



Town of Olds

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Fax: 403.556.6537***For Immediate Release*****Town of Olds Engagement Policy Garners Recognition**

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The Government of Alberta introduced the Minister's Awards for Municipal Excellence in 2002, a program to encourage municipalities to share their successes by recognizing accomplishments of municipal services in Alberta.

Each year municipalities, whether individually or in partnership with other organizations highlight practices including new and unique approaches to issues, streamlined processes for existing practices, and creative community partnerships.

The Town of Olds is being recognized for municipal engagement excellence by winning an Honourable Mention for Innovation for this year's Minister's Awards for Municipal Excellence. ***This Affects You*** is part of a public engagement policy to ensure citizen engagement is at the cornerstone of decision making that affects the community.

Prioritizing resources for effective public engagement is a newer concept for many municipalities. Town Council and administration recognized the benefits of community involvement and an engagement policy was created in 2013. This was followed by an organizational restructure in 2015 which included a community facilitation team who support community engagement initiatives.

“Grass roots involvement is key to building community. Council is pleased to provide citizens with the necessary knowledge and tools to actively engage in decisions that affect them. As elected officials, we realize the importance of the community's support, their signature and their voice.” – Mayor Judy Dahl

The Town's engagement practices have garnered international attention as well and Olds was selected from over 150 international submissions to be one of the sessions featured at the **International Association of Public Participation** conference in Denver, Colorado, September 8th.

This is the first time Olds will be featured at an IAP2 event and Olds first Minister's Municipal Excellence recognition.

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