



## AGENDA ITEM

2021 Minister's Awards for Municipal Excellence

Town of Blackfalds Eagle Builders Centre

March 11, 2021

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### **BACKGROUND**

Since 2002, this annual award program has encouraged municipalities to share their successes by recognizing accomplishments in the provision 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 2021 Minister's Awards for Municipal Excellence features 'Partnership' as a category. Award will be given for an innovative initiative involving a local or regional partnership that achieves results that could not have otherwise been accomplished by the municipality alone. This could involve cooperation, coordination and collaboration with other municipalities, businesses, Indigenous communities, non-profit organizations, community groups and other orders of government to achieve a specific outcome. Attached is a letter from Municipal Affairs Minister Rick McIver inviting municipalities to provide submissions for these awards.

The Town of Blackfalds will be applying under the Partnership category for the Eagle Builders Centre project and would appreciate the County providing a letter of support to accompany their application. The application deadline is March 31, 2021. Lacombe County Administration is supportive of providing this letter of support.

Attached is information provided by Town of Blackfalds Administration to their Council regarding this matter.

### **ANALYSIS**

The Town of Blackfalds application is fitting for this award in that the Eagle Builders Centre project was a collaborative initiative involving the Town and County, a number of community groups, local agencies, senior levels of government and private industry.



As Lacombe County proposes to also apply under the Partnership category for the Sylvan Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan project we effectively would be competing with the Town of Blackfalds submission. Notwithstanding, given that the Town may submit its application irrespective of the County providing a letter of support the two applications would be competing with each other nonetheless.

The CAO's from the municipalities that will be partnering on the Sylvan Lake IDP application have no concerns with Lacombe County supporting the Town of Blackfalds application.

Alternatives:

1. Agree to provide the Town of Blackfalds with a letter of support for its application (Administrative recommendation).
2. Do not provide the Town of Blackfalds with a letter of support.
3. Take other action(s) as determined by Council.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications associated with this matter.

**LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purposes of a municipality are:

- a) to provide good government,
- b) to provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of Council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the municipality, and
- c) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

The following elements of Lacombe County's Strategic Plan are relevant to this issue:

Our Vision:

"An attractive, balanced and progressive community.

Our Mission:

"Building a safe and vibrant community through leadership, innovation and the development of healthy relationships."

Key Principles:

1. "Fair and Objective in our decisions and in how we treat individuals."
2. "Accountability for our decisions and for our actions."

Service Delivery Strategic Priority "B":

"Maintain effective cooperation and collaboration with neighbouring urban and rural municipalities."

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Lacombe County sees the value in engaging and informing the public/stakeholders through a variety of mediums as outlined in the *Policy AD(40): Public Participation Policy*. The appropriate level of engagement for each public participation opportunity is selected on a project-to-project basis.

For this item, the following engagement will take place:

- *Inform:* To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions

Highlights of all County Council meetings are published on the County Website and in the County News.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the following resolution:

That Lacombe County provide the Town of Blackfalds with a letter of support for their Minister's Awards for Municipal Excellence application for the Eagle Builders Centre project under the Partnership category.

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**PREPARED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager**

**REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager**

