



County of St. Paul Council
Attention: Council Members
5015-49 Avenue
St. Paul, Alberta
T0A 3A4

Re: Lakeland Outdoor Recreation Group

February 11, 2015

Dear Council,

Please take a few minutes to consider your interest and support of a significant recreational, tourism and healthy lifestyle enhancement opportunity for our region. We feel that what the Lakeland Outdoor Recreation Group (LORG) has been working towards is an important development for the Lakeland region.

As you may know, N.E. Muni-Corr Ltd. is a part nine not for profit company consisting of representation from ten municipalities; City of Cold Lake, M.D. of Bonnyville, Town of Bonnyville, Village of Glendon, Town of Elk Point, Town of St. Paul, County of St. Paul, Village of Vilna, Smoky Lake County and Town of Smoky Lake. It was formed when CN abandoned rail service in the late 1990's and the volunteer organization known as Riverland Recreational Trail Society helped to bring the 10 Municipalities together to acquire the rail right of way for use as a multi-use recreation corridor, utility right of way and wildlife corridor. N.E. Muni-Corr Ltd. worked very closely with RRTS to develop the corridor into a recreation trail which is known as Alberta's Iron Horse Trail. The trail has won numerous awards in the past eleven years and has been recognized by many as a unique tourist attraction for north east Alberta. As well, N.E. Muni-Corr Ltd. has been recognized for its collaborative work and has played a crucial role in trail development in the Province.

This is why we are very pleased to see a group of volunteers who represent various recreation aspects (trapping, motorized and non-motorized trails, tourism operators) take the lead on moving trail development forward for the Lakeland region. Given the scope and significance of the project, Municipal Representation on the steering committee for this development is a beneficial consideration. LORG was instrumental in ensuring recreation was an integral part of the Land Use Framework and have lobbied the provincial government to seriously commit to developing recreation areas as evidenced by Premier Jim Prentices mandate letter to Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Kyle Fawcett:

- Implement Alberta's Plan for Parks in participation with the continued implementation of Alberta's Land Use Framework; and
- Implement a provincial recreational trails pilot project that will generate recreational, active living and environmental benefits.

Furthermore, recreation development was addressed in Premier Prentices press release shortly after being elected as he talks about collaboration between the Ministries of Culture & Tourism and Environment and Sustainable Resource Development:

Continuing to improve Alberta's quality of life is one of the top five priorities for the Prentice Government. Recognizing the many areas of interconnectivity, functions from the former Tourism, Parks and Recreation ministry will be integrated into other ministries. The tourism function will become part of the new department of Culture and Tourism, and parks and recreation will become part of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. Working together, these new teams will collaborate on strategic approaches to supporting the high level of quality of life Albertans enjoy.

LORG has been working behind the scenes since 2010 and feel the timing is right to move forward with Lakeland regional trail development. The group's initiator, Jerry Bidulock has been to N.E. Muni-Corr Ltd., Riverland Recreational Trail Society and Lac La Biche County council to present the background and vision of such a trail system. N.E. Muni-Corr Ltd. supports the idea in principle and would like to encourage the municipal leaders and stakeholders in the Lakeland to become informed and support the efforts of LORG. We will be helping the organization to set up a meeting in our region with the Ministers of Culture & Tourism and Environment and Sustainable Resource Development in the near future.

To that end, we are asking your council for two things.

- First is to supply a letter to LORG indicating your support in principle to further advance the project of regional trail development.
- The second is your support of getting and attending a meeting with the Ministers on this development.

Thank you for your time and, we hope, your support. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact LORG at:

Lakeland Outdoor Recreation Group
(operating as a subcommittee of Riverland Recreation Trail Society)
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Follow us on Facebook: Lakeland Outdoors

Sincerely,



Marianne Price
Administrative Coordinator
N.E. Muni-Corr Ltd.

Village of Vilna Council
County of Smoky Lake Council
Town of Smoky Lake Council
Town of Athabasca Council
County of Athabasca Council
R.M. of Wood Buffalo Council
M.D. of Bonnyville
Lac La Biche County Council
Town of Bonnyville Council
Town of Elk Point Council
Town of St. Paul Council
Village of Glendon Council
City of Cold Lake Council