



# Municipal Area Partnership News Release

---

Carstairs • Cremona • Didsbury • Olds • Sundre • Mountain View County

---

November 6, 2009

## MAP named Minister's Outstanding Achievement Award recipient for 2009

*Inter-municipal Development Plan, Memorandum of Agreement Templates receive top recognition*

The Municipal Area Partnership (MAP) model for intermunicipal cooperation has earned high praise from its provincial peers. On Friday, November 6, representatives of each of the MAP member communities accepted the 2009 Minister's Award for Municipal Excellence - Outstanding Award at the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) Convention in Calgary.

Nominated under the Innovation category for its Inter-municipal Development Plan Template and Memorandum of Agreement Template, the MAP proposal was evaluated to be the municipal partnership that has helped to inspire action and change that has benefited local government practice in Alberta. "The review committee believes this practice demonstrates excellence and will be beneficial to the overall practice of local government in Alberta," stated Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs. "The Outstanding Achievement Award is a celebration of your efforts and contributions to the practice of local government."



The Minister's Awards, are given yearly in recognition of municipal government excellence and to promote the sharing of knowledge among municipalities. A total of 42 total submissions were received in the four categories from municipalities across Alberta in 2009

-30-

### Media inquiries may be directed to

Brian Wittal  
Chairman, Municipal Area Partnership  
Mayor, Town of Didsbury  
403-335-2030  
bwittal@didsbury.ca

Lance Colby  
Mayor, Town of Carstairs  
403-337-3341  
mayor@town.carstairs.ab.ca

Larry Steeves  
Mayor, Village of Cremona  
403-637-2873  
[ldsteves@sympatico.ca](mailto:ldsteves@sympatico.ca)

Al Kemmere  
Reeve, Mountain View County  
403-507-3345  
al.kemmere@mountainviewcounty.com

Judy Dahl  
Mayor, Town of Olds  
403-507-4802  
mayor@olds.ca

Roy Cummings  
Mayor, Town of Sundre  
403-638-3551  
san1roy@telus.net



# Backgrounder

---

## **What is the Municipal Area Partnership (MAP)?**

Founded in 2004, The Municipal Area Partnership Committee is as an advisory board to the member municipalities that will provide recommendations to each of the six participating councils for their consideration. The Committee is not intended to replace the local decision making process, rather to enhance the process relative to issues of a regional nature.

The Committee consists of Council members or designates from the Village of Cremona; the Towns of Carstairs, Didsbury, Olds and Sundre; and Mountain View County.

## **What is the Inter-municipal Development Plan Template?**

The Inter- Municipal Development Plan Template (IDP) is a formal agreement between Mountain View County and its five Urban Partners (Carstairs, Cremona, Didsbury, Olds and Sundre), which has been adopted as a Bylaw by each of the MAP Partners. The IDP template stipulates clear and consistent parameters allowing for streamlined annexation and development standards in urban and rural areas which will reduce Inter-Municipal competition.

Other key elements of the bylaw include:

- Defined fringe and referral areas that can be reviewed to identify and mitigate possible negative impacts on each municipality
- Administration and maintenance of water and wastewater services in County developments within the Urban Partner's fringe area
- Coordination of transportation systems and utility corridors
- Cooperation on economic development parameters
- Establishment of an Inter-Municipal Planning Commission structure for approval of developments in the fringe area and an Inter-Municipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board for appeals on development rulings
- A dispute resolution process
- A formal scheduled review process

## **What is the Memorandum of Agreement Template?**

The Memorandum of Agreement template (MOA) forms the basis of an agreement between each Urban Municipality and Mountain View County addressing the majority of services provided by Urban Municipalities for County residents; and providing for revenue sharing for developments in the County that are connected to Urban Municipalities' or Regional water and/or wastewater services.

Key elements of the MOA include:

- Detailed subdivision guidelines
- Measures to direct different types of development to the most appropriate venue , either rural or urban.
- Access to Urban Municipal services for County ratepayers for services such as: cemeteries, fire, library, recreation, parks and culture, water and wastewater, Family and Community Support Services.
- Cooperation on agricultural pest and weed control
- Funding agreements on recreation and library services, which increase County tax sharing from \$ 408,916 in 2006 to \$ 1,206,202 in 2011

- Indemnification of each party to the MOA
- A dispute resolution process.

### **Why was this process implemented?**

This practice was initiated because the municipalities within the Municipal Area Partnership needed to find a way to decrease their reliance on dwindling oil and gas revenues; and to create balanced, sustainable economic growth and development in a highly diverse region supported by streamlined, consistent templates for annexation, revenue and cost sharing for utilities, infrastructure and community services across five Urban Municipalities and one Rural County. In so doing, we are experiencing an unprecedented culture of collaboration that reflects regional sustainability as the collective priority. We've become ardent champions of collaboration—quite simply, it works.

### **How is this process innovative?**

The collaborative process by which both the IDP and MOA templates were arrived at is innovative as it was characterized by: an open and conciliatory approach to discussion, negotiation and planning; and an understanding and appreciation for each community's unique needs, issues and opportunities. Specifically, the willingness to set aside long held opinions and to abandon the competitive stance between the six municipalities helped encourage consideration of creative solutions, and led to the endorsement of a regional vision for long term growth and development. The MAP collaborative process has created a culture of shared success which allowed each community to grow individually under the umbrella of regional sustainability.

The ongoing collaborative administration, review and issue management - which is being achieved through the Municipal Area Partnership (MAP) and the Inter-Municipal Committee - both allow for the creation of accountable, transparent forums and processes (as included in the IDP and MOA templates) for review, analysis and continuous improvement.

### **What is the Minister's Awards for Municipal Excellence - Outstanding Achievement?**

The Outstanding Achievement award recognizes a municipality or municipal partnership that has helped to inspire action and change that has benefited local government practice in Alberta. This award, chosen by members of the review committee - which includes the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC), Local Government Administration Association, the Government Finance Officers Association, Society of Local Government Managers of Alberta and the Alberta Rural Municipal Administrators Association. - recognizes the best submission from the all other categories (Innovation, Partnership, Safe Communities and Smaller Municipality).

**Copies of the Intermunicipal Development Plan template, the Memorandum of Agreement template, and the original press release and backgrounder are available at <http://www.mountainviewcounty.com/intermunicipal>.**