



*For immediate release*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Smoky Lake Regional Community Development Committee Update**

**Smoky Lake, AB (May 25, 2015)** – The Smoky Lake Regional Community Development Committee (RCDC) is a committee dedicated to diversifying and strengthening the economic position of the Smoky Lake Region. It is comprised of the County of Smoky Lake, Town of Smoky Lake and the Villages of Waskatenau and Vilna.

In January, the committee adopted its Strategic Priorities for the year as well as welcoming two new members to the team: 1) **Shaun Green** as the new **Community Economic Development Officer** for the Smoky Lake Region, and 2) **Angela Bilski** as the new **Legislative Assistant for Smoky Lake County**.

### **Highlights:**

#### **2015 Joint Municipal Priorities:**

- Fire Services Committee - Terms of Reference
  - Purpose and structure still being developed
- Inter-municipal Development Plan Meetings
  - Mapping changes to proposed land use districts in the four municipalities
- New Regional Website - Live
  - Promote and market the Smoky Lake Region
- Business Visitation Program
  - A program is in place to establish regular visitations (both formal and drop-in) to stay on the pulse of the business community in the region.
- Community Wellness Committee - Terms of Reference
  - Purpose and structure still being developed

#### **2015 Advocacy Priorities:**

- Highway 28
  - To upgrade and resurface Highway 28
- Evergreen Waste Management
  - To examine potential partnership between Town and County
- Highway 855
  - To complete of highway through to Atmore
- Vilna Hospital X-Ray
  - To support the Village of Vilna in regaining an X-Ray machine and service

### **2015 Economic Development Priorities:**

- Economic Development Web Presence
  - Monitor Smoky Lake Region across the web and on social media
- Economic Development Package
  - To market the region to investors, businesses and new residents

### **2015 Future Priorities include:**

- Regional Viability Study
  - Investigate the viability of the four municipalities sharing service options or regionalization (regional government)
- GIS Collaboration
  - Shared service option for collaborating around Geographical Information Services
- FCS Service Inventory - Review
  - Review all FCSS services in the region and look for opportunities to modify, cooperate or amalgamate service
- Emergency Planning - Tabletop
  - Tabletop mock disaster planning session planned for Fall 2015
- Public Works - Shared Services
  - Detailed study of Public Works and Utility services of Town and County
- Available Land Map
  - An interactive map displaying businesses and land for sale/rent in the Region.
- Realtors Forum/Tour
  - Gathering and/or Tour of Realtors/Developers to market the region
- Marketing Plan 2014-15
  - Annual plan and positioning on how to market the region
- Grow Local Business Organizations
  - Encouraging and supporting growth of existing business organizations in the communities
- Business Startup Support
  - Services to support entrepreneurship and business startup

Regular updates from the RCDC will be released. For any information on regional economic development please contact Shaun Green @ 780.271.1111 or [shaun@smokylakeregion.ca](mailto:shaun@smokylakeregion.ca)

*About the Smoky Lake Regional Community Development Committee (RCDC):*

*The Smoky Lake RCDC is composed of the municipalities of Smoky Lake County, the Town of Smoky Lake and the Villages of Waskatenau and Vilna. The committee was formally assembled in 2014 for the purpose of promoting the development of a diversified economic base in the Smoky Lake Region. The RCDC replaces the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI).*

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For more information:

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