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Immediate Release

## **BLACK DIAMOND AND TURNER VALLEY ENTER INTO FORMAL AMALGAMATION NEGOTIATIONS**

Black Diamond and Turner Valley Councils have moved forward in the amalgamation process by beginning formal negotiations. Progress during the fall was focused on establishing an agreed upon negotiation and engagement process.

The amalgamation is a priority for the Joint Friendship Agreement Committee (JFAC) and a decision will be finalized when all related negotiation topics have been thoroughly considered and reviewed.

Town Councils have worked together to develop a comprehensive amalgamation review process and a progressive timeline with a focus on providing clear and consistent communication throughout the process.

### **Proposed amalgamation process timeline:**

<b>September 15, 2020:</b>	Notification to the Minister of Municipal Affairs
<b>September 2020 to August 2021:</b>	Collect all related amalgamation information and data for consideration. Negotiation of the mandatory and transitional matters overviewed in the Municipal Government Act (MGA)
<b>February to June 2021</b>	Public and Stakeholders engagement
<b>September 2021</b>	Anticipated submission of the amalgamation report and application, if proceeding, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs

Public engagement is an important component of this process. Throughout the entire program, both municipalities are committed to keeping community members informed at regular intervals through online information and engagement tools with opportunities to provide feedback, ask questions and participate in events.

“We value and respect the views of our community and encourage all residents to visit our websites for more information and to provide feedback during the amalgamation process,” said Turner Valley Mayor, Barry Crane.

“The questions and feedback we receive through our communication channels, our consultation with residents, stakeholders and with subject matter experts are important to all Council members. The input we receive from these engagement opportunities play an integral part of our consideration in this decision making process” added Black Diamond Mayor, Ruth Goodwin.

Information will be updated at regular intervals on both Town websites and will continue to be updated regularly throughout the project. Check-in for more information to be posted on an upcoming online public engagement meeting:

Black Diamond: [www.town.blackdiamond.ab.ca](http://www.town.blackdiamond.ab.ca)

Turner Valley: [www.turnervalley.ca](http://www.turnervalley.ca).

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