that through sound planning and good policies we can create the conditions that will foster an entrepreneurial spirit and encourage sustainable agriculture, industry and other economic development and tourism pursuits as cornerstones of our prosperity now and into the future.

We hold ourselves to a high standard of conduct and are committed to acting in the best interests of the community as a whole.

Above all else, **we value** integrity in all things.



The Value of Strategic Priorities

Successful governments, really any large, complex organization, understand the risk of being consumed by the often competing demands of different interests and losing sight of what is most important. The County of Grande Prairie's Strategic Plan and Strategic Priorities are intended to avoid such a situation and provide rigour and focus to its short and long-term decisions and actions. While the Strategic Plan is the roadmap—the overall picture of where the County needs to go—the Strategic Priorities are the vehicle that points the County in the right direction and then takes it where it must go. Identifying and prioritizing the Strategic Priorities is likely the key element of the Strategic Plan.



Strategic Priorities 2014-2017 Summary

Strategic Themes

The Strategic Themes are in essence, the strategic pathways that lead to the accomplishment of the Vision.

They are:

- 1.0 – Thinking Regionally;
- 2.0 – Providing Quality Municipal Services and Infrastructure;
- 3.0 – Encouraging Community Development Across the Region;
- 4.0 – Managing Economic Development Across the County; and
- 5.0 – Promoting Environmental Stewardship.

3.0 | ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE REGION

The County has identified a number of strategic areas throughout its borders where the majority of growth and development will be directed. As growth has occurred in the area, the County has been challenged to deal with issues traditionally more urban in nature. County residents live in urban and rural communities. Urban areas are intended to be focal points for major subdivision and development activity. By concentrating growth in these areas, the County encourages the preservation of rural areas for rural based land uses. As residents have continued to locate in the County's urban areas, the County has identified the need for additional community facilities and programs, and expanded opportunities for recreation.

1.0 | THINKING REGIONALLY

The County sees itself as an active collaborator and leader in the development of the area as the regional service centre of choice. Strong cooperation is critical to achieving success as a region; to this end the County has strong relationships with all of the communities that are within its boundaries. As the area continues to develop, these relationships will become increasingly important in the context of the County's goals and vision.

2.0 | PROVIDING QUALITY MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Providing services and infrastructure is at the heart of the basic function of a municipality and is important to achieving the County's Vision. As the area continues to grow, the County will be placed under increasing demand to provide additional services and infrastructure traditionally more urban in nature. Providing these in a logical and sustainable manner is crucial to the long term success of the region.

4.0 | MANAGING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE COUNTY

The County of Grande Prairie is open for business and is committed to managing growth in a manner that promotes sustainable economic development and preserves the region's quality of life and environment. The need to pursue opportunities to diversify the economy is critical to achieving the County's vision however; the County recognizes that this must be done in a sustainable manner

5.0 | PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The County of Grande Prairie is a strong supporter of promoting environmental stewardship through the research and implementation of economically viable policies. This balanced policy approach is an effective instrument for guiding development and future growth in an ecologically sustainable direction, while preserving the economic vitality within the region. The County recognizes the need to partner with adjacent municipalities and regional neighbours to develop strategies for protecting watersheds, habitats and biodiversity and to establish ecological networks that benefit the region as a whole.



Strategic Priorities (2014-2017)

If you would like to review the County of Grande Prairie, Strategic Priorities (2014–2017) chart, please visit www.countygp.ab.ca/stratplan

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