

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MACKENZIE NO. 23  
STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP**

**Thursday, October 26, 2000**

**Seminar Room, Fort Vermilion School Division Central Office Building**

**Fort Vermilion, Alberta**

**PRESENT:**

Bill Neufeld	Reeve
Frank Rosenberger	Deputy Reeve
Betty Bateman	Councillor
John Driedger	Councillor (entered the meeting at 3:20 p.m.)
Pat Kulscar	Councillor
Greg Newman	Councillor
Walter Sarapuk	Councillor
Wayne Thiessen	Councillor
Willie Wieler	Councillor (entered the meeting at 4:35 p.m.)

**ABSENT:**

Joe Peters	Councillor
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**ALSO PRESENT:**

Harvey Prockiw	Chief Administrative Officer
Eva Schmidt	Executive Assistant
Marco Braat	Supervisor of Utilities, Parks and Playgrounds
Paul Driedger	Director of Planning and Emergency Services
Chris Kelland	Agricultural Fieldman
Bill Landiuk	Director of Corporate Services
Ivan Perich	Director of Operational Services

**BUSINESS:**

**1. Develop A Vision**

Council discussed and agreed to the following vision statement:

A superior quality of life and healthy economic climate in the Mackenzie region.

**2. Mission Statement**

Council discussed and agreed to the following mission statement:

Through the effective use of resources, provide a reasonable and similar level of service throughout the Municipal District of Mackenzie and create an appropriate and sustainable economic climate.

### **3. Review and Update Goals and Action Plans**

Council discussed and agreed to the following goals:

- A. To ensure the long term economic sustainability of the region.
- B. To provide a service structure that is equitable, acceptable, and economically feasible to the residents of the region.
- C. To maintain local autonomy over the governance of the region.

Objectives:

- 1. Maintain existing boundaries of the M.D. of Mackenzie and implement governance changes as decided by the plebiscite.
- 2. Any future governance restructuring be decided at the local level.

Through a brainstorming session Council and staff identified the following internal and external strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats of the M.D. of Mackenzie:

#### **Strengths**

##### **Region**

Natural resources  
Tourism  
Strong agricultural base  
Growing and young population  
Pioneer spirit  
Northern lights  
Friendliness  
Diverse population / economics  
Growing assessment  
Ample employment  
Distance from cities

##### **Organization**

Friendliness  
Recreation Facilities  
Staff  
Cohesive Council  
Council / Staff relations  
Communication  
Financial position

Vast area  
Northern residents allowance  
High wages  
Room for development  
Low crime rate  
Sound ecology

### Weakness

#### Region

Distance from cities  
Road infrastructure  
Staff / management recruitment  
Building infrastructure  
Lack of post-secondary education  
Cost of transportation and living  
Lack of affordable housing  
Lack of amenities (entertainment, shopping)  
Quota restrictions (marketing boards)  
Local and provincial government relations  
Regional diversity  
Cold

#### Organization

Financial Information system  
Decentralized offices  
Cost of service delivery  
Communication infrastructure  
Policies, procedures and bylaws  
Safety / equipment training

### Opportunities

#### Region

Tourism  
Agriculture (land livestock)  
Oil & gas  
Forestry  
Real estate development  
Small business & manufacture  
Recreation  
Northern lights  
Growth  
Highway 58 West to Fort Nelson  
Opportunity to shape  
Employment  
On the job training  
Freedom

#### Organization

Self education and distance education

**Threats**

**Region**

**Organization**

Gun control  
 Non looping of infrastructure (highways, gas & oil, power)  
 Natural disasters – flood (planning)  
 Depletion of natural resources  
 MD restructuring  
 Environmental contamination  
 Environmental regulations  
 First Nations land claims  
 Rail transportation  
 Grain elevators  
 Centralization of provincial and federal departments  
 Downloading of housing and highways  
 Environmentalist interests  
 Highway 58 East

**Rank**

Council and staff then ranked the strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats of the M.D. of Mackenzie in order of importance.

**Strengths**

**Region**

**Organizational**

Growing assessment	Council / staff relations
Natural resources	Communication
Strong agricultural base	Financial position

**Weaknesses**

**Region**

**Organization**

Local & provincial government relations	Decentralized offices
Cost of transportation and living	Financial Information System

Cost of service delivery & building  
Infrastructure

**Opportunities**

Agriculture  
Small business and manufacturing  
Tourism

**Threats**

First Nation Land claims  
Downloading of housing & highways  
MD restructuring

**4. Adjournment**

The workshop adjourned at 4:00 p.m.