

ANTI-DEVELOPMENT STANCE GUARANTEES MASSIVE TAX INCREASES

From 2018 to 2019, Lac Ste Anne County property taxes increased 16 %.

For 2019 to 2020, the property tax increase will be much, much greater. Four main factors are responsible for this increase:

- The Alberta Government is transferring policing costs to municipalities.
- The Alberta Government is decreasing municipal funding.
- The MacKinnon report, commissioned by the Alberta Government, recommends municipal funding be aligned to provincial goals and priorities.
- Lac Ste Anne County refuses to approve residential and commercial developments.

Municipalities can do little about the first two, but they can do lots about the third and fourth. A top priority of the Alberta government is business development and job creation. The MacKinnon report recommends funding be preferentially directed to municipalities that welcome development and job creation. Thus, municipalities that hinder development will see comparatively less money.

Lac Ste Anne County is antidevelopment. In the last two years, the County only approved two commercial developments: a marijuana grow facility and a campground. Approval of the grow facility took years longer than expected. Approval of the campground was fast-tracked because the developer had a friend on Council, and was allowed to bypass major sections of the approval process. (*Corruption is alive and well in Lac Ste Anne County.*) The County has not approved any residential subdivisions in over two years.

Commercial and residential developments create construction jobs, create permanent jobs, and increase revenue with increased property taxes. Commercial and residential development would moderate the tax increase because of the higher tax income and because the municipality would receive more provincial funding.

Lac Ste Anne County has again killed a development that they once lauded.

The County is absolutely in favour of a campground and associated development of this nature - that's why the redistricting to Commercial Recreation was approved.

To be very clear, Council is in favour of the majority of your proposal and recognizes that a campground is a great use of the land.

Lac Ste Anne County refuses to explain why they killed it.

All I know is published at www.NakamunOasis.ca