

## LEDUC COUNTY BYLAW SACRIFICES GREENSPACE FOR DOLLARS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEDUC COUNTY, AB- September 26, 2007– The Friends of Leduc Area Greenspace (FLAG) citizens' coalition wants all Leduc County residents and affected others to know that the Leduc County Council is about to pass a bylaw that will abandon the County's current excellent environmental protections for development dollars.

All FLAG members are sadly disappointed that learned people of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, such as those on Leduc County Council and in the planning department, cannot seem to learn from the wisdom of those who came before us. Specifically the Iroquois, whose Great Law states "In every deliberation we must consider the impact on the seventh generation... even if it requires having skin as thick as the bark of a pine." How is it that the writers of the 1983 Leduc County Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw displayed such forward thinking, but our current generation has fallen back into our pocketbooks?

The latest draft land use bylaw proposes to:

1. Remove ALL land use zoning which protects environmentally sensitive areas of Leduc County, including irreplaceable watersheds, green spaces, the Ministik Natural Area, and the North Saskatchewan River valley. Such lands may be developed and their natural resources extracted through such invasive uses as gravel pits. A token land use district was created for the North Saskatchewan River Valley and 'Lake Watershed' applied to the land around three lakes, but the smattering of uses therein and lack of required protections makes both land use districts toothless;
2. Zone almost all County lands as Agricultural, but with a wide array of permitted or discretionary uses, which will enable almost any kind of objectionable development, like gravel extraction or asphalt plants, to occur on that land without public input;
3. Place development approval authority totally in the hands of the County's administrative staff, without requiring prior notice to the public or approval by the County's elected Councilors.

The September 2007 Draft Land Use Bylaw does not have any land use designation that will guarantee the preservation of any of the land of Leduc County in its natural state for our future generations and wildlife.

FLAG calls upon Leduc County Council to leave the updating of the Land Use Bylaw to the next Council, and to look at it only after the \$100,000+ review of the Leduc County planning department is complete. FLAG is very curious as to why this fourth draft is being rushed through when both municipal elections and the planning department review are to happen very soon? The haste is obvious, as the document was only released on September 19<sup>th</sup> and goes to public hearing on October 3 (which was not advertised in last

weeks' papers). Why have a public hearing with no advertised notice to date, especially when many of the County's residents are harvesting day and night?

Concerned persons are urged to call your Councilor and attend the public hearing to let County administration and Councilors hear your views:

October 3, 7:30 PM  
NISKU RECREATION CENTRE  
606-18 Avenue, Nisku

In order to guarantee your chance to speak, you must register with the County at 780-955-3555 before October 2.

To contact FLAG:

Email: [flag@kanotech.com](mailto:flag@kanotech.com)

Web address: [www.kanotech.com/flag](http://www.kanotech.com/flag)