

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

LAC STE. ANNE COUNTY AND TOWN OF MAYERTHORPE RESOLVE INTERMUNICIPAL COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

April 13, 2022 – Lac Ste. Anne County and the Town of Mayerthorpe today announced the finalization of their Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) agreement, thus concluding protracted negotiation efforts spanning several years. The parties reached terms of a five-year ICF by negotiated agreement on November 19, 2021. ICFs are provincially-mandated agreements between bordering municipalities that are intended to integrate and streamline resources.

Following many rounds of negotiation attempts, the ICF mediation talks ended in 2020 with key issues unresolved. On June 15, 2021, Minister of Municipal Affairs Ric McIver appointed an arbitrator to help resolve outstanding ICF issues between both parties. At the core of this arbitration was the *Recreation and Culture Services Agreement*. Both municipalities devoted significant time and resources to sharing evidence and information on recreation and culture issues including facility operating costs and historical recreation funding amounts. At the conclusion of this process, a financial agreement was reached that allowed the Town and County to finalize their ICF agreement and avoid a lengthy and expensive arbitration hearing.

Although the process was challenging at times, the Town and County are pleased to have resolved the terms of this agreement and are eager to move forward in a positive direction. As part of the agreed resolution, Lac Ste. Anne County will withdraw its amalgamation request.

An additional outcome of the recent arbitration was the formation of an ICF committee. The Town and County are committed to using the newly formed ICF Committee to help support a more robust approach to intermunicipal collaboration in the coming years. The first meeting of this committee is expected to occur by June 2022.

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