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## Vision for Regional Prosperity

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*“An integrated region that can compete successfully on the world stage and deliver a superior quality of life for all of its citizens”*

### Background

There are currently more than one million people who live, work and play in the various municipalities within the Greater Edmonton Region. These citizens depend on approximately 50,000 resident business enterprises to generate the income that supports their common goal of attaining the highest possible quality of life.

While the Greater Edmonton Region is currently experiencing a period of unprecedented growth, there are many opportunities and challenges facing the municipalities within the region.

Individually, the municipalities within the Greater Edmonton Region will struggle to compete effectively and deliver a superior quality of life in the new global economy. Prosperity in these municipalities depends on these communities working together to compete on a global scale.

Business has a vital perspective on regional economic growth, focusing not on arbitrary political boundaries but on global trading relationships. Local businesses operate across municipal boundaries and such must take a leadership role on this pivotal issue.

### Vision

The business community has a simple vision for Greater Edmonton: *an integrated region that can compete successfully on the world stage and deliver a superior quality of life for all of its citizens.*

To this end, we envision two key pillars, or commitments, that are critical to a thriving and competitive Greater Edmonton Region. As an integrated region, we are committed to:

1. Maintaining the unique character and autonomy of individual communities;
2. Planning, funding, and managing at a regional level those activities that will help Greater Edmonton compete and thrive on the world stage.

**Recommendations:**

There are many examples of regional funding and management already working within the region: the Capital Region Wastewater Commission, the Edmonton Regional Airport Authority, and the Capital Health Authority. Our recommendation is to extend this model to other municipal services where it enhances the competitiveness and prosperity of the Greater Edmonton Region.

The Edmonton Chamber of Commerce recommends the following four changes to our model of municipal governance:

1. Create a Greater Edmonton regional planning and management authority with representation from all regional municipalities;
2. Over time, provide the regional authority with the funding and mandate to manage, across the region, the following municipal activities:
  - Greater Edmonton Inland Port
  - Fire and Emergency Services
  - Transportation Planning
  - Land-Use Planning
  - Water and Waste Utilities
  - Public Transit
  - Economic Development
3. Establish a body to be the steward of regional environmental sustainability; and
4. Develop and promote a cohesive vision for the economic growth and diversification of the region.

We believe that with a strong regional authority that can plan, fund, and manage key activities across the region, Greater Edmonton can compete on a global scale and its citizens can enjoy a superior quality of life.