



## **News Release – For Immediate Release Tuesday, October 15, 2013**

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### **Chris King Announced as County's new Economic Development Officer**

Today, Chris King will assume the role of the County's new Economic Development Officer .

Previously, Walter Paszkowski worked for 11 years as the County's Economic Development Officer (EDO). Last spring he announced his plans of retirement and continued as the County's EDO on a contract basis until a suitable candidate was selected to take over his role. Walter will continue in a mentorship role to Chris until the end of the year to help get Chris familiarized with the County's economic development projects and initiatives to ensure the transition is smooth.

"Walter made so many contributions that have helped the County prosper and ensure its future success," says Bill Rogan, County CAO. "He will be greatly missed here at the County."

Rogan went on to state that, "we're confident that Chris will excel in this role; and will be a very valuable member of our team as he brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in economic development directly related to northern municipalities. We look forward to having him on board."

Chris comes to the County with 12 + years of directly related experience. His last role was a project director for Stewart Weir where he worked with municipalities on engineering and development projects. Prior to this, Chris served as the CAO and EDO for the Town of Beaverlodge as well as EDO for several northern municipalities.

"I am very excited to be working for a municipality with so much growth and opportunity," says Chris King, County EDO. "I know I have big shoes to fill taking over from Walter Paszkowski; however, I am up to the challenge and look forward to doing my part to ensure the continued diversity and prosperity of the County of Grande Prairie."

Chris' expertise and passion lies in local development and community based economic development, resource development, as well as municipal and regional economic development. Chris also is a Certified Professional Economic Developer (Ec. D.) and graduate of the University of Waterloo certificate program in Economic Development. He was also the past president of the Nunavut Economic Developers Association and former board member and education committee co-chair for the Economic Developers of Alberta.

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