



# REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-402

From: Crystal Brown, Electoral Area Manager

Date: May 4, 2023

**Subject: Interprovincial Open House Meet and Greet**

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## **RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board invite Saddle Hills County, the County of Grande Prairie, and Clear Hills County to an Open House Meet and Greet at the Peace River Regional District Warehouse after the Dawson Creek Exhibition Association Annual Fall Fair Parade.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

In April 2019, the Regional Board participated in an Interprovincial Meeting with Saddle Hills County, the County of Grande Prairie, and Clear Hills County. At the time, the Directors who attended the meeting agreed to the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) hosting the next meeting. As such, the Regional Board scheduled an Interprovincial Meeting for April 15, 2020.

In March 2020, COVID-19 hit, and the meeting was cancelled. On June 11, 2022, Clear Hills County proposed a new meeting date to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff worked with all the counterparts and were unable to find a date. On October 22, 2020, the Regional Board set April 21, 2021, as the new date for the Interprovincial Meeting.

On January 28, 2021, due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the Regional Board postponed the April 21, 2021, Interprovincial Meeting until the fall of 2021 to allow the meeting to be held in person. The Interprovincial Meeting was then rescheduled for October 14, 2021. On October 7, 2021, the Regional Board again postponed the Interprovincial Meeting until the Order of the Provincial Health Officer – Gathering and Events and the Gathering and Events COVID-19 Order for Northern Health Authority were amended to allow the meeting to happen face to face without COVID-19 gathering restrictions.

On March 10, 2022, the Province announced that between March 11, 2022, and April 8, 2022, the Province would be lifting COVID-19 restrictions, including the requirement for indoor common area mask requirements for workplaces, showing the BC Vaccine Card proof of vaccination to access non-essential events, and the Workplace Safety Order.

Due to a lack of available dates, and the 2022 General Local Government Election, it was decided to wait until a new Board was in place to find a meeting date. Once the new Regional Board Members were sworn in and the 2023 meeting schedule was adopted, staff contacted Saddle Hills County, the County of Grande Prairie, and Clear Hills County to find a meeting date for the rescheduled Interprovincial Meeting. Unfortunately, due to competing priorities, staff have been unable to find a meeting date that works. Staff continues to work with the Interprovincial counterparts to find new options for the Interprovincial Meeting. However, the PRRD has been informed that the proposed dates must be outside of the farming season. Therefore, staff will be looking at dates between October 2023 and April 2024.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- Interprovincial Collaboration
- Coordinate the Re-Establishment of Inter-Provincial Meetings.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

Funding for the Open House Meet and Greet will come out of Function 110- Legislative Regional.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.