

## Business Attraction Update

Thanks to you all for participating in discussions and training with Rainmaker Global Development, our Site Selection team. The report has just been delivered and we will be rolling out reports to individual members shortly. We have also translated some short profiles on specific businesses to 6 languages and these will be placed in international offices around the world. The next step will be to work on our web presence to make it easier to navigate and to include some new data.

## Broadband Update

Alberta SouthWest REDA and SouthGrow participated in the first meeting of AUMA Small Communities to deal with Broadband. That meeting received a presentation from representatives from Economic Development and Trade. There continues to be activity in our local region with several urban communities approaching AXIA FibreNet to provide fibre optics in their locales. We understand that the build by AXIA in Nobleford is pretty well complete for the entire village.

SouthGrow continues to work with our partners to ensure better internet access to all. We have a few meetings set up to further work on the issue and we look forward to our continuing involvement with the AUMA to move forward on this essential service to our members.

### Fall Appointments

Now that you have all had your organizational meetings, please send any appointment changes to the SouthGrow office if you haven't already done so. Thanks.

**"IT IS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR THAT THE BATTLE FOR LONG-TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WILL BE WON OR LOST."**

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## Seminars

There is a seminar for small business on Selling to Government set up for the morning of January 21 at the Sandman. Our partners in this initiative are Community Futures Lethbridge Region and Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce. The day will start at 8:15am with a hot breakfast and will wrap at 1:00 pm. As an added attraction, the afternoon of January 20, the Chamber is putting on a seminar on “Taking Your Good to International Markets. Check the Lethbridge Chamber website for more details.

Space is limited for both. Deadline for registration is January 11, 2016. Register for the Selling to Government online at <http://lethbridgechamber.chambermaster.com/events/details/selling-to-government-3856>

## Southern Alberta Alternative Energy Partnership

This partnership (SAAEP) has recently been revitalized. The current members include SouthGrow, Alberta SW Regional Alliance, Economic Development Lethbridge and Lethbridge County. We have met with one group from the German Chamber of Commerce and will be meeting in February with a group of wind energy firms from Quebec. Our partnership, along with the Pembina Institute is also working toward a Renewable Energy conference in the second week of June. Stay tuned for more information. We welcome your comments on future direction and ask that you contact us as we move forward.

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome as members the following communities:

- **Barnwell**

*We are now 23 members strong*



# The Recognition Event is Back

Our 2nd Annual Economic Summit will be adding the Recognition Event to our late afternoon and evening festivities. Details will be available soon. We will be sending out the nomination forms shortly.

This event is planned for late March so mark your calendars.

## PLANNING MEETING

The SouthGrow Management Board will be meeting on January 7 to plot out a strategy for the coming year. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the office or one of the following board members:

Greg Robinson, Town of Raymond (Chair)

Maggie Kronen, Town of Cardston (Vice Chair)

Roger Houghton, Cardston County (Vice Chair)

Gayna Welsh, Town of Milk River (Treasurer)

Myron Eagle Speaker, Blood Tribe

Ken Galts, Village of Coutts

Glenn Logan, Village of Lomond

Margaret Plumtree, Town of Vauxhall

Sheila Smidt, Village of Carmangay

Carol Zelenka, MD of Taber

## Annual General Meeting

Our AGM takes place in late May or early June.

Stay tuned for more details.

# Economic Profiles

Our profiles for each community were published early in 2015. Some changes might have taken place in terms of Mayor and Reeve appointments and projected mill rates for 2016.

Should you wish changes to be made by our office, please contact us so that we can co-ordinate changes.

The profiles are easy to change, so let's keep them up to date. We house one on our website and encourage members to include the same on their websites as well.

**From all of us on the Management Board and Staff at SouthGrow to all of you, we hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday. We look forward to working with you all during the New Year.**

## Coming Events

- January 20—Taking Your Goods to International Markets
  - January 21— Selling to Government
  - March 14—16 - AAMDC Spring Convention
- Late March - SouthGrow Economic Summit and Recognition Event
- Late May/Early June - SouthGrow AGM (details to follow)
  - Early June - Renewable Energy Symposium

## Contact Us

Give **Pete Lovering** a call for more information about our services and projects

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