

November 4, 2009

Province sells land to Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to support new public services

Fort McMurray... People living in the Fort McMurray area will benefit from the Alberta government's sale of public land to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. The municipality will develop the land for uses that may include a leisure centre, parks and city works.

The vacant land just northwest of Fort McMurray is 83.45 hectares, approximately the size of 40 city blocks. The price of the land sale is pegged at about \$8.8 million dollars, a value determined by an independent professional real estate appraiser.

"Albertans can rest assured that the province has received fair value for their public land during these tough economic times," said Ted Morton, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development. "This land will also support the people living in the Fort McMurray area by helping to provide space for the services and infrastructure needed for a growing city."

The land is west of Fort McMurray's Timberlea subdivision and will be used to address clearly identified community needs. This will help support *Responsible Actions, A Plan for Alberta's Oil Sands*, and future community needs.

"We're very pleased to have the province agree to this land sale," said Fort McMurray Mayor Melissa Blake. "Land acquisition is the foundation for holistic community development. Land is a precious commodity in Wood Buffalo and we need to take advantage of every opportunity to improve the quality-of-life of residents."

The Government of Alberta has a clear plan for a strong economic recovery. *The Way Forward* will bring Alberta back into a surplus position in three years by trimming government spending; using cash reserves to protect key programs; continuing to invest in public infrastructure; and ensuring that our province's industries are competitive and continue to attract investment to provide jobs and prosperity