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Media Release

Visionary updated growth plan for Edmonton Metro Region a step closer to Capital Region Board approval in October

(EDMONTON September 8, 2016) Today the Capital Region Board (CRB) received a presentation on the final draft of its updated regional growth plan and has recommended it for decision at its next meeting in October.

Thirty months in the making, the new Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan sets a path for more compact and efficient growth within the region's 24 municipalities in the next 30 years. Today's meeting included a decision on new densities for residential development in the rural areas, which means that, following Board approval in July of significant increase in current regional density targets, the most contentious components of the plan have been resolved.

Board Chair Mayor Nolan Crouse called the meeting another example of the growing collegiality of the Board.

"We are demonstrating more and more that working together is worth making compromises. We agree the final result of this Growth Plan is better for the region than we could have provided individually."

With the Edmonton Metro Region projected to double in population to 2.2 million people in 30 years, expanding to 1.2 million jobs representing about 30 per cent of provincial GDP, the new plan is projected to save 160 km² (250 quarter sections) of land – or about the size of Sherwood Park + St. Albert + Spruce Grove + Bruderheim put together - and \$5 billion dollars.

Crouse congratulated Strathcona County Mayor Roxanne Carr as Chair, and the members of the Task Force that shepherded the plan to completion, for a very difficult job, well done.

"This is a plan we can be proud of...ready to deliver significant projected savings for the region in land and money during its implementation. Its outcomes speak clearly to the responsible growth we were aiming for."

The Board will consider a motion for approval of the final Growth Plan on October 13, 2016. If approved, it will be delivered to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for final provincial approval. With that approval it then would return to the CRB for implementation.

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The CRB represents the 24 municipalities of Edmonton Metropolitan Region, leading regional action toward global opportunity with a focus on growth, transportation, housing and regional services.

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