FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL ENDORSEMENT OF MUNICIPALITY DECISION MAKING

WHEREAS the constitution outlines Canada's system of government and the civil rights of all Canadian citizens and those in Canada;

WHEREAS federal Parliament and provincial Legislature division of powers are delineated by Canada's constitution;

WHEREAS the Parliament of Canada and Legislature of the Province's establish enactments to direct governmental authority;

WHEREAS a municipality in Alberta is established under the provinces Municipal Government Act;

WHEREAS the purpose of a municipality under section 3 of the Municipal Government Act is to provide good government, services, facilities or other things to develop and maintain safe and viable communities;

WHEREAS section 617 of the Municipal Government Act makes municipalities responsible for land use planning and achieving the orderly, economical and beneficial development and use of land;

WHEREAS federal and provincial enactments include decision making authority that can and have superseded municipality authority and allowed local development to proceed that were not desired or supported by the municipality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta, and other provinces be requested to endorse municipality decision making by amending and creating enactments that consider and support the powers, duties and functions of a municipality.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Parkland County has encountered some situations where federal or provincial enactments have not considered or supported the desire of the municipality regarding the development or use of land. In these situations the development or use of land was allowed to proceed in spite of the municipality not desiring or supporting the development or use of land.

Two examples of development and use of land being allowed in spite of Parkland County's opposition are a dry land fill continuing to operate without a municipality development permit in order to fulfil a provincially approved reclamation plan, and the construction of an aerodrome without consultation or consideration of the municipality and community impacts. These situations have left Parkland County with these questions and concerns:

- Municipal responsibility for public safety and emergency response
- Environmental impacts
- Impact on land values
- Accelerated community growth
- Province of Alberta's Land Use Framework
- Setbacks and proximity of development to occupied buildings
- Parity with other governments in having concerns for resident safety addressed

In the situations described above municipality decision making can be endorsed by including municipality consultation and coordination in the decision making process of the federal and provincial enactments governing the approval of environmental reclamation plans and aerodromes. This will ensure that federal and provincial enactments will consider and support the powers, duties and functions of a municipality.