



News Release
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Public Invited to View Downtown Action Plan Draft at May 24 Open House

(April 26, 2017 – Ponoka, Alberta) – The public is invited to a Public Open House on May 24 at the Kinsmen Community Centre in Ponoka to view and provide feedback on a draft of Ponoka’s Downtown Action Plan.

Draft Plan to Revitalize Downtown Ponoka

The Downtown Action Plan is a citizen-driven planning process that began last November. The goal is to build on existing studies to create a clear vision and a plan to guide future development in Downtown Ponoka, and to attract new investment and businesses to the Downtown area.

Input and ideas that were gathered at two public open houses and a community-wide survey held in March were used to help create the Downtown Action Plan draft that will be displayed at the May 24 open house.

“We heard from more than 150 people who attended the March open houses or filled out the online survey to share their vision and ideas of what a revitalized Downtown Ponoka should look like,” says Greg Braat, Chair of the Heritage and Downtown Revitalization Committee, which is also the Steering Committee for the Downtown Action Plan Project.

Public Input is Important

“It’s exciting to see the Downtown Action Plan taking shape. The public continues to be an important part of the process,” says Braat. He explains that individuals who attend the May 24 open house will be encouraged to fill out comment forms and offer their feedback on the draft Plan.

That input will then be collected and reviewed before finalizing the Downtown Action Plan following a public hearing on Land Use Bylaw amendments proposed in the Plan.

Drop-In Format

The May 24 open house will feature a ‘drop-in’ format. Area residents and businesses are invited to drop in anytime **between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.** to view information displays about the draft Plan. The Kinsmen Community Centre is located at 5009 – 46 Avenue in Ponoka.



The information displayed at the May 24 open house will include:

- An updated vision and proposed actions to revitalize Downtown Ponoka.
- Concept drawings of proposed streetscape improvements for Downtown Ponoka that will create a more aesthetically pleasing place to shop, work, live and play.
- A 'drive-thru' video that shows you what a revitalized Downtown Ponoka could look like.
- A proposed Downtown Parking Strategy.
- Proposed Land Use Bylaw amendments to help facilitate future Downtown development and revitalization efforts.
- A proposed Marketing Strategy to promote increased visitation and investment in Downtown Ponoka.

Coffee with Council

You can learn more about the May 24 open house and the Downtown Action Plan this weekend at the Town's Trade Fair booth on Friday, April 28 from 3-9 p.m. and Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Ponoka Arena. The Town will also host a Coffee with Council session at its Trade Fair booth on Friday night from 7-9 p.m. Come grab a coffee and chat with Council about the Downtown Action Plan or any other Town initiative.

For regular updates on the Downtown Action Plan, please visit www.DowntownPonoka.ca
Electronic files of the Downtown Action Plan will be posted online on that website following the May 24 open house.

For more information:

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