

**Subject: Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) Exemption with  
Lac La Biche County****APPROVALS:****Annette Antoniak**\_\_\_\_\_  
Director\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and Lac La Biche County, be exempt from completing an Intermunicipal Development Plan as required under Section 631(1) of the *Municipal Government Act* for the lands lying along the common boundaries of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and Lac La Biche County.

THAT Administration continue discussions with Lac La Biche County on the creation of an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Agreement Bylaw.

**Summary:**

Changes to the *Municipal Government Act* effective April 1, 2018, require two or more neighbouring municipalities to develop and adopt an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) and create an Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP). An ICF is intended to promote a more integrated and strategic approach to inter-municipal land use planning, service delivery and funding. An IDP is a plan that provides land use and policy direction for areas of mutual importance for the lands adjoining their boundaries.

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is working with Lac La Biche County to create an ICF, and both municipalities have agreed to apply for an exemption from the requirements of section 631 of the *Municipal Government Act* to develop an IDP. Two or more municipalities that have common boundaries composed entirely of federal or provincial land are exempted from preparing an IDP by Ministerial Order MSL: 047/18.

Council approval is requested for the proposed IDP Exemption Resolution with Lac La Biche County.

**Background:**

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

(Attachment 1).

At its meeting on December 11, 2018, Council passed motions for an ICF and an IDP Exemption Resolution, between the Regional Municipality and the MD of Opportunity, and motions for IDP exemptions with Mackenzie County and ID No. 349. At the same meeting, Council also passed the following motion:

*7. THAT Administration be directed to continue discussions with Lac La Biche County on the creation of an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Agreement Bylaw and determination of the need for an Intermunicipal Development Plan.*

Administration then engaged with Lac La Biche County and mutually agreed that the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and Lac La Biche County would each seek an IDP exemption. As the shared boundary is comprised entirely of provincially owned land, there are no areas that require the land use or policy direction that would be provided by an IDP.

Both municipalities agreed to continue discussing the ICF. Lac La Biche County confirmed that they have secured Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) funding for consulting support to prepare the necessary ICF. The ICF will be brought to Council for consideration at a later date.

#### 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.

The most significant change to Intermunicipal Development Plans is that they are no longer a required component of the ICF, and that the reporting arrangements to the province have been simplified. Municipalities, that meet the requirements of Ministerial Order MSL: 047/18 may, by mutual agreements, seek an IDP exemption but are no longer required to file copies of the council resolutions with the Minister.

#### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

The decision to seek an IDP exemption meets the conditions of Ministerial Order MSL: 047/18, that:

- The entire area along one or both sides of the common boundary are composed entirely of federal or provincial Crown land;
- Both municipalities agree that an IDP is unnecessary given the restricted development opportunities on such lands and will pass Council resolutions similar in intent declaring their mutual desire to opt out of the IDP; and
- That the Council resolution be filed with the Minister within 90 days of passing.

**Strategic Priorities:**

Responsible Government

**Attachments:**

**1. ICF/IDP Map of Municipalities**