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County announces new CAO

County of Grande Prairie Council is pleased to announce Joulia Whittleton as the new Chief Administrative Officer effective July 15.

"Recruiting a CAO is a very important task for Council as the CAO sets the tone for the organization," said Reeve Beaupre. "We were very impressed with Joulia's background and experience, which includes nearly 20 years serving rural municipalities in Alberta. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience and we know she will be a strong leader for our team at the County."

Whittleton's background includes serving nearly 15 years as a CAO and assistant CAO, most recently for Saddle Hills County. As a municipal leader, she has lead a variety of initiatives including a new senior's supportive living facility, an inter-municipal water study, rural potable water initiatives, and improved Council-community relations.

"I'm honoured to be selected by Council for this role," said Whittleton. "Bill is a well-respected leader in the municipal world and he has pretty big shoes to fill. I'm thrilled to be given the opportunity to build on the great work already established and enhance municipal services through leadership, team work, partnership, and municipal best practices. There's a great team at the County and I'm looking forward to connecting with them, the residents, and the community's leaders."

Recruitment for a CAO began in January after Bill Rogan announced his plans to retire after serving 24 years with the County of Grande Prairie.

"On behalf of County Council, I extend sincere appreciation to Bill for his service to the community," said Reeve Beaupre. "He has been an instrumental part of making the County of Grande Prairie what it is today and will be missed by staff and Council. We thank Bill for staying on with the County during the recruitment process and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement."

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