



# Mountain View C O U N T Y

## Press release

For immediate release

### County makes changes to reduce wait times

Reorganization designed to speed up the development and approval process

**September 14, 2007- Didsbury, Alberta** – Mountain View County is changing to accommodate the demand for development across the municipality. In an effort to speed up the development and planning approval process, the former Development and Community Services Department has been split into two departments- Planning and Development; and Legislative and Community Services. The move comes after Council requested County Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Doug Plamping to review what measures could be taken to reduce development wait times.

Currently, Redesignation and Subdivision Applications received by the Planning Department are taking between 4 – 6 months to complete; Development Permits are taking around 75 days on average to approve; and Location and Building Permits are taking up to a month to issue. Plamping says the new restructuring will allow senior management to apply greater efforts to managing and supervising the planning and development processes.

Following a review of applications received, Diana Hawryluk, the County's Manager of Planning and Development, has been appointed as the Director of Planning and Development Services. Tony Martens, the County's Manager of Legislative Services, has taken on the role of Director of Legislative and Community Services. In addition to Legislative Services and Communications, Martens will also oversee FCSS, recreation and culture.

The restructuring follows the creation of an Administrative Subdivision and Development Approving Authority earlier this year, which has been successful in reducing applicant waiting times through simplifying the application process.

The County, at the recommendation of CAO Doug Plamping, will also be adding three technical positions to the Planning and Development Department to help reduce processing times on applications. The three positions, which will cost the County a total of \$185,000 per year, can be absorbed within the 2007 Budget, but will be an additional cost to the 2008 Budget.

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