

Town of Castor – Municipal Development Plan Review

What's happening in Castor?!?!

The Town of Castor is working with Palliser Regional Municipal Services (PRMS) to update the Town's Municipal Development Plan (MDP) in collaboration with the Castor Council and its residents.

What is a Municipal Development Plan?

The MDP is a high-level plan that guides and directs future growth, land use, and development towards the long-term goals of the community. The MDP considers the current and future needs of the community, including housing, commercial goods and services, transportation systems, economic development opportunities, and municipal services like parks and recreation.

Why does the Town need a Municipal Development Plan?

The *Municipal Government Act* requires that all municipalities in Alberta adopt an MDP. They are important documents to ensure the safety of Castor's residents, that growth and development is orderly and economical, and that the services provided meet the needs of its residents. They are designed to ensure that development does not infringe on the rights of individuals for any public interest except to the extent that is necessary for the overall greater public interest.

Why and how can I get involved?

The MDP guides important decisions that are made by Council and other decision-making authorities in Castor such as the Municipal Planning Commission and the Development Officer. Input from the public in preparing the plan is key to ensuring it meets the needs of Castor residents and business owners. You can get involved by keeping informed on the progress of the project, reviewing the new draft plan, attending the open house, completing any surveys, and asking questions when you need more information.

Why does the MDP need to be updated?

Alberta municipalities typically do a comprehensive review and update of the MDP every 5 to 10 years. Castor's MDP was adopted in 2011, making it 15 years old. The *Municipal Government Act*, which outlines the requirements of an MDP, has since been updated multiple times. Additionally, Castor adopted an Intermunicipal Development Plan with the County of Paintearth No. 18 in 2018. It is important to make sure that these bylaws are consistent with each other and with provincial legislation. The updated MDP will also incorporate feedback gathered during the preparation of the Castor Council Strategic Plan 2026-2029.

What is the review process and timeline?

The new MDP will replace the current version of the bylaw. The review process has just begun and may take until the beginning of 2027 to complete and for the bylaw to be adopted by Castor Council.

Who is Palliser Regional Municipal Services (PRMS), and why is PRMS involved?

PRMS was formed when the Province disbanded Regional Planning Commissions in 1995. It is a not-for-profit organization owned by its member municipalities, who are the shareholders. PRMS provides planning, subdivision, mapping and safety codes (i.e. building code) services to its member municipalities. PRMS has been providing these services to the Town of Castor over many years.

For more information about PRMS, please visit palliserservices.ca