



**TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

MEETING DATE: February 23, 2021

ORIGINATED BY: Myron Thompson, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: 2021 Minister's Award of Municipal Excellence

BACKGROUND:

Since 2002, the Annual Municipal Excellence Award has been recognizing and awarding municipalities in their successes and accomplishments in the provision of municipal services in Alberta. For the 2021 program, submissions will be accepted for five categories including Partnership, Building Economic Strength, Service Delivery Innovation, Enhancing Community Safety, and Smaller Municipalities. Appendix "A" as attached is formal correspondence received from Municipal Affairs Minister McIver inviting participation by municipalities across the province.

DISCUSSION:

This award opportunity has been discussed with Administration and it was agreed that the Town of Blackfalds does have an accomplishment worthy to be considered under the Partnership Category. In this category submissions will be evaluated on delivery of leading municipal practice involving regional co-operation.

Administration is recommending that the Eagle Builders Centre Project be our Municipality's submission. It is felt that this project is worthy of award consideration on many fronts including:

1. **Inter-municipal partnership** - The effort established through consultation and co-operation with Lacombe County through the facility needs assessment and facility design. The commitment of capital funding cost sharing for the facility as well as ongoing commitment for operational cost sharing of the complex. In addition, Lacombe County has participated in the development of site works for the facility by providing "In Kind" services to the Town.
2. **Other Orders of Government** – Provincial and Federal governments have recognized the value of the project through approval of grant funding under both the Provincial MSI Capital Grant funding program as well as the Federal Gas Tax Fund.
3. **Agencies** – Tremendous effort has been put forward in the consultation process, co-ordination and co-operation with the local Library Board, staff and Parkland Regional Library in the inclusion of a new library facility into the Eagle Builders Centre that will meet the current and future needs of a growing Community. The blending of arts/culture space and programming with that of sports and recreation activities is innovative and will assist in growing interest in the activities, services and programs provided out of the complex.

The inclusion of a newly established AJHL team to play out of the Eagle Builders Centre has also been a positive partnership through established agreements and cost sharing arrangements as well as assistance in the marketing & promotion of the Eagle Builders Centre and the Community itself.



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4. **Community Groups** – Numerous community groups were involved through the consultation process and advancement of the project. These would include school groups, sports users' groups largely through various open houses and meetings. The Dual Ice Development Society has worked and continues to work with the Town to provide consultation and assist in fund raising activities.

5. **Business** – Local business has played a pivot role in a co-general contractor role providing a large component of the structural component members at a reduced cost of other systems. Their expertise and superior product has not only reduced costs but has also reduced construction timelines. They have committed to naming rights sponsorship and as well will be providing in kind services for site work of the facility.

Administration is optimistic that this project meets the guidelines of the Municipal Award of Excellence and could be considered for an award.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

That Council directs Administration to make application to the 2021 Minister's Award of Municipal Excellence for the Eagle Builders Centre Project under the Partnership category

Attachments - Appendix "A" – Letter of invitation to participate, Municipal Affairs
Minister McIver

Approvals:

CAO Myron Thompson

Department Director/Author