



# MEDIA RELEASE #2 – January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES CONTINUE TO ASSESS REGIONALIZATION

Bassano, Brooks, Duchess, Rainier, Rosemary and Tilley will host Open Houses to obtain public feedback on the initiative of combining five municipalities into one regional municipality. The recently established “Regionalization Committee” has decided to retain Contigo Business Services Inc. out of Strathmore to handle the Open Houses and provide Facilitation Services for the partners. Tracey Polowich, from Contigo Business Services Inc., has done Strategic Planning/Facilitation work for the Newell Regional Services Corporation and the County of Newell in the past.

Time	Thur - Feb. 21/19	Tues - Feb. 26/19	Wed - March 13/19
4:00 PM to 5:30 PM	Bassano Community Hall	Brooks Heritage Inn	Tilley Community Hall
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Rainier Community Hall	Rosemary South Room Rec Plex	Duchess Community Hall

“Along with her knowledge of service delivery requirements, Tracey understands municipalities and their mandate, giving her the background to facilitate this process in an unbiased, professional and arm’s length manner for the partnership,” says County of Newell Reeve Molly Douglass.

“Potential for cost savings along with service duplications are driving the regionalization concept between the partners,” says Bassano Mayor Ron Wickson. An annual savings of \$8-12 million is the target by joining forces under one umbrella. “While regionalization is not unanimously supported at this time, all the partners agree that long term viability and sustainability of the region is the main driving factor for considering the change,” says Duchess Mayor Tony Steidel. “Having a say and some control in what our future is going to look like is certainly very important to the group,” says Brooks Mayor Barry Morishita.

Committee Chair and Rosemary Mayor Bill Marshall says, “The public will need to provide input on whether the regional concept is something that should be pursued going forward.” Each municipality comes to the table with an open mind and will solicit direction through Open Houses & Public Consultation Process.