



MEDIA RELEASE #6

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REGIONALIZATION WORKING GROUP DISCUSSES ELECTED REPRESENTATION

Elected representation and an effective communication strategy was the focus of the Regionalization Working Group (RWG) at their May 4 meeting.

Three models for elected representation were discussed. The first would be a total of 11 elected representatives consisting of four elected officials from the Brooks community, one from the Bassano community and five from the County of Newell plus, a Chief Elected Officer (CEO) elected at large by the entire population. The City of Brooks uses this method for selecting the CEO. CEO is the Municipal Government Act's official title for the Mayor or Reeve. For information on the role of the CEO, the methods of selecting a CEO and the pros and cons of these methods, please visit <https://regionalwg.ca>.

Option two would be a total of 11 elected representatives including five elected representatives from the Brooks community, five from the County of Newell and one from the Bassano community. In this scenario, the CEO would be elected annually at the organizational meeting by a nomination and voting process of the sitting councillors. The County of Newell uses this method for selecting the CEO.

The third option is to have a total of 10 elected representatives including four elected representatives from the Brooks community, five from the County of Newell and one from the Bassano community with the CEO elected annually at the organizational meeting as in option two.

The terms "Brooks community" and "Bassano community" are used as these boundaries may be enlarged slightly to square off the areas. The three models will be considered further after which they will be presented to the public for additional input.

The RWG also discussed the importance of having an effective communications strategy in place to ensure that relevant information reaches the intended audience and is understandable. It was determined that a communications specialist is the best way to achieve this goal. The RWG will send out a request for proposals to engage a specialist on a temporary basis and will continue to gather information requested by the public.

The RWG is contemplating hosting a panel discussion in the fall consisting of speakers discussing the future of municipal government, examples of amalgamations that have and have not worked and the lessons to be learned. The Group hopes have its data collected and analysis completed by the end of September. This will then be presented to the public in October/November. The Group will then consider public input and make a decision as to how to proceed over the following months.

The RWG will meet again on June 4.

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