

Restructuring Myths

Including an urban municipality into the surrounding rural municipality

When an urban municipality (i.e. village, resort village) is considering restructuring into the surrounding rural municipality (RM), the information the public hears may not always be accurate. This document dispels some of the common myths regarding urban municipalities becoming part of the surrounding RM. For questions, please contact the Advisory Services Inquiry Line at 306-787-2680 or by email at muninfo@gov.sk.ca.

Myth #1

“We will lose our identity.”

Fact

The name and identity of every community is an important part of the region and province. Urban municipalities that are included in an RM will continue to be known as that specific community, just without the “village of” or “town of” forming part of the name. Community facilities like a rink or hall typically continue to operate in the same manner as before restructuring.

Myth #2

“The RM will have to pay for the urban municipality’s debt and subsidize its services.”

Fact

After an urban municipality is included into the RM, the assets and liabilities of the former municipality will be settled by a neutral third party. If there is remaining cash, it will be used to the benefit of the former municipality. Likewise, if there are outstanding liabilities, a levy may be required to be added to the properties of the former municipality to retire the debt.

The former municipality may be designated as a special service area (SSA), which allows council to use different tax rates and service levels within the SSA than the rest of the RM. Depending on the desired services and the financial position of the former municipality, taxes for the SSA may or may not increase.

Myth #3

“We will have no voice on local matters.”

Fact

After the restructuring is complete, decisions regarding the former municipality are made by the RM council. Residents and voters of the former municipality will become residents and voters of the RM and will have an equal opportunity to run as a candidate and vote in RM elections. Voters will also continue to have the same options to influence decisions of council, such as addressing council at meetings and petitioning for public meetings or referendums.