

# *Saskatchewan Municipal* **Best Practice**

## **Assiniboia Regional Economic Alliance**

### **CONTACT**

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### **THE PRACTICE**

The Assiniboia Regional Economic Alliance is an inter-municipal partnership of the Town of Assiniboia, Village of Limerick, R.M of Stonehenge No. 73, R.M. of Excel No. 71 and R.M. Lake of the Rivers No. 72. An agreement signed October 26, 2011 declared each of the municipality's commitment to work together and develop an economic area of excellence. The Alliance has a progressive vision to advance the needs of the region economically. The goal of the Alliance is to have the Town of Assiniboia and the rural municipalities working together in areas that support local investment and consistent decision making and policy development. In doing so, the municipalities will develop a mutual respect for one another and not the attitude that each municipality is in competition with each other.

### **THE PROCESS**

The stakeholders held an initial one day planning session. The group discussed what might be possible if an inter-municipal economic development strategic plan was developed to promote the region and the individual municipalities. They discussed why and how they would like to grow their local area economy. They also talked about priorities. By the end of the planning session they had a draft vision statement and established their economic goals and strategic initiatives. The group agreed to a draft action plan. Eventually the final Economic Development Plan was approved by the participating Councils. A Municipal Planning Review Project was also completed. A Board of Directors has been formed with two representatives from each of the municipalities and one staff member from each Town or Rural Municipality.

### **THE RESULTS**

For the first time, municipal governments in the area are working together in order to achieve an overall result – economic development for the region as a whole. The Alliance has developed a Business Development and Growth Strategy for the region based on the area's advantages. Though the municipalities are at different stages, progress is being made by the Alliance.

### **LESSONS LEARNED**

The Municipalities in this region can accomplish more when the municipalities work together. This collaborative approach is important to be development and investment ready. The members of the Alliance bring different

directions and opinions to the table, but when they share mutual respect for one another, compromise is possible and attainable. It is important to be adaptable and receptive to change.