



June 25, 2024

To: Governance Standing Policy Committee

Re: Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

On behalf of Environment Lethbridge, I am pleased to support the newly developed Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (CASAP) as will be presented to the June 27, 2024 Governance Standing Policy Committee meeting.

As the CASAP indicates and as Lethbridge has seen over the past few years, we are facing increased risks from the impacts of climate change including drought, extreme heat, changes to ecosystems, and the impacts of wildfire smoke. Each of these impacts will be significant for Lethbridge, not just for the environment but for the health and economic well-being of our community. Having a plan to address these impacts will ensure that Lethbridge is able to respond and recover as quickly as possible.

I am confident that the themes and actions identified in the CASAP will provide the necessary direction and allow Lethbridge to protect and conserve valuable natural assets such as our river valley, enable us to conserve water and respond to drought, and transition our greenspaces and urban forest to more drought and heat resistant species.

Developing this plan took over a year and engaged a cross-section of community stakeholders in the direct development of the plan. This broad engagement reflects the cross-cutting impact that climate change is will have and puts us on a solid footing for our future response.

I was pleased to be involved throughout the development of the CASAP and am happy to endorse the completed plan as an important step that will allow Lethbridge to respond to current and future climate impacts in an effective and proactive manner. I would encourage the Governance Standing Policy Committee to adopt the CASAP as a guiding document and give items in the plan full consideration in current and future budget processes.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sheppard
Executive Director