We will continue to work together to ensure that Lethbridge is a leader in environmental stewardship, innovation and active leadership. We are recognized as being safe, healthy, vibrant, prosperous, economically viable and a place where all people can fully participate in community life.
Acknowledgements

The City of Lethbridge Integrated Community Sustainability Plan/ Municipal Development Plan (ICSP/MDP) is the product of a highly collaborative three year long process that involved a broad cross-section of residents from throughout the community. Numerous stakeholders, interest groups, institutions and organizations – literally thousands of residents – contributed by volunteering their time and information as part of the Plan Your City public engagement process. This ongoing involvement and support of community members has resulted in a truly "Made in Lethbridge" Plan.

In addition to the thousands of residents that participated directly in the creation of the City of Lethbridge ICSP/MDP, a special thank you is extended to members of the Community Advisory Group who provided invaluable insight throughout the development and refinement of the Plan.

**Community Advisory Group Members**

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The City of Lethbridge ICSP/MDP has been developed in cooperation with professional planners from AECOM Canada Ltd.

AECOM (NYSE: ACM) is a global provider of professional technical and management support services to a broad range of markets, including transportation, facilities, environmental, energy, water and government. With approximately 45,000 employees around the world, AECOM is a leader in all of the key markets that it serves. AECOM provides a blend of global reach, local knowledge, innovation, and technical excellence in delivering solutions that enhance and sustain the world’s built, natural, and social environments. A Fortune 500 company, AECOM serves clients in more than 100 countries and had revenue of $6.3 billion during the 12-month period ended March 31, 2010. More information on AECOM and its services can be found at www.aecom.com.
Introduction

By the year 2050 Lethbridge will have a population of over 130,000 people. As Lethbridge is a dynamic municipality, addressing this growth presents us with an opportunity to enhance the qualities that make our community unique.

The MDP contains a Vision Statement, and identifies complementary principles and goals. Very broad policies have been written with example actions identified to give the policies more meaning to those not familiar with municipal operations. The policies will guide future decision making. The example actions are illustrative only, and are only possibilities warranting further study and recommendation.

The City of Lethbridge Integrated Community Sustainability Plan/Municipal Development Plan (ICSP/MDP) provides a framework for Council and the community to address these changes over the next 40 years. The Plan is based on a creative consensus surrounding the social, cultural, economic, built and natural environment, and governance dimensions of sustainability. It is within this framework that the hopes and ideas of Lethbridge's residents have become the basis of the policies within the Plan, resulting in a document that strategically addresses the community's immediate needs, while at the same time develops long-term goals for guiding future development. In sum, the City of Lethbridge ICSP/MDP is the embodiment of the community’s vision for the future of our City.

List of Acronyms

CAG – Community Advisory Group
CPTED – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
ICSP – Integrated Community Sustainability Plan
MDP – Municipal Development Plan
MGA – Municipal Government Act
NWC & NCo. – North Western Coal & Navigation Company
POC – Project Organizing Committee
PWG – Project Working Group
SSRP – South Saskatchewan Regional Plan
TAG – Technical Advisory Group
Glossary of Terms

**Accessible Housing** – Housing that meets the needs of households who earn less than the median income for their household size and are spending 30 per cent or more of their gross annual household income on shelter.

**Active Modes** – Modes of transportation that are non-motorized travel, primarily walking and cycling, but which also includes personal mobility devices.

**Adaptive Reuse** – The process of adapting old structures for purposes other than those initially intended.

**Adequate and Balanced Supply of Land** – A sufficient supply of land for residential and industrial purposes to meet the estimated market demand for five years – to be determined in cooperation with local building and development industries.

**Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP)** – A statutory plan as defined by the Municipal Government Act that directs the redevelopment, preservation or rehabilitation of existing lands and buildings, generally within existing areas of the City.

**Area Structure Plan (ASP)** – A statutory plan as defined by the Municipal Government Act that directs the future land use patterns, transportation and utility networks and sequence of development in new communities.

**Brownfield Sites** – An abandoned, vacant, derelict or underutilized property where past actions have resulted in contamination and where there is an active potential for redevelopment. Brownfield sites range in size from corner gas stations to former industrial sites and feedlot operations. Site restoration and soil remediation are typically necessary before redevelopment can occur.

**CANAMEX Corridor** – A transportation corridor connecting Canada, the United States and Mexico.

**Community Gardens** – Individual plots and/or common areas in which a group of people can garden.

**Compact Urban Form** – Land-use that encourages efficient use of land, walkable neighbourhoods, mixed land uses (residential, retail, workplace and institutional all within one neighbourhood), proximity to transit and reduced need for infrastructure.

**Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)** – CPTED is a pro-active crime prevention strategy that focuses on the proper design and effective use of the built environment, which can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in quality of life.

**Culture** – Culture refers to physical and intellectual development, individually and collectively.

**Example Action** – An example of a specific area for investment and/or initiative which will help bring about a desired outcome.

**Hazardous Lands** – Those lands identified as having physical or environmental hazards, including: lands within the designated flood risk area, lands with slopes over 15%, and lands characterized by extensive slumping, drainage or erosion problems. Undermined areas are potential hazard lands.

**Historic Resources** – Structures, manmade or natural sites or areas of historical, archeological, cultural and/or architectural significance to the history of Lethbridge.

**Infill Development** – Development in existing areas of the city, occurring on vacant or underutilized land, or behind or between existing development and which is compatible with the characteristics of the existing area.

**Intensification** – The development of a property, site or area at a higher density than currently exists. Intensification can be achieved through redevelopment, development of vacant/underutilized lots, the conversion of existing buildings, or through infill development in previously developed areas.

**Land Use Bylaw (LUB)** – City of Lethbridge Land Use Bylaw 4100 Adopted August 25, 1986 as Amended.

**Land Use Framework (LUF)** – Alberta’s Land Use Framework sets out the new approach for managing public and private lands and natural resources throughout the Province in order to achieve Alberta’s long-term economic, environmental and social goals. It is a blueprint designed to guide us in making decisions.
about our land and natural resources, developed after extensive consultation with Albertans.

**Low Impact Development** – An approach to land development that uses various land planning and design practices and technologies to simultaneously conserve and protect natural resource systems and reduce infrastructure costs.

**Mixed-use Development** – The development of land, a building or a structure with two or more different residential and commercial uses (e.g. residential and retail) – mixed-use development can occur vertically within a building, or horizontally on a site.

**Municipal Government Act (MGA)** – The primary Provincial legislation that governs municipalities. The MGA sets out the legislated roles and responsibilities of municipalities and municipal officials.

**Night Sky** – A set of principles that discourage light pollution so that the night sky (i.e. stars) is visible within the City.

**Open Space** – Areas of land and water that are semi-natural in composition. Such spaces include active recreation parks, schoolyards, stormwater management facilities and the Oldman River valley.

**Outcome** – The end state – what we want Lethbridge to be like in the future.

**Outline Plan** – A non-statutory plan developed within the context of an overarching ASP. These plans set out the specific locations of land uses and local road networks to support subdivision and rezoning for portions of new neighbourhoods.

**Pedestrian** – A person travelling on foot, whether walking or running.

**Personal Mobility Devices** – A small wheeled device that provides personal mobility for medical needs such as wheelchairs, motorized wheelchairs and medical scooters.

**Policies** – High-level instructions for Council to follow to progress towards a desired outcome – a principle for decision making.

**Public Art** – Artwork which is in the public realm or accessible to the general public and has aesthetic qualities.

**Public Space** – Space on public or private property within an establishment or outside an establishment that is open to the public.

**Recreational Mobility Devices** – A small wheeled device for recreational use e.g. skateboards, skates/rollerblades.

**Sense of Place** – A strong identity and character that is felt by local inhabitants and visitors. Factors that help to create a “strong sense of place” include natural and cultural features, built form and architecture, mobility to and within the place and the people who frequent that place.

**South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP)** – The SSRP is designed to integrate and achieve – not hinder – the Government of Alberta’s long-term economic, environmental and social objectives within the context of the Land Use Framework.

**Statement of Intent** – A statement clarifying how the Policies and Example Actions will work towards the realization of a specific Outcome.

**Streetscape** – All the elements that make up the physical environment of a street and define its character. This includes paving, trees and vegetation, lighting, building type, style setback, pedestrian, cycle and transit amenities, street furniture, etc.

**Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)** – A compact, mixed-use community within walking distance of a transit stop that mixes residential, retail, office, open space and public uses in a way that makes it convenient to travel on foot or by public transportation instead of by car.

**Urban Footprint** – The physical space – the land area – that the City of Lethbridge occupies.

**Urban Forest** – All the trees and associated vegetative understory in the city, including trees and shrubs intentionally planted, naturally occurring or accidentally seeded within the city limits.

**Walkable** – An environment designed to make travel on foot safe, convenient, attractive and comfortable for various ages and abilities.

*All terms within the **Glossary** will be **Highlighted Orange** the first time they appear in the Plan*
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Appendices

Appendix A - MetroQuest, Lethbridge 2050: Our Community, Our Priorities, Our Vision
Appendix B - City Circles Ideas Book
1. Planning Background

1.1 Role of the Plan

The City of Lethbridge Integrated Community Sustainability Plan/Municipal Development Plan (ICSP/MDP; the “Plan”) has been developed to provide Council and the community with a framework that will guide future development within Lethbridge over the next 40 years. Specifically, this Plan was created to:

- Encourage and promote long-term sustainability into the year 2050 through the adoption of policies that safeguard the sustainable integrity of the community
- Guide future policy regarding land use, transportation and infrastructure investment decisions within the community in a way that respects the Plan Your City Vision (see Section 5)
- Define a clear description of the City’s preferred direction with respect to infrastructure, service provision, and future development, and
- Coordinate municipal bylaws, policies, programs, and investments
1.2 Scope of the Plan

The City of Lethbridge ICSP/MDP does not include detailed analysis of the potential costs associated with the enactment of the Plan. The Plan is intended to provide policy direction for future business planning and programming. The general nature of the policies will allow the Plan to be implemented within the capacity of current operating and capital budgets. As such, the Plan is intended to re-direct how existing funds are allocated rather than create new funding demands. The Plan will be implemented over a 40 year horizon and subsequent operating and capital budget constraints are expected to influence the timing and scale of actions necessary to achieve the Vision.

In this document the City has combined the requirements of an ICSP with those of an MDP. The MDP is a statutory plan, prepared and adopted by bylaw, in accordance with Section 632 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA).

As required by the MGA, the Plan must address:

- The future land use within the municipality
- The manner of and the proposals for future development in the municipality
- The co-ordination of land use, future growth patterns and other infrastructure with adjacent municipalities if there is no intermunicipal development plan with respect to those matters in those municipalities
- The provision of the required transportation systems either generally or specifically within the municipality and in relation to adjacent municipalities
- The provision of municipal services and facilities either generally or specifically
- Policies compatible with the subdivision and development regulations to provide guidance on the type and location of land uses adjacent to sour gas facilities
- Policies respecting the provision of municipal, school or municipal and school reserves, including but not limited to the need for, amount of and allocation of those reserves and the identification of school requirements in consultation with affected school authorities, and
- Policies respecting the protection of agricultural operations

Furthermore the MDP may address other matters (such as an ICSP) as they relate to the future development of the City, including:

- Proposals for the financing and programming of municipal infrastructure
- the co-ordination of municipal programs relating to the physical, social and economic development of the municipality
- Environmental matters within the municipality
- The financial resources of the municipality
- The economic development of the municipality
- Any other matter relating to the physical, social or economic development of the municipality, and
- Statements regarding the municipality’s development constraints, including the results of any development studies and impact analysis, and goals, objectives, targets, planning policies and corporate strategies
1.3 Jurisdictional Limitations of the Plan

It is important to note the City of Lethbridge ICSP/MDP is limited in the fact that both Federal and Provincial legislative decisions, including those of Alberta’s Natural Resources Conservation Board, the Energy Resources Conservation Board, and the Alberta Utilities Commission, supersede the policies contained within this document. Provincial legislation, including the Alberta Land Stewardship Act, the Municipal Government Act, and the forthcoming South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP), establish the planning context in which the ICSP/MDP sits. In this planning hierarchy plans, bylaws and approvals that are lower in the hierarchy cannot contradict plans that are higher in the hierarchy (see Figure 1).

1.4 Current/Future City Plans and Bylaws in Relation to the Plan

The ICSP/MDP will guide decision-making in Lethbridge over the next 40 years, therefore it is important to understand the significance of the Plan in relation to other municipal plans and bylaws that currently exist or are in development at City Hall. Every major planning initiative and bylaw that has been developed, is in development, or will be developed by the City of Lethbridge will use the policies within the ICSP/MDP as a guideline in achieving long-term goals, ensuring the Plan Your City Vision is upheld (see Figure 2).
1.5 Structure of the Plan

The City of Lethbridge ICSP/MDP is structured as follows:

- The Plan identifies 19 outcomes for land use planning in Lethbridge, which reflect the Plan Your City Vision and the requirements of the Municipal Government Act.
- Each outcome contains a statement of intent, policies and example actions in order to guide Council in their progress towards the Plan Your City Vision.
- Each outcome is aligned under one of six dimensions of sustainability within Section 6.
- The implementation section (Section 7) describes how Council and City Staff will implement the policies within the ICSP/MDP, and
- Figures 10, 11 and 12 directly reflect policies within the Plan. All other figures either provide illustrations of the concepts discussed in the Plan or are provided for information purposes only.
2. Understanding Sustainability

2.1 What is Sustainability?

Sustainability is a systematic concept, inter-relating and balancing the environmental, economic, social and cultural aspects of local municipal development. Sustainability affects every level of organization from the local neighbourhood to the entire planet, and is commonly defined as:

Meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

2.2 Why is Municipal Sustainability Planning Important?

Municipal Sustainability Planning is an opportunity for communities to look long-term at the community they want to be and take the proactive steps to move there. It is an opportunity to engage citizens in a dialogue about what they value about their communities and what they want their community to look like in the future. It is an opportunity to provide an outlet for the wisdom and expertise of community members to discover innovative solutions that address social, economic, cultural and environmental challenges today while leaving a positive legacy for future generations.
2.3 What is an ICSP/MDP?

An Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) is a community-based planning document that is built upon its resident’s vision for the future of their municipality. The ICSP planning process involves in-depth public engagement in order to develop outcomes (or long-term goals) that are based upon six dimensions: economics, social needs, culture, the built and natural environments, and governance.

A Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is a community document that provides overall direction for future development within a municipality. An MDP acts as a guide for future land use, establishes development goals, and provides certainty for residents and businesses – creating a framework for decision-making over time.

The City of Lethbridge ICSP/MDP combines these planning processes in order to create a comprehensive document that will guide community development into the year 2050.

2.4 Dimensions of Sustainability

Six dimensions of sustainability have been developed that encompass all aspects of community life (see Figure 3). Each dimension of sustainability acts as a pillar upon which the fabric of a community is built. As such:

A sustainable community balances cultural, social, economic, built and natural environment, and governance dimensions to create a city that offers a high quality of life, where people desire to live, work and play.

---

1 Our Common Future, United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987
**Cultural Sustainability**
A culturally sustainable community supports the creation of a vibrant and festive environment that exudes a sense of community identity and belonging through:

- Supporting a variety of art forms and cultural expressions
- Providing opportunities for leisure, recreation, sport and other activities
- Possessing a strong sense of community heritage, and
- Fostering *Sense of Place* and community pride

**Social Sustainability**
A socially sustainable community supports the healthy development, and social wellbeing of all residents through:

- Fostering tolerance and respect for different cultures, backgrounds and beliefs
- Ensuring safe neighbourhoods and *public space*
- Supporting services that enable all residents to fully participate in community life, and
- Assisting in the provision of accessible housing

**Economic Sustainability**
An economically sustainable community actively encourages the development and diversification of the local economy through:

- Supporting a business environment that meets the needs of the community
- Attracting investment and business development opportunities, and
- Assisting in the development of a strong business community with links to the wider global economy

**Sustainable Built Environment**
A sustainable community strives to enhance and sustain a quality built environment through:

- Minimizing the *urban footprint*
- Placing a priority on pedestrian friendly mobility
- Ensuring supporting infrastructure is in place for growth, and
- Preserving and enhancing public space

**Sustainable Natural Environment**
A sustainable community strives to enhance and sustain the natural environment through:

- Enhancing green spaces and sustaining local biodiversity
- Conserving water use
- Providing opportunities to reduce and divert household waste, and
- Embracing energy conservation and adopting renewable energy technologies

**Sustainable Governance**
A sustainable community works to ensure the effective delivery of governance through:

- Engaging in comprehensive and representative municipal planning
- Building upon partnerships with neighbouring municipalities and First Nations, and
- Adopting an ethic of continuous improvement through effective delivery, monitoring and feedback at all levels
3. Public Conversation

3.1 Who Has Helped Prepare the Plan?
Simply put – you have. The Plan Your City public engagement process has involved input from hundreds of residents, each and everyone committed to Lethbridge’s future. Direct public engagement has occurred via:

- Future Scenario Exercises, facilitated by MetroQuest – March to May 2009
- City Circles Public Engagement Exercise – May to October 2009
- Policy Alternatives Open Houses – October 2009
- City Circles Ideas Fair – October 2009
- “What Does Your City Look Like in 40 Years?” Flyer – March 2010
- Home and Garden Trade Show Booth – March 2010
- City Hall Atrium Working Draft Display – March 2010
- Plan Your City Town Hall – April 2010, and
- City of Lethbridge ICSP/MDP Public Hearing – June 2010

In order to help transform all of the information gathered into policies and example actions that reflect the input of Lethbridge’s residents, four committees were formed.
Community Advisory Group
The Community Advisory Group, or CAG, was an advisory committee made-up of 25 members representing a cross-section of community interests and values with representatives from local business associations, school boards, post-secondary and government institutions, social and cultural groups, and community members-at-large. The CAG’s responsibilities included providing insight into the development and refinement of the Plan Your City Vision and policies within the Plan as well as providing outreach to the organizations they have been appointed to represent and the wider community. Whenever possible consensus was achieved when incorporating CAG input into the Plan, however for some issues CAG input was a compromise between opposing viewpoints.

Technical Advisory Group
The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was an advisory committee comprised of Senior City Staff. The TAG was responsible for providing insight from their respective business units within the City and professional advice in regards to the long-term implications and feasibility of proposed policies.

Project Organizing Committee
The Project Organizing Committee (POC) was an oversight committee comprised of Aldermanic sponsors and Senior City Staff responsible for developing the initial Plan Your City Process in conjunction with the Project Manager and providing strategic advice to the Project Working Group throughout the development of the Plan.

Project Working Group
The Project Working Group (PWG) was comprised of the Plan Your City Project Manager, key City Staff, and Planning Consultants from AECOM. The PWG was directly responsible for the implementation of the Plan Your City Process, the drafting of the Plan and the successful completion and delivery of the MDP/ICSP. Input received from the above committees was utilized by the PWG in the drafting of the Plan, as per an iterative development process.

3.2 Plan Your City Process
On September 17, 2007, Council was presented with a recommended approach to review the existing City of Lethbridge Municipal Development Plan that was originally adopted on May 8, 1995. The proposed approach set out a tentative two year work plan – now known as Plan Your City – and established some general principles to be respected throughout the Plan review.

The general principles inherent to the Plan Your City Process ensure that the City of Lethbridge ICSP/MDP will be:

- **Based on Community Values** – That is a “Made in Lethbridge Plan” based on what is important locally
- **Inclusive** – Involving all residents, businesses and other groups which comprise the community and wish to be involved
- **Built on Past Success** – Recognizing the high quality of life that is found in Lethbridge as a medium-sized city that is recognized as being innovative
- **Comprehensive** – In addressing all aspects of future life, work and play in the City
- **Transparent** – To the extent that future planning decisions and their rationale can be understood
- **Flexible** – Acknowledging that describing the future accurately can be difficult, and therefore creating policy that will allow the City to adapt to changing circumstances, and
- **Sustainable** – In terms of balancing environmental, social, cultural and economic objectives

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3 Bylaw No.4678 General Municipal Plan, May 8, 1995 (Amended to Bylaw 5478, October 1, 2007)
As illustrated in Figure 4, five phases were developed as part of the Plan Your City Process:

**Phase 0 - Background**
The purpose of the Background Phase was to conduct baseline research and develop an understanding of Lethbridge’s current reality. Tasks included:

- Forming a Community Advisory Group
- Reviewing existing plans, bylaws, studies and reports
- Establishing baseline information
- Initiating the City Circles Public Engagement Exercise

**Phase 1 - Visioning**
The purpose of the Visioning Phase was to establish a Vision for the City of Lethbridge into the year 2050. Tasks included:

- Conducting Future Scenario Exercises, with 300 workshop attendees and 900 survey respondents utilizing a computer graphics tool designed by MetroQuest
- Working with the CAG to refine the findings of the Future Scenario Exercises and create a Vision Statement, Principles and Goals
- Ratifying the preliminary Plan Your City Vision with Council on June 15, 2009

**Phase 2 - Policy Development**
The purpose of the Policy Development Phase was to solicit input from the planning committees and members of the public in order to identify policy alternatives. Tasks included:

- Working with the CAG to identify potential policies that would achieve Lethbridge’s Vision
- Hosting Policy Alternatives Open Houses
- Concluding the City Circles Public Engagement Exercise, having received submissions from 48 City Circles representing the ideas of over 500 residents
- Hosting the City Circles Ideas Fair, attended by 300 residents
- Creating the Plan Your City Ideas Book based on City Circles and Ideas Fair submissions synthesizing all community feedback into a Potential Policy Directions Document

**Phase 3 - Policy Refinement**
Tasks included:

**Phase 4 - Draft Plan**
Tasks included:
Phase 3 - Policy Refinement
The purpose of the Policy Refinement Phase was to refine the policy alternatives in order to create policy that reflects the feedback from Lethbridge’s residents while clearly outlining the direction of future decision-making in order to uphold the Plan Your City Vision. Tasks included:

- Working with the CAG to refine policy alternatives
- Creating the “What Does Your City Look Like in 40 Years?” Flyer to inform community members of potential polices developed to achieve the Plan Your City Vision
- Preparing Draft One of the ICSP/MDP

Phase 4 - Draft Plan
The purpose of the Draft Plan Phase was to re-engage Lethbridge residents in order to gain any further insight before the Plan was presented to City Council. Tasks included:

- Presenting the Draft Plan at the Home and Garden Trade Show and displaying the Draft in the City Hall Atrium for Public Feedback
- Hosting the Plan Your City Town Hall
- Working with the CAG to refine Draft One of the ICSP/MDP
- Preparing the Final Draft Plan for Council Review

SADAT City Circle
When promoting inclusiveness everyone has a role. How many of us know our neighbours and encourage the neighborhood connection - we don’t have the neighborhood support system or culture of connecting individuals within the neighborhoods. A neighborhood connector system that promotes block parties, neighborhood parties etc.

Chinook Lake, Uplands Neighbourhood
Exploring Lethbridge
4. Exploring Lethbridge

4.1 Place

**Location**
Located in the heartland of southern Alberta, Lethbridge is approximately 215 km south of Calgary and 105 km north of the Alberta-Montana crossing at Coutts/Sweetgrass. The City is situated along Highway 3, approximately 166 km west of Medicine Hat, and serves as the junction for Highways 4, 5 and 25. Lethbridge is located within the Oldman River Watershed, part of the encompassing South Saskatchewan Region of southern Alberta (see Figure 5).

Lethbridge’s proximity to the Foothills of the Rocky Mountains means that the City is within an hour’s drive to the UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Sites, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Writing On-Stone Provincial Park, and the world’s first International Peace Park and UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site - Waterton/Glacier International Peace Park.

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* The South Saskatchewan Region is a planning region within the Province of Alberta’s Land Use Framework. The forthcoming South Saskatchewan Regional Plan will conform to this region.
Climate
The nearby Rocky Mountains contribute to the City’s mild summers and winters, and windy climate. In fact Lethbridge is the second windiest City in Canada with 115.47 days with winds of 40km/h or more. Summers are typified by warm, dry, weather that is slightly cooler on average than many other southern prairie locations. Winters are normally mild, interposed regularly by warm Chinook winds.

Lethbridge is located in the semi-arid steppe region known as Palliser’s Triangle. While it is by no means the driest city in Canada (sitting in eleventh place), Lethbridge has the second most dry days, 263.24, in the Country. Before the introduction of modern irrigation methods, the Palliser’s Triangle region was determined to be unsuitable for agriculture.

4.2 Past
First Nations and Fort Whoop-up
The region in which Lethbridge is located forms part of the homeland of the Blackfoot Confederacy. The Blackfoot Confederacy comprises four nations: the “Sik-si-kah” or Blackfoot, the “Ka’nah” or Many Chiefs (now called the Bloods), the “Pi-ku’ni” or Scabby Robes (now called the Piikani), and the Blackfeet of Montana. Collectively the Confederacy was known as the “Sow-ki’tapi” or Prairie People and is known today as the “Niitsitapi” – the Original People.

In 1869, American traders John J. Healy and Alfred B. Hamilton built a trading post named Fort Hamilton near the confluence of the St. Mary and Belly (now Oldman) rivers. In addition to general goods, the fort – later known as Fort Whoop-up – was a notorious “whiskey” trading post prompting the Canadian government to stop the trade. In 1874, the North West Mounted Police were formed and sent west to bring order, and in 1875 they established a post within the fort itself. Lawful trade continued, and Fort Whoop-up remained in operation until 1892. All that remains of the original fort are some stone piles and depressions where fireplaces and cellars had been.

Today’s Indian Battle Park, located in the Oldman River valley, commemorates the last battle between the Blackfoot and the Cree in 1870. Much of the battle took place in Indian Battle Coulee on the west side of the Oldman River; the Cree’s retreat across the river ended in a last stand near the Coal Banks Interpretive Site. A formal peace treaty between the two nations was signed the following year.

On September 22, 1877, the Blackfoot Confederacy signed Treaty No.7. Some 35,000 square miles (approximately 90,650 km²) of Blackfoot Territory passed to the Dominion of Canada.

Coal and the Railway
Lethbridge originally developed as a tiny coal mining settlement in the 1880’s. Two of the first mining operations where drift mines developed by Nicholas Sheran on the west side of the Oldman River (about 450 metres north of the present Whoop-up Drive), which was in fact the first coal mine in Alberta, and by Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt on the east bank of the river. Galt’s company the North Western Coal & Navigation Company (NWC & NCo.) was founded in 1882 and managed by William Stafford. The NWC & NCo. was capitalized at $250,000 and its largest shareholder, William Lethbridge, became its first president.

By 1900 about 150 men were employed in the local mining industry, mining approximately 300 tons of coal daily. Coal production peaked during World War 1, when 2,000 miners in 10 large mines extracted 1,000,000 tons of coal a year. The coal industry gradually declined after 1919 with the development of oil and natural gas resources. The last mine at Lethbridge, Galt No. 8, closed in 1957 and the entire industry collapsed when the mine at Shaugnessy closed in 1965.

7 Information within this section is based in part on: Ellis, G. (2001) A Short History of Lethbridge, Alberta. Sir Alexander Galt Museum & Archives, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada
In order to transport coal to market the NWC & NCo. received government help to build a narrow gauge line from Lethbridge to Dunmore Junction east of Medicine Hat; it was officially opened by the Governor General on 24 September 1885. Beginning in 1907, the Canadian Pacific Railway, constructed the Lethbridge Viaduct, commonly known as the High Level Bridge, in order to facilitate rail transportation between Medicine Hat and the Crowsnest Pass. The bridge took two years to construct and is still in use today, having celebrated its centennial in 2009. To this day the High Level Bridge is an emblem of the City of Lethbridge to many residents and visitors.

The Founding of Lethbridge
When the community was founded in October 1882, it was called “The Coal Banks” or “Coalbanks” after the original Blackfoot name. The Post Office assigned the name Coalhurst, however, the settlement’s residents who were already calling the place Lethbridge after NWC & NCo. President William Lethbridge. The Post Office resisted, as there was already a town in Ontario called Lethbridge. In the end, the citizens prevailed and the community was officially renamed Lethbridge on 15 October 1885.

In 1890 the NWT legislature passed Ordinance No. 24 that provided for the incorporation of Lethbridge as a town. Lieutenant Governor Joseph Royal signed the proclamation on 15 January 1891. The town’s first Mayor, by acclamation, was Charles Alexander Magrath of whom the City’s main north-south arterial, Mayor Magrath Drive, is named after.

City status for Lethbridge came with an Act of the Legislature of Alberta on 9 May 1906. Mayor George Rogers presided over the first meeting of Lethbridge City Council on 26 May 1906.

*High Level Bridge, Date Unknown (Atlas of Alberta Railways, University of Alberta Press, CP Limited 1411)*
The Development of Lethbridge

Initial settlement occurred south of the CPR rail line to Seventh Avenue, from the top of the Oldman River valley east to 13th Street. In addition to this settlement, a small area in the river valley was lived in, as well as three areas north of the rail line: the North Ward (the area north of the railway east of 13 St N), an unnamed district (usually referred to as North Lethbridge) lying between the railway and 9 Ave N west of 13 St N, and the Village of Stafford (named after NWC & NCo. mine manager William Stafford), also west of 13 St N between 9 and 14 Aves. The City of Lethbridge annexed the Village of Stafford in 1913.

By 1900 agriculture had already started to replace coal mining as the dominant economic activity in the area, and Lethbridge developed primarily as a railway and agriculture service centre.

Swift physical expansion of the City did not take place until after World War II. Rapid population and economic growth, along with growing car use, resulted in suburbanization and expansion of the city east, north and south. Industries began locating in the new industrial park on the east side of the city, and commercial development spread east along Third Avenue and south along Mayor Magrath Drive.

By the early 1960’s downtown had become somewhat isolated on the extreme western edge of the city, and its commercial and cultural influence had begun to wane. The decision by the City in the mid-1960’s to make land west of the Oldman River the next area for major residential development dramatically changed the city’s urban form, and helped put downtown more in the geographic centre of the city. This has helped re-establish downtown as the commercial and cultural heart of the community.

The rapid residential development of West Lethbridge has also effectively brought the large river valley and coulees into the city. Under the Urban Parks program in the 1980’s the Oldman River valley was developed extensively for recreation. It now contains a paved trail system for running, walking and cycling; parks with picnic facilities; historical features; a nature reserve; and an interpretive centre. The Oldman River valley now serves as the City’s major passive recreation area, and is a central and integral part of the community.

Lethbridge grew rapidly in the 1970’s, due in large part to the opening of the University of Lethbridge, the growth of Lethbridge College, and expansion and diversification of the manufacturing base. Extensive recent commercial developments, especially in the north and south sides of the City, have helped to further strengthen and diversify the local economy and firmly establish Lethbridge as a regional commercial, health and advanced education centre for south-western Alberta. In 1984 the City annexed 22 sections of land, almost doubling its land area.

Entrance to No.1 Drift Mine c.1883 (City of Lethbridge Archives)
4.3 Present

Population
With a population of 86,659 as of the 2010 Municipal Census, Lethbridge is the fourth largest city by population in the Province of Alberta, and the third largest by area at 127.19 km². Lethbridge’s population is distributed between three regions: North, South and West Lethbridge as indicated in Table 1. Over the past three decades 75% of the city’s population growth has been in West Lethbridge. It is projected that this trend will continue, with West Lethbridge projected to absorb some 70% of the city’s population growth over the planning period. Whereas the current population is distributed fairly evenly between North, South and West Lethbridge, by 2030 it is projected that almost 44% of the city’s population will be in West Lethbridge.

As can be seen in Figure 6, Lethbridge has a fairly balanced proportion of males and females, with a noticeably large 20-24 year old population; this is primarily due to the fact that there are two post-secondary institutions within Lethbridge: the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge College.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Lethbridge</td>
<td>25,116</td>
<td>24,835</td>
<td>24,514</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>1.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Lethbridge</td>
<td>30,144</td>
<td>30,168</td>
<td>29,773</td>
<td>-24</td>
<td>-0.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Lethbridge</td>
<td>31,399</td>
<td>30,489</td>
<td>29,673</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>2.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>86,659</td>
<td>85,492</td>
<td>83,960</td>
<td>1,167</td>
<td>1.37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economy
Lethbridge is the economic hub of the region. As can be seen in Table 2, a significant portion of the workforce is employed in the retail, education and healthcare sectors, indicative of a regional service centre. In fact it is estimated that Lethbridge provides these services to a trading area of over 275,000 people – a population over three times its size.8

Eight out of ten of Lethbridge’s major employers are government sector industries (see Table 3). In addition to the government sector, six key industries have been identified by Economic Development Lethbridge for their contribution to the continued success of many businesses in Lethbridge: 9

- Agri-food
- Supply Chain Logistics
- Manufacturing
- Environmental Products and Services
- Aviation and Aerospace, and
- Informations and Communications Technology

Long-term economic growth will be fostered by Lethbridge’s strengths in these key industries as well as national and internationally competitive firms that are located in the community. The community’s established strengths in water and agriculture research and innovation sets Lethbridge apart from other Cities at a global scale.

Table 2. Workforce Breakdown by Industry and Gender, Statistics Canada 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and other resource-based industries</td>
<td>1,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>3,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>3,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>1,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail trade</td>
<td>5,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance and real estate</td>
<td>1,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care and social services</td>
<td>5,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational services</td>
<td>3,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business services</td>
<td>6,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services</td>
<td>8,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total experienced labour force 15 years and over</td>
<td>41,425</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAGE City Circle: Greening Our City and Our Neighbourhoods
There is widespread recognition that we are responsible to other residents in the Oldman River basin to manage water wisely through conservation, efficiency improvements and reducing water contamination.

Land Use

Land use is often categorized into broad groupings or land use districts that represent common, everyday human activities such as living, working, recreating, worshipping and shopping. Throughout the mid to late 20th Century the practice of defining and separating human activities that may have negative impacts upon each other created the pattern of development and associated land use districts seen in the City of Lethbridge today. The City is comprised of a variety of districts (see Figure 7), the purposes and regulations for which are contained within Land Use Bylaw No. 4100 for further reference.

Land use is generally organized with commercial land uses being concentrated within the Downtown and along transportation corridors, industrial land uses are located in the north east area of the City away from prevailing west winds and residential land uses are centered around green spaces, recreation facilities and public buildings.

City Council has recently approved an Urban Innovation District which may allow traditional land uses to be mixed as long as they are comprehensively planned. The purpose of this district is to allow the City of Lethbridge to work closely with proponents to design and build high quality urban environments where people can live work worship and play in close proximity without the need for long distance travel. It will also allow for the application of innovative forms of housing, business and employment mixed uses to meet Lethbridge’s unique needs.

Community Features

Lethbridge’s social and cultural landscape is varied, with a burgeoning arts scene and a variety of recreational opportunities identified in Figure 8. In addition to these social and cultural facilities, Lethbridge is home to one of the largest urban park systems in North America, the Oldman River valley, home to such attractions as the Helen Schuler Nature Centre, Fort Whoop-up, and the High Level Bridge.
LEGEND

- City of Lethbridge Boundary
- Lake or River
- Commercial
- Future Development
- Industrial
- Park & Public Service
- Residential
- River Valley
- Urban Innovation

Existing Development Pattern: June 2010
City of Lethbridge
ICSP/MDP

Figure 7
4.4 Future

Population

Even in the midst of a recession Lethbridge keeps growing. Between 2009 and 2010 our population increased 1.37% from 85,492 to 86,659. Over the next 40 years Lethbridge is projected to grow by 45,000 residents to approximately 130,000 by 2050. This projected growth rate is lower than in the recent past due to a number of circumstances that all major cities are facing, such as an aging population and a decreasing birth rate. It is projected that the net population growth in Lethbridge will be as a result of immigration – both new Canadians and current Canadians who choose to move to Lethbridge for lifestyle or economic reasons.

![Figure 9. Lethbridge 2050, Population Projection](image)

Housing

The estimated occupancy rate (the average number of residents in each new dwelling) in Lethbridge is 2.4 persons per home. To accommodate the new residents expected over the next 40 years approximately 19,000 new housing units, or 470 units per year will need to be developed (this includes intensification of existing neighbourhoods and new development).
Future Economy

The future of the Lethbridge economy will be built upon continued expansion and diversification with increased private sector investment. The economy needs to be grounded in ensuring wealth is generated through the private sector as well as the public.

Economic Development Lethbridge has identified wealth generation industries that will continue to be the strength of our regional economy. They are:

- **Agriculture and food processing**
  Lethbridge has a long history of being an agricultural production, distribution and service centre. Our proximity to producers, markets and water has resulted in the phenomenal growth of some important value-added processing facilities. In addition to the current staples – meat, grains, sugar beets, potatoes – new niche products or new global markets for existing products could become the next “big thing.” For example, potential has been identified by the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce and its partners for the pharmaceutical industry based on new crop development known as the Thebaine opportunity.

- **Manufacturing**
  Made in Lethbridge. From specialized trailers to aircraft engines, Lethbridge is home to a range of small to medium-sized manufacturers. Oil and gas equipment, and home manufacturers also benefit from cost-effective manufacturing of products and supplies. Automation and robotics, lean manufacturing and continuous process improvements contribute to the continued success of these businesses and our highly diversified local economy.

- **Resource development (i.e. mining, oil & gas, renewable energy, etc.)**
  Alberta is a world leader in exploration and development of energy resources. Lethbridge shares that pedigree through it’s wealth of natural resources in renewable energy development. Looking west and south, giant wind turbines dot the horizon. As one of the sunniest and windiest places in Canada, Lethbridge is poised to become a hub for wind energy development and bio-fuels production, with future potential in solar and bio-mass.

- **Emerging - high tech development (knowledge industries)**
  The City of Lethbridge will continue to play an important role in supporting the diversification of Lethbridge’s economy. A good example is its partnership with, Economic Development Lethbridge, Western Economic Diversification and the private sector in setting up a technology commercialization centre for the development and expansion of technology-based firms in the knowledge industry.

Lethbridge has a very strong public sector that tends to provide an underlying stability. Lethbridge is one of only a few cities its size with two post-secondary institutions, the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge College. In today’s fast-paced world of work, these institutions provide opportunities for companies and industry to ensure their employees have the up-to-date skills and training they need. These two institutions play very important roles as centres for post secondary education, research and as significant employers within the City. The two agricultural research stations also have an important role in providing employment as well as research that has wider commercial application. The Province of Alberta supports our local economy being the largest employer (Alberta Health Services) and the funder behind a wide range of public sector organizations. As the province ages, it is likely the health care sector will expand.

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10 Photo courtesy of City of Lethbridge Real Estate and Land Development.

11 Future Economy, Economic Development Lethbridge.
Another important component is home occupations providing opportunities for small scale business; as an initial start-up until they are ready to expand and relocate into the commercial sector or they remain as a home occupation providing a variety of services to the local and/or external community.

Lethbridge has a very strong economic future based on its diversity, quality of life, and an available and well-educated labour force. The City of Lethbridge will continue to play an important role in ensuring a business-friendly environment through cooperative relationships in the region, investment in Economic Development Lethbridge, SouthGrow Regional Alliance and strong partnerships and interest in the business community.

**Accommodating Growth**

As Lethbridge’s population increases and new units are developed to house these residents, it is important to explore where future growth will occur in the City. It is anticipated that a portion of future growth will occur in existing areas of Lethbridge while at the same time new development will expand into currently undeveloped municipal areas (see Section 6.4.1 and Section 6.4.4). New residential development will be encouraged in all areas of the City with west Lethbridge accommodating the majority. Several factors will influence future residential development: first and foremost is the type of housing that an increasingly aging population will demand (generally higher density, smaller units). As well, a general shift towards smaller families will influence the demand for different types of housing units in the future.

**Development Density**

Throughout the world cities are looking for ways to use land more efficiently and develop a more compact urban form. Increasing residential densities is a key method of achieving this goal. Increasing density has several benefits: for instance, servicing new houses on smaller lots lowers the cost of housing. As well, living closer to work, schools and shopping reduces travel distance as more people can live closer to their destination, enhancing people’s ability to reach their destination by foot or bike. For related policies and example actions see Section 6.4.1.
5. Plan Your City Vision

The Plan Your City Vision was developed in the spring of 2009 based on feedback from the Future Scenario Exercises conducted by MetroQuest and refined by the CAG and is comprised of a Vision Statement, Principles, and Goals, that together have provided guidance in the ongoing development of the Plan. This Vision, approved by Council on June 15, 2009, sets forth the values and hopes of residents as we strive together to make Lethbridge a better place for future generations.

5.1 Vision Statement

We will continue to work together to ensure that Lethbridge is a leader in environmental stewardship, innovation and active leadership. We are recognized as being safe, healthy, vibrant, prosperous, economically viable and a place where all people can fully participate in community life.
5.2 Plan Your City Principles

There are five key principles that will enable us to achieve Lethbridge’s vision:

1. Lethbridge is an inclusive community that celebrates the diversity and contributions of all its residents.
2. Lethbridge balances the cultural, social, economic, built and natural environment dimensions of sustainability; together we are building a city that is a community – a legacy we are proud to pass on to future generations.
3. Lethbridge is a resilient community that will continue to be successful due to our foresight and our ability to be adaptable and responsive to change.
4. Lethbridge is a community that values open dialogue on all aspects of its public life, encouraging citizen engagement and grassroots leadership, and celebrating the contribution of our numerous volunteers.
5. Lethbridge values the efforts of our collective ancestors and recognizes the strength of our history which has provided a solid foundation to learn, grow, and change.

5.3 Plan Your City Goals

In order to develop effective and responsive policies a number of community goals were identified which reflect a broad cross-section of interests across the City. These goals directly address the key principles and were used to create Outcomes that describe ‘what we want Lethbridge to be like in the future’.

- To cooperate with our municipal and First Nations neighbours; strengthening our region
- To promote active involvement of residents in all facets of governance and community life
- To ensure that recreation, transportation, housing, education and employment opportunities are economically and physically accessible to all residents
- To balance cultural, social, economic, and environmental policies and programs to achieve a high quality of life for all residents
- To strengthen and revitalize the downtown
- To retain our friendly community atmosphere which instils a civic sense of pride and contributes to our cultural vibrancy
• To provide opportunity for a high standard of living and excellent quality of life for all residents throughout the community
• To promote acceptance and diversity, and foster inclusivity for all community members
• To foster community identity and pride
• To promote and encourage the development of cultural and social services that benefit all residents within the City
• To promote, preserve and celebrate our collective history
• To develop a knowledge based community by building on the strengths within post-secondary and cultural institutions and research facilities
• To ensure that the community remains safe and that residents perception of safety is effectively addressed
• To accommodate population growth using responsible and balanced strategies that recognize the benefits and costs of growth
• To promote holistic healthy living for all residents
• To ensure continued economic prosperity by building on key strengths and opportunities within the economy
• To enhance economic and housing opportunities throughout Lethbridge
• To ensure the development of varied and effective transportation options for all residents
• To conserve and enhance the natural environment within the City, and
• To be a leader in viable renewable energy use and adoption which includes, but is not limited to: solar; wind and geothermal energy
6. Plan Your City Policies

6.1 A Prosperous City

Lethbridge has a beautiful setting and many attributes that have made it the predominant financial, retail, cultural and tourist centre in south-western Alberta. These advantages must be celebrated and enhanced for Lethbridge to continue to attract new businesses. New businesses and the continued growth of existing enterprises will provide employment opportunities for the college and university students to stay in Lethbridge once they have completed their programs.

Prosperity is essential to creating a great city. A healthy economy supports all residents and all aspects of City operations including the ability to provide cultural and social events. The City will work with the private sector and various local and regional institutions to ensure the local economy stays vibrant and diverse.

The City can support and facilitate business goals, while at the same time balancing safety and good planning, through straightforward licensing and regulatory protocols, supporting the creation and maintenance of a strong well educated work force, and providing the necessary infrastructure, land supply, and social and cultural services that support residents and attract visitors.
Providing an **adequate and balanced supply of land** for development should be one of Council’s foci. This means providing affordable and sustainable infrastructure (roads, water, wastewater systems) so that development can occur in an orderly manner throughout the city concurrently.

### 6.1.1 Lethbridge is a Good Place to Open and Operate a Business

**The intent of these policies is to further develop the local economy, reinforce Lethbridge’s position as a predominant regional service centre and provide the foundation for nationally and internationally competitive businesses**

**Policies**

1) Develop a diverse and stable economy by:
   - Encouraging the creation of new businesses
   - Supporting the growth and expansion of existing businesses
   - Supporting the growth and expansion of education and research institutions
   - Being competitive regionally, nationally and across North America
2) Ensure a sufficient supply of serviced land to accommodate all business growth and development
3) Lethbridge strives to be a business friendly city, is competitive with other Canadian urban centres with respect to core input costs, and stream-lined regulatory processes.
4) Strengthen Lethbridge’s role as a regional tourism centre for south-western Alberta
5) Support home based businesses that respect the residential characteristics of their neighbourhood

**Example Actions**

1) Review municipal fees, approvals and licensing processes to avoid undue limitations for economic development
2) Utilize Economic Development Lethbridge to promote, attract, retain and expand economic activity
3) Cooperate with local and regional economic development organizations
4) Cooperate with regional and provincial tourism development organizations
5) Prepare a comprehensive tourism signage plan
6) Promote the expansion of renewable energy, and high-technology businesses
7) Attract business that employ post-secondary graduates

### 6.1.2 Lethbridge is a Financially Viable City

**The intent of these policies is to achieve a balance between municipal costs and level of service**

**Policies**

1) Engage in long term financial planning to ensure ongoing financial viability
2) Ensure investments in municipal infrastructure and facilities are made in accordance with long-term financial plans and adopted financial policies
3) Balance the financial capacity of residents with the demand for municipal services
4) Explore opportunities for partnerships as a cost effective means of providing services, programs and facilities
5) Maintain financial flexibility in order to be able to adapt to local and regional economic conditions

**Example Actions**

1) Continue to develop long term financial plans
2) Maintain appropriate financial principles and policies
6.2 A Healthy and Diverse City

Housing
Ensuring that everyone in Lethbridge has access to safe and accessible housing is a basic principle of this Plan. The City is committed to the provision of a range of housing types in different locations throughout the city to meet the varying physical needs and economic circumstances of the residents. This requires a combination of financial, regulatory and political support - some of which the City can affect, such as requiring that a component of accessible housing is fully integrated into new communities when they are built. To accomplish this goal of having such housing available The City must actively work with the various provincial and non-profit agencies and groups involved in providing accessible housing as well as with builders and developers.

Another important housing principle is that steps are taken to make it easier for seniors to remain in their homes as long as possible.

Fostering a Sense of Belonging
The physical components of the City – discussed throughout this Plan must be coupled with a proactive social willingness: a willingness to welcome new residents, a willingness to help those who find themselves in need, and a willingness to fully accept the cultural and racial diversity that modern life brings to a city. To achieve this The City will support opportunities for residents to meet, build relationships, stay active, and undertake activities that foster a sense of belonging within Lethbridge. The future will see a noticeably older population many of whom could become physically and socially isolated if active steps are not taken by governments, community organizations and individuals. There will also likely be a higher proportion of residents who are members of visible minorities. It will be important that these new residents are welcomed and municipal services and procedures are understandable and culturally appropriate.

Lethbridge is a city of festivals and inclusive public events; from the variety of sports activities, to the wonderful range of summer and winter public events that help define the community. All these events require the dedication of volunteers backed by a municipal government that recognizes the importance of these events in building a strong City that works. Many organizations also help people maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Safety and Security
Safety is a primary consideration of all Lethbridge residents whether on the road, walking through parks or in their homes. Lethbridge is a very safe city. The City wants to keep it that way and is always looking for opportunities to improve in this area. New development is expected to reflect Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, which need to be understood by all stakeholders in the community allowing for safe design in all aspects of urban development that can lead to a reduction in fear and incidence of crime and an improvement of quality of life in the City. New technologies and an older citizenry pose challenges and create opportunities that will change the way we ensure our city is as safe a place as possible for all.
6.2.1 Lethbridge Has a Range of Housing that Meets Everyone’s Needs

The intent of these policies is that everyone has safe and accessible housing in our City

**Policies**

1) Collaborate with all levels of Government and housing organisations to provide safe and accessible housing options
2) Integrate a range of housing types throughout the City
3) Encourage and facilitate the adequate supply of housing for all income groups
4) Develop accessible housing units in areas where ancillary neighbourhood facilities are currently available (e.g. schools, parks, transit routes, groceries) or will be developed in the future
5) City services encourage and promote programs that assist seniors to remain in their homes as long as possible

**Example Actions**

1) Use federal, provincial, and municipal grants to provide accessible housing units
2) Establish and implement accessible housing targets
3) Collaborate with community based agencies and developers to design, support and implement effective housing programs
4) Investigate changes to the application of property taxes to encourage a range of housing types
5) Investigate approaches to reduce regulatory hurdles that impede the provision of accessible housing and ancillary community supports (e.g. day care, home based businesses)
6) Investigate actions that reduce the cost of living in Lethbridge for low income residents

6.2.2 Lethbridge is a Welcoming and Diverse City

The intent of these policies is to foster an environment of inclusivity and provide a welcoming community for all residents and visitors

**Policies**

1) Promote relationship building and ongoing dialogue amongst residents
2) Ensure that municipal services are provided in a manner that respects the diversity of all residents
3) Strive to ensure that residents are not physically, socially or culturally isolated and remain a respected part of the greater community
4) Encourage, facilitate and accommodate activities organized by residents as a means to foster a sense of belonging to the community and support diversity

**Example Actions**

1) Prepare an inventory of multilingual employees to enhance customer service
2) Explore opportunities for partnerships for the provision of cultural competency programs
3) Collaborate with neighbourhood associations
4) Review bylaws that impede the organization and hosting of block parties in public space
5) Collaborate with First Nation and Métis leaders to ensure that First Nations and Métis people are welcomed and respected within the City
6) Collaborate with agencies and organizations to ensure that New Canadians are welcomed and respected within the City

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**6 Avenue A Neighbourhood Society City Circle**

The most positive thing to happen in downtown Lethbridge is the addition of the fountain park at the Galt Gardens. This has transformed a small part of the park into what we think Lethbridge could be.
6.2.3 Everyone in Lethbridge has Opportunities for Personal Development and Social Well-being

The intent of these policies is to support opportunities for healthy social interaction and personal development.

**Policies**
1) Strengthen partnerships with organizations that improve the quality of life of Lethbridge’s residents
2) Encourage volunteerism
3) Encourage and provide opportunities for healthy living

**Example Actions**
1) Review the Land Use Bylaw to facilitate the location of social support facilities (e.g. daycares, group homes, etc.)
2) Investigate the needs and opportunities for developing a Youth Centre
3) Investigate the needs and opportunities for co-locating family and community human services organizations
4) Collaborate with Lethbridge’s seniors citizens organizations

6.2.4 Lethbridge is a Safe City

The intent of these policies is to uphold public safety and security so that residents are safe and feel secure.

**Policies**
1) Support community based programs and organizations that make Lethbridge a safer place to live
2) Encourage urban design that promotes public safety and reduces opportunities for crime in parks, roadways and other public spaces
3) Encourage public safety and the reduction in opportunities for crime by:
   • Engaging the public
   • Implementing CPTED principles
   • Consulting with Fire and Police services to determine best practices

**Example Actions**
1) Incorporate CPTED principles in development approvals
2) Continue best practices to control graffiti
3) Develop programs to reduce automobile related collisions

Nikka Yuko Gardens (City of Lethbridge)
6.3 A Culturally Vibrant City

Art, History, Sport and Recreation are all important components of culture and a vital part of Lethbridge’s future. Residents throughout the community have traditionally supported these aspects of society enthusiastically. As well as providing for the quality of life of residents these elements attract visitors and investment to the City and instil civic pride. Artistic and cultural activities are the basis for many community events and contribute to the formation of strong neighbourhoods and to the diversity of the City as a whole. Lethbridge will continue to celebrate and invest in the arts and culture and encourage volunteer participation and partnerships throughout the community.

The protection and celebration of heritage is equally important to the long-term cultural growth of the City. Lethbridge’s growth from its coal mining roots to the regional financial, industrial and cultural centre of today is a proud story that must be preserved. Historic buildings are a primary link to the past and will be protected and adapted for reuse whenever possible.

Lethbridge is an active city with our residents embracing a healthy lifestyle. The City creates recreational opportunities for all ages in both competitive sports activities and leisure activities. The City, in trying to create the best recreation programs possible, looks for opportunities to partner with community organizations and other groups to provide programming, activities and facilities. It is important that the recreation programs are financially available and physically accessible to all residents.

6.3.1 Lethbridge Respects and Celebrates its History

The intent of these policies is to preserve and share Lethbridge’s history for the benefit of future generations

**Policies**

1) Identify and designate city-owned significant historic resources to ensure conservation and maintenance
2) Collaborate with private owners to conserve and maintain historical resources throughout the City
3) Support the adaptive reuse of historic resources
4) Strive to preserve and share Lethbridge’s collected stories
5) Incorporate significant archaeological, historical and cultural sites into the urban fabric

**Example Actions**

1) Identify properties with historical value
2) Require archaeological and historical assessments as part of the land development process
3) Investigate the best course of action for celebrating Blackfoot history within the built environment
4) Collaborate with community organizations to develop ‘commemoration plans’ for key events, locations, and peoples in Lethbridge’s history
5) Include historical information in public spaces
6.3.2 Lethbridge Celebrates Arts and Culture

The intent of these policies is to support artistic resources and cultural opportunities within the community.

Policies
1) Develop Lethbridge as a vibrant arts, culture and festival City
2) Collaborate with community organizations and institutions in support of the arts community
3) Encourage volunteerism as a means to assist artistic and cultural endeavours in Lethbridge
4) Encourage and incorporate art into the urban fabric
5) Develop arts and culture facilities and amenities

Example Actions
1) Actively assist the development of festivals and other cultural activities
2) Develop an arts and culture district and entertainment nodes that incorporates outdoor & indoor cafes, art galleries, live theatre, music, public market etc.
3) Utilize the Allied Arts Council to provide leadership in advancing and enhancing the arts in Lethbridge

6.3.3 Lethbridge Supports Active Living

The intent of these policies is to support sport and recreational activities for the health and well-being of residents of all ages.

Policies
1) Provide opportunities for passive recreation such as walking, biking, hiking and gardening
2) Develop recreational and sports facilities and amenities that:
   • provide a range of recreational opportunities throughout the City
   • accommodate a range of programs and uses
   • provide opportunities for competitive sports programming
   • allow conversion for future needs
   • can be accessed by a variety of travel modes
   • are physically and financially accessible to all residents
   • are accessible via alternative transportation
3) Partner with community organizations and volunteers to:
   • provide facilities and programming for sport and recreation
   • support recreation programming that is financially accessible

Example Actions
1) Establish benchmarks to facilitate the effective planning and distribution of recreational facilities
2) Utilize the Sports Council to provide leadership in sports on behalf of the City of Lethbridge

City Circle on Diversity: Celebrating Diversity Group

Having people from different backgrounds represented in our city brings awareness of global issues, as well as understanding of other cultures; this, in turn, enriches the life of all citizens.
6.4 A Well Designed City

The way the city develops affects the lives of Lethbridge residents in many ways – physically, economically and socially. The physical form of the city, the built environment, is the space within which all our activities occur and wise planning will reduce time and costs, increase opportunities and enhance the elements that contribute to a high quality of life.

The Mix and Density of Land Uses

Increasing residential densities and the mix of mutually supportive activities in close proximity is part of the formula for an exciting, safe and vital city. Higher densities increase social interaction, improve safety, reduce municipal and school board costs, reduce traveling time, supports transit and contributes to our cities in a number of other ways.

Existing low density neighbourhoods should retain their ambiance and not be asked to change substantially, however, where opportunities arise to increase the population in these areas in a way that is sensitive to the existing built form it should be pursued. Secondary suites, infill development, higher density development along major roadways, semi-detached homes and duplexes are ways that older areas can effectively absorb more people closer to all the services that the built up area provides. It is important to remember that the neighbourhoods built during the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s were designed to accommodate families (and overall populations) of almost twice the size they are accommodating today.

Striving for a more efficient use of land calls for higher densities and a mix of supportive land uses in all areas in the city – from more and denser residential in the downtown and near post-secondary institutions to multilevel and mixed-use development in commercial and industrial areas. Underutilized sites should be supported in redeveloping to higher intensity uses.

Transportation and Movement

Roads and parking often absorb a quarter of the urban land in a city like Lethbridge. This is a significant amount of land that the City has to drain, clean, maintain, light and secure. A more compact city reduces this land requirement and brings different activities closer together allowing more people to use transit, bicycles and their feet to reach their destinations. The challenge for The City and residents is to develop road, transit and trail systems that encourages and facilitate non-single occupancy vehicle use. This is a substantial challenge but in an era of climate change, higher energy and land costs and an aging population, new cost- effective transportation answers have to be developed. All aspects of our neighbourhood, street and sidewalk, site and building designs have to be rethought to make it as easy as possible for people to use transit and other movement modes. The needs of pedestrian, mobility challenged persons, and the elderly must always be recognized and incorporated into the built environment.

Growth

Ensuring that there is enough serviced land available to meet the needs for new housing and employment areas in the city is important to long-term growth. This requires long- term development and capital budget plans to guide private and public expenditures. The city will continue to be instrumental in residential and industrial development to maintain a healthy residential market and a supply of industrial sites.
There are a number of sustainability principles that guide efficient city growth. Using land efficiently calls for new subdivisions to be contiguous to existing built areas and wherever possible existing infrastructure, roads, sewers etc. should be used rather than building new. The agricultural lands within the city limits should remain in farming use until they are ready for full, suburban development rather than allowing for limited serviced, very low density development that would interfere with more efficient growth patterns.

**Urban Design**
Quality urban design and the comprehensive development of neighbourhoods to include good quality architecture and streetscaping fosters sense of place and encourages walkability and resident interaction, creating a city that is welcoming to visitors and residents alike. A key element to good quality urban design is trees. Lethbridge has developed a large urban forest and every opportunity available should be taken to increase it. Trees should be planted wherever possible along roadways and in new residential areas and public spaces.

New communities should incorporate low impact development that uses land planning and design practices and technologies to simultaneously conserve and protect natural resource systems and reduce infrastructure costs. As well as include a mix of housing to meet the needs of various age and economic groups, pedestrian connections to encourage walking, focal points for community gatherings, and amenities.

One key component to urban design is the parks and open spaces throughout Lethbridge. The City is committed to the creation of an extensive system of parks that meets the recreational needs of all residents.

**Downtown**
Downtown, as well as being a retail and cultural centre, is the location of higher order businesses (e.g. finance, government). The downtown is a symbol of the whole city – one important way residents throughout the world identify with their cities – the more attractive and vibrant the downtown is the more pride the residents of the whole city seem to have. For this important reason, among others, the downtown should always be reinforced and enhanced. The downtown should contain the richest mix of uses – residential, retail, institutional, recreational, cultural, commercial and employment – in ways that support each other. Residential development is absolutely vital to the success of downtown as it brings vitality and excitement, keeps the downtown safe and facilitates interaction and a wide diversity of social activities.

People look to the downtown to display the best in architecture, urban design, historic preservation, public art and public spaces. Quality urban design – the design of the public spaces including the sidewalk environment, raises the standard for individual building architecture and vice versa. Lethbridge is fortunate to have created a very liveable and walkable downtown. The large geographic area covered by the downtown creates opportunities for the future and efforts should be made to focus the higher intensity activities that will emerge in the near future into a smaller portion of the area. The development of an arts centre in the downtown will contribute to strengthening the attraction of the downtown for other uses and activities.

### 6.4.1 Lethbridge is a Compact City
The intent of these policies is to minimize the urban footprint of Lethbridge by using land more efficiently

**Policies**
1) Increase residential densities in future neighbourhoods in relation to existing built-up areas (see Figure 10)
2) Increase residential densities in existing areas in a manner that respects built form and character by:
   - Preparing Area Redevelopment Plans
   - Encouraging increased densities in areas where ancillary neighbourhood facilities are currently available or can be efficiently provided (e.g. employment, shopping, schools, parks, transit routes)
   - Encouraging residential development at and near to the University and College
   - Encouraging residential development in the downtown
   - Encouraging the development of increased residential densities adjacent to commercial corridors
   - Encouraging beautification of commercial corridors
Plan Your City Policies

Mixed Use Redevelopment Areas Map
City of Lethbridge
ICSP/MDP

Figure 11
3) Increase commercial densities in existing areas by:
   • Investigating reducing parking requirements as alternative transportation becomes increasingly available
   • Promoting multi-level and mixed-use development in commercial areas
   • Encouraging and supporting the redevelopment and adaptive reuse of underutilized commercial sites and buildings
4) Increase industrial densities in existing areas by encouraging the better utilization of land
5) Target Downtown as a primary location for mixed-use redevelopment (see Figure 11)
6) Target the 3rd Avenue South and 13th Street North corridors as secondary locations for mixed-use redevelopment (see Figure 11)
7) Incorporate transit-oriented development into land use planning

Example Actions
1) Encourage secondary suites throughout Lethbridge
2) Undertake a study to establish a minimum neighbourhood density target for new residential areas with appropriate industry consultation
3) Review setback requirements, road widths, and parking standards as a means to increase densities

6.4.2 Lethbridge has an Efficient and Effective Integrated Transportation Network
The intent of these policies is to provide for viable alternatives to the single occupancy automobile

Policies
1) Transportation priorities for community planning purposes are:
   i. Pedestrians and personal mobility devices
   ii. Cyclists and recreational mobility devices
   iii. Public & private transit
   iv. Commercial vehicles
   v. Multiple occupancy automobiles
   vi. Single occupancy automobiles
2) Integrate transit with community planning and design
3) Provide accessible, affordable and effective public transportation
4) Develop an integrated multimodal transportation system

Example Actions
1) Develop a comprehensive ‘Transportation Master Plan’ that will establish a multimodal transportation system
2) Integrate land use and transit policy to create transit-oriented development nodes
3) Investigate a means to reduce energy and emissions associated with transportation
4) Encourage the development of employment and commercial centres in West Lethbridge to reduce the need for additional travel
6.4.3 Lethbridge is a Walkable, Bicycle Friendly City

The intent of these policies is to improve active modes of transportation

Policies
1) Develop and maintain a commuter oriented citywide integrated pedestrian and bicycle network
2) Develop and maintain a sidewalk and pathway network that encourage safe, efficient, comfortable movement options for all residents
3) Design new neighbourhoods, and retrofit existing neighbourhoods, to improve pedestrian and cyclist access to destinations within and outside of neighbourhoods
4) Ensure that future commercial and industrial developments provide convenient pedestrian access from adjacent sidewalks and bus stops
5) Ensure that City owned/controlled pedestrian/cycle networks are accessible for mobility challenged persons

Example Actions
1) Incorporate adequate bike parking in private and public developments throughout the City
2) Improve the grade of the pathway adjacent Whoop-up Drive
3) Explore alternatives to facilitate pedestrian bicycle mobility across the river valley
4) Investigate the development a public bicycle sharing program
5) Develop programs to reduce conflicts with pedestrians, cyclists, personal mobility devices and automobiles

6.4.4 Lethbridge is Expanding in a Responsible Manner

The intent of these policies is to provide a framework for orderly growth that reflects the Plan Your City Vision

Policies
1) Discourage non-contiguous growth and expansion of the built environment within the City
2) Protect agricultural land from premature subdivision and development to prevent fragmentation
3) Require the completion of Area Structure Plans and Outline Plans prior to the development of new areas
4) Encourage and promote an adequate supply of land that is planned and available for servicing to meet market demand
5) Encourage and promote growth patterns that maximize the use of existing infrastructure and services in order to avoid or delay the construction of new infrastructure
6) Support a range of choice of new expansion areas for residential, commercial and industrial development
7) Provide Municipal Reserve (MR) School Reserve (SR) and Municipal and School Reserve (MSR) pursuant to the requirements of the City of Lethbridge as authorized by the Municipal Government Act and the joint use agreements between the City of Lethbridge and the School Boards
8) Encourage and promote proposals for future development have been reviewed with regards to impacts of sour gas wells, pipelines and facilities
9) Development in new residential growth areas, not already addressed in existing policies, is to occur as financing and infrastructure is available

Example Actions
1) Continue to monitor the supply and demand of serviced land
2) Collaborate with the local development industry to ensure a choice of residential locations
3) Investigate and determine appropriate benefits and costs for new growth
6.4.5 Lethbridge is a Planned City that Exhibits Quality Urban Design

The intent of these policies is to create a built environment that reflects community values and aspirations

Policies
1) Encourage and promote the design of live, work, shop and play land uses in proximity to one another
2) Encourage and promote mixed-use development and a mix of land uses in employment areas
3) Maintain and expand the urban forest
4) Encourage and promote the design of the built environment to encourage walkability
5) Encourage and promote the design of neighbourhoods to minimize driving distances and reduce automobile trip generation
6) Encourage and promote a diverse range of housing that is incorporated in all new neighbourhoods
7) Encourage and promote mixed-use development in residential neighbourhoods
8) Develop neighbourhood plans for existing areas to establish a long-term vision
9) Encourage and promote the creation of city and neighbourhood focal points that provide opportunities for community gathering
10) Encourage and promote neighbourhood design in a manner that encourages interaction between all age groups
11) Encourage and promote neighbourhood design and public spaces to mitigate the impact of climatic extremes (temperature, wind, drifting snow)
12) Ensure the physical accessibility needs of residents are met throughout the City where the City has ownership and control
13) Coordinate land use with transit planning to ensure easy access to public transportation
14) Encourage good quality architecture and streetscaping throughout the City

Example Actions
1) Integrate citywide pedestrian and cycle paths into neighbourhoods
2) Review lighting standards to support night sky principles
3) Investigate opportunities to increase the development of community gardens throughout the City
4) Establish an urban forestry plan to manage the expansion, protection, maintenance and replacement of the urban forest
5) Investigate requirements of front yard setbacks to allow variances in new communities
6) Designing new areas to incorporate trees along arterial, non-industrial collector, and residential streets
7) Conserving the existing inventory of street trees
8) Encourage the planting of edible fruit trees and/or bushes throughout Lethbridge

SAGE City Circle: Environmental Council

It is critical that the city become a leader for environmental stewardship, both by demonstrating best practices within the administration, and by acting as an inspiration for change in the community (residential, business, & industry).
6.4.6  Lethbridge has a Diverse Parks and Open Space System

The intent of these policies is to provide an integrated parks and open space system that responds to the needs of current and future generations

**Policies**
1) Parks and open space priorities for community planning purposes are:
   - Connectivity
   - Accessibility
   - Functionality
   - Diversity & Adaptability
   - Identity & Character
   - Sustainability
2) Incorporate a range of active and passive recreational opportunities into the open space system
3) Develop parks to encourage community gathering
4) Plan and Design the open space system to efficiently manage water

**Example Actions**
1) Establish benchmarks to facilitate the effective planning and distribution of recreational amenities
2) Continue to monitor and identify opportunities to reduce pesticide use on public lands
3) Incorporate drought tolerant vegetation in the parks and open space system
4) Study opportunities for rainwater harvesting, storm water irrigation, and grey water reuse for parks and open spaces

6.4.7  Lethbridge has a Strong and Vibrant Downtown

The intent of these policies is to create a strong and vibrant downtown

**Policies**
1) Revitalize and redevelop the downtown as the cultural, economic and civic heart of the City and region
2) Promote and facilitate residential development downtown
3) Encourage the development of commercial, institutional and transit services that support a downtown residential community
4) Continue to strengthen the public realm in the downtown
5) Develop downtown as a venue for the best in urban design and architecture
6) Recognize and conserve significant historic resources in the downtown
7) Encourage major cultural facilities to locate downtown

**Example Actions**
1) Prepare a downtown Area Redevelopment Plan
2) Investigate incentives to foster higher density housing in the downtown
3) Pursue the location of high-order economic functions in the downtown
4) Encourage the development of a downtown grocery store
5) Encourage the development of a downtown post-secondary campus

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City Circle for Business

The geographical feature of the coulees, the bridge and the river bottom provides a unique development opportunity to create attractive and interesting destination for locals and tourists alike.
6.5 An Environmentally Responsible City

The Oldman River Valley

The Oldman River valley will remain the cornerstone of Lethbridge’s open space system. It will continue to be protected in a natural state in some areas and enhanced in others to provide a range of activities for all ages and interests commensurate with protecting the valley for future generations. Efforts will be made to preserve and possibly enhance the ecological diversity of the area. Visual and physical access to the area will be improved through the construction of a trail along the top of the escarpment and access provided from trails and roadways. View corridors into the river valley will be identified and, where possible, protected. Inappropriate development will be kept away from floodway lands and the steep valley slopes.

Resources

The City is committed to taking a responsible leadership role in the efficient use of resources and land. Resources include water, renewable and non-renewable energy sources, air quality and municipal waste. The conservation and reuse of resources can bring long-term cost savings and demonstrate the City’s leadership in managing its resources responsibly. Opportunities will be identified and exploited to increase the use of renewable resources and reduce the generation of greenhouse gases. With the range of operations the City is involved in there is great opportunity to develop and apply reuse and recycle approaches to many areas of ‘waste’. This is an area recognized around the world as one of great and growing importance and Lethbridge is committed to taking a leadership role. Finally, water is vitally important to Lethbridge and the broader region, and the City will continue to be involved in all aspects of watershed management and water conservation.

6.5.1 Lethbridge’s River Valley is the Primary Open Space System

The intent of these policies is to conserve and enhance the unique character of the Oldman River valley

Policies

1) Strive to conserve, enhance and where possible restore the biological diversity of the river valley and riparian areas within
2) Incorporate compatible land uses in the river valley that enhance the river valley experience or enhance the experience associated with the land use
3) Restrict development on or near to hazardous lands in the river valley
4) Ensure that the River Valley is accessible to all residents
5) Incorporate strategically located view corridors adjacent to the river valley
6) Increase accessibility to the river valley by requiring linear open space along the valley crest
7) Create a continuous pathway throughout and along the top of river valley
Example Actions
1) Identify development hazards and create appropriate regulations in the river valley
2) Develop a management plan to maintain wildlife stability and diversity in the river valley
3) Acquire properties that enhance access to and use of the river valley
4) Provide public transportation to the River Valley

6.5.2 Lethbridge Conserves its Natural Resources

The intent of these policies is to minimize Lethbridge's ecological footprint by using resources efficiently

Water Quality Policies
1) Develop programs and practices that encourage water conservation and overall water quality
2) Encourage the development of grey water systems to reduce the use of treated water
3) Require an Environmental Site Assessment for the redevelopment of brownfield sites
4) Design future stormwater management facilities to meet or exceed Province of Alberta standards
5) Encourage the use of artificial wetlands in the treatment of stormwater
6) Require new development to demonstrate that it has incorporated ecological design of neighbourhoods and buildings to reduce stormwater run-off
7) Use environmental reserve to protect intermittent water bodies

Water Quality Example Actions
1) Include xeriscaping around City owned buildings and facilities
2) Consider the use of incentives for water conservation
3) Collaborate with the Province to ensure that Crown interests in water bodies are addressed as early as possible in the planning process
4) Adopt and reinforce regulations and guideline that will enhance the quality of Oldman River Watershed

Air Quality Policies
1) Reduce the generation of greenhouse gases and air pollutants
2) Encourage the retention of plant species on private property to improve air quality
3) Mitigate the effects of erosion due to high winds during construction within the City

Air Quality Example Actions
1) Prepare a community-wide greenhouse gas audit
2) Explore upgrading the municipal fleet to more fuel efficient models
3) Collaborate with public agencies, industry and others to monitor and maintain standards for good air quality

Waste Management Policies
1) Conserve natural resources within the City by:
   • Exploring methods to reduce waste
   • Identifying methods to reuse products that are currently identified as waste
   • Identifying methods to recycle products that are currently identified as waste
2) Identify the largest sources of waste and create programs to better manage waste

Waste Management Example Actions
1) Create an inventory of waste generated within Lethbridge that has the potential to be utilized further
2) Support businesses that use waste as an input in their processes
3) Develop an effective recycling program targeting all waste
Plan Your City Policies

Energy Policies
1) Pursue an energy strategy that reduces reliance on carbon based energy resources
2) Design the built environment to optimize opportunities for alternative energy and energy conservation
3) Conserve energy and materials in the design, construction and operation of municipal facilities

Energy Example Actions
1) Prepare a community energy audit to understand community energy use
2) Investigate the feasibility of alternative energy initiatives and energy conservation programs
3) Review street lighting standards to improve energy conservation
6.6 A City that Supports the Region

Lethbridge works well with its regional rural and urban neighbours in working to create joint approaches to economic development, regional servicing and land use planning. Of particular importance is the management of the Oldman River Watershed in which the City will continue to take a leadership role. Regional transportation is important for continued prosperity and the City will advocate for enhanced rail and road connections, especially regarding the future CANAMEX Corridor. The City will also work with the County of Lethbridge to ensure the viability of the airport.

6.6.1 Lethbridge Has Strong Relationships with Neighbouring Communities

The intent of these policies is to coordinate regional efforts in the overall development of south-western Alberta to the benefit of the people of Lethbridge and the region as a whole

Policies

1) Recognize the Oldman River Watershed as the foundation for all regional land use planning
2) Encourage regional partnerships in economic development, municipal services, and land use planning
3) Participate in sub-regional planning with the County of Lethbridge, Coalhurst and Coaldale
4) Engage the County of Lethbridge in discussions to guide future urbanization goals
5) Engage in the ongoing development of a strong regional transportation network by:
   • Partnering with the County of Lethbridge to ensure access to air services and the viability of the County of Lethbridge Airport
   • Advocating ongoing and enhanced east-west and north-south highway corridors
   • Developing a shared understanding for the future enhancement of rail services in the region

Example Actions

1) Host inter-municipal information sharing sessions
2) Initiate a joint planning initiative including Lethbridge, Coalhurst and the County of Lethbridge focusing on the rural-urban fringe between Coalhurst and Lethbridge
3) Initiate discussions with adjacent municipalities to identify appropriate urbanization models (investigation may include revenue sharing, annexation, partnerships, etc.)
4) Work with adjacent municipalities to identify opportunities for cooperation in infrastructure, transportation, waste management, social, health and emergency services provision and economic development
5) Cooperate with other municipalities in the region to monitor the impact of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP)
6) Explore the public support in adjacent communities to the concept of a regional transit system including the economic viability and sustainability of this concept on a regional basis
Implementation & Monitoring
7. Implementation and Monitoring

The intent of this section is to ensure that the progression towards the vision can be measured

Policies
1) It is recommended that existing plans be reviewed to ensure conformity with the ICSP/MDP
2) All new long-term plans shall be prepared in conformance with the ICSP/MDP
3) Staff will provide City Council with a report on progress made towards the Vision every three years
4) Develop indicators in order to measure long term progress towards the Vision
5) All municipal planning initiatives will be required to explain how the initiative is consistent with the ICSP/MDP

Galt Museum & Archives Board City Circle

It is important to recognize that preserving our history is about more than what takes place inside a museum. It also needs to consider where history is made.