

A Policy Scan for The Built Environment Health Promotion Strategy

Healthy Public Policy / Report / October 2012



A Policy Scan for the Built Environment Health Promotion Strategy

Purpose

- This policy scan provides a list of relevant policies and legislation related to the recommendations identified from the *State of Evidence: The Built Environment and Health 2011-2015*¹, prepared by researchers with Public Health Innovation and Decision Support (PHIDS) for the Built Environment Health Promotion Strategy (BEHPS).
- Given the findings of the State of Evidence report, this scan focused on key policies and legislation associated with *land use planning* and *transportation* and not building design.
- Along with contextual information, these scan results may provide useful policy background when undertaking large intersectoral built environment initiatives in Alberta.

Methods

- The scan was conducted in July and August 2012 by Healthy Public Policy, Alberta Health Services. Information was obtained from publicly accessible legislative databases and ministerial websites maintained by federal, provincial and selected municipal levels of government. (See Appendix for a list of sites.) The following key search terms were used:

• built environment	AND	• legislation • policy
• land use plan/planning		
• land use development		
• transportation		
• active transportation		

- Each policy is described in the following format: title, year, type, built environment component(s), description, and reference. Following the table of findings for Alberta, a table with relevant standards and guidelines is included. Finally, a scan of policies for the City of Edmonton and the Municipal District of Rocky View are provided as examples of specific municipal policies related to the built environment.

Terminology and Definitions

There are many terms and concepts which are important to understanding the findings. The BEHPS Advisory Group has agreed to the following definition of **built environment**:

An interdisciplinary field that addresses the design, construction, management and use of human-made surroundings as an interrelated whole, as well as their relationship to human activities over time (rather than a particular element in isolation or at a single moment in time).²

¹ Coupland, K., Rikhy, S., Hill, K. and McNeil, D. (2011). *State of evidence: The built environment and health 2011-2015*, Public Health Innovation and Decision Support, Population and Public Health, Alberta Health Services.

² Wikipedia. (April 2012). Definition of modern built environment. Retrieved September 14, 2012, from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Built_environment.

Other key terms that appear in the scan are described according to a glossary³ that was developed by the AHS Healthy Public Policy team:

- **Policy** - a guide to action to change what would otherwise occur, a decision about amount and allocations of resources.
- **Public policy** - also known as government policy, is the broad framework of ideas and values that guide decisions, action or inaction that public authorities take with respect to matters affecting the population.
- **Land use patterns** - the scientific, aesthetic, and orderly arrangement of land, resources, facilities and services.
- **Transportation systems** - the physical infrastructure and services that provide the links or connectivity among human activities.
- **Building design** - the aesthetic, physical, and functional qualities of buildings and streetscapes.

Strengths and Limitations

This scan provides, current, relevant, and specific information related to the built environment in the Alberta context. Legislative and policy documents were readily accessible on-line for both the federal and provincial governments. In particular, policy documentation on land-use planning and development was comprehensive and up-to-date on the Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Development government website.

While a large number of policies were identified, there are three main limitations to the findings:

- By linking this policy scan with the results of the BEHPS Evidence Review, policies specifically linked to building design were not included. There are a few broad healthy built environment policies that include aspects of building design.
- Given project timelines, we did not examine each policy in-depth to understand its history, intent, application and effectiveness.
- Further research is needed to build on the review of federal and provincial policies and identify specific local policies for each municipality. This additional work is most practical once stakeholders have identified their built environment issue(s).

Finally, policy scans become dated rather quickly. Results here should be updated and analyzed once BEHPS Zone Action Plans have been developed.

³ Healthy Public Policy (2011). *Healthy public policy annotated glossary*. Edmonton, AB: Alberta Health Services.

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TITLE	YEAR	TYPE	RESPONSIBLE	BE FOCUS	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
FEDERAL						
Agriculture and Rural Development Act	1985	legislation	Ministry of Agriculture & Agri-Food	land use planning	The Act specifies the nature of projects (with provinces), responsibilities and research concerning the rehabilitation and development of rural lands.	http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/A-3/page-1.html#h-2
Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund Act	2002	legislation	Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure & Communities	land use planning, transportation	This Act maintains the program that provides funding to public or private organizations for carrying out large public infrastructure projects such as: (a) highway or rail infrastructure; (b) local transportation infrastructure; (c) tourism or urban development infrastructure; (d) sewage treatment infrastructure; (e) water infrastructure	http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-10.3/page-1.html
Indian Act	1876	legislation	Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada (AANDC)	land use planning	Under the Act, reserve lands are managed under the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada. The law and regulations of land management can significantly affect land use planning and development when reserve land is involved.	http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100034737/1100100034738
First Nations Land Management Act	1999	legislation	AANDC	land use planning	This Act allows participating First Nations to opt out of the land-related sections of the <i>Indian Act</i> and enact their own laws taking into consideration the development, conservation, use and possession of reserve lands.	http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1327090675492/1327090738973
Comprehensive Land Claims Policy	1986	policy	AANDC	land use planning	The policy, which evolved from the 1973 <i>Statement on Claims of Indian and Inuit People</i> , provides certainty and outlines a negotiation process for defining the ownership, use and management of lands and resources for Aboriginal people. Most of the lands and resources that are the subject of comprehensive claim negotiations are under provincial jurisdiction.	http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100031774/1100100031841#s1b

TITLE	YEAR	TYPE	RESPONSIBLE	BE FOCUS	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
PROVINCIAL (ALBERTA)						
Environment Protection and Enhancement Act	2000	legislation	Ministry of Environment & Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD)	land use planning	The purpose of this Act is to support and promote the protection, enhancement and wise use of the environment, The Act's regulations, codes and standards cover a wide range of activities. Examples: environmental assessment, landfills, pesticide sales, wastewater and storm drainage, air quality guidelines.	http://environment.alberta.ca/03147.html http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/E12.pdf
Municipal Government Act	2000	legislation & bylaws	Ministries: Municipal Affairs, Infrastructure, Transportation and Municipal governments	land use planning & development, transportation	This Act describes the purpose, power and capacity of municipalities. It contains the regulations for managing many areas such as: municipal organization, traffic safety, land use planning and development, property taxes, roads, waste management and utilities. There are specific parts relevant to the BE: Part 3 Special Municipal Powers – relates to expropriation, roads, utilities Part 17 Planning and Development - pertains to land use, development plans (municipal), subdivision, land for roads and utilities, reserve land.	http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=m26.cfm&leg_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779756155&display=html
Highways Development & Protection Act	2010	legislation	Ministry of Transportation	transportation	This Act provides direction for the development and maintenance of highways and roads. It also includes control of access and adjacent development.	http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=P38.cfm&leg_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779753307&display=html
Public Lands Act	2002	legislation	ESRD	land use planning	The Act governs most of the approximately 60% of Alberta that is public land. This is land that is not privately owned, nor is it used for provincial parks or infrastructure. It is not held by the federal government as a national park and First Nations reserve or by the Department of National Defence. Much of Alberta's economic activity – oil sands and forestry – is on public land; ranchers may lease the land for grazing. Industry must reclaim the land. The Act was updated in 2011 to reflect new regulations re: land management, compliance and enforcement, dispute resolution.	http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/P40.pdf http://www.srd.alberta.ca/LandsForests/PublicLandsAdministrationRegulation/Default.aspx

TITLE	YEAR	TYPE	RESPONSIBLE	BE FOCUS	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
Energy Resources Conservation Act	2010	legislation	Energy	land use planning, transportation	This Act (and the ERC Board) governs approval of energy resources projects and facilities based on an appraisal of resources, and information about the exploration, development, processing, and transportation affecting the environment.	http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=e10.cfm&leg_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779754823
Land Stewardship Act	2011	legislation	ESRD	land use planning	In conjunction with the Land-use Framework, this legislation is intended to guide regional planning and manage growth and development, while respecting existing property rights for each of seven watershed-based regions of Alberta.	http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=A26P8.cfm&leg_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779757824 https://landuse.alberta.ca/ALSA/Regulations/Pages/default.aspx
Historical Resources Act	1980	legislation	Ministry of Culture	land use planning	A historical resource refers to any work of nature or of humans that is valued for its paleontological, archaeological, historic, cultural, natural, scientific or esthetic interest. The Act provides coordination of orderly development, preservation, study and promotion of historical resources. A <i>Historical Resources Impact Assessment</i> is conducted if an activity will likely result in the alteration, damage or destruction of an historic resource.	http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/h09.pdf http://culture.alberta.ca/heritage/resourcemanagement/archaeologyhistory/resourcesimpactassessments.aspx
School Act: Student Transportation	1998	Leg/ regulation	Ministry of Education/ local school board	transportation	The regulation under the current School Act specifies that a board provides transportation to/from school if the student is at least 2.4 km or must attend a special education program outside of the attendance area.	http://education.alberta.ca/departement/policy/legislation/regulations.aspx
Traffic Safety Act	2012	legislation municipal bylaws	Ministry of Transportation Municipal governments	transportation	This Act regulates drivers and their vehicles on Alberta roads. It covers enforcement, commercial vehicles, traffic control devices, and speed limits. Municipalities develop specific bylaws and in most cases provide enforcement.	http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/T06.pdf
Land use Framework	2008	policy	ESRD	land use planning, transportation	An approach or blueprint developed by the GOA for managing public and private lands and natural resources to achieve long-term economic, environmental and social goals.	https://landuse.alberta.ca/Documents/LUF_Land-use_Framework_Report-2008-12.pdf

TITLE	YEAR	TYPE	RESPONSIBLE	BE FOCUS	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
Integrated Land Management	2010	policy	ESRD	land use planning	Integrated land management (ILM) is an approach to land management planning, decision-making, actions and evaluation that applies to the life-cycle of activities on the landscape. ILM is aimed at managing the impact of human uses on public land and associated natural resources.	http://www.srd.alberta.ca/LandsForests/IntegratedLandManagement/documents/DescribingtheIntegratedLandManagementApproach-Jan10.pdf
First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development	2005	policy	Ministry of Aboriginal Relations	land use planning	This policy defines the way that the Alberta government consults with First Nations re: land management and resource development of provincial Crown Land which may infringe on First Nations rights and traditional uses.	http://www.aboriginal.alberta.ca/documents/GOAFirstNationsConsultationPolicy-May-2005.pdf
Alberta's Plan for Parks	2009	policy	Ministry of Tourism, Parks and Recreation	land use planning	Linked to the Land-use planning framework, this plan includes four strategies pertaining to people and communities, facilities, recreation, and land.	http://www.tpr.alberta.ca/parks/p4p/docs/P4P.pdf
A Place to Grow; Alberta's Rural Development Strategy	2005	policy	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Dev.	land use planning	Focuses on rural Alberta with actions on economic development, sustainable environment, access to public services, and quality of life.	http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/csi12104/\$FILE/grow-feb2005.pdf
The Spirit of Alberta – Alberta's Cultural Policy 2009-2019	2008	policy	Ministries: Culture, Tourism, Parks & Recreation	land use planning	The policy supports the aspects of culture and quality of life that include: professional and amateur individuals and organizations, community enjoyment of creative and recreational activities, cultural industries, cultural institutions, and natural and built heritage.	http://www.culture.alberta.ca/culturalpolicy/pdf/SpiritofAlberta.pdf

The following standards and guidelines are frequently mentioned in association with the built environment but do not correspond to any particular level of policy.

OTHER RELEVANT STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES						
TITLE	YEAR	TYPE	RESPONSIBLE	BE FOCUS	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)	2009 (CAN)	standard	Certified by the Green Building Certification Institute Voluntary application by public or private developer	land use planning and building design	A North American rating system, originating in the US, that consists of a suite of rating systems for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings, homes and neighborhoods. Certification is voluntary, and is granted by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). LEED incorporates health elements such as indoor air quality and natural lighting. Note: Although LEED certification is not mandated, the Government of Alberta has adopted the silver rating as the standard for their sustainable buildings.	http://www.cagbc.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Programs/LEED/RatingSystems/default.htm
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)	2004	guideline	Municipal department (planning, enforcement)	land use planning, design & transportation	First proposed in the 1960's, CPTED is a multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior through environmental design. CPTED strategies rely upon the ability to influence offender decisions that precede criminal acts. CPTED has been adopted by many Canadian cities. Saskatoon has developed a resource to guide the application of CPTED.	http://www.cpted.net/ http://www.saskatoon.ca/DEPARTMENTS/Community%20Services/PlanningDevelopment/NeighbourhoodPlanning/Documents/CPTED%20Guidelines_WEB.pdf
Smart Growth [Program]	1999 (B.C.) 2010 (CAN)	guideline	Usually government – provincial or municipal	land use planning & building design	Originally developed in B.C., Smart Growth is a collection of land use and development principles that aim to enhance quality of life, preserve the natural environment, and save money over time. Smart growth principles ensure growth is fiscally, environmentally and socially responsible, and recognize the connections between development and quality of life. Smart Growth has now been adopted nationally by the Canada Green Building Council.	http://smartgrowth.bc.ca/ http://www.cagbc.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Programs/SmartGrowth/default.htm

TITLE	YEAR	TYPE	RESPONSIBLE	BE FOCUS	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
Complete Streets (Program)	2011 (CAN) 2005 (U.S.)	Policy/ guideline	Usually municipal government	land use planning & design	Originated in U.S., the Complete Streets program is an approach to planning and designing a transportation system that moves away from the traditional, mobility-based approach. It's based on the idea that a street is designed according to the surrounding area's context, its land use, and its users.	http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/city_vision_and_strategic_plan/complete-streets.aspx http://completestreetsforcanada.ca/about-us
Alberta's Walk to School (Program)	2009	guideline	Municipal, community & local school	active transportation	An active transportation program that encourages children to choose walking or cycling as their main way to travel to/from school. A customized <i>School Travel Plan</i> is developed by the SHAPE (Safe Healthy Active People Everywhere) team in coordination with multiple stakeholders including the candidate school (parent council and principal) and their dedicated volunteers.	http://www.shapeab.com/ http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/

Local Built Environment Policies in two Alberta Municipalities

A municipality is defined as “a city, town, village, summer village, municipal district or specialized municipality formed by a specific Act.”⁴ According to this definition, Alberta has 340 municipalities.

Census figures for 2011 show the Alberta population as 83% urban and 17% rural.⁵ Overarching federal and provincial legislation applies to urban and rural settings, but the municipal policies and standards (or in some cases, the lack of them) are particularly important to consider when stakeholders are developing a local plan of action for the built environment.

To provide an understanding of the scope and nature of municipal policies related to the built environment, two examples of Alberta municipalities are featured: the City of Edmonton and Rocky View County. Note that for BE planning purposes, these local policies would be further analyzed and considered as part of a larger body of contextual information.

1) City of Edmonton

TITLE	TYPE	BE FOCUS	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT				
Land Use Zoning (2001)	Bylaw No. 12800	Land use planning	Land Use Zoning classifies the type of development allowed on a parcel of land. In Edmonton, land use zone types include residential, commercial, industrial, urban services, agricultural and reserve zones, as well direct control provisions and special purpose overlays.	http://webdocs.edmonton.ca/InfraPlan/zoningbylaw/bylaw_12800.htm
Municipal Development Plan “The Way We Grow” (2010-2020)	Bylaw No. 15100	Land use planning	The City’s strategic growth and development plan over a 10-year period. The plan also includes a regional component which addresses the coordination of future land use, growth patterns and transportation systems with Edmonton’s neighbouring municipalities. The plan is closely integrated with the Transportation Master Plan to achieve more coordinated decision making between land use and transportation planning.	http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/documents/MDP_Bylaw_15100.pdf
Transportation Master Plan “The Way We Move” (2009-2018)	Policy	Transportation	Sets the framework for how the City will address its current and future transportation needs. The overall vision is to build an interconnected, multi-modal transportation system where citizens can walk, bike, bus and train efficiently and conveniently to their desired location.	http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/documents/land_sales/TransportationMasterPlan.pdf

⁴ Government of Alberta. (2011). Land-use Framework. Retrieved August 24, 2012 from: <https://landuse.alberta.ca/Pages/Glossary.aspx>

⁵ Government of Alberta, Municipal Affairs. (2011). Retrieved September 26, 2012 from: http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/mc_official_populations.cfm

TITLE	TYPE	BE FOCUS	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
“The Way We Live” (2010-2020)	Policy	Land use planning	Is the People Plan that helps clarify the role the City has in quality of life issues. Throughout the design, development and implementation of people services, the City will consult and work with residents and community groups to gain their views.	http://www.edmonton.ca/city-government/documents/TheWayWeLivePlanJuly2010.pdf
“The Way We Green” (2011)	Policy	Land use planning	Is the environmental strategic plan that addresses sustainability and resilience of communities. The plan highlights the need to balance ecosystems with population growth and land challenges.	http://www.edmonton.ca/city-government/documents/TheWayWeGreen-approved.pdf
Traffic Bylaw (2011)	Bylaw No. 5590	Transportation	Related to the provincial Traffic Safety Act, the purpose of the bylaw is to regulate the use of highways under the control of the municipality, including motorized vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. The word “highway” can refer to any thoroughfare, road, street, avenue, sidewalk, alley, bridge, etc.	http://www.edmonton.ca/bylaws-licences/C5590.pdf
Active Transportation Policy (2009)	Policy C544	Transportation	Active Transportation includes any form of human-powered transportation, the most common modes being walking and cycling. The policy supports the implementation of the Sidewalk Strategy (“Ped Connections”), the Walkability Strategy (“Walk Edmonton”), and the Bicycle Transportation Plan. The purpose of this policy is to optimize opportunities to walk, roll, and cycle, regardless of age, ability, or socio-economic status; to enhance the safety, inclusivity and diversity of our communities, and to minimize the impact of transportation activities on the Edmonton’s ecosystem.	http://www.edmonton.ca/transportation/C544.pdf
City of Edmonton Design and Construction Standards (2004)	standards	Land use planning, transportation	These standards apply to developers both for the City and for private projects. There are 8 sections of which three apply to BEHPS: roadways, landscaping and street lighting.	http://www.edmonton.ca/city-government/urban_planning_and_design/city-design-construction-standards.aspx
Road and Walkway Lighting Design Standards (2012)	standards	Transportation	These standards complement the safety, design and construction standards for roadways.	http://www.edmonton.ca/transportation/Road_and_Walkway_Lighting_Design_Standards_(Updated_Feb_2012).pdf
Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)	guidelines	Land use planning, Transportation	Based on a well-known North American program, this is an approach to crime prevention through neighbourhood planning, development, and maintenance. The COE has developed a Safety Audit Guide (2000) in conjunction with this approach to assist with evaluating safety in city neighborhoods.	http://www.edmonton.ca/for-residents/programs/crime-prevention-through-envir.aspx

TITLE	TYPE	BE FOCUS	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
School Travel Planning	guidelines	Transportation	Supported by the City of Edmonton’s Sustainable Transportation and SHAPE (Safe Active Healthy People Everywhere) Alberta. The travel plan development and implementation involves parents, local school principal, city and SHAPE representatives.	http://www.edmonton.ca/transportation/cycling_walking/walking-to-school.aspx
EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD				
Health & Wellness of Staff and Students (2008)	policy	Land use planning	This policy outlines several key components related to promoting and supporting physical activity, mental well-being, and healthy eating in school communities. There is reference to health promoting environments (specific programs and playgrounds) to encourage physical fitness.	http://www.epsb.ca/policy/gbe.ar.shtml
Student Accommodation (2012)	policy	Transportation	Students are accommodated in their neighborhood school, based on several criteria including the school’s capacity. However, the Board supports “open boundaries” meaning that students can attend school outside of the designated attendance area.	http://www.epsb.ca/policy/icbp.shtml
Transportation Services (2011)	policy & regulations	Transportation	The policy describes the eligibility and requirements for student transportation using yellow school bus based on the existing provincial legislation (School Act). A student is eligible if he/she resides within the school district and is 2.4 km or more from the school. There are separate criteria for special needs students. The policy also state that due to the EPSB “open boundaries” policy, students may be eligible for additional (subsidized) transportation services.	http://www.epsb.ca/policy/eea.ar.shtml
EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT				
Student Transportation (2002)	Policy & regulation	Transportation	The policy reiterates provincial legislation (School Act) regarding eligibility for using the school bus.	http://www.ecsd.net/policies_forms/business_admin.html

*Note: a date of implementation or revision was not readily available for all policies or guidelines.

2) Municipal District of Rocky View

According to a definition developed by the AUMA, a municipal district or county is “a form of government in rural areas of the province which includes farmlands and unincorporated communities such as hamlets and rural residential subdivisions.”⁶ The Municipal District of Rocky View is located next to the City of Calgary (shaped like a horseshoe). It spans a large region between the prairies and the Rocky Mountains, contains several residential communities, and supports a wide range of agricultural and resource extractive activities.

TITLE	TYPE	BE FOCUS	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT				
Municipal Development Plan or MDP (1998) *Under revision	Bylaw C4840-97	Land use planning, transportation	A long range plan that addresses the future land use within the MD of Rocky View regarding: growth and change, agricultural land and related activities, residential developments, community services, transportation and utility infrastructure. There are seven planning documents linking directly to the MDP, of which four relate to the built environment (Growth Management Strategy, Agriculture Master Plan, Parks and Open Space Master Plan, Community Amenities Study)	http://www.rockyview.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Planning_And_Community/Complete%20MDP.pdf
Land Use Bylaw (1998) *under revision	Bylaw C4841-97	Land use planning and design	Implements the Municipal Development Plan and deals with current conditions regulating and controlling the use and development of land and buildings. The bylaw contains Land Use Districts and maps, which establish the uses that may be undertaken on each parcel of land and the standards that must be followed in undertaking the uses and development.	http://www.rockyview.ca/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=gph2WRkLGsY%3d&tabid=264&mid=875
Area Structure Plan/ Area Redevelopment Plan/ Hamlet Plan	Bylaw	Land use planning	Provides more detailed development plans (than the Municipal Development Plan) for each of the 18 areas that comprise the MD of Rocky View.	http://www.rockyview.ca/Default.aspx?tabid=446
Parks and Open Space Master Plan (2011)	Policy	Land use, transportation	One of seven key planning documents which links directly to the MDP and provides an overarching vision for making decisions about open space, parks and trail. The plan consists of guidelines for long term development which considers protection of wildlife while ensuring accessible paths/trails for residents. The plan also has recommendations of how to manage the parks and open space systems to ensure specific outcomes are addressed, such as social needs, pathway/trail design options and standards, demographic considerations.	http://www.rockyview.ca/Default.aspx?tabid=859 ,

⁶ AUMA. (2009). Discussion paper - future of local governance. Accessed from: http://www.auma.ca/live/digitalAssets/33/33580_Discussion_Paper_-_Future_of_Local_Governance_041509.pdf

TITLE	TYPE	BE FOCUS	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
Agriculture Master Plan (2011)	Policy	Land use planning	Identifies a long term vision and policy framework to support both existing agricultural operations and provide new opportunities for diversification of the agriculture industry in the County. One of 7 plans aligned with the MDP.	http://www.rockyview.ca/Default.aspx?tabid=1044
Growth Management Strategy (2009)	Policy	Land use planning, transportation	This Strategy proposes a land-use vision for Rocky View that is considers the diversity of the municipality and adheres to principles of sustainability, Smart Growth, and triple-bottom-line decision-making. It aligns with the provincial Land-use Framework as well as other regional planning documents.	http://www.rockyview.ca/2060/facts.asp
Conceptual Schemes or Concept Plans	Bylaw	Land use planning	Specific area plans that describe the proposed changes to future subdivisions and development of adjacent areas. The conceptual scheme must be approved by Council before development can occur.	http://www.rockyview.ca/Default.aspx?tabid=447
Inter-municipal Development Plans	Policy	Land use planning	Inter-municipal Development Plans are developed and adopted in conjunction with adjacent municipalities as part of the planning process, and contain policies which coordinate land use and development for lands which are of common interest to adjacent municipalities.	http://www.rockyview.ca/Default.aspx?tabid=448
Master Site Development Plan(s)	Policy Guidelines	Land use, building design	A Master Site Development Plan (MSDP) provides guidance to the development of a large block of land which includes: building placement, landscaping, lighting, parking and architectural treatment.	http://www.rockyview.ca/Default.aspx?tabid=996
Commercial Design Guidelines	Policy Guidelines	Land use planning, building design, transportation	These guidelines encourage design that takes into consideration the existing natural and built environment in all four seasons; locating buildings and other site elements to minimize the impact on natural areas; multimodal use and signage for roadways.	http://www.rockyview.ca/Default.aspx?tabid=735
ROCKY VIEW SCHOOL DIVISION				
Sustainable Building	Policy	Land use, building design	Rocky View Schools will ensure that buildings are designed, developed and operated to provide conservation, protection, improvement and sustainability of the environment for the benefit of its students and the broader community. Construction of new or major renovations of occupied facilities in excess of 500 m ² will meet the Silver Level Rating of the LEED™ Rating System.	http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/board_policies/boardpolicies/facilities-2/FECB-SustainableBuilding.pdf/view

Glossary⁷

TERM	DEFINITION
Act	An Act refers to written laws, or statutes, that are enacted by Parliament or the Legislature.
Bylaw	Under Alberta legislation, a law that is enacted and regulated by the municipal government.
Historical land (resources)	Land which contains specific evidence of humans and nature that is valued for reasons of archeology, paleontology, history, culture and/or science.
Land claim	Comprehensive land claims are based on the assertion of continuing Aboriginal rights and claims to land that have not been dealt with by treaty or other means. Comprehensive land claim agreements (CLCAs) are modern treaties between Aboriginal claimant groups, Canada, and the relevant province or territory.
Land use	All uses of land, such as crops, forestry, conservation, recreation, tourism, oil and gas, mining, utility corridors, transportation, cities and towns, industrial development, etc.
Land use bylaw	A land use bylaw may prohibit, regulate or control the use and development of land and buildings in a municipality.
Legislation	Includes Acts, regulations or directives which tend to apply to groups of people and have legal force that can be enforced by the courts
Municipality	A city, town, village, summer village, municipal district or specialized municipality formed by a specific Act .
Municipal District	Also known as “counties”, are primarily rural areas that may include either farmland, Crown Land, or a combination of both.
Natural regions	A way of describing broad ecological variations in a landscape. Regions which are different in climate, geology, landforms, hydrology, vegetation, soils and wildlife. There are six natural regions in Alberta.
Private Lands	Land owned by individuals, groups, companies or organizations that make decisions about how it is used or managed within existing legislation.
Public Lands	Also called “Crown Land”. Land owned by the provincial government, which makes decisions about how it is used and managed, including for agriculture, forestry, resource development, habitat conservation and protection of watersheds and biodiversity.
Regulation	A form of law or subordinate legislation, which defines the application and enforcement of legislation. It can be an order, rule, form, tariff of costs or fees, proclamation, or by-law.
Rural	Areas in which there is a low concentration of people and buildings compared to urban areas. Includes farms, low density residential communities, and areas of resource extraction activities.
Specialized municipality	Unique local government formed without enacting legislation, which contains both urban and rural communities.
Sustainable development	Development (of resources and economy) that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
Transportation corridor	A major highway and/or railway, including the associated land required for the right-of-way and buffer.
Urban	Areas where there is a high concentration of people, buildings and economic activity, such as cities or towns, including unincorporated communities such as hamlets.

⁷ Selected terms from the **Alberta Land-use Framework** glossary. Accessed from: <https://landuse.alberta.ca/Pages/Glossary.aspx>

Websites and resources

SOURCE	REFERENCE URL
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA	
MINISTRIES:	
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada	http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/
Agriculture and Agri-Food	http://www.agr.gc.ca/
Environment	http://www.ec.gc.ca/
Transport, Infrastructure & Communities	http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/aboutus-abouttic.htm
GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA	
Alberta Queen's Printer (AB legislation)	http://www.qp.alberta.ca/
MINISTRIES:	http://alberta.ca/ministries.cfm
Aboriginal Relations	http://www.aboriginal.alberta.ca/
Agriculture and Rural Development	http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca
Culture	http://culture.alberta.ca/
Environment and Sustainable Resource Development	http://www.environment.alberta.ca/
Legislation – land use planning	https://landuse.alberta.ca/MonitoringEvaluation/InformationResources/LegislationRegulationsPolicies/Pages/default.aspx
Policies – land use planning	https://landuse.alberta.ca/MonitoringEvaluation/InformationResources/LegislationRegulationsPolicies/Pages/Policies.aspx
Infrastructure	http://www.infrastructure.alberta.ca/
Municipal Affairs	http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/
Transportation	http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/
Tourism, Parks and Recreation	http://www.tpr.alberta.ca/
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	
CanLII (Canadian Legal Information Institute)	http://www.canlii.org/en/
Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC)	http://www.aamdc.com/
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)	http://www.auma.ca/