

PROVINCIAL LAND-USE FRAMEWORK REQUIREMENTS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

What is the Land-use Framework?

The Land-use Framework (LuF) is the provincial land-use strategy created to respond to the rapid growth and development pressures on Alberta's land base. A principal means of implementing the LuF will be through the development of seven regional plans that will cover the entire province. These regional plans will integrate provincial policies at the regional level and provide a clear context for land use decision-making by municipalities, provincial departments, boards, and agencies.

How will the Land-use Framework impact municipalities?

Municipalities will be expected to ensure their decisions align with regional plans, and to amend existing municipal development plans, area structure plans, land-use bylaws, policies and procedures where necessary. Regional plans will be mandated through new legislation that will include a number of consequential amendments to the *Municipal Government Act* and other pertinent provincial acts.

What will regional plans contain?

Regional plans will focus on issues that are regional in scope. The Land-use Framework sets out an approach to manage public and private lands and natural resources to achieve Alberta's long-term economic, environmental and social goals. Of particular interest to municipalities is key strategy number five, which promotes the efficient use of land to reduce the footprint of human activities on Alberta's landscape. This strategy includes minimizing land that is taken from an undeveloped state for settlement, encouraging higher density, supporting development where infrastructure exists, and reducing the frequency and length of travel for business and pleasure.

How will regional plans be prepared?

The Land-use Secretariat, a provincial body, will lead the preparation of the regional plans. A Regional Advisory Council representing the range of perspectives and experience in the region will be appointed by the government to advise on the development of each regional plan. The Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties and the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association will both have a representative on each Regional Advisory Council.

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Public consultation will be conducted in every region to afford opportunity for public input in developing the plan. Regional plans will be approved by the Government of Alberta.

How will municipalities be consulted during the preparation of regional plans?

The LuF recognizes that municipalities will play a major role in implementing the policies in the regional plans. Municipal Affairs will play a key role in designing a complimentary consultation process, unique to each region, for engaging with Alberta municipalities. The results of this consultation will inform the Regional Advisory Council and the Land-use Secretariat, which will draft the regional plan.

How will Municipal Affairs support municipalities?

Municipalities can expect to receive continued advisory support during the preparation of regional plans, information on the process for compliance including how to determine compliance with the final approved regional plans, and support where necessary to implement changes that may be required as a result of the regional plans.

To download a copy of the Land-use Framework visit their website at www.landuse.alberta.ca

For further information regarding this bulletin, please contact the Planning and Dispute Resolution Unit. For toll free access, call 310-0000, then 780-427-2225.