

Municipal District of Prairieview

Over the past year, the Rural Municipality of Edenwold No.158 (the RM) and the Village of Edenwold (the Village) have **worked together to create the province's first** Municipal District. A **Municipal District** (MD) is a type of municipality (like Rural Municipality, Village, Town, or City) created when **two or more municipalities** choose to come **together**, pool their **resources**, and create an entirely **new entity**.

Unlike RM's or villages/towns/cities which are solely considered rural or urban, a Municipal District is regarded as both. Thus, a Municipal District benefits by having **access to services and programs** that would be otherwise restricted.

While mentioned in provincial law, there are currently no Municipal Districts in Saskatchewan - thus, the MD would be **the first of its kind** in the province! This joining of municipalities is mutually beneficial and will **create net efficiencies** within the area; it will not compromise the service provided to residents and businesses, but instead, create a **more effective service flow**.

Since September 2021, RM and Village staff have organized several public engagement opportunities.

This included:

- Two **Open Houses** (one in Edenwold and one in Emerald Park) on September 27th and 29th to **introduce** the Municipal District concept to residents and **collect initial feedback**, and;
- One **Survey** shared online between November 26th and December 5th to **understand** how residents and business owners perceive the Municipal District and **gather questions** they have about the process.

As the final stage to the MD public engagement process, RM staff organized this open house to build on the information and questions collected over the past months.

This open house strives to provide specific answers to questions residents may have about the Municipal District.

Taxes & Utilities

What type of impact will the joining of the RM and Village have on municipal finances?

There will be a benefit to the area such as more opportunities for grants and government support being a unique municipality. With the joining into a Municipal District there will also be a reduction of overhead expenses as resources will be able to be focused and distributed more efficiently.

Will my taxes change as a result of the MD?

There is no scheduled tax increase due to the Municipal District Project. The establishment of Municipal District council will determine and evaluate the taxes as a regular annual legislated process.

Will my utility rates change as a result of the MD?

There are no changes to the water or wastewater rates due to the formation of the MD. Water rates set by the RM are reviewed annually and wastewater rates are set by the WCRM158 Wastewater Management Authority.

Overall Tax Model Comparison

Using the current RM mill rates and mill rate factors, the Community of Edenwold's taxes will decrease, and the RM's will stay the same. With becoming a Municipal District, resources will be optimized to their fullest potential.



Services

How will the MD balance services between communities?

Services will be balanced through a central Public Works Management System with efficiencies gained from effective workflow analysis and fleet management. Service levels will not be reduced.

How will services like road maintenance and public works be affected by the MD?

The Public Works Department will continue to deliver the level of service expected by residents and business owners. The location of the maintenance shop in the Community of Edenwold will be integrated to ensure the Community of Edenwold maintains the current level of service.

How will Fire and CSO services be affected?

The Edenwold Fire Hall and the Emerald Park Fire Hall will be ran collaboratively under the Municipal District. The CSOs will add the Community of Edenwold to their service area. This means adding bylaw enforcement, traffic enforcement, etc. to the areas within the Community of Edenwold.

How will services like garbage, recycling, and compost be affected by the MD?

Residents currently obtaining garbage, recycling and compost services will continue on the same schedule. The service providers determine the schedule and any changes required.

How will the MD affect recreation in the area?

Recreation will be enhanced through a wider variety of applicable grants, regional collaboration as well as an expanded scope that increases recreation opportunities.

Services

As a resident of the RM, what will I gain through the MD?

Additional Public Works resources will be available such as an expanded Road Maintenance team. Water and sewer services will remain the same with the ability to be enhanced if needed.



How will the MD affect municipal staffing?

All existing employees of the RM of Edenwold and Village of Edenwold will be transferred as employees under the new Municipal District.



Where will the MD office be located?

The Emerald Park office will be the Municipal District main office and the Community of Edenwold office will be a satellite office.

How will communication between government and residents be affected through the MD?

A municipal information strategy is being developed as part of the RM's Strategic Plan to maintain transparency and ensure accountability. The following projects are underway:

- A new website (live now)
- A Service Tracker software (launching for public use early 2022)
- Modernization of IT systems
- Mobile applications to enhance communications are being explored.



Governance

How will Village and RM bylaws be affected by the MD?

The Planning and Development Department has conducted a comparison of bylaws & polices from both municipalities. This comparison identified similarities and challenges between similar bylaws. There are numerous bylaws that will be consolidated to ensure uniformity and consistency throughout the Municipal District.

How will bylaw enforcement be affected by the MD?

Bylaw enforcement will be a joint effort by the Planning and Development Department and the Community Safety Officers (CSO).

How will the Village be represented in Council?

The Community of Edenwold will be identified as Division 8 and will have one (1) councilor as representation on the MD Council.

What benefits will the Village see by joining the MD?

Being part of a larger organization, it offers better opportunities for accessibility to resources as well as advanced operations.

Why is the name changing to Prairieview?

The Village and RM want to preserve the identity of the Community of Edenwold. By moving away from the name "Edenwold", this reduces any confusion that may have occurred if the MD was named Edenwold and leverages the new identity.

A brainstorming exercise was carried out to suggest a name that represents the region.

Governance

How will the MD support transparency and accountability?

The MD will maintain a level of transparency to the provincial standards while increasing and improving accountability in face of the new status of our community.



How is the MD process being paid for?

The Village and RM submitted an application to the Government of Saskatchewan to obtain a Grant to assist with the cost associated with the MD. This Grant was approved by the provincial government in the amount of \$100,000 and was undertaken as part of an overall improvement through a combination of efforts from staff, our resources, and the government.

How will the MD affect the municipality's relationship with our neighbours?

A Municipal District is all about collaboration and cooperation between organizations and as a result, it creates the foundation for productive relationships and the exchange of support.



What decisions have been made already?

The Municipal District name, Electoral form (rural), divisional boundaries, the number of councillor representation for each division, financial accounts and processes, staffing/ administration resources, and the location of MD office(s).

