

## Case Study: County of Polestaff Municipal Sustainability Plan

### Context

The County of Polestaff is a municipality in east central Alberta with 6000 rural residents. Within the county there are 10 towns and villages which have a combined population of 5000 people. The population base in the region has been declining by 2 to 3% per year for the past 10 years. The local economy is a mix of grain farming, ranching, oil pipelines, agricultural service centers, and light industry. The county's tax base is relatively healthy due to the presence of the oil industry while the towns and villages are struggling. Several of the villages are not fiscally viable but they have been kept alive by provincial government grants and the largess of the county. There exists an informal, voluntary committee of all the mayors of the municipalities within the county including the Reeve of the county. The County is 100 km from a major metropolitan area and its western boundary only 15 km from a city of 10,000.

The Municipal Council has asked for a report that would **outline the steps** required for the development of a comprehensive Municipal Sustainability Plan that includes the following elements:

1. A Vision Statement and set of principles for policy development
2. An assessment of the municipality's economic capital and projection of its fiscal sustainability for the next 20 years
3. An assessment of the natural and physical capital within the municipal boundary, an environmental impact analysis of all industrial activity that exists and could be planned in the municipality and a management strategy that addresses risk management issues
4. An assessment of the human, social and cultural capital of the municipality that specifically addresses issues of health and welfare
5. An analysis of regional sustainability issues and coordination of the Municipal Sustainability Plan with a regional plan.
6. A process to incorporate community involvement in the preparation of the Plan

Your group is to prepare this report for Council. In the report you will describe in detail the kinds of information required for each section of the report and identify the tools that could be used to gather and analyze this information. This report will be used as the basis for Grant Requests and Requests for Proposals should the council decide to proceed. You do not need to include estimated costs for its development but you do need to include a timeline for the analysis and proposal development process.