

MYTHS VS FACTS



LAND USE BYLAW AND MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN BYLAW

There has been some misinformation with respect to the review of the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) and Municipal Development Plan (MDP) Bylaw. As a result, Beaver County would like to share some facts and myths to provide some clarity on this project.

What is Beaver County's Goal?

MYTH: Beaver County intends on limiting our agricultural and rural residents by implementing restrictions on fencing, landscaping, animals, and to adopt other municipalities' regulations.

FACT: Beaver County's goal is to strengthen and add more uses within the land use districts to aid economic development and growth within our community. The County wants to promote development of lands and ensure that land use planning regulations in the LUB/MDP are consistent with current provincial legislation.

Why update the LUB/MDP?

MYTH: That the County intends to adopt other principles or recommendations from land use documents from other municipalities.

FACT: This is a social media rumour. This project is unique to Beaver County and was approved by Council at the December 15, 2021, Regular Council Meeting. The project was delayed in 2022 due to a lack of internal resources. The County has reactivated the project and is in the early review and investigation stage. The last significant LUB/MDP review was completed in 2013. As a best practice, municipalities typically update their land use planning documents every 5 years to ensure the regulations are consistent with current provincial legislation (which are frequently updated) and to properly address current development trends, strategic planning priorities and consider available environmental and demographic information. Beaver County Council is well informed and aware of this project and will continue to be heavily involved throughout the process.

Is Beaver County a 15-Minute City?

MYTH: Beaver County is considering to become a 15-Minute City.

FACT: No. Beaver County is not exploring the 15-minute city concept. 15-minute cities are a recent social media trend and are typically undertaken by urban municipalities that can offer amenities or basic needs within a 15-minute walk or short drive from a resident's home. Beaver County is a rural municipality, and this philosophy would simply not be realistic.

Who is updating the LUB/MDP?

MYTH: There is a team outside of Alberta who is unfamiliar with the needs of our agricultural and rural residents working on our documents.

FACT: First, there is an internal project team of staff from Beaver County working in collaboration with V3 Companies of Canada Ltd. (located in Sherwood Park). Consultants like V3 are involved in projects such as this due to their specialized expertise in the field. The staff from V3 are professionally designated planners (RPP and MCIP) with an in-depth understanding of the legal, engineering, and long-term planning requirements. The LUB/MDP are one of the largest pieces of legislation the County manages. V3 (founded in 1983) has extensive knowledge and experience working with rural municipalities in Alberta such as Lac La Biche County, County of Grande Prairie, MD of Lesser Slave River, and Sturgeon County.

Does a LUB/MDP Update include Public Engagement?

MYTH: Beaver County is not going to be conducting any public engagement, and intends on passing both the LUB/MDP at a meeting under the guise of another agenda item.

FACT: Public engagement is a requirement under the *Municipal Government Act*. Once the County is at a stage where a draft of the LUB/MDP are ready, advertisements will be placed in the Beaver County Chronicle, website, and social media to notify residents of engagement sessions on the proposed changes. Multiple engagement sessions will be held in different areas of the County to ensure the majority of our residents can participate.

If you have any questions or concerns with respect to the LUB/MDP Myths vs. Facts, please do not hesitate to contact the Beaver County Development Officer at 780-663-3730 ext. 1018 or jpost@beaver.ab.ca.