



# NEWS RELEASE

## SouthGrow New Executive Focuses on Moving Forward Strongly

**Lethbridge, June 24, 2013:**

SouthGrow's new Management Board met June 21, 2013 for the first time since being elected at the AGM on May 29<sup>th</sup>. The Board elected its Executive which will be tasked with over-seeing the direction that the Regional Economic Development Alliance will be headed. Executive members of the Board are:

Chairperson:	Councillor Ron Lagemaat, Town of Coalhurst
First Vice-Chair:	Mayor Ray Bryant, Town of Taber
Second Vice-Chair:	Mr. Glenn Logan, representing the Village of Lomond
Treasurer:	Councillor Greg Robinson, Town of Raymond

The Board is currently looking to fill an upcoming vacancy due to the retirement of long-time staff member Mary Swanek, who has been the Co-ordinator with SouthGrow since its beginning in 2004.

*"We have to be very diligent to quickly secure a high-quality and effective person in this vital role. This will be our first priority."* said Chairperson Ron Lagemaat. *"Mary was a huge part of keeping the wheels of our organization turning, but we must look forward to another skilled individual working with us as we move forward."*

And SouthGrow is indeed moving forward. The Water for Economic Development Project is now into its final stage of getting the news out there. *"We've proven that southern Alberta is ready to grow and attract investment from a water availability and management perspective. Now, we need to let everybody know. We have a task to change some perceptions about whether investors can locate here due to the water resource - we need to assure them they can!"* emphasizes Lagemaat.

The new Board is looking to renew the vision of SouthGrow Regional Initiative. *"We continue to need to work co-operatively with all of our communities in the region. What is good for one of us ultimately is beneficial for all of us and we need to keep that in mind. Our goal is to enhance all of our member communities economically. Our plan is to engage our members and partners more fully and build growth that will be significant to everyone."* Lagemaat summarized.

For more information, contact:

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Background Information – SouthGrow Regional Initiative

SouthGrow Regional Initiative was formed in 2003 and is a member-driven, volunteer-supported, not-for-profit regional economic development alliance for south-central Alberta. SouthGrow encompasses twenty communities with a total population of about 50,000. SouthGrow encourages collaboration, focuses on regional economic development issues and ensures the region has equal opportunity for growth and development.