



LAC STE. ANNE COUNTY CELEBRATES NEW ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OPENING

Staff, Council, residents and municipal neighbours gather to witness facility's inauguration

Sangudo, Alberta, Wednesday, October 13, 2016 – Lac Ste. Anne County Council today hosted an event that brought staff, residents, and municipal colleagues together for the grand opening of the County's new Administration Office in Sangudo. A major undertaking that was initially contemplated more than a decade ago, the project began in earnest when Council approved funding for its construction in the fall of 2015. The newly inaugurated facility now houses all County departments under one roof, and replaces the legacy administration building on Sangudo's main street that had grown increasingly derelict and unsuitable for productive work.

In the planning phase, County Councillors and administrators toured other municipal facilities in the province to gain insight into what has and hasn't worked in the past. "From the very start, we envisioned a building that was simple and practical, yet inviting," noted Lac Ste. Anne County Mayor Bill Hegy in his inauguration speech. "We sought a design that provided a healthy work environment, and that had ample room for us to grow. All our wants and needs in the planning phase were focused on one outcome: a building that was optimized for facilitating service delivery to residents and businesses in the County. I believe we have hit very close to this mark."

Following his speech, Mr. Hegy opened the floor to dignitaries in attendance, including Parkland Mayor Rodney Shaigec; Barrhead Reeve Doug Drozid; and Leduc County Mayor John Whaley. Speaking to a crowd of roughly 200, these gentlemen congratulated the County on its exceptional new facility, and voiced a common recognition of County administrators as "good municipal neighbours who are easy to work with."

Those in attendance were treated to a barbecue luncheon, and were given guided tours of the new facility by staff members during the afternoon. Mayor Hegy noted that, while they still had a lot of unpacking and organizing ahead, the County's immediate priority was to ensure seamless service delivery and public accessibility.

Mayor Hegy acknowledged that the construction project was not without its challenges. But he countered that "the County has worked through each challenge to get to where we are today: standing in a bigger, better municipal facility that was built in large part by grant funding, and that was constructed within the approved budget." Roughly 80% of the project's \$11.7 million cost was funded through grant programs such as the Municipal Sustainability Initiative.

In closing, Mayor Hegy expressed his hope "that this facility will serve as a hub for Lac Ste. Anne County's endeavours to promote the further development of collaboration among industry, government and those who call the County home." Administration Office photos and project information to date can be found at LSAC.ca/Office.

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