



### Media Release

Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB) Launches Public Engagement on Regional Growth Plan

July 23, 2020 – We’re planning for the next million residents in the Calgary Metro Region. How will we all get around? Where will people live and work? How will we balance the needs of vibrant communities with the ability to pay for services? “When communities work together with a shared and focused vision, shared priorities, shared practices, and are ready to compete economically and socially with any region in the world – a competitive advantage exists and a diverse and prosperous region can be created that maximizes the very best of these regional communities,” said Mayor Marshall Chalmers from the City of Chestermere.

The CMRB wants to hear from Albertans living and working in the Calgary Metro Region to understand their priorities when it comes to growth in the region. An online public engagement campaign is being launched July 24 that will run through September 4, 2020. The CMRB invites Albertans to visit [calgarymetroregion.ca](http://calgarymetroregion.ca) to join the conversation. “It’s your home. It’s your region. Learn more. Have your say,” said Mayor Peter Brown from The City of Airdrie.

“The quality of life of the Calgary Metropolitan Region draws tens of thousands of new residents here every year,” said Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi. “As we think about how the next million residents in the region will get to work, we must be extremely thoughtful so that quality of life is not lost. This engagement will allow the 1.4 million people that call this region home to tell us how they want that done.” The CMRB wants to hear from as many Albertans in the Calgary Metro Region as possible about their preferences on how the region should grow.

Residents who visit the engagement website can learn more about different choices that are being considered for growth, complete a short survey and some poll questions, and participate in online discussion forums. “We’ve created a vision for the future of our community. And we are working collaboratively to ensure our unique community identity is highlighted and preserved in planning the future of the Calgary Metropolitan Region,” said Mayor Genung, Town of Cochrane. “Ensure your voice is heard.”

“With Public Consultation up next in the process, that’s where you come in! We are bringing this work to you for your review and to have a say. We encourage residents to visit [calgarymetroregion.ca](http://calgarymetroregion.ca) before September 4th to learn more and share your views. Thanks for taking part in the process!” said Reeve Suzanne Oel from Foothills County.

“Municipalities in the Calgary region are all connected, and together we can do more to enhance the financial, environmental and social wellbeing of all our communities,” said Okotoks Mayor Bill Robertson. “What we hear from the public will help us build a plan that reflects the values of our communities and supports sustainable growth in the region.”



Participants will be asked to share what matters to them about how growth is managed in the region, and also encouraged to consider tradeoffs and opportunities related to different approaches to managing growth. “Together our Municipalities are working to identify opportunities and efficiencies to reduce the cost of growth and support the long term, economic, environmental and social prosperity of all the communities in the Calgary region,” said Strathmore Mayor Pat Fule. “When we work together all our communities benefit, not just one.”

Reeve Amber Link from Wheatland County encourages members of the public to get involved. “Visit [calgarymetroregion.ca](http://calgarymetroregion.ca) before September 4th to learn more and share your views,” she says. “Our growth plan will set the stage for more collaborative delivery of services within the Calgary Metro Region. Large-scale changes to infrastructure or land-use impacts neighbouring municipalities and works better when planning for growth is coordinated in the region.”

For more details about the public engagement process or to learn more about the CMRB, visit [calgarymetroregion.ca](http://calgarymetroregion.ca).

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*The CMRB’s mandate is to support the long-term sustainability of the Calgary Metropolitan Region. The Calgary Metropolitan Region includes the following ten municipalities: City of Airdrie, City of Calgary, City of Chestermere, Town of Cochrane, Foothills County, Town of High River, Town of Okotoks, Rocky View County, Town of Strathmore and Wheatland County (portion).*

**For further information:**

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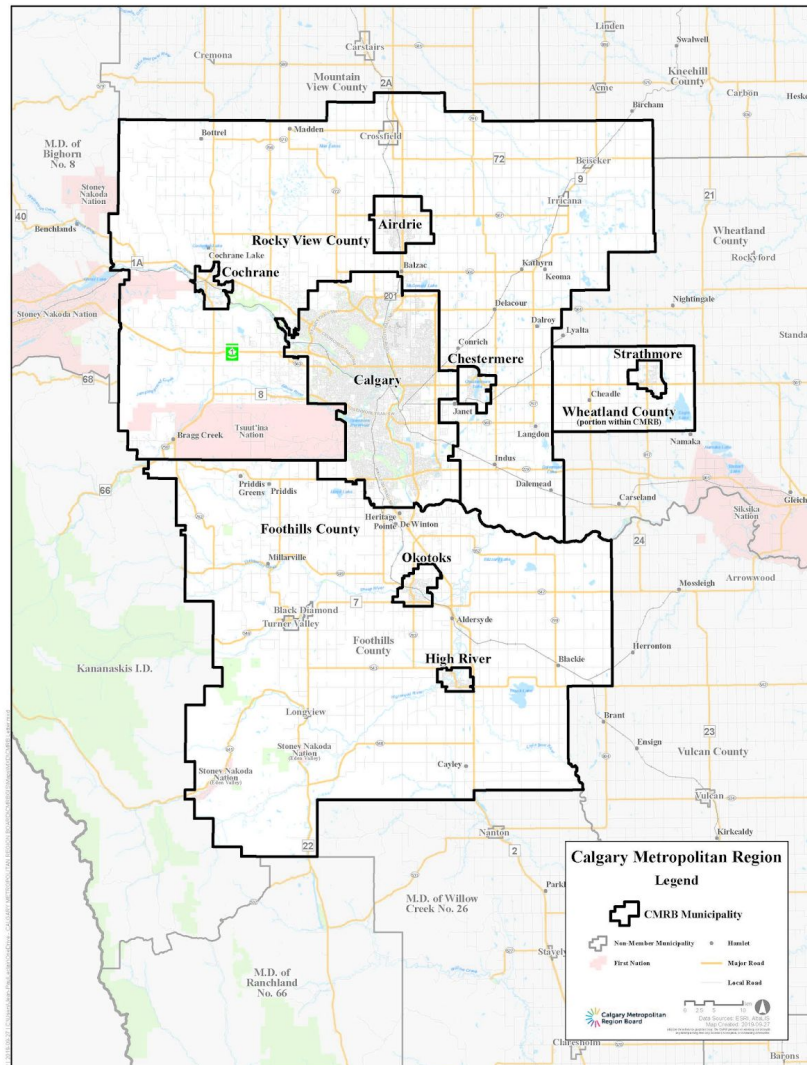
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# Calgary Metropolitan Region Board

## Background Information



### What is the mandate of the CMRB?

The Calgary Metropolitan Region Board supports the long term sustainability of the Calgary Metropolitan Region by:

- Ensuring environmentally responsible land-use planning, growth management and efficient use of land
- Developing policies regarding the coordination of regional infrastructure investment and service delivery
- Promoting the economic wellbeing and competitiveness of the Calgary Metropolitan Region
- Developing policies outlining how the Board shall engage the public in consultation



### **How is the regional growth plan being developed?**

Over the last year, representatives from the 10 municipalities in the Calgary Metro Region have been working together to lay the foundation for the regional growth plan.

The CMRB has selected internationally-recognized regional planning firm HDR Calthorpe to develop the Growth Plan in consultation with member municipalities under the leadership of the Board.

The Growth Plan process revolves around three main phases:

- Phase 1: Information Gathering
- Phase 2: Regional Scenarios
- Phase 3: Policy and Plan Development

We are currently completing Phase 2. Scenarios have been developed based on input from elected officials and staff from member municipalities around the region. The CMRB is now looking to members of the community to provide input and insight so that the scenarios can be refined. The CMRB's goal is to combine the best features of each scenario, along with supportive policies that will be reflected in the final draft plan.

In the fall, the CMRB will share the final draft plan with the public and seek additional feedback, before the final Growth & Service Plan is presented to the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board for approval.

### **What does a regional growth plan do and what does it not do?**

A regional growth plan builds a framework to help municipalities in the region work together. It includes policy to guide coordinated growth.

It does not replace local planning or the authority of individual municipalities to make decisions that consider the needs of local residents and businesses.

### **Why does the Calgary Metro Region need a regional growth plan?**

When the needs of the region are addressed as a whole, we can better identify opportunities and efficiencies to reduce the costs of growth, attract investment to the region, and realize sustained prosperity.

Big infrastructure projects have an impact on more than one municipality, and we can better plan for and execute these major changes in our communities when we are all working together.