

June 24, 2025

To: Mayor and Members of Council
Parkland County
53109A Hwy 779
Parkland County, AB T7Z 1R1

RE: Letter of Support for Investment in Data Centre Development

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

On behalf of the Economic Diversification Committee, we are writing to formally express our strong support for prioritizing and investing in the attraction and support of data centre projects. As local business leaders with deep roots in this community, we believe these projects represent a transformative economic opportunity that aligns with the County's long-term vision for innovation, investment, and sustainability. By dedicating resources to enable and promote responsible data infrastructure, the County can help unlock broad, lasting benefits for current and future generations.

Why This Matters Now

At our most recent meeting, the Committee passed a motion with full consensus to submit a letter of support. Our message is clear: The business community is aligned with your efforts to welcome and enable data centre development. This endorsement is not just economic, it is generational. Data infrastructure is now essential to almost every sector from agriculture to advanced manufacturing, education to energy. These projects have the potential to bring tangible benefits to today's residents and tomorrow's entrepreneurs, farmers, and tradespeople.

Real-World Impacts

Within our own business networks, we've already seen how AI and data-driven technology, powered by infrastructure like data centres, are making a difference. At a recent meeting, one committee member shared a compelling story about a generational family cattle farm. Faced with rising costs and labour challenges, the next-generation farmer turned to AI-driven monitoring systems. These technologies now allow him to manage herd health, automate feeding, and reduce operating costs, making the farm viable again without sacrificing the family legacy.

Another example came from a local woman who operates a 1,500+ hen poultry farm using smart tech and automation. She is a single operator supplying major grocery chains while remaining in rural Parkland County. These stories highlight a broader truth: data and digital infrastructure are already supporting agriculture, small businesses, and industry here. Imagine what's possible with dedicated local data centre capacity.

Data Centres Support Our Economic Identity

As a County that blends industrial innovation with proud agricultural and rural roots, we believe data centre development is not a departure from who we are—it's an evolution of it. The benefits include:

- Stable tax revenue to support roads, schools, emergency services, and community programs
- New work for local contractors, electricians, engineers, and logistics providers
- Stronger electrical and fibre infrastructure that benefits businesses and residents alike
- An enhanced reputation as a smart, sustainable, future-ready community

With Council's leadership and the business community's backing, we can ensure that these projects are implemented in a way that enhances, not compromises, our quality of life.

Balancing Innovation with Rural Integrity

We understand that residents care deeply about how new development affects the character and livability of Parkland County. It's natural to have questions about data centres, how they'll look, how they'll sound, and how they'll fit in. These are valid concerns in any community, and we are confident that Council and Administration are applying the necessary diligence and oversight to ensure responsible development.

It's worth emphasizing that modern data centres are significantly different from the data centers of the past. Today's facilities are:

- Highly energy-efficient, with advanced cooling and noise reduction technologies
- Built to rigorous environmental standards, including water conservation and emissions controls
- Compatible with rural landscapes, often designed to be visually unobtrusive and low impact
- Compliant with health and safety regulations, and subject to review by multiple regulatory bodies at the provincial and federal levels to ensure safe development, responsible operation, and no adverse impacts to the power grid.


We trust in the County's development processes, and we encourage continued transparency and public education to ensure residents feel informed and heard as these projects proceed, with an understanding of both the safeguards in place and the tangible long-term benefits these projects can offer.

Our Offer of Continued Partnership

As the Economic Diversification Committee, we are ready to support the County's communications and engagement efforts in any way we can. We are prepared to be vocal champions of this opportunity, because we believe in it. We understand this kind of support is not only valuable locally, but increasingly strategic at the provincial level. The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) recently announced that priority for power allocation approvals will be given to projects in municipalities where local support is clearly demonstrated. Parkland County's leadership, and the backing of its business community, can make a decisive difference in advancing these projects.

Thank you again for your vision and commitment. Parkland County is moving in the right direction, and we're proud to be part of that journey with you.

Sincerely,



Kate Polkovsky

Chair, Economic Diversification Committee
Parkland County