

Media Release – For Immediate release Thursday, September 24, 2020

Village of Hythe receives the AUMA 2020 Sustainability in Action Award! A success achieved by working collaboratively with their neighbours in the towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith and Wembley.

The Village of Hythe has received the honour to be the recipient of the AUMA award for the 'AUMA Sustainability in Action Award in the category of municipalities with populations of under 2,500'. Hythe was nominated for their role as the lead municipality on an Occupational Health & Safety Project that was realized through a collaboration with the towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, and Wembley. The four municipalities came together to develop an extensive OH&S Program for each municipality.

The project was made possible through grant funding received from the Alberta Community Partnership program. The scope of the project was extensive and included in-depth activities that were completed by a multi-municipal working committee where representatives from each of the partnering municipalities worked directly with the Consultant. As an example, in-person meetings were held every two weeks over a six-month development period and weekly tasks surrounded these dates. "The commitment and determination of the working committee was incredible leading to the successful outcome of the OH&S initiative", said Village of Hythe CAO Leona Hanson. "Everyone embraced the intensive timeline set and although not easy at times, we pushed through for the benefit of the whole. I'm pretty proud of our team." Town of Sexsmith OH&S Officer, Naomi Robinson summarized the success of the collaboration efforts as, "Four municipalities coming together was a beginning ... Collaborating together was progress... Now **SAFELY** working together is definite SUCCESS. None of us are as smart as all of us!"

The project success is also attributed to the exceptional guidance, support and development expertise received from the OH&S Program Consultant, Doreen von Gradulewski with DAVG Consulting Inc. In addition, the program is sustainable and continues to be supported by OH&S Officers from each municipality. Town of Wembley CAO, Noreen Zhang, shared that, "the collaboration between municipalities to have a very important program in place has been amazing. The Town of Wembley feels confident that with the completion of this much needed program, the health and safety of its staff and residents is in a much better place." Adding to these sentiments, Acting CAO, Tina Letendre stated that, "the Town of Beaverlodge is fortunate enough to have neighbouring municipalities who strive to work together, because in order to be successful in business, and in life, you need to connect and collaborate!"

This AUMA Award is about sustainability and with the ever-changing world we live in managing the municipalities' OH&S needs are maintained by remaining connected to support each other. Going it alone was not possible but doing it together made it an important endeavor that was achieved and a support system is in place to ensure sustainability for four municipalities.

Mayor Brian Peterson and CAO Leona Hanson were on hand to receive the award. Mayor Peterson stated that, "one of our key duties is to ensure the safety of our people as a foundation of our organization. Our Council identified the need for a good health and safety program that was effective to support workers and show them that we value them. I believe we have a good program in place now and working with the other communities made it better for everybody." In speaking to receiving the AUMA Sustainability in Action Award, Mayor Peterson shared, "we're proud of the work done by our collective staff on this project as it was a big undertaking." He further expressed, "thank you AUMA for recognizing our communities in this way."

The AUMA 2020 Convention was held through a virtual presentation that was live streamed at the Bowes Crystal Center hosted by the City of Grande Prairie. The Village of Hythe received the recognition for the AUMA Sustainability in Action Award for the Collaborative Occupational Health & Safety Project in a room with their municipal peers today.

ATTACHMENTS: OH&S Municipal Staff Photos

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