

1. The Chamber Political Action committee would like to ensure that there is participation from the City of Lloydminster in the Watershed Planning & Advisory Council (WPAC) for the North Saskatchewan River. Towards this end, the committee, through Dr. Don Duncan, has been in contact with Rob Renner, Minister of the Environment, and Mr. Renner has indicated that Alberta Environment encourages the City of Lloydminster to gain membership in NSWA and become actively involved in their integrated planning process. *The mission, as stated in their Strategic Plan is: “to protect and improve water quality, quantity and the health of our watershed by: seeking, developing, and sharing knowledge; optimizing communication and partnerships; and by fostering an understanding of the relationship between societal needs and watershed function through an adaptive planning process,”* by using an inclusive and transparent process, involving as many stakeholders as possible.

At the Policy Session that was held earlier in February, Mayor Baker informed the group that the City of Lloydminster was not a member of WPAC and did not have any active involvement on the Advisory Council. He also indicated that the County of Vermilion River was involved and that they made reports to the City. The Chamber of Commerce believes that the City of Lloydminster must also be at the table as water issues will be one of the most important considerations as we move into the future.

Question for discussion:

What plans does the City of Lloydminster have to become an active participant in the Watershed Planning and Advisory Council for the North Saskatchewan River? How can the Chamber assist the City in this area?

2. For the past several years, community members & Chamber members have been hearing that the City of Lloydminster appears not to be open for business in terms of encouraging developers to locate in the City. The message that many have been hearing from developers who work right across Canada with some major developments, is that Lloydminster is the most difficult City to work with in terms of the red tape and barriers that must be overcome.

Question for discussion:

While the Chamber recognizes that there must be rules and regulations, are those individuals responsible for meeting with and dealing with developers providing a welcoming attitude and assistance to encourage development, or is there a reason why developers are getting the message that they are, and if so, what needs to be done to change this?

3. Safe Communities are very important to individuals and families considering locating their business or their home to Lloydminster. The Drug Strategy Committee has been working at educating the community and coming up with strategies to combat the drug problems in the community. Gang related activities are also a grave concern for any community. The provincial and federal governments are taking a more serious look at what they can do to assist communities to make their communities safer, but the message has been clear that local governments will need to assist with tackling this problem. The Alberta Premier indicated as much at the Premiers dinner in April.

Question for discussion:

What is the City of Lloydminster (City Council & Administration) doing to ensure that Lloydminster has minimal or no gang related activities and drug trade? Are there some measures that can be taken or bylaws or licensing conditions that need to be put in place to ensure that Lloydminster is a safe place to live and work? How can the City of Lloydminster work with the RCMP to curb and greatly reduce problems associated with gang activity and drugs? Has the City of Lloydminster made any further moves to provide for a coordinator to administer the organizations, Citizens of Patrol, Block Parents and Neighborhood Watch?