
NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Public consultation on the five-year Official Plan review

L'ORIGINAL, September 4, 2013 – With the eight regional mayors now informed of the details contained in the first draft of the five-year review of the Official Plan of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell (UCPR), the next step is to proceed to consultation with the public and local municipalities.

“Given the importance of the Official Plan, we wish to consider the expectations and concerns of the population with regard to land-use planning,” explained René P. Berthiaume, Warden of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell. “The information collected will be used to develop an Official Plan that best reconciles the various interests of our citizens, our resources and the potential of our territory.”

The UCPR therefore wishes to widely publicize the dates of three upcoming open house events as well as the public meeting, during which residents can address their comments directly to Council:

- Wednesday, October 23 in Rockland (City of Clarence-Rockland Town Hall), from 3 to 8 p.m.
- Thursday, October 24 in Casselman (The Nation Municipality Town Hall), from 3 to 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 30 in L'Original (UCPR Council Chambers), from 3 to 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 13 in L'Original (Public Meeting, Council Chambers) at 1 p.m.

At the end of November, following the public meeting, the Planning and Forestry Committee will meet to consider the amendments requested by the public and local municipalities, one by one. The UCPR will then submit the document to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for a second round of revision, and should be in a position to present a final report to Council for the adoption of the Official Plan during the month of December.

The Official Plan is used to guide the development of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell in an effective and dynamic matter, while stimulating economic growth and protecting the environment and public health. Since its initial adoption in June 1999, the document has been revised every five years and subsequently presented to the public for comments.

“These policies are mainly oriented towards protecting the economic and environmental values of our farmlands, our water and our mineral resources, but equally act as a guide for the preparation of projects in the Public Works Department, the municipal budget and municipal by-laws,” added Louis Prévost, UCPR Planning and Forestry Director.

The first draft of the Official Plan review and its four appendices are now available for download on the UCPR's website at www.prescott-russell.on.ca.

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