



## **NEWS RELEASE – STATEMENT: Lamont County Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Development Plan Adoption Tabled 60-days for Additional Public Consultation**

**March 15, 2023 – LAMONT, AB:** Lamont County Council initiated *Land Use Bylaw* (LUB) and Municipal Development Plan (MDP) updates in 2016 as part of a regular review process and public consultation periods. These updated documents were presented to Council for second and third readings at the March 14 council meeting. At that time, Council determined further public input was required to ensure public concerns were understood.

As such, Council directed a 60-day period for public input. Landowners and stakeholders are invited to provide written submissions to Lamont County Administration until end-of-day on **May 15, 2023**. These written submissions can be provided by mail, email, and/or in person to Lamont County Administration (all submissions received will be presented to Council at a future council meeting).

After the deadline, submissions will be compiled, presented to Council. At that time, Council will determine whether to proceed with incorporating amendments into the LUB/MDP; whether a further public hearing is required, or whether to proceed with the proposed LUB/MDP readings and bylaw/plan adoption.

An LUB/MDP is typically reviewed every 5-10 years to update for current trends, government requirements and other economic updates. Because the current LUB and MDP were approved in 2007, it was overdue for an update.

The review was initiated in 2016, with public consultation and open house activities completed. There was a brief pause during the recent pandemic and open house engagement sessions were renewed in summer 2022. The proposed LUB and MDP was presented by Stantec (Lamont County's consultant) to Council and the public in November 2022—this outlined limited updates to the LUB and MDP. The public was then invited to provide feedback at the public hearing before the regular council meeting on January 24.

Feedback and submissions from the Public Hearing were incorporated into the documents in preparation for second and third readings of the bylaw.

In order to alleviate concerns about coordination of MDPs around the world, concerns around limiting development and around 15-minute communities, and to ensure residents had a full opportunity to understand and express any concerns, Lamont County recognized that further engagement is necessary. At the March 14 Council Meeting, Lamont County Council received valuable feedback from the public and determined a 60-day period for additional public input.



### Next Steps:

1. Open period for public submissions (until May 15) to the attention of Lamont County Administration:
  - a. MAIL: 5303 - 50th Ave Lamont, AB T0B 2R0
  - b. EMAIL: [info@lamontcounty.ca](mailto:info@lamontcounty.ca); or
  - c. FAX: 780-895-7404.
2. At the end of the input period, Lamont County Planning and Development will compile all submissions and present to Council (likely in June 2023).
3. Council will at that time determine whether to proceed with an amended version, necessitating a further Public Hearing, to reject any proposed changes, or to proceed with the bylaws "as-is". Council can also determine whether other next steps are required.
4. Even if Council passes second and third readings and the new bylaw/plans are legislated, the public can still provide feedback, ask questions, express concerns or updates. Council can then determine appropriate next steps which could involve subsequent amendments.

NOTE: As per legislation, delegations speaking about a draft LUB and MDP are only allowed at a public hearing and not during regular council meetings. Public engagement is encouraged, and this is in place to follow mandated procedures and not to limit feedback or concerns. Correspondence can be sent to Council/Councillors and Administration at any time for review.

### Misconceptions and Additional information

There are several misconceptions related to municipal development plans and land use bylaws, including 15-minute communities, collusion by municipalities to limit expansion and growth, and efforts to limit public engagement and passing new plans and bylaws in closed doors.

### **These are not occurring as part of Lamont County's LUB and MDP plans and process.**

All decisions and updates are being made independently by Lamont County and are intended to facilitate Lamont County's Strategic Plan, to foster growth, increase development, opportunity and quality of life. The LUB/MDP process is not fast-tracked nor done behind closed doors.

Lamont County encourages all residents and stakeholders to review the current and proposed versions of the LUB and MDP to ensure interested parties have the opportunity to provide feedback and discussion. ([See the original and proposed versions here.](#))

Edits to the current MDP and LUB were made as part of regular reviews and to enable industrial, commercial, agriculture and residential growth in the region. Amendments are not intended to limit appropriate development in any way that infringes on an individual privacy. Lamont County Council is committed to considering all feedback garnered through public consultation and complying with all directions in the *Municipal Government Act*.

Council has guided Administration (and Stantec) through every step in this process to ensure these plans are appropriate for Lamont County and consider development trends, activities and to reflect policies for beneficial growth.



See the attached fact sheet (also posted at [www.lamontcounty.ca](http://www.lamontcounty.ca)) common myths and details related to land use bylaws and steps Lamont County has taken to ensure the public is continually involved in the decision-making process.

[Enclosure: Fact Sheet for LUB and MDP.]

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**Media inquiries can be directed to:**

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## Land Use Bylaw (LUB) and Municipal Development Plan (MDP) – Did You Know?

LUB and MDP are typically reviewed and updated every 5-10 years to incorporate current development trends, municipal strategic planning, and to better enable development and growth for the municipality and its residents/taxpayers.

*Consultations and Open Houses:*  
 2016, 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023  
*Public Hearing:* January 24, 2023

**Did you Know?**

- Multiple public and stakeholder engagement opportunities (communicated on the website, social media and inFocus: the Lamont Leader).
- Council has invited/encouraged feedback throughout the process.
- The current and draft versions were compiled by our consultant (Stantec) and Lamont County's Planning and Development department.
- The review process initiated in 2018 (with a pandemic pause), & follows legislative requirements.

**MYTH:** *There is a coordinated effort between municipalities and levels of government to adopt recommendations and principals into land use documents and planning?*

**FACT:** Lamont County LUB and MDP are addressed independently and NOT in cooperation with other municipalities' direction.

**MYTH:** *This is being done without public input, engagement, or consultation?*

**FACT:** Public consultation is legislated and CRUCIAL to updating these plans. Lamont County hosted open houses and public presentations (from Stantec) throughout this process and exceeded **Municipal Government Act (MGA)** requirements.

**MYTH:** *Municipalities are limiting agricultural and rural residents by implementing restrictions on farming, fencing, landscaping, animals and 15-minute communities? Why update the LUB/MDP at all?*

**FACT:** Lamont County is focused on strengthening its Land Use Bylaw so it continues to be relevant and to aid in future economic development and growth and enable Council to facilitate its (2030) strategic plan and foster growth.

**MYTH:** *All LUB/MDP across Alberta/Canada are being updated at the same time? Why update the LUB/MDP now?*

**FACT:** This is part of an ongoing review process with very limited updates. Language was strengthened and standardized to promote development of Lamont County lands and ensure that land use planning regulations are consistent with current provincial legislation.

**MYTH:** *Lamont County wants to be a 15-minute community where everything is local? There is a push to restrict travel outside of set areas?*

**FACT:** The 15-minute community is not being considered for Lamont County (by Council).

**MYTH:** *Plans for MDP/LUB are thrown together and do not follow processes or procedures. That they are directed by larger municipalities and government?*

**FACT:** Lamont County has committed significant time and resources to complete consultations, engage the public and develop LUB and MDP documents that are appropriate and relevant for its residents and stakeholders.

**When the LUB/MDP go for final readings, it is up to Council to approve or make amendments as relevant, based on what they have heard and what was presented during the legislated period for public consultation.**

The current LUB and MDP were drafted and approved in 2007; Stantec was engaged to assist with the review process.

Started in 2016 and continued after a pandemic pause. This is part of the ongoing review process.

Lamont County Council and Administration has ensured all legislative requirements are followed.

FOCUS: foster development and growth—meeting the needs of residents and industry.

Public and stakeholder feedback is received and appropriate updates incorporated into the draft versions for discussion at the Public Hearing.

The public's opportunity to be engaged and provide input is (any time) prior to the public hearing closing.

Your elected Council has guided Administration to ensure these plans are appropriate for Lamont County.

The process was extensive (**not fast-tracked**); open house public input phases were repeated.

All municipalities are required by the **Municipal Government Act** to adopt a **Land Use Bylaw** and **Municipal Development Plan**. Land Use bylaws are sometimes referred to as **Zoning Bylaws** (in other municipalities). Lamont County's planning is independent of other municipalities or government, and specific to the County.

