

Lamont County Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework**Report Purpose**

To obtain approval of the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework between Strathcona County and Lamont County.

Recommendation

THAT the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework between Strathcona County and Lamont County, as set out in Enclosure 1 of the March 23, 2021 Intergovernmental Affairs report, be approved.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Goal 2 - Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

Report

When the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) was updated in 2017 it included a requirement that municipalities develop an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) with any municipality with whom they share a border. ICFs are intended to: provide for integrated and strategic planning, delivery, and funding of intermunicipal services; allocate scarce resources efficiently in providing local services; and ensure municipalities contribute funding to services that benefit their residents. These agreements must be completed and adopted before April 1, 2021. Further changes were made to the ICF process through Bill 25, the *Red Tape Reduction Implementation Act, 2019*. These changes simplified the content of the agreements and process surrounding them.

Previously, the County was required to form an ICF with the following municipalities:

- Beaver County
- Town of Bruderheim
- Lamont County
- Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Board (EMRB) Members bordering Strathcona County

However, ICFs within a growth management board, such as the EMRB, were changed to optional in Bill 25 should one party wish to opt out. The ICFs with Beaver County, Bruderheim, and Lamont County are still required under the MGA.

The content of each ICF was also changed to include "A framework must describe the services to be provided under it that benefit residents in more than one of the municipalities that are parties to the framework." Previously a specific list of items was required to be addressed. An additional change is the option for Councils to approve the ICF agreements through resolution rather than bylaw. Through bylaw is the recommended approach.

Beaver County, Town of Bruderheim, and Lamont County ICFs

Each of the ICFs is compliant with the amended requirements in the MGA. They contain an up to date inventory of applicable intermunicipal agreements between Strathcona County and the other party.

Each member municipality must appoint a representative, or group or representatives to review the Framework, negotiate changes to the Framework, and provide recommendations to the municipality on all matters of strategic planning, delivery, and funding of intermunicipal services affecting the Member Municipalities. The CAO for each municipality is the recommended representative.

If approved, an administrative group will be established to discuss the future of the agreements.

Current ICF Status:

Municipality	ICF Status
Beaver County	Approved by Council March 2020
Town of Bruderheim	Approved by Council March 2020
Lamont County	Completed, awaiting Council approval.
EMRB Member Municipalities	ICF agreements between EMRB members have been forgone

Council and Committee History

- March 3, 2020
1. THAT the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Agreement between Strathcona County and the Town of Bruderheim, as set out in Enclosure 1 of the March 3, 2020 Intergovernmental Affairs report, be approved.
 2. THAT the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Agreement between Strathcona County and Beaver County, as set out in Enclosure 2 of the March 3, 2020 Intergovernmental Affairs report, be approved.

Other Impacts

Policy: N/A

Legislative/Legal: Section 708.28(1) of the *Municipal Government Act* provides the requirements for intermunicipal collaboration frameworks (ICFs) and requires frameworks to be in place by April 1, 2021. This section also provides the conditions, e.g. participation in a growth management board, that allow for an exemption from the ICF agreements.

Interdepartmental: A working group will be formed in accordance with the agreements to examine opportunities to engage in intermunicipal work.

Master Plan/Framework: N/A

Enclosure

1 2021 02 25 Strathcona County Lamont County ICF Final