

# Including a Village in the Rural Municipality (RM)

## Why You May Consider Voluntary Restructuring

When a village faces significant challenges that make it difficult to operate as a level of government, council may wish to look at available options to improve the situation.

### Challenges

Some challenges include:

- failing to recruit a qualified administrator;
- an inability to fill vacant seats on council;
- mismanagement of municipal assets;
- non-compliance with legislative requirements;
- financial difficulties; or
- other reasons that are evident to the residents, elected officials or staff members.

Council is elected to make decisions that are in the best interest of their citizens.

### Considering Restructuring

When a village is finding it difficult to operate, restructuring can help to ensure the long-term health of the community. It is important for councils experiencing administrative or governance challenges to be proactive. Acting early avoids a decrease in the level of service provided to citizens, legislative compliance issues, or costly administrative issues.

Restructuring into the surrounding RM is not uncommon. Fifty-seven villages have made the decision to become a part of the surrounding RM between 2000 and 2017.

## To start the Process to Restructure

If council decides that restructuring into the RM will benefit their village, council will:

1. Request their administrator provide a report about the restructuring process;
2. Pass a resolution to arrange a meeting with the RM involved;
3. Contact a municipal advisor at 306-787-2680 to attend the meeting held between the two municipalities; and
4. Work with the RM to negotiate a restructuring agreement.

The council may stop the process at any time before submitting the application to the minister.

The restructuring agreement may include:

- levels of service;
- allocation of shared expenses;
- assets and liabilities;
- staffing; and
- representation on council.

## Public Consultation

When a village considers voluntary restructuring, the information the public hears falls into one of two categories – Fact or Myth. The council may wish to provide the Restructuring Myths fact-sheet to members of the public early in the process.

A council considering restructuring must provide an opportunity for public input. After the village and RM councils have created and signed a restructuring agreement, the village council holds a public meeting about restructuring. Public notice about the meeting must be advertised for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper. The same notice is also mailed to each affected landowner, municipality and school division. People can file a written objection within four weeks of the last published notice. The village council reviews objections received and evaluates feedback from the public meeting. At this time council may make a resolution to:

- submit the application to restructure;
- negotiate changes to the restructuring agreement with the RM before sending the application;
- submit a question about restructuring to the voters of the municipality; or
- not submit the application to restructure.

## For more information

Call Government Relations, Advisory Services and Municipal Relations branch at 306-787-2680 or search “including an urban municipality in the rural municipality” on [saskatchewan.ca](https://www.saskatchewan.ca).