## ECACEP Scenario - Full Speed Ahead

### Planning Factor: Nature of Community

### Theme: Community and our Environment – Uncontrolled Growth

<table>
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<th>Force/ Driver</th>
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| Population    | Population in rural communities decrease, impacting the tax and standard of living | • Study area lies mostly in the Battle River Basin (BRB) (62%)  
• Upper basin (Camrose County) – 64% urban (pop: 71,382)  
• Middle basin (Beaver and Flagstaff counties) 60% urban (pop: 25,895) | • Study area lies mostly in the Battle River Basin (BRB) (62%)  
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|               | Skilled trades people leave our communities                | • Population in Flagstaff county is decreasing (-14.5% - 1991-2006)  
• Migration of people to urban areas is expected to continue  
• Market value of land for non-agricultural land in urban fringes continues to increase  
• Camrose and Camrose County has a dynamic and diversified economy that has generated high levels of in-migration and pop growth with higher incomes than the rest of BRB.  
• This area is projected to account for 71% of the BRB population growth over the next 25 years  
• Population in the middle basin is gradually shrinking. It has the lowest levels of in-migration and the greatest percentage of people over 65. |
| Age           | Aging population  
• More retired people living in the community  
• More seniors living on a fixed income, leaving less dollars to spend in the community  
• Loss of skills/traditions/ abilities in communities | • 17% of residents in middle basin were 65 or older in 2001. Younger families are leaving the middle basin due to limited employment, leaving behind an older population.  
• Upper basin has the most people moving into it  
• BRB residents are more reliant on income from government transfers than Albertans n general |
| Community     | Economic growth has primacy in this story  
• Farm/family ethics being lost  
• Public values, quality of life and other values mitigated  
• 4 other capitals are simply mitigated to offset impacts | Communities in the region are left behind in the quest for large scale economic development of the coal and agriculture  
• Societal shift from accountability to sense of entitlement (materialism)  
• Less dependence on neighbours, friends, families in this generation than ever before  
• Communications (work from home) leads to less social interaction and isolation  
• Less sense of belonging and community, leading to increased suicide rates, feelings of displacement and increased crime  
• Loss of social/family structure and sense of community  
• Out-migration for school and work leads to loss of community, sense of place – no 'home' to come back to as families move away |  

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## Community services
- Rural county planning: Alberta is earning more revenues, but there are more costs re: social safety net
- Population in rural communities decrease, impacting the tax and standard of living
- Regionally centralized services in large centres, reducing access in rural areas leading to lower quality of life, more sick days, reduced productivity
- More services are provided through advanced telecommunications
- There are few resident physicians
- Aging population requires increased social support services, creating stress on the health care/social services systems
- Deterioration of social infrastructure
- Burden on social infrastructure and emergency services increases without a plan to improve services
- More services needed in rural areas
- Healthy aging requires adequate income, education, appropriate housing, satisfying relationships, safe environments and age friendly physical and social environment
- Increasing demand for housing and support services and other professional services
- Well-coordinated integrated services are required – homecare, community programs, continuing and hospital and palliative care

## Recreation
- Organized sports suffer as young people move away from rural communities
- Different services are needed as a result of changing ethnic mix

## Built capital
- Infrastructure deficit grows as facilities fall into disrepair

## Housing
- Region becomes more and more residential, with residents working in the capital region
- Lower-cost housing is available due to de-population
- After the boomers pass away, the lodges will be empty and we have to refit the housing to meet new needs, leading to cheaper housing available for young families