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## What Will the Alberta Land Use Framework Mean to My Municipality?

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The Land Use Framework, if it successfully passes in the legislature, will be rolled out in stages from 2010 to 2012. You will recognize similarities between the goals of the Land Use Framework and your Municipal Sustainability Plan (or ICSP) requirements: long term and triple bottom line sustainability- but on a provincial scale, with regional and local implications. Your MSP may have already provided the alignment with the overall provincial direction that your "context statements" will require. Municipalities' second requirement will be to amend municipal planning documents to "adopt and implement regional planning directions".

Minister Morton insists that municipal planning and decision making roles will be maintained. Additional resources and authority will assist municipalities with preservation of protected areas where appropriate and facilitate other measures that will aid in meeting or exceeding local or regional goals or standards. Existing appeal bodies will remain.

Market based tools are preferred where possible. Incentives are planned for innovative solutions which mitigate impacts or add value or capacity. Examples could be collaborative processes where heat or other waste products provide added value to another activity.

The Land use Framework seeks to preserve the viability of Alberta's land and to limit the negative impacts of human activities over time. The broad regional plan will have set "economic, environmental and social outcomes" that are appropriate for that particular region's landscape and align with the provincial direction for the Land Use Framework.

Temporary regional advisory boards will take into account the provincial public lands (60% of Alberta) as well as the private lands within the region. Sub regions may be necessary where the landscape is markedly diverse. An LUF Secretariat will provide project management, communication, policy, and information technology expertise to the provincial cabinet committee responsible for LUF implementation.

The Land Use Framework seeks first to understand the land and what its carrying capacity is in different areas and for all types of activities. People and expertise are being gathered to create a leading edge database system and provincial baseline for land, air, water, biodiversity, industrial, commercial and planning standards and perhaps other things that we may measure in the future. We are duplicating efforts and resources now in a myriad of separate regulation and monitoring systems. A common database called Geo Discovery Alberta is being developed to collect and store all kinds of information in a virtual database with standards, and provide reliable, real time layers of information for users. Sensitive information will be protected, and complementary information will be shared with appropriate users with levels of access, including the general public. "It will not be cheap to do, but there will be huge added value." Alberta's municipalities and other sectors will lead the country with access to up to date information where and when it is needed to support the best possible decisions for the future of Albertans.