



BRAED

BATTLE RIVER ALLIANCE
FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Chair's Message

BRAED members and our many partners, these are difficult days. While unfavourable economic winds ushered in 2020, nothing could prepare us for the COVID19 pandemic. Watching the climbing number of confirmed cases of this virus and the sad loss of life is sobering. While hopeful, we are steeling ourselves for the worse. Within my own circle, we have already lost a long time friend. And yet, we have it in our ability to lessen the impacts through some simple actions: wash our hands, don't touch our faces and maintain social distance. Please please follow these simple instructions. In a world that feels out of control, these are things we can do.

When we emerge from this human disaster, there will be work to do rebuilding and repairing our economy, regionally and beyond. BRAED has a strategy in place to build a prosperous region and more partners are joining us as we go. Our Value-Added Agriculture Forum earlier this month attracted players from industry, from municipalities and from government.

BRAED has worked hard and our partners have supported us so well. I know we can put all of that to use to strengthen our communities and the BRAED region. We are well placed to pick up and move when the COVID19 crisis has passed.

Albertans are tremendously resilient.
Never forget that.

Stay safe,

Brain Ducherer
Board Chair



Why This Email is Different

Please note that this email isn't a list of COVID19 responses and updates from the provincial and federal governments. We're confident you've signed up for all the alerts and your inbox is overflowing. Nor will this include links from municipal associations, various agencies, or programs. BRAED is highlighting broad-based, ongoing COVID19 updates on Twitter.

During this season of rapid and intense changes we also need local knowledge mixed with insights into what is happening in the broader economy.

Keep reading for

1. How and where our communities are communicating their COVID19 responses, because we are in this together.
2. BRAED's continuing work in value added agriculture because the economy will come back.
3. BRAED and Province of Alberta 3-year funding announcement for REDAs.
4. Some links to big picture economic research, including a perspective from the Federal Government on Oil & Gas, which also deserves attention.

Member Communities' COVID19 Responses

[BRAED's community locator map has links to each of our communities.](#)

Tofield

Major updates on town website, including town office closure to public.
Ongoing updates on [Facebook](#).

Riley

Major updates on community website. Village office is closed to visitors, but otherwise open for business.

City of Camrose

Declared state of emergency for the City.
Communications about COVID19 are updated on [City Website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Bittern Lake

Office closed to foot traffic. Otherwise fully operational. Updates on Village website.

Holden

COVID19 statement on town website.
Ongoing updates on [Facebook](#).

Town of Viking

Latest news, including playground closures on town website.
[Facebook](#) for rapid updates including local closures and messages from the Mayor.

Beaver County

General county news, including public access closures on County website.
Updates also broadcast to [Twitter](#).

Daysland

COVID19 announcements including closures and local support [here](#). [Facebook](#) updates include town news and community/social outreach.

Killam

Click on the "What's New" box on the town homepage for updates. [Facebook](#) for ongoing community news and outreach.

Sedgewick

Primary update on COVID19 response on website - the front door of the office is closed, work continues. Ongoing updates on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Camrose County

Continuing major updates on front page of website. [Facebook](#) includes stories

of the people and staff behind the scenes, keeping the county operating. [Twitter](#) contains broad COVID19 updates and county services activity.

Lougheed

Primary updates on website.

Hardisty

Latest news featured on front page of town website. [Facebook](#) has ongoing updates, including posts on the status of local businesses and community initiatives.

Irma

Updates on front page of website.

Wainwright

Links in the "Alerts" box on front page of website to provincial response. Extensive posting on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) with community updates, including the cancellation of the Annual Paint, Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Roundup.

Edgerton

Ongoing website updates including provincial response and community initiatives. Ongoing posting to [Facebook](#).

Chauvin

Town office is closed and updates are on website. Ongoing info to citizens on [Facebook](#) includes playground closures and mental health self-care.

MD of Wainwright

Daily COVID19 update on front page of website. Updates on Alberta health and MD Wainwright normal business continue on [Facebook](#).

Forestberg

Quick links at top of website to COVID19 response. [Facebook](#) contains ongoing update to the community and special initiatives. This includes the post on how to support mine and power plant workers who are helping to keep the lights on during social distancing.

Alliance

Updates, including event cancellations can be found on the upcoming events page of the website.

Castor

Town office is closed due to COVID19. Updates are posted to website.

Coronation

Continuing and extensive COVID19 updates on the front page of town website.

Flagstaff County

COVID19 response updates and [small business hub](#) link on front page of website, which features local business hours of operation and special services offered by business during the crisis.

[Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) are actively sharing community and business information along with County operations info.

Paintearth County

News, updates and notices about the COVID19 response are front page of website. Including a link to emergency child care.

BRAED hosted a Value-Added Agriculture Forum on March 10, 2020 at the Norseman Hotel in Camrose. This session thoroughly explored models for plant protein processing in the region. This included information for producers, investors and local and regional governments about the necessary economic and business conditions to create viable value-added processing projects.

Allan Hall, chief operating officer of the Plant Protein Alliance of Alberta attended the meeting and shared some of the concepts that will support a regional investment, rather than some of the larger-scale (and more rare) projects like the planned [Roquette project](#) in Portage La Prairie, MB.

"There is a model that would support a series of smaller plants going in various parts of the prairies, rather than a mega-plant. We could really support a number of smaller communities and create an investment opportunity for local business people, producers and investors to have a stake in the creation of a project like this," said Hall.

28 participants from all levels of government, plus investors and industry players attended. The event asked the BRAED executive to take a lead position in leading the concept forward. Preliminary interest was expressed in partnering on concept development.

[The full report on BRAED-Camrose Value-Added Agriculture Cluster Project Phase 1, released at the meeting, is here.](#)

Province of Alberta Funds REDAs, including BRAED in 3-year Plan

On the afternoon of March 27, in a phone call with chairs of Regional Economic Development Alliances, the Province of Alberta let BRAED know that it will be receiving \$50,000 of operation funding per year for the next three years.

BRAED is grateful for the funding certainty and a business plan for continued progress on core goals for BRAED and economic development in our region is the next step for the Board of Directors and executive.

Links to Ongoing Economic News

[The Parliamentary Budget Office \(PBO\) Report on COVID19 and the Oil Shock](#)

[Farm Credit Canada COVID19 impacts to agri-food markets](#)