

# COUNCIL REQUEST FOR DECISION

**MEETING DATE:** March 13, 2023

**SUBMITTED BY:** Mayor B. Young

**PREPARED BY:** Mayor. B. Young and B. Kelly, Strategic Advisor

**REPORT TITLE:** Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Grant

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Alberta Mid-Size Cities Mayors' Caucus (MCMC) has identified the need to better understand the significance of, and the common challenges that Alberta mid-sized cities face and, in response, has developed the Unlocking the Full Potential proposal consisting of four interlocking phases. Member municipalities are asked to provide support.

## RECOMMENDATION

That Leduc City Council endorses the Alberta Community Partnership grant application to fund the four phases of the Unlocking the Full Potential of Alberta's Midsized Cities Initiative.

## COUNCIL HISTORY

The MCMC has been around for nearly a decade and has evolved from an informal group of mid-sized municipalities coming together to share best practices to one of influence and action for the unique needs of mid-sized cities. The City of Leduc's Mayor and City Manager have participated in this group since its inception. Mayor Young sits as the vice-chair of the MCMC Executive committee who provide oversight and direction to the 24-member group.

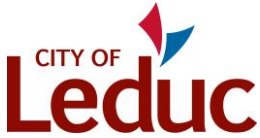
## BACKGROUND / RATIONALE

The Alberta Mid-Size Cities Mayors' Caucus (MCMC) represents 24 urban centres, nearly 35 Provincial constituencies and constitutes a total population of approximately one million people. The purpose of the Mid-sized Cities Caucus is to strengthen the significance and position of Alberta's mid-sized cities as a relevant and important voice within the province-wide framework, collaborating and strategizing to come up with creative ways to address matters that directly impact mid-sized cities and advocate for recognition of an Alberta urban agenda.

In Spring 2022, the MCMC completed a strategic planning session that focused the work of the Caucus to:

- a) Recognize the unique needs and interests of the membership and develop strategies to respond and advocate for such;
- b) Provide a forum for information and best practice sharing and developing creative solutions to issues that are of mutual interest;
- c) Advocate for the needs and interests of mid-size cities through ongoing communication with other levels of government, ABMunis and other groups/organizations; and
- d) Support the enhancement of members through networking and information sharing.

Subsequent planning identified the need to better understand the significance of, and the common challenges that Alberta mid-sized cities face. To aid in advancing this work, MCMC developed the Unlocking the Full Potential proposal consisting of the following four interconnected phases:



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1. Fiscal Sustainability
2. Economic Impact
3. Mapping the Road Ahead
4. Developing a Common Dashboard

## STRATEGIC / RELEVANT PLANS ALIGNMENT

Endorsing the Alberta Community Partnership grant application to fund the four phases of the Unlocking the Full Potential of Alberta's Midsized Cities Initiative aligns with the following goals as outlined in the City of Leduc 2023-2026 Strategic Plan:

Goal 2: A City with a Plan for the Future

Goal 3: An Economically Prosperous City and Region

Goal 4: A Collaborative Community-Builder and Regional Partner

## ORGANIZATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

### ADMINISTRATION:

Project oversight will be provided by the MCMC Executive.

### RISK ANALYSIS: FINANCIAL / LEGAL:

The funding request to the Province of Alberta is for \$400,000. Each member municipality is expected to provide in-kind support by collecting and providing data and participating in project workshops, interviews and sessions (approximately 30 hours per municipality). Project oversight will be provided by the MCMC Executive. Any associated project oversight expense will be covered by existing financial contributions from member municipalities to the MCMC.

The Unlocking the Full Potential of Alberta's Mid-sized Cities Initiative meets the criteria of the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Grant – Special Initiatives Grant. This grant has no stated maximum funding amount or specific deadline. Each grant application under this category is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and is subject to approval by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Matching municipal funds are not required.

### IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNICATIONS:

The Town of Cochrane has offered to take the lead for the grant application and the subsequent administration and will work in partnership with the MCMC to complete the study.

### ALTERNATIVES:

That Council does not endorse the Alberta Community Partnership grant application to fund the four phases of the Unlocking the Full Potential of Alberta's Midsized Cities Initiative.

## ATTACHMENTS

N/A