

MEDIA RELEASE

Metro Mayors Alliance Commits to Plan, Decide, and Act as one Edmonton Metro Region

(Edmonton October 3, 2016) – The Metro Mayors Alliance has signed a Memorandum of Understanding outlining a commitment to plan, decide, and act as one Edmonton Metro Region on regionally significant issues. The MOU is the first step in a process recommended by the Advisory Panel on Metro Edmonton's Future.

The Advisory Panel was appointed by the nine Mayors to provide advice on how to optimize the region in the coming decades. In its final report, *Be Ready or Be Left Behind*, the Panel recommended that Strathcona County, Sturgeon County, City of Edmonton, Leduc County, City of Leduc, City of Fort Saskatchewan, Parkland County, City of Spruce Grove, and City of St. Albert – which together represent 95 per cent of the region's population and 96 per cent of its assessment base – build regional systems in three critical areas:

- economic development;
- public transit;
- and land use and infrastructure.

According to the Panel, these three items are the primary factors investors consider when deciding where to locate new industries and major facilities, and therefore they represent the highest priority and greatest risk for the Metro Region. The MOU signed today declares the municipalities' intent to work together in these three areas.

"We've accomplished a lot as individual municipalities. By acting together on economic development, public transit, and land use and infrastructure, we can more quickly build a globally competitive Metro Region that attracts people, investment, and opportunities from across Canada and around the world," said Greg Krischke, Mayor, City of Leduc. "Signing this MOU is the all-important first step to achieving this goal."

"This is an exciting day for our region," said Roxanne Carr, Mayor, Strathcona County. "This MOU is an example of what we can achieve by working together. Obviously, a lot of work still lies ahead of us, but we have to continue moving forward on this path. The potential benefits of a Metro Region that competes together to win together are simply too great for our communities not to."

The next step, as recommended by the Advisory Panel on Metro Edmonton's Future, is the negotiation of a legally binding Master Agreement formalizing the commitment to plan, decide, and act as one region.

Owing to previous commitments, Mayor Flynn of Sturgeon County and Mayor Crouse of St. Albert were unable to attend the ceremony, but both previously signed the MOU and signaled their municipalities' intention to move forward with the Master Agreement process.

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