

New Chair Reaffirms Association's Priorities

Transportation network and investment attraction key focus for municipal partnership

Alberta's Industrial Heartland (April 23, 2015) – Proactive planning and investment attraction remain a key focus of Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association as a new Chair and Vice Chair were welcomed today at the Annual General Meeting.

Board of Directors member Ed Gibbons, Councillor for the City of Edmonton, will spend a two-year term guiding the partnership of five municipalities as the Association's newly appointed Chair. Mayor of Fort Saskatchewan Gale Katchur takes over the role of Vice Chair.

"As Canada's largest hydrocarbon processing centre, the Heartland region plays a significant role on both a provincial and national scale," commented Chair Gibbons. "As an Association guiding and promoting future development, it's our job to ensure growth is sustainable, properly planned, and coordinated among our municipal partners."

The region's transportation network is a top priority, as recent industrial and municipal growth has created significant challenges. The Association will continue working closely with the provincial government and local industry-related stakeholders to improve the transportation network. The safe movement of products and people throughout the region is essential for sustainable growth.

Another top priority – investment attraction – is yielding promising results as cost advantaged natural gas and a lower Canadian dollar makes investment more appealing. Over a dozen global companies have toured the region in the past two years.

With over \$10 billion in industrial projects already under construction and billions more in announced plans, the Heartland will realize substantial economic and employment benefits from industrial development.

"Some of the most innovative projects are taking those raw resources and adding value through refining or further processing," explained Neil Shelly, Executive Director. "Others are taking what were considered waste products and extracting higher value hydrocarbons. It's encouraging to know that these value added developments will help diversify the provincial economy and smooth out boom and bust cycles of the energy industry."

For more information on the Association and industrial projects in the region, visit industrialheartland.com or follow @ABHeartland on Twitter.

Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association is dedicated to coordinating, advocating, and promoting sustainable industrial development in the region. The Association is a cooperative effort of Lamont County, Strathcona County, Sturgeon County, and the Cities of Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan.

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Board of Directors, Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association
(L-R)

Wayne Woldanski, Reeve, Lamont County (Past Chair)

Gale Katchur, Mayor, City of Fort Saskatchewan (Vice Chair)

Tom Flynn, Mayor, Sturgeon County

Roxanne Carr, Mayor, Strathcona County

Ed Gibbons, Councillor, City of Edmonton (Chair)