



Report

TITLE: INTERMUNICIPAL COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK - EXTENSION OF REVIEW PROCESS

Meeting: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: March 12, 2025

Background

In 2020, Flagstaff County completed Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF's) with all urban and rural municipalities as well as the towns and villages. All ICF's are to be reviewed once every five years and are up for review in 2025.

To date, Council has approved extensions with Beaver County (January 15, 2025) and the MD of Provost (September 11, 2024).

The remaining ICF's that are due for review in 2025 include:

- Counties: Camrose County, County of Paintearth, County of Stettler, MD of Wainwright
- Towns: Daysland, Killam, Hardisty and Sedgewick
- Villages: Forestburg, Alliance, Heisler and Loughheed

On April 6, 2023, the Minister of Municipal Affairs issued Ministerial Order No. 024/23 which stated:

Pursuant to Section 605(2) of the Municipal Government Act, make the following order:

The date by which a municipality must review an intermunicipal collaboration framework, as required by Section 708.32(1) of the Municipal Government Act, is amended from at least every five years to at least every seven years. (This order expires March 31, 2027)

In October 2024, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advised the following:

The Government of Alberta has informed the RMA that amendments to the Municipal Government Act (MGA) pertaining to ICFs are expected to be introduced in the spring of 2025.

As per Ministerial Order No. 024/23, which was enacted in April 2023, the standard for renegotiation of ICFs was extended from five years to seven years from the date in which initial ICFs were finalized. The ministerial order expires March 31, 2027, at which point the timeline for renegotiation will revert to five years as per s. 708.32(1) of the MGA. However, if specific renegotiation timelines are stipulated in agreements, they supersede those established by the Ministerial Order.

*Given that any changes to the legislation would affect the negotiation process and resulting agreements, **the Government of Alberta is recommending that municipalities that have ICFs with a renegotiation date falling prior to the extended negotiation timeline of spring 2027, attempt to work with their municipal neighbours to reach agreement on delaying this process until spring 2027.** This will allow municipalities a reasonable period of time to renegotiate future ICF agreements while ensuring alignment with the anticipated legislative amendments.*

The County has not received any requests from any of the remaining municipalities advising that a review is required at this time.

Alignment with the Strategic Plan

Collaboration – The County will endeavor to work collaboratively with the communities within Flagstaff County, their neighbours, local businesses, non-profit organizations and through provincial and federal programs in the delivery of programs and services.

Alternatives/Options

1. THAT Council authorize administration to execute an amendment to each of the following Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks to enable an extension of the review process to 2027:
 - Counties: Camrose County, County of Paintearth, County of Stettler, MD of Wainwright
 - Towns: Daysland, Killam, Hardisty and Sedgewick
 - Villages: Forestburg, Alliance, Heisler and Lougheed
2. THAT Council request meetings with each of its rural neighbours to review the ICFs.
3. THAT Council request meetings with each of its urban neighbours to review the ICFs.

Recommendation

THAT Council authorize administration to execute an amendment to each of the following Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks to enable an extension of the review process to 2027:

- Counties: Camrose County, County of Paintearth, County of Stettler, MD of Wainwright
- Towns: Daysland, Killam, Hardisty and Sedgewick
- Villages: Forestburg, Alliance, Heisler and Lougheed