

September 26, 2017

The Honourable Shaye Anderson
Minister of Municipal Affairs
204 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

VIA EMAIL

Email to: minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca

Subject: Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board Regulation

Minister Anderson:

Thank you again for your Ministry's commitment to collaboration in developing the new regulation for the Edmonton Growth Management Board. While there has been much to celebrate in terms of regional collaboration of late, opportunities to improve intermunicipal relationships, planning coordination, and service-delivery to residents remains constant. Therefore, a positive framework to take advantage of such opportunities is crucial. Sturgeon County is generally supportive of the proposed Regulation that was released on September 18, 2017, as it is consistent with what the Ministry has articulated over the last several months, and generally equips the region to address said opportunities.

However, as you are aware—we would reiterate that a foundation of equitability is essential to ensure informed decision-making and that the interests of the entire region are considered. We are not confident that the proposed voting structure achieves this, and have previously suggested alternatives that we believe would establish a system of checks and balances that better enable equitability and lead to better decisions. There is still time to take advantage of this opportunity, and we urge the Ministry to reconsider such alternatives.

With respect to Board Mandate and Board Chair details, the enhanced flexibilities introduced within these sections of the Regulation will better enable the Board to manage its operations, which Sturgeon County appreciates. We also appreciate the intent to bring greater clarity to the Growth Management Board's relationship with non-members (i.e. departing CRB members with less than 5,000 population size), by suggesting the Board may develop policies to allow for the participation of non-members; and further, the recognition within Regulation that one of the outcomes of the Growth Plan is to conserve agricultural land.

Lastly, while requisitioning powers provide greater funding certainty to the Board for its operations, it is critical that as such powers are implemented, transparency and accountability for public dollars needs to be maintained. Combined with the new requirement for the Board to establish public engagement policies, we are optimistic that this will be achieved. The relationship that the Province maintains with the Board is vital—and Sturgeon County looks forward to new mechanisms at the Board to ensure municipal and provincial collaboration towards common goals—be it with respect to infrastructure planning, land-use planning, or other matters of mutual benefit. This collaboration starts with a shared commitment to funding—requisitioning powers cannot merely be a downloading of responsibility; we are confident that

the Government supports this notion, and will therefore continue to fund the Board's activities into the foreseeable future, to the level of \$2 million or more per year.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment, we wish the Ministry the best in its implementation of the Regulation, once approved.

Warm Regards,

Tom Flynn
Mayor, Sturgeon County

cc.

Mr. Colin Piquette, MLA for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater
Mr. Trevor Horne, MLA for Spruce Grove-St. Albert
Mr. Glenn van Dijken, MLA for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock
Mr. Brad Pickering, Deputy Minister
Sturgeon County Council
Peter Tarnawsky, County Commissioner-CAO
Malcolm Bruce, Capital Region Board CEO