

# Press Release



February 11, 2020

The Town of Black Diamond is pleased to announce that the Province has approved its application to annex 821 acres from Foothills County. The approval is consistent with the May 2019 Annexation Agreement reached between the Town and the County, which outlined the terms by which the annexation would proceed, including the following provisions:

- The Town will pay the County a total of \$110,770 over 5 years;
- Annexed lands will be taxed and assessed at the County rates for 25 years, or until the lands are subdivided, rezoned, or connected to Town water and/or sewer services;

This annexation is expected to accommodate approximately 50 years of growth, bringing the Town to a total population of 11,000. The annexation allows the Town to continue to grow to the south and east along Highways 7 and 22, providing for the logical extension of residential communities, open space networks, and commercial and industrial areas. The annexation also includes lands along the Sheep River to the west of the Town, resulting in a contiguous border with the Town of Turner Valley.

This annexation allows the Town to invest in the planning, engineering, and financing strategies that are necessary to grow in an efficient, orderly, and sustainable manner. Infrastructure plans for transportation, water, sewer, and storm water management are necessary to accommodate the residential, commercial, and industrial areas that will provide a diverse and sustainable tax base for the Town into the future. The preparation of new land use plans is necessary, including comprehensive reviews of the Intermunicipal Development Plan, Municipal Development Plan, and Land Use Bylaw, as well as Area Structure Plans for the annexation areas. This work will begin in 2020 and will take several years to complete.

Annexation is the process for a municipality to expand its boundaries in order to accommodate future growth. Properties within an annexation area change from being in one municipality to being in another. Annexation does not change ownership rights, and owners are not required to develop or sell their property. Planning for the eventual development of the annexation area will be done in consultation with the affected landowners, stakeholders and the general public.

Ruth Goodwin, Mayor