



C a l g a r y

**Chamber of
Commerce**

in business together

The Calgary Chamber of Commerce is a volunteer driven, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to lead and serve the Calgary business community, valuing its diversity.

June 11, 2008

Hon. Ted Morton
Minister of Sustainable Resource Development
Legislature Office
420 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Re: Draft Land-use Framework

Dear Minister Morton:

On behalf of more than 3,200 members of the Calgary business community, I would like to commend you on the release of the Draft Land-use Framework. The Chamber appreciated the opportunity to be involved in its creation through a series of productive meetings with yourself and Assistant Deputy Minister Morris Seiferling.

As a consequence, our members were pleased to see Chamber policy recommendations integrated as priority actions including:

- The creation of a metropolitan plan for the Calgary region that takes a regional perspective to transportation, infrastructure planning and growth management, in collaboration with the Calgary Regional Partnership;
- Support for higher density infill development to make better use of existing infrastructure; and
- A transportation and utility corridors strategy that offers a long-term solution to many of the land use problems we face today by concentrating major facilities in one area, and avoids the costly and divisive hearings on utility land use issues affecting Alberta.

The Chamber is additionally heartened by the plan's overall goal "to sustain our growing economy, but balance this with Albertans' social and environmental goals." This balanced approach is supported by the Calgary business community and evident in the Chamber's 2008 Membership Issue Priority Survey where environment (land use, water, and climate change) ranked as one of the top five priorities for the first time. Our members recognize that business prosperity is predicated on environmental sustainability.



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Our members support the concept of province-wide planning and the six strategies of the framework. Strategy 1, the development of six land-use plans to cover the six major watershed regions, and Strategy 2, establishing a Land-use Secretariat and Regional Advisory Council for each region, will provide a forum to create shared planning objectives, while ensuring local decisions are consistent with regional plans that maintain the greater provincial interest.

Strategy 3, which evaluates development in terms of the impact on all projects in a region rather than a project-by-project basis, will help to ensure we do not exceed the carrying capacity of our environment, which is a key element of sustainability and a competitive advantage of Alberta. Our members are pleased to see a commitment to stringent data collection in Strategy 5, as any cumulative effects decisions should be based on sound scientific decision-making.

As you know, business prosperity is predicated upon policy and regulatory certainty, and a critical element in laying the market foundation within which business in the province can succeed. As the Draft Land-use Framework is implemented, it will provide greater clarity on land use, and reduce potential conflicts. Getting the right policy in place is a shared responsibility of industry and government. Therefore, the Chamber will continue to play an active role in the development of the Land-use Framework, and is committed to making constructive suggestions and comments, in the immediate future, and over the next four years, particularly as it relates to the Calgary metropolitan and regional plans.

In the next step of engagement with Calgary's business community, we extend an invitation for you to discuss the document in a public speaking opportunity in the fall. Please let us know, at your convenience, of both your interest in coming to speak at the Chamber, and what a range of possible dates might be. I can be reached at (403) 750-0404, or via email at: hdouglas@calgarychamber.com.

Yours truly,



Heather Douglas
President & CEO

*We appreciate
our excellent
working
relationships.*