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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Lacombe County adopts Lacombe/Blackfalds Rural Fringe Area Structure Plan**

(Lacombe, Alberta) – Following a comprehensive public consultation process, Lacombe County Council gave second and third reading to a new Area Structure Plan on February 14 which looks to guide the future development of County lands to the south and east of Blackfalds.

While work on the Lacombe / Blackfalds Rural Fringe Area Structure Plan (ASP) was initially started in the fall of 2003, Lacombe County delayed the preparation of the ASP in 2004 to allow for completion of the *Highway 2A Urban Corridor Area Structure Plan* and the *Highway 2A (Lacombe to Blackfalds) Functional Planning Study*. As these two studies directly affect the Plan area, it was important that they be considered in the preparation of the ASP. The ASP was formally re-started in 2007 with a public open house, and with the plan area boundaries adjusted to exclude lands covered in the *Highway 2A Urban Corridor Area Structure Plan*.

“The purpose of the ASP is to outline the preferred land uses, general development standards, road access improvements and servicing requirements of the area,” explained Dale Freitag, Long Range Planner for Lacombe County. “This in turn helps to ensure orderly planning by assisting the Planning department in responding to future subdivision and development proposals.”

The draft future development concept map for the Lacombe / Blackfalds Rural Fringe ASP incorporates planning objectives that reflect values important to area residents, including the preservation of large areas of agricultural land and protecting the rural landscape and environmentally sensitive areas. To minimize potential land use conflicts, the ASP focuses on encouraging conservation minded housing alternatives in areas suited for residential development. The ASP also addresses residential and commercial opportunities, the future expansion needs of the Towns of Lacombe and Blackfalds, as well as the need to protect valuable sand and gravel resources in the area.

The Plan area is divided into six policy areas to ensure that polices address a variety of natural and man-made features unique to each area, including gravel resources, the Burbank Industrial Park, Blindman River, Blackfalds Lake and the CN rail line.

The Lacombe / Blackfalds Rural Fringe ASP is available at the County Office or online at [www.lacombecounty.com](http://www.lacombecounty.com).

A copy of the future land use concept map is attached.

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