

Best Practice

Fire Protection, Municipal Water System and Waste Management Partnership

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Project Date: 1980 (ongoing)

THE PRACTICE

The Town of La Ronge and the Northern Village of Air Ronge have had an inter-municipal fire protection service agreement since the early 1980s. The potential cost for each community to build a fire hall, purchase a fire truck, and to organize a fire department to provide fire protection to its residents made it evident that a regional system was the best way to go. Over the years, new agreements which include a municipal water system and waste management system have been put in place. A water treatment corporation agreement is currently in progress.

THE PROCESS

Because of the obvious benefits of a regional fire protection system, the Town of La Ronge and the Northern Village of Air Ronge have agreed to construct a new fire hall to service the communities into the future. The Lac La Ronge Regional Fire Protective Services Board has been established for the purpose of financing and constructing the fire hall and a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed for the provision of regional fire protection services.

Due to the success of the regional fire protection services agreement, the two communities have signed agreements in regards to water supply and sewage treatment (1998) and regional waste management (2004). Before the communities sign any regional service agreement, discussion and consultation among residents and community groups is always considered.

THE RESULTS

Because of the thorough study and planning performed before each project, we are confident that our regional efforts are more successful than the alternatives. The municipalities agree that, in a geographical area this small, regionalized services are the most effective way to manage our resources and make more economical sense than duplicating services and systems.

LESSONS LEARNED

The Town of La Ronge and the Northern Village of Air Ronge have learned that budgeting and cost-sharing can result in huge savings and increased service delivery if done properly. Our inter-municipal relationship has evolved positively to a stage where mutual respect is evident among local community leaders and provincial and federal elected officials.