

Best Practice

Strengthening Relationship between the City and the RM

CONTACT

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THE PRACTICE

A signed agreement between the City of Estevan and the RM of Estevan covering many topics of shared interest, including a boundary altering agreement.

THE PROCESS

For many years the two jurisdictions had a very confrontational relationship which was not conducive to good economic development. The two administrators felt that a signed agreement would better ensure continued cooperation in the future even if the individual stakeholders no longer held office.

The two administrators spent a significant amount of time working together on this agreement, including persuading their respective councils of the benefits a better relationship would have for each jurisdiction. The majority of consultations took place between each administrator and their respective councils.

THE RESULTS

The result was multiple signed agreements between the City of Estevan and the RM of Estevan that would guarantee a strong relationship between the two municipalities even as future council members moved on. A more collaborative approach towards economic development included sharing the expertise of a city engineer and the expertise of the RM's road building and maintenance practices.

The following agreements have been signed between the city and the RM:

- Fire Protection Agreement;
- Sanitary Landfill Site Agreement;
- Water Agreement;
- Boundary Alteration Agreement;
- Residential Development Policy;
- Commercial Parcel Sizes;
- Contributions to Recreation, Culture and Economic Development; and
- Contribution to the new Civic Auditorium.

LESSONS LEARNED

Councillors in both jurisdictions have learned that a confrontational relationship is not good for either side and it is incumbent on everyone to give and take so that a strong and healthy relationship can last into the future.