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## **Town of Coaldale and County of Lethbridge Receive Provincial Funding for Integrated Development Strategy**

**Lethbridge, AB...**The Town of Coaldale and County of Lethbridge are pleased to announce that the proposed Integrated Development Strategy has been approved for \$450,000 in funding under the Government of Alberta's Rural Community Adaptation Grant Program (RCAP). The Integrated Development Strategy is a major study to address development issues, pressures and opportunities in the Coaldale area and along the Highway 3 corridor. The Integrated Development Strategy will address a range of issues including stormwater management, servicing, transportation, and land use in a comprehensive way.

A new Inter-municipal Development Plan was recently ratified by the two municipalities, and the Integrated Development Strategy will continue the spirit of co-operation, consultation and communication on land use issues in Coaldale's rural fringe area.

Mayor Kim Craig of Coaldale says, "The integrated development strategy is another partnership initiative between our two municipalities and it should result in a comprehensive plan that will allow for greater collaboration in the future. The team of consultants that we have working on this project will bring a level of enthusiasm and vision that should provide unique solutions to such issues as storm water management and transportation."

"The Integrated Development Strategy will provide us with the tools to manage growth", said Lorne Hickey, Reeve of the County of Lethbridge. "We will also have clear direction on where we want to go with development, and be able to create new opportunities for economic development that will sustain our communities into the future."

The Strategy will be developed with the assistance of a consulting team led by Alvin Reinhard Fritz Architect Inc. and David Amos & Associates. Work is beginning immediately, and the study is scheduled to be complete in the spring of 2011.

The Rural Community Adaptation Grant Program (RCAP) is designed to increase the capacity of rural communities and regions to make transitions and adapt, resulting in greater resilience and new, more diverse economic opportunities. RCAP funding is matched by a minimum 10 per cent contribution from the recipient municipalities.

**For more information, contact:**

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