

# **CLEARWATER COUNTY** STRATEGIC PLAN: 2022 – 2026

# **Our Vision**

Our communities are connected by our appreciation for, and stewardship of, our natural beauty, our economic prosperity, our quality living, and the diversity of our wonderful people.



## **Our Purpose**

Through proactive municipal leadership and regional partnerships, we will invest innovatively to generate and support economic and population growth that positions Clearwater County for a sustainable, prosperous future.



# What We Value (Most)



Grow our population and economy by attracting people, investment, businesses, and industry.



Work with our neighbours, our partners, and our communities to find ways to encourage economic growth, enhance our quality of life, and celebrate what makes us amazing.



Responsibly maintain the physical spaces, on and below ground, within and surrounding County limits.



Ensure the health and well-being of our communities and its residents.



Reduce the fiscal burden of future Councils, as well as the community, for generations to come.

# **Our Story**

There are few regions more renown than Clearwater for our richness and diversity in natural beauty, resources, and culture. Famed explorer David Thompson introduced our region to the world over 200 years ago, and his adventurous and entrepreneurial spirit forged our modern-day community. We have grown by attracting those looking for natural, authentic lives where they can connect to the land, to their neighbours, and to their own souls. The clarity and connectedness Clearwater provides has historically been the driving attraction to people from around the world. That allure still draws people to our communities, today.

Much has changed in the past century with the addition of growing communities, globally connected transportation nodes and networks, bustling business opportunities, and innovative industries. Yet, we still retain and protect our natural attractions and cultural treasures. Clearwater offers up world class fishing and hunting, yet our wilderness areas and ecological reserves transition beautifully into our beloved Banff and Jasper National Parks to the West. Our traditional natural resource industries are changing and innovating with new diversified agriculture businesses and environmentally friendly energy production, while also ensuring we maintain plenty of room for residents and tourists alike to enjoy our unique natural beauty and heritage.

Clearwater truly offers prosperity at your own pace. As the perfect backyard destination with endless recreation and proximity to urban centres, we continue to draw in visitors. But more and more those visitors wish to become residents. Everyone has a reason to love here, but now they are finding their way to live here. They are excited by new innovations in traditional industries that help protect our pristine environment while also creating jobs, entrepreneurs, and sustainable prosperity. They feel like they belong in our diverse communities where they are welcomed like it has always been their home. Clearly, opportunities abound in Clearwater, where we grow and live and prosper, together.



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## Milestone 1: Building Partnerships and Relationships

#### Actions:

- 1.1 Regional Growth and Service Initiatives
- **1.2 First Nation Relationships**
- 1.3 Provincial and Federal Government Advocacy
- 1.4 Local Community Organization Partnerships

### Milestone 2: Growing and Diversifying our Economy

#### Actions:

- 2.1 Economic Development Strategy
- 2.2 Nordegg Growth Initiatives
- 2.3 Brand and Story Outreach

### **Milestone 3: Innovative Planning and Development**

#### **Actions:**

- 3.1 Agriculture Master Plan
- 3.2 Commercial and Industrial Development Master Plan
- 3.3 Area Structure Plan for each Growth Hamlet
- 3.4 Municipal Development Plan Review

### **Milestone 4: Financial Stewardship**

#### Actions:

- 4.1 Restricted Surplus Policy Development
- 4.2 Asset Management Policy
- 4.3 Operational Capacity Review

