

**Centralized Assessment Hybrid Agreements for Designated Industrial Properties****Report Purpose**

To seek approval for Administration to enter in to an agreement with the Province of Alberta to provide assessment services for provincially designated industrial properties.

**Recommendation**

THAT a multi-year agreement with the Province of Alberta for the provision of property assessment services for provincially designated industrial properties within Strathcona County be approved, and that the Chief Commissioner be authorized to enter into the agreement.

**Strategic Plan Priority Areas**

**Economy:** The proposed agreement will support the County's priority area to be a world leader in the petrochemical cluster, by retaining our autonomy over the preparation of these annual property assessments and ensuring legislative audit and equity standards are met.

**Governance:** A clear agreement between the parties, outlining the roles and responsibilities, will support a cooperative partnership with the provincial government. Well established and trusted relationships with Industry will be maintained. Continued predictable property assessments will help the County plan and budget, to assist in informed decision making.

**Social:** n/a

**Culture:** n/a

**Environment:** n/a

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** n/a

**Legislative/Legal:** Amendments to the Municipal Government Act have resulted in a centralized assessment system for Designated Industrial Property under the Provincial Assessor. The province wishes to contract with a number of municipalities to continue with the preparation of these assessments and leverage existing resources and expertise.

**Interdepartmental:** Office of the Chief Commissioner; Assessment and Tax; Legislative and Legal Services

**Summary**

Over the last two years, the Government of Alberta has signaled their intent to centralize the assessment of designated industrial properties in Alberta beginning January 1, 2018. This significant undertaking has raised concerns for Strathcona County given our diverse and important industrial assessment base.

Through Administration's participation on various provincial committees and working with both industry and other municipal representatives, Strathcona County has been able to play an integral role in this process. As the detailed work on this transition began to take shape, it became clear to all participants that the province did not have the resources to achieve the mandated timeline without the assistance of existing municipal expertise. To this end and through the signing of this agreement, Strathcona County will be able to maintain its oversight of this critical municipal asset, that being designated industrial properties, and ensure the consistent, high-quality and thorough assessment of these properties.

In addition to the above, and because Strathcona County is already providing this service, revenue generated through the agreement will offset future costs. The proposed agreement also has provisions for a one year review to ensure the process, roles & responsibilities and compensation are appropriate for the tasks.

Strathcona County legal counsel has reviewed the proposed agreement as part of this process. All parties have agreed that the one year evaluation period will provide an opportunity for review and, if necessary, amendment of the Terms and Conditions. Administration will be reporting back to Council on the performance of the agreement prior to the end of the one year period. Contract termination provisions are included in the agreement upon ninety (90) days written notice to the other party.