

Subject: Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) with Improvement District No. 349

APPROVALS:

Annette Antoniak

Director

Chief Administrative Officer

Recommended Motion:

THAT the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework between the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and ID No. 349, as outlined in Attachment 1, be approved; and

THAT Administration be directed to notify the Minister of Municipal Affairs before April 1, 2020, that the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework with ID No. 349 has been completed in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*, Section 708.33 (4).

Summary:

On April 1, 2018, changes to the *Municipal Government Act* came into effect, requiring two or more neighbouring municipalities to develop and adopt an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) and create an Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP).

An Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) has been developed with neighbouring municipality ID No. 349 for Council approval by resolution (Attachment 1).

On February 12, 2019, the Municipality was exempted by "letter approval" of the Minister of Municipal Affairs from the requirement to prepare an IDP.

Background:

The *Municipal Government Act* requires two or more neighbouring municipalities to develop and adopt an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) and create an Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP).

Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF)

The purpose of the ICF is to promote a more integrated and strategic approach to intermunicipal land-use planning, service delivery and funding. The ICF is a tool to facilitate cooperation between neighbouring municipalities with a view to providing essential services to residents. The ICF addresses services that benefit residents in

more than one of the neighbouring municipalities, for example, transportation, water and wastewater, solid waste, emergency services, and recreation.

There is no standard format for an ICF document, only that the ICF meets the requirements set out in the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA).

Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP)

Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDPs) are statutory land-use plans, prepared by two or more municipalities, for lands along their shared boundaries. Their purpose is to provide land-use and development policy direction for areas of mutual importance and interest.

However, the Province, recognizing the limited value in creating an IDP in areas where development is restricted, introduced Ministerial Order MSL: 047/18, in July 2018. The MSL enables a municipality to seek exemption from the requirement to prepare an IDP if the following conditions are met:

- The entire area along one or both sides of the common boundary is composed entirely of federal or provincial Crown land
- Both municipalities agree that an IDP is unnecessary, and both councils pass resolutions, similar in intent, declaring their mutual desire to opt out of the IDP
- Both municipalities file copies of their resolutions with the Minister

In accordance with MSL: 047/18, an exemption resolution for the IDP with ID No. 349 was passed by Council on December 11, 2018. The Assistant Deputy Minister of Municipal Services and Legislation Division, Municipal Affairs, has authority to act as council for ID No. 349 and passed a similar resolution for an IDP exemption with the RMWB on January 28, 2019. The Minister of Municipal Affairs approved the exemptions by letter confirmation on February 12, 2019.

Changes to the *Municipal Government Act* and ICF requirements

Bill 25 (*Red Tape Reduction Implementation Act, 2019*) received Royal Assent on December 5, 2019, and introduced changes to the ICF requirements of the *Municipal Government Act*, effective from January 1, 2020. These changes include:

- The requirement to list all services provided by each municipality has been removed from the ICF. Only those services that benefit the residents in more than one municipality are to be addressed in the ICF Agreement.
- ICFs can be adopted either by bylaw or resolution.
- The Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) is no longer a required component of the ICF.

- Copies of the ICF Agreement no longer need be filed with the Minister. However, the Minister must be notified when the ICF is completed.
- The *Arbitration Act* now applies to the arbitration element of the dispute process of the ICF, except as modified by the MGA.

Discussions with ID No. 349

ID No. 349 is one of four municipalities that the Regional Municipality shares a common boundary with and where an ICF Agreement and IDP are required. The other municipalities are the MD of Opportunity No. 17, Mackenzie County, and Lac La Biche (Attachment 2).

An ICF Agreement has been prepared with ID No. 349 that complies with the recent changes to the ICF requirements of the MGA. Both municipalities agree that this ICF Agreement be adopted by resolution.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The preparation and adoption of Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) agreements between municipalities that share a common boundary is a requirement of the *Municipal Government Act* (section 708.28). The Province requires all municipalities in Alberta to prepare ICFs with their neighbouring municipalities by April 1, 2020.

Administration is therefore bringing forward an ICF agreement prepared collaboratively by mutual agreement with ID No. 349 for Council's consideration.

Strategic Priorities:

Responsible Government

Attachments:

1. ICF Agreement RMWB and ID No. 349
2. Map of ICF - IDP Neighbouring Municipalities