



April 27, 2009

## **Bill 36, the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* sets the bar for responsible regional planning**

### ***Proposed Act respects property rights and local decision-making***

*Edmonton...* Future development in Alberta will consider the combined impact of activities on the land, air, water, and biodiversity. The proposed *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* would help sustain economic growth, while meeting Albertans' social and environmental objectives.

Bill 36, tabled April 27 in the Legislature, creates the authority for regional plans for each of the seven regions identified in the Land-use Framework. Albertans will be consulted to help define the future of the region in which they live.

The Act creates new conservation and stewardship tools to protect heritage landscapes and views. It will make Alberta the first jurisdiction in Canada to compensate landowners whose property values are affected by conservation and stewardship restrictions under regional plans.

"Through nearly three years of consultations, Albertans told us they support orderly development through regional planning. They want strong provincial leadership and we need everyone—provincial departments, municipalities and other decision-makers—to work together," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "This legislation delivers on all counts and underlines this government's commitment to a new way of managing our land and natural resources."

Specifically, the Act:

- gives the Lieutenant Governor in Council authority to direct the development of, and subsequently approve, regional plans as legally binding documents under the Act;
- outlines what must be included in regional plans, plus what may be included to respond to regional needs and circumstances;
- allows the appointment of regional advisory councils to provide advice to government on developing regional plans;
- provides for reviews of regional plans at least every 10 years, or more often if needed to respond to changing circumstances;
- creates a secretariat to support regional planning; and
- requires provincial departments, regulatory agencies, municipalities and other local government authorities to align their decisions, plans and bylaws with regional plans.

/...2

Regional plans will be binding on provincial and local governments and other decision makers, and will have an impact on industrial, recreational and other land users. Regional plans will be developed with respect for local decision-making authority and, when approved, intermunicipal plans, such as the Calgary and Capital region plans, may be adopted as sub-regional plans.

“This is the most comprehensive land-use policy in North America. Making the seven land-use regions congruent with Alberta’s major watersheds is a significant breakthrough that will allow us to integrate our air, land and water policies as never before,” said Sustainable Resource Development Minister Ted Morton. “The legislation also provides unprecedented protection for property rights and upholds local decision-making.”

The *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* includes related amendments to more than 25 legislative Acts to support regional planning in the province. The amendments provide administrative tools to enable the government to direct planning requirements and processes for the province.

The *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* and the Land-use Framework are available at [www.landuse.alberta.ca](http://www.landuse.alberta.ca).

- 30 -

**Backgrounders:** Legislative amendments facilitate regional plans; Regional planning in Alberta; *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* conservation tools; History of consultations on Land-use Framework

**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

Carol Chawrun  
Sustainable Resource Development  
780-427-8636

Joan McCracken  
Sustainable Resource Development  
780-427-8636

Deleen Schoff  
Sustainable Resource Development  
Deleen.Schoff@gov.ab.ca

To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.