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Regional Planning in Alberta

Edmonton... The *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* provides for the establishment of integrated planning regions and a regional planning process.

Contents of Regional Plans

Regional plans will contain:

- a vision for the region – the desired future of the region; and
- objectives for the region – what will be achieved at the regional level to meet the provincial outcomes of: a healthy economy supported by our land and natural resources; healthy ecosystems and environment; and people-friendly communities with ample recreational and cultural opportunities.

To respond to the unique needs and circumstances in the region, regional plans may contain:

- an overview of the region: summarizes the current state of the region, discussing key economic, environmental and social considerations and trends in land-use;
- provincial policy statements, regulations, designated authority and conflict resolution provisions as required by the Lieutenant Governor in Council to meet the vision and objectives for the region;
- policies to achieve or maintain regional objectives;
- actions and approaches that will be used to achieve the objectives;
- goals and measures related to the regional objectives;
- thresholds and indicators related to the goals or measures, plus a description of how these will be monitored; and
- sub-regional plans to respond to the needs of specific geographic areas within the region, such as metropolitan plans for the Calgary and Capital regions.

The Regional Planning Process

1. Government appoints regional advisory councils (RACs). Regional advisory council members will represent a wide range of interests, expertise and experience in each region.
2. Government provides direction on what should be considered in the regional plans, such as provincial strategies and policies on water or energy.
3. Each RAC develops advice on a vision, objectives and regional strategies to be included in the regional plan.

4. The Government of Alberta develops actions and approaches to implement the strategies, goals and measures and a monitoring and reporting plan to support the vision, objectives and strategies. Together with the advice from the RAC, these form a draft regional plan.
5. Government reviews and provides direction on the draft plan.
6. The government leads public, stakeholder and Aboriginal consultations on the draft plan.
7. The Government of Alberta considers input from the consultations and develops a final plan.
8. Government reviews and approves a final regional plan.

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