

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release -

Central Peace Municipal Development Plans Provide Your Feedback and Help Plan for the Future

Spirit River, October 16, 2009 — To attract growth and development in the Central Peace area, the time has come to chart future directions for the Town of Spirit River, the Municipal District of Spirit River and Saddle Hills County and identify and accommodate future land use and development opportunities. To help accomplish this, these three Central Peace municipalities, with the assistance of ISL Engineering and Land Services, have initiated the preparation of Municipal Development Plans (MDP) to plan for future growth and development, and reflect community values.

“The MDP is a tool that will assist a Council in making solid land use and development decisions regarding agricultural, residential, commercial and industrial development, among others,” says project spokesperson Laurie Jackson of Saddle Hills County. “This project is vital to shaping the growth and development of each municipality for years to come.”

One of the first steps in this process is to gather the ideas and perspectives of residents on how to best manage future growth and development in these diverse communities. To gather input from their residents, Saddle Hills County and the MD of Spirit River will be conducting an MDP survey in the next couple of weeks. The survey is designed to help create a vision for the County and MD, and help develop land use and development policies by asking residents how they would like to see their municipalities grow and develop in the future. The survey will not apply to Town of Spirit River residents, as the Town has conducted its own recent community consultations regarding their vision for future growth and development.

“The public will have an integral role in the MDP project to establish a future vision for the municipalities and inspire policies that will reflect the interests and priorities of residents”, adds Jackson. “Residents of Saddle Hills County and the MD of Spirit River are encouraged to take the time to complete the survey.”

The survey will be mailed out to MD and County residents, and will also be available online on their websites or by picking up a survey at the municipal offices. The survey results and information gathered will be a key aspect in developing the draft MDP’s for each municipality.

All relevant project information will be available on the municipality’s respective websites, www.saddlehills.ab.ca, www.townofspiritriver.ca and www.mdspiritriver.ab.ca. Residents are invited to visit the websites as an alternative way to complete the survey or to request more information on the MDP project.

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