Partnerships and Services

Through strong political and administrative leadership, Flagstaff County is committed to working with the Towns and Villages to enhance existing partnerships; actively seek new collaborative opportunities; share resources; and build on each other's expertise to provide programs and services that benefit the citizens of the "Community of communities".

- **Section 1: Ongoing services offered to the Towns and Villages**
- **Section 2: Initiatives**
- **Section 3: Miscellaneous donations**

October 28, 2013

Section 1: Ongoing Services Offered to Towns and Villages

Regional Emergency Services Coordinator: The Regional Emergency Services Coordinator assists the ten towns and villages in developing training, equipment coordination and fire prevention activities. This position is 100% funded by the County.

Peace Officer Services: Peace Officer services for regular patrols are provided to the villages of Alliance, Forestburg, Strome and Galahad, and the towns of Daysland, Hardisty, Killam and Sedgewick through a three year agreement. Traffic enforcement and limited municipal bylaws are enforced through education and enforcement.

Administrative Services: Administrative services are currently provided under contract to the villages of Galahad and Strome. Both villages are each subsidized $10,000/year for this service.

Assessment Services: Assessment services are provided to the villages of Strome and Galahad in conjunction with the administrative services.

Economic Development Coordinator: Two full time Economic Development Coordinator positions have been established. Flagstaff County is the only municipality within our region that has a formal Economic Development department. Numerous programs and services are offered to the citizens and businesses of the region focusing on sustainability and community development.

Tourism Strategy: Involvement in several tourism associations and organizations to better promote the Flagstaff Region:

> **BRAED:** Battle River Alliance for Economic Development works cooperatively and voluntarily to address community economic development issues from a regional perspective. There are 28 communities involved in BRAED, including Flagstaff County and nine towns and villages (excluding Heisler). In 2013, BRAED was funded 0.55 per capita totaling $1,784.

> **Trail of the Buffalo:** Trail of the Buffalo promotes tourism for the Trail of the Buffalo region. Lougheed, Killam, Strome, Alliance, Galahad and Flagstaff County are all members of Trail of the Buffalo.

> **Veterans Memorial Highway:** Maintain partnership with the Highway 36 Veteran's Memorial Highway Association, Paintearth Economic Development Partnership and the County of Paintearth to raise awareness of the Veteran's Memorial Highway (Hwy 36). A website designer has created a website with the project being cost shared. The County's portion was $500.

Health & Safety Officer: The Health and Safety Officer provides services to the towns and villages upon request, and at a cost recovery basis. Some of the services include:

- Provide orientation for seasonal employees of Galahad and Strome
- Instruct requested safety courses

Dust Control: The following service roads receive one application of calcium chloride free of charge:
- Fish Lake gravel road (700m) entering into the west end of the Town of Hardisty, at an approximate cost of $2,000.
- Osbourg Avenue (1180m) - elevator road south of rail line in the Village of Galahad, at an approximate cost of $4,000.
- Gravel road (1400m) parallel to railway tracks and adjacent to the grain elevators in the Village of Forestburg, at an approximate cost of $5,000.

- Range Road 164 - west boundary road (northwest of Providence Place) and Township Road 452 - north boundary road (dump road) in the Town of Daysland, at an approximate cost of $3,000.
- Gravel service road north of the grain elevators (52nd Avenue) in the Town of Killam at an approximate cost of $5,400.

Road maintenance within town/village limits: Minor road maintenance is provided to municipalities within Flagstaff County upon request. All maintenance is done at cost recovery as equipment and labor become available.

Demolition of buildings: Demolished two buildings in the Village of Strome at cost recovery.

Weed control and inspections: Weed advice and control options are provided to towns and villages at cost.

Section 2: Initiatives

Inter-Municipal Development Plans: Established Inter-Municipal Development Plans with Hardisty, Forestburg, Killam and Sedgewick. The cost to complete the plans was shared. The purpose of the IDP is to ensure that a coordinated and cooperative approach is in place for managing the use and development of lands adjacent to the municipality's boundaries within Flagstaff County. These plans are reviewed every three years.

Handi-vans: Donated $10,000 each to the Providence Place, Hardisty, Killam and Galahad handi-vans, and currently has $25,000 budgeted if needed.

U of A - Urban/Rural Interdependencies: This project looks at how and why communities work together in economic development, land use planning, and service sharing, and how this cooperation affects the well-being of the Flagstaff community. The results of the study will help the Flagstaff community facilitate long-term planning to support sustainability, growth and redevelopment. Flagstaff County funded $40,000 in 2009 towards this project.

Flagstaff Waste Management Project: The Alberta Research Council concluded a feasibility study for the Flagstaff Regional Solid Waste Management Facility. The purpose of this study was to investigate and recommend opportunities to divert waste materials from the Flagstaff Regional Solid Waste site for the intent of extending the life of the facility, and to recommend methods to produce environmentally beneficial products from a portion of annual waste volumes while expanding on recycling program initiatives. Flagstaff County funded this project in 2010 for $75,189.24.

Fire and Rescue:

Fire: A new fire agreement negotiated in 2012 between Flagstaff County and the towns and villages provides fire services to Flagstaff County. The agreement includes increased contributions for wages, and equipment, as well as continued support of training for all fire fighters as recommended in the Fire Service review completed in 2009.

- Funded 100% of the Wildland truck ($100,000) for fire suppression for the Village of Galahad in 2012.
- Funded 100% of the Wildland truck ($100,000) for the Village of Heisler and a water tanker ($200,000) for the Town of Killam in 2013.

Rescue: A renewed rescue agreement in 2013 will ensure Rescue Services will continue in Flagstaff County for another three years. The Town of Killam Fire Department operates the Rescue Unit which is utilized to respond to motor vehicle collisions, extrications, building collapse and medical

assist calls. This rescue unit was purchased in 1999 utilizing $100,426 from a Municipal Sponsorship Grant with the remaining $41,227 from a trust account. The operational funding is cost shared between the towns and villages based on equalized assessment, with the exception of Hardisty as they operate their own rescue unit.

Recreation:
The Regional Recreation Plan developed by an outside consultant was adopted in 2011. Through several enabling objectives, the plan outlines the necessary framework to determine the most economical, efficient, effective and equitable way to allocate resources within the region. As well, the plan offers guidance towards future action required to develop and maximize quality recreational opportunities inside the Flagstaff Community.

A leisure guide is distributed semi-annually throughout the region. The guide identifies leisure opportunities available within the area with the goal of publicizing facilities and programming on a regional scale as well as providing the necessary information to initiate collaboration between groups and municipalities. 3500 copies of the guide are published and delivered in both May and September.

In 2013, a Recreation Programmer was hired to maximize the use of Regional Facilities through planning, organizing, instructing, supervising and providing opportunities for citizens. The Recreation Programmer will assist community groups with running their events such as curling bonspiels, hockey tournaments, and rodeos.

Recreation funding:
Provide recreation funding through the Regional Recreation Grant Program developed in 2011. A total of $500,000 is available through the program. The Regional Recreation Grant is offered on an annual basis to municipalities, schools, and non-profit organizations throughout the Region. The grant includes funding for both capital and programming expenditures. A minimum request of $5000 is required for capital applications, while only a $500 request is needed for programming. This grant requires a matching amount of 50% by the applicant.
Also within the Regional Recreation Grant Program are the Recreation Investment Grants which are available to municipalities and non-profit organizations to apply for throughout the year. The grants are meant for smaller recreational ventures such as one-time events, clinics, or short programs. A maximum of $1,000 can be awarded to an event, program, or clinic with no matching amount required of the applicant.

Distributed $346,196 of programming funding and $64,750 of capital funding in 2013.

Cemetery Assistance Grant Program: Introduced the Cemeteries Assistance Grant Program in 2012. This grant is available to rural community groups who are operating a cemetery in the County. The purpose of this grant is to assist local groups to complete improvements and maintenance to cemeteries located within the County. Funding of $2500 every two years is available per group, dependent on budget availability. A total of $40,000 has been given out to date.

Small Business Appreciation Gala and supper: An annual supper is hosted to recognize small businesses within the County. The approximate cost of this night is $10,000 annually.

Flagstaff Regional Housing Group: Flagstaff Regional Housing Group operates two lodges within Flagstaff County; Flagstaff Lodge in Sedgewick and Big Knife Villa in Forestburg. Flagstaff County, along with the ten towns and villages within its limits, funds Flagstaff Regional Housing Group's operations through equalized assessment. In 2013, the requisition was $268,802.

Flagstaff Regional Solid Waste Management Association (FRSWMA): FRSWMA operates the Flagstaff Regional Landfill. There are eleven transfer sites, and one landfill. Urban residential pickup, farm chemical

container collection, and yard waste composting are just some of the services FRSWMA offers. Funded Flagstaff Regional Solid Waste Management $284,566 in 2013.

FRSWMA – Management Services: Management services are currently provided under contract to Flagstaff Regional Solid Waste Management Association. Key personnel are made available to assist the management team at FRSWMA to achieve the objectives for the organization.

FFCS: Fund Flagstaff Family and Community Services operations on a per capita basis, along with the ten towns and villages. Provided funding of $24,892 to FFCS in 2013, as well as provide FFCS with administration of insurance.

Libraries: Provides funding to Parkland Regional Library on a per capita basis. Provided $23,616 of funding in 2013. In addition, provide the Flagstaff County Library Support Committee $6,000 per year for three years until 2016.

Battle River Training Hub: Battle River Training Hub aims to create capacity for post secondary opportunities in the County and garner support from the Provincial Government to take a lead role in advancing these opportunities in rural Alberta. Provide financial assistance of $20,000 per year from 2008 to 2014.

Flagstaff Community Adult Learning: Provide financial assistance of $50,000 per year for 2014, 2015 and 2016 to the Flagstaff Welcoming Community Project which is aimed at strengthening the region's ability to welcome and retain newcomers.

Battle River Research Group: Provide $10,000 of funding annually. Contributed $1,000 in 2009 to bring in Eileen Froese to speak on Farm Succession, Dispute Resolution and Estate Planning. In addition to this, the County purchased a radio frequency identification tag reader and provided it to the Battle River Research Group who then made it available for the farmers to use.

STARS: Provide $20,000 per year for the period of 2013-2017. For the period of 2008-2012, provided $10,000 to STARS.

Flagstaff Food Bank: In response to health reasons, Flagstaff Food Bank needed an alternative building immediately. Flagstaff County provided the Food Bank with a facility (Killam grader shed) at no cost for the period of November 2009 to July 2010, as well as paid utilities and minor repairs during this period. In addition, allocated 100% of our Municipal Sponsorship Grant towards the building project, which is now owned by the Food Bank.

Provided the Flagstaff Food Bank with $1,200 on January 18, 2011 to go towards purchasing a new solid metal door.

Airport funding: The Hardisty and Forestburg airports are refunded their taxes each year, compensated for 50% of their operating deficits and provided an annual airport grant equivalent to the municipal portion of the taxes from each structure in the airport for 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Assumed 100% of the 2012 operational deficit for the Killam/Sedgewick Airport. In addition, ownership of the airport was transferred to Flagstaff County beginning January 1, 2013 and was renamed the airport to the Flagstaff Regional Airport. Flagstaff County is sole owner of the airport and will work cooperatively with the Iron Creek Flying Club to ensure the prosperity of the facility.

Community Resource Officer: Provide funding of $7.00/capita for 4 years for the period of 2012-2016 for a community resource officer. The community resource officer is part of the RCMP detachment however,

works closely with the schools, FFCS, other community agencies and the public, in order to prevent or reduce crime.

Parents for Fun Society: Parents for Fun is a non-profit organization established to make a family-centered, developmentally appropriate, fully accessible play space. They will provide a location for parents in Flagstaff County to spend quality time with their children and other families. The space will provide opportunities for all types of learning and developmental play. The centre will include:

- Dramatic play/dress up area
- Reading area
- Sensory activity area (rice/water table, manipulatives, etc.)
- Large Indoor play structure to encourage healthy gross motor development
- Family drop-in play time
- Parent & Tot Groups
- Space for family-focused activities and group meetings
- Family-centered programming

Provide funding of $25,000 per year for the period of 2010-2015.

Physician Recruitment: The Flagstaff Community Medical Recruitment and Retention Committee was formed in 2008 to ensure long term viability of recruitment and retention of medical professionals in the Flagstaff Community. The committee works together with the Provincial Rural Physicians Action Plan to develop strategies regarding the recruitment and retention of medical professionals within our Region.

- Fund their annual budget for 2009-2012, and continue to do so in 2013 with an annual budget of $72,000.
- Purchased a house in Killam for $271,611.11 (includes fully furnishing the home). The house is available for rent to newly recruited healthcare providers in Killam.

- In 2012, offset the costs of securing permanent rental properties throughout the region for locum physicians and nurses in the amount of $18,000/year. In addition, they approved to offset the costs of securing rental properties throughout the Region for permanent physicians that require a residence in the amount of $12,000/year.

FIRST (Flagstaff's Initiative to Relationship and Spousal Trauma Society): This society was established by members of FFCS and the Killam/Forestburg RCMP detachment to deal with domestic and other violence in the area. Purchased tickets to FIRST events, donated gifts up to $500 for silent auction items, as well as provide donations to the annual FIRST supper.

Provided $2500 for Liz Murray's presentation Homeless to Harvard in 2012.

Iron Creek Watershed Society: Iron Creek Watershed Society was created by agriculture producers in Flagstaff County who have land around the Iron Creek. Their purpose was to create awareness and execute various projects aimed at improving the health of the creek (i.e. water quality, condition of their riparian areas (banks of the creek)). Provide funding of $2,000 per year for operating expenses, as well as provides administrative assistance.

Heritage Lands Project: Heritage Collaborative was contracted to conduct a survey to document potential heritage sites within the County limits. The Flagstaff County Heritage Survey will assist in the preservation and protection of historic resources, encourage public interest in local history and encourage the further conservation and designation of local heritage resources. Funded $60,050 to complete this project.

Tank loaders: Reduces the user volume of town and village water supply by agricultural users. There are currently six tank loader facilities in Flagstaff County. In 2013, the seventh tank loader will be constructed.

Campgrounds: Provides Alliance and Hardisty campgrounds with funding of $1,500 annually in the form of a matching grant to assist with maintenance costs.

Youth Leadership Development: Since 2009, provide funding to youth to attend Alberta Community Cooperative Association Youth Program. These youth attend camp for one week where they develop leadership and public speaking skills. Some sessions they attend include topics such as community, agriculture, cooperatives, and self-esteem. The cost to send these youth to camp in 2013 was $5,600. In 2009, 2010 and 2011, provided funding for the Economic Development Coordinator to attend the ACCA Youth Camp as a core member to teach on community development.

Donated $350 towards wish list items for the ACCA Youth Program which covers items such as paper, fax machine, markers etc.

Diplomat Mine Interpretive Centre: Gravel and blading are supplied at no cost to the access road and parking lot, as well as provide administration of insurance to the Diplomat Mine Interpretive Centre.

Rural Church Sites and Cemeteries: Dust control and snow removal are provided at no cost.

Battle River Watershed: Provide funding of $.50 cents per capita to the Battle River Watershed Alliance to the Invest 50 Program for a total of $1,622 in 2013.

Nights Alive: Nights Alive is a youth initiative which will enhance the quality of life for teens in Flagstaff aged 14-17, with an emphasis on social inclusion and positive relationship building. Funding for three years for this program as follows:

- 2012 - $266,502 (Special Project Funding)
- 2013 - $184,629 (MSI Funding)
- 2014 - $172,092 (MSI Funding)

Community Bus: Purchased a 34 passenger bus to be utilized by citizens and clubs of the Flagstaff Community as affordable transportation to attend social activities/functions. The cost to purchase the bus, $181,825, was assumed by the County. The operational costs are the responsibility of the groups renting the bus.

Section 3: Miscellaneous Donations

Strome Museum: Donated hours of back sloping done for the Strome Museum in 2001. Donated two loads of asphalt mix in 2002.

Growing Alberta: Donated $1,000 to the Growing Alberta campaign in 2002.

D.A.R.E. Program: Donated $500 to the D.A.R.E. Program put on by the Killam/Forestburg RCMP in 2002.

Stress Management Seminar: Donated $500 to the stress management seminar put on by FFCS and Flagstaff Adult Learning in 2003.

County of Newell: Donated $1,000 to the barbeque for a Border Beef Rally near the Town of Coutts in 2003.

Seniors Floor Curling: Sponsored a Senior's Floor Curling trophy at a cost of $118.50.

Battle River Community Foundation: Purchased tickets for a table of ten to their annual dinner that honors citizens that have worked hard to make their community a better place to live.

Galahad Ag Society: Donated 25 meters of used culvert to the Galahad Ag Society for an approach in 2006.

Mayerthorpe Fallen Four: Donated $250 towards the Mayerthorpe Fallen Four Memorial Society in 2006.

Fish Lake Aeration Project: Donated $11,300 in 2007 to install an aeration system in Fish Lake at Hardisty.

4H Beef Achievement Show and Sale: Sponsored a pancake breakfast for the 4H Achievement Day, as well as provided an Achievement Award.

Grazing School for women: Donated $1,000/year.

Valley Ski Club: Donated $27,000 to the Valley Ski Club from 2003 to 2008.

Newlands Heritage Homestead Society: Donated $2,000 to this society in 2008 to restore a farm site to be used as an educational and agritourism site.

Killam hospital: Donated $1,000 in 2009 to go towards a special needs bed.

Libraries: Paid to send 9 members to a Ministerial Forum in 2008.

Battle River Producer Car: Donated $200,000 to the Battle River Producer Car Group in 2009 for a composite Train Grading Project which will make improvements towards doubling grain movement along the CN line that runs through our communities.

Dr. Bruce Perry seminar: Donated $5,000 to the Dr. Bruce Perry seminar put on by FFCS in 2009.

Flagstaff Regional Solid Waste Management Association: Purchased chemical container bins which are distributed at several transfer site locations.

Daysland Medical Clinic: Donated $300,000 in 2010 to the Daysland Hospital Foundation for the purpose of constructing a new medical clinic in the Town of Daysland.

Lougheed Seed Cleaning Plant: Donated $60,000 in 2010 to the Lougheed Seed Plant to purchase a color sorter.

Rural Women's Conference: Donated $250 in 2010.

Alliance Seed Cleaning Plant: Donated $60,000 in 2011 to the Alliance Seed Plant to purchase a color sorter.

Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSAA): Donated $250 for the FCSAA Power of Prevention conference that took place on November 16-18, 2011.

So You Think You Can Drive Flagstaff: Hosted lunch for 250 people in 2010 and 2011 for the "So You Think You Can Drive Flagstaff" day.

Communities in Bloom:
- Donated $500 to Sedgewick Communities in Bloom in 2007 to go towards the awards banquet and celebrations.
- Was a bronze sponsor ($250) of the Communities in Bloom Provincial Awards held in Forestburg on September 17, 2011.

Host Remote Monitoring System for Regional Water Operator's Consortium:
Host the remote monitoring system's central data base that is required for the Regional Water Operator's Consortium Project (2011) and provide:
- work space for a small workstation
- internet service and power
- 4 hours/month of IT Support (with the condition that the IT Support only be provided if the technical advice is available in house, and if contracted services are required the consortium be billed accordingly)

Brian McGaffigan: Provided financial support to Brian McGaffigan to:
- Represent the Flagstaff Community in 2011, to further our interest in community development and social sustainability to provide information to our community to support our Strategic Plan Pillar of Social Sustainability.
- Attend the National Justice Summit on Poverty and Prosperity, December 4 – 7, 2011 in Edmonton.
- Attend a one-day Rural Linkages: Intercollaborative Practice for Safe & Healthy Communities conference on September 28th, as well as financial support ($125) to attend the Alberta Rural Development Network – Creating Rural Connections Conference in Olds from October 11-13, 2012.

Forestburg Seed Cleaning Plant: Donated $60,000 in 2012 to the Forestburg Seed Plant to purchase a color sorter.

Growing Rural Tourism Conference: Sent a representative from the Flagstaff Region to attend the Growing Rural Tourism Conference in 2012.

Futures Game: Provost Entrepreneurship Club, Trail of the Buffalo, FIP - Facilitated the Community Futures game (interactive Economic Development Game).

Junior Achievement Bursaries: Gave two $500 bursaries in 2012 and 2013 to two youth from the Junior Achievement Program.

Regional Museum Group: Provides one page on the website for the museums to put all their information.

Junior Achievement Program: Flagstaff County, Battle River School Division, Central High Sedgewick Public School, Battle River Alliance for Economic Development, partnered together to bring the Junior Achievement Company Program to the Flagstaff Region. In 20 weeks, the youth participants from grades 9-12 will run a REAL business with 15 or more other students from different schools across the region.

Donated the time of three staff members to be advisors to the program, and help to facilitate and run the company; this includes the three hours a week for the program, as well as preparation time and some other

evenings and weekends, the use of the administration building and other resources to make the program run smoothly.

Family and Community Support Services of Alberta: Donated $250 to the Power of Prevention conference in Edmonton from November 16-18th, 2012.

RCMP Red Surge Ball: Donated gravel as a silent auction item to the RCMP Red Surge Ball in 2010, 2011 2012 and 2013.

ARMAA 90th Anniversary Conference: Donated $700 to the Alberta Rural Municipal Administrators Association for their 90th Anniversary Conference held on September 5-7, 2012 in Camrose.

Battle River Watershed: Donated $1,000 to the Battle River Watershed Alliance for their new educational awareness event called Rolling Down the River which took place in 2012 and 2013.

Squirt (U12) "C" Provincial Championship: Provided sponsorship of $100 to put a business card size ad in their program to host provincials in 2012.

Killam and District Health Care Foundation Fundraiser: Donated silent auction items to the fundraiser event held in Killam on June 14, 2012.

Volunteer Days: Provides two days per year per employee to volunteer in the community. In 2012, paid 25 volunteer days to staff.

Flagstaff Satellite Family Dayhome Society: Approved funding the proposal from the Flagstaff Satellite Family Dayhome Society for $50,000 in 2013 to promote dayhomes as a successful childcare option for the Flagstaff Region.

Alberta Farm Safety Centre: Donated $2,604 to the Alberta Farm Safety Centre to provide farm safety training in Flagstaff County schools in 2013.

Rolling down the River: Donated $1,000 to the Battle River Watershed's "2013 Rolling Down the River Event".

Golden Prairie 4H Club: Donated $250 to the Golden Prairie 4H Club to participate in the Inter-Provincial Youth Exchange Program with PEI in 2013. This donation goes towards hosting the PEI youth and covering their travel and accommodation costs while showing Alberta's landscape and heritage.

Alberta Council on Aging: Donated 50 tote bags with goodies such as Kleenex, golf tees and hand sanitizer to the Alberta Council on Aging held in Daysland on June 11, 2013.

Daysland Golf Course: Resolution: Donated 16 tonnes of gravel to the Daysland Golf Course in 2013.

Educational Scholarships: Gave out $43,000 worth of educational and athletic scholarships in 2012 and $50,000 in 2013.

Friends of the Battle River Railway: Donated $10,000 to the Friends of the Battle River Railway to help them with their tourism efforts.