

For Immediate Release

May 9, 2017

Headline: *Economic Future Needs Citizen Input*

The Economic Opportunities Taskforce has retained Urban Systems Ltd. to undertake a review and analysis of the social and economic impacts expected to accrue from the potential closures of the Battle River Generating Station and Paintearth Mine. The study (Opportunities and Impact Study) will also include thoughts and recommendations for economic revitalization and transition. An important step in this effort includes a series of town hall meetings and one on one interviews organized for the week of May 15 – 18, 2017. These meetings and interviews will serve to introduce the project to the public; solicit individual thoughts on the potential impacts of pending changes; and invite and share ideas for transitioning the region forward.

The four town hall meetings have been scheduled as follows. Each is scheduled to run approximately 2 hours.

In **Castor** at the Royal Canadian Legion located on Main Street across from the Home Hardware, on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 1:30pm and at 5:30pm.

In **Forestburg** at the Multi-Purpose Recreational Facility, 4101, 49 Street located in the Industrial park area, on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 1:30pm and at 5:30pm.

The study approach facilitated by Urban Systems Ltd. under the guidance of the Economic Opportunities Taskforce emphasizes and affirms the well documented development principle that every successful transition effort is premised first and foremost on the input and participation of a broad spectrum of the public. It is important that local citizens play a meaningful role in the deliberations, discussions, decision-making and/or implementation of projects or programs affecting the community and region they live in.

While these initial consultations with local citizens and stakeholders will not be the only occasion nor opportunity for public input, they are an important beginning. Local citizens from the region are being encouraged to attend.

For further information on the Study and Town Hall meetings contact your local government offices as follows:

Town of Castor Sandi Jackson, C.A.O. Phone: 403-882-3215 Fax: 403-882-2700 email: sandi@townofcastor.ca	Village of Forestburg Ken Van Luven, Ec Dev Phone: 780-582-3668 Fax: 780-582-2233 Email: ecdev@forestburg.ca
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The Province of Alberta is working in partnership with the Government of Canada to provide employment support programs and services.