

vision for rural alberta



Rural Alberta has vibrant and sustainable communities where rural and urban families, individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments are vital contributors to the growth, prosperity and quality of life of Albertans.

government commitment

The Government of Alberta officially recognizes the importance of rural Alberta and its contributions to the Alberta Advantage and is committed to work together with rural communities and rural Albertans to foster a vibrant and sustainable Alberta.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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a place to grow

ALBERTA'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
HIGHLIGHTS



A Place to Grow is the Alberta Government's new rural development strategy. It reflects rural Alberta's traditional ties to the land, and its values. It also reflects its support for new opportunities, new ideas and new potential as rural Alberta moves forward to enjoy the full benefit of the Alberta Advantage.

A Place to Grow is an action-oriented document that strengthens and builds on existing inter-relationships between rural and urban communities. These actions are intended to build sustainable rural communities that were vital to our past and are just as vital to our future.



guiding principles

- > The Government's role is to create a positive environment and work with rural communities to support locally developed initiatives, plans and projects
- > All Albertans should have access to essential services
- > Good stewardship of Alberta's land, air and water to focus on sustainability and preserving economic and quality of life advantages our environment provides
- > Action must be initiated and led at the local level

- > Action must allow flexibility and innovation, recognizing the unique needs of different communities and regions
- > Action must be collaborative, with cooperation among rural regions and communities, across & amongst governments and between urban & rural communities

four pillars

There are 4 key areas that are essential for sustainable rural communities. They are: economic growth; community capacity, quality of life & infrastructure; health care; learning and skill development.

priority actions

The following are some strategies that reflect what Albertans have clearly indicated are important and need addressing.

- > A Strong Voice for Rural Albertans, by:
 - Establishing a new Rural Citizen's Voice
 - Initiating a new dialogue process between Government Caucus and rural citizens
- > The Rural Alberta Gateway, can:
 - Provide access to information and services needed by rural Albertans
 - Enable rural Albertans to voice their concerns, so that they will be heard
- > Promote economic development, by:
 - Improving access to resources that will help communities to move forward
 - Encouraging tourists to experience the hospitality and uniqueness of rural Alberta

- > Build community capacity, particularly in:
 - Leadership, rural & regional development
 - Arts, culture, heritage, sports & recreation
- > Improving access to healthcare, by:
 - Using rural hospitals more effectively to address rural and urban health challenges
 - Implementing access standards and guidelines for essential health services
- > Expand learning & skill development, by:
 - Using technology to improve access, teaching and learning in rural communities
 - Expand training opportunities for new professionals, apprenticeships & trades people
- > Sustain & enhance the quality of the environment by:
 - Maintaining a safe and secure water supply
 - Improving waste management processes
- > Provide opportunities for rural youth, by:
 - Developing community youth engagement strategies, youth entrepreneurship
 - Supporting their efforts to become involved in their local community
- > Engage and support seniors, by:
 - Expanding assisted living options
 - Removing transportation barriers
- > Encourage Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to work together in all aspects of rural life, by:
 - Implementing the Government's Aboriginal Policy Framework