



# Report

## TITLE: MD OF WAINWRIGHT - INTERMUNICIPAL COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK (ICF)

Meeting: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: May 6, 2026

### Background

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Attached is a letter from the Municipal District of Wainwright advising that they wish to conclude the existing Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) between our municipalities. They have authorized the termination of all ICF's under Section 708.28 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA).

MGA Section 708.28 states:

Requirements for framework

708.28(1) Municipalities that have common boundaries must create a framework with each other by April 1, 2020 unless they are members of the same growth management board.

(1.1) Subject to subsections (1.2) and (1.3), subsection (1) does not apply to municipal districts with common boundaries if they determine and agree that they do not require a framework.

(1.2) A municipal district referred to in subsection (1.1) may revoke its agreement at any time by giving written notice to the other municipal district or municipal districts, and where that notice is given, the municipal districts must comply with subsection (1) within one year from the date of the notice.

(1.3) The municipal districts referred to in subsection (1.1) must review all existing agreements between them prior to determining and agreeing that a framework is not required.

(1.4) A municipal district that under subsection (1.1) does not enter into a framework must

(a) adopt a resolution that intermunicipal services have been and will continue to be adequately provided by other means,

(b) notify the Minister of its decision not to enter into a framework by sending a copy of the resolution to the Minister, and

(c) publish, on the municipal district's website, the reasons for not having a framework.

(2) Municipalities that are members of the same growth management board may create a framework with other members of the same growth management board in respect of matters that are not addressed in a growth plan.

(3) Municipalities that do not have common boundaries may be parties to a framework.

(4) A municipality may be a party to more than one framework.

(5) Despite subsection (1), the Minister may by order exempt, on any terms and conditions the Minister considers necessary, one or more municipalities from the requirement to create a framework.

(6) For greater certainty, a municipality that is a member of a growth management board must create a framework with a municipality that is not a member of the same growth management board if they have common boundaries.

In 2020, Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks were entered into with each of our rural neighbours in accordance with the Municipal Government Act (MGA). At that time, the ICFs were required regardless of whether the pair of municipalities were parties to intermunicipal service delivery agreements.

In 2025, the MGA was amended and ICFs are now optional for rural municipalities with common boundaries. Both municipalities may agree that an ICF is not required, however prior to making the decision, the municipalities must do the following:

1. Review all existing agreements between the municipalities,
2. Adopt a resolution that intermunicipal services have been and will continue to be adequately provided by other means,
3. Notify the Minister of Municipal Affairs of the resolution, and
4. Publish the reasons for the decision on the municipality's website.

We currently have two intermunicipal agreements with the Municipal District of Wainwright as follows:

1. Mutual Aid Fire Fighting Agreement
2. Peacetime Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement

## **Alignment with the Strategic Plan**

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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**

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1. To opt out of and conclude the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework with the Municipal District of Wainwright.
2. To not opt out of the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework with the Municipal District of Wainwright.

## **Recommendation**

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THAT pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, Section 708.28, Flagstaff County determines and agrees that intermunicipal services with the Municipal District of Wainwright have been and will continue to be adequately provided by means other than an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework, and that they opt out of and conclude the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework approved by resolution March 11, 2020.