

## Overview of Approved Regional Principles

The following provides an overview of the existing principles and Council approved aspirational statements relative to the region.

### 1. Approved by Ministerial Order No. MSL: 091/18 – Interim Growth Plan, Calgary Metropolitan Region Board

#### Principle 1:

##### Promote the Integration and Efficient Use of *Regional Infrastructure*

###### Objectives:

- a. Promote the integration of land-use and infrastructure planning
- b. Optimize the use of existing infrastructure when accommodating growth
- c. Encourage higher densities, greater intensity of use, the provision of *community nodes*, and the leveraging of transit service, where applicable
- d. Protect the function of *regionally significant* mobility and transmission corridors

#### Principle 2:

##### Protect Water Quality and Promote Water *Conservation*

###### Objectives:

- a. Manage the risks to water quality, quantity, and drinking water sources in accordance with federal and provincial legislation and regulation
- b. Promote water *conservation* practices
- c. Recognize the importance of *ecological systems* within the Region
- d. Prohibit new development in the *floodway*

#### Principle 3:

##### Encourage Efficient Growth and Strong and Sustainable Communities

###### Objectives:

- a. Promote the *efficient use of land* and cost effective *development*
- b. Recognize and complement the Region's diverse community visions and desired scale of *development*
- c. Ensure *settlement areas* are planned and designed to encourage higher densities, appropriate to the local scale and content
- d. Plan for *community nodes* with a mix of uses and a range of housing types, mobility choices, including transit (where viable), and *community services and facilities*, where and as appropriate to the local scale and context
- e. Ensure the provision or coordination of *community services and facilities*

## **2. Approved by Council in 2017 through report IGA2017-0590 – The Urban Municipalities Task Force “The Regional Story”**

Everywhere in North America we see examples of failed regional planning: sprawling urban, industrial, or commercial corridors; stressed commuters caught in traffic gridlock; environmental degradation; and the loss of prime agricultural lands. Regions following this path have all learned the shortcomings of plans that are not supported by a vision of sustainable communities. Once these plans are implemented, it is nearly impossible to correct mistakes and bad decisions, as costs to do so are prohibitive.

In contrast, good regional planning accepts the reality that established boundaries between neighbouring municipalities are not walls that allow one community to act in their own interests. Instead, regional partners need to work together at local levels to collectively manage the costs and risks to the environment, to social and economic development, and the impact on neighbouring communities. In short, good neighbours cooperate. When neighbours don't cooperate, when they pursue their own self-interests without consideration and respect to others, they end up making everyone including themselves worse off. They put everyone's future, including their own, at risk.

We cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of principled regional development and planning that is inclusive and responsive to all stakeholder needs. The municipalities in the Calgary Region have one opportunity to get regional planning right. We are committed to a collaborative approach in which we join together to develop our region with a positive vision: a place for opportunity and growth with vibrant communities and towns, built in a *fiscally responsible* manner with supportive services, fair taxation, equitable funding for municipal services, and healthy distinct wilderness and agricultural areas.

Regional cooperation builds bridges between neighbours and complements existing community visions. It does not reinforce the building of walls. Regional cooperation is about leaving a legacy and preserving our heritage. It is about having a well-developed regional vision and choosing a future that honours communities, our agricultural heritage, and the environment shared by all citizens today and well into the future.

### **Key Speaking Points**

1. Regional planning must be built on a foundation of fiscally responsibility;
2. Growth for the sake of growth makes it impossible to correct planning errors;
3. One opportunity to get regional planning right;
4. Regional planning should serve needs of all stakeholders;
5. Collaborative approach to develop region and create fiscally responsible, vibrant communities, supported by fair taxation, and responding to agricultural priorities;
6. Regional planning focuses on balancing economic and social development with the protection of wilderness, natural and environmentally sensitive areas, and farmlands.

**3. Approved by Council in 2015 through report IGA2015-0863 – Principles developed to guide Administration during the development of the Provincial Regulations for the Calgary Region Growth Management Board.**

**Guiding Principles**

1. Administration will update IGA Committee and Council as the situation evolves.
2. The City supports the establishment of a mandatory growth management board and legislated metropolitan plan under the amended Municipal Government Act for the Calgary region.
3. The City supports a governance model that:
  - a. Maintains a regional decision making framework that balances membership with the region's population
  - b. Ensures one level of local government is maintained while providing avenues to address municipal decisions not aligned with the legislated metropolitan plan
  - c. Ensures transparency and accountability of board decisions
4. Membership of the new board is considered a strategically significant decision that is tied to the regional decision making framework and will be monitored as the situation emerges.
5. The City will consistently reinforce that the triple bottom line vision of regional sustainability is fundamentally important for citizens. The City supports the review and update of the 2014 Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) as timing and governance decisions are determined.
6. The mandate of the new board could have significant impact on The City and will be evaluated through cross corporate collaboration.
7. The City will continue to be regional leaders demonstrating strong diplomacy by building relationships with municipalities who have been mandated to the new board and maintaining good relationships with Calgary Regional Partnership members.
8. The City will work collaboratively with the Calgary Regional Partnership and utilize The City's relationships with the Province to advocate City interests and positions where necessary.