

**Chestermere Utilities Incorporated  
August 2011**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Why does the Town of Chestermere need a utility corporation?**

In a recent survey residents told us they want Chestermere to invest in initiatives that build our town's identity and autonomy, Chestermere Utilities Incorporated will help our town become more independent and sustainable.

In addition, since the provincial government restricts the amount of debt a municipality like Chestermere can carry, an independent utility corporation with its own debt financing would free up the Town's debt capacity for other purposes.

**2. Is the Chestermere Utility Corporation separate from the Town?**

The utility corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Town with its own Board of Directors. The utility corporation will assume the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses related to the water and wastewater utility services from the Town.

**3. Do other towns have their own utility corporations?**

Yes, other cities and towns in Alberta including Rocky View County, Grande Prairie, Edmonton and Calgary have municipally controlled utility corporations.

**4. Who owns and runs the utility?**

The utility corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Town with its own Board of Directors. The newly formed Chestermere Utility Incorporated will hold its initial meeting on Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at which time the Chair and Vice Chair will be formally appointed. The Town of Chestermere worked with PricewaterhouseCoopers to develop the operating model for the utility corporation.

**5. How were the Board of Directors selected?**

Following current governance practices, the Town used a competency-based process for the selection of Board Members. The Town established a set of competencies they were seeking, including knowledge of governance, board experience, business and/or financial experience and an entrepreneurial attitude, then advertised the Board positions in Chestermere and surrounding areas, including Calgary, interviewed candidates and made the selection based on competencies and skills. The public recruitment process ensured the best individuals available to serve as Chair and Vice Chair of Chestermere Utilities Incorporated.

**6. Will I pay more for water services with the new utility?**

Residents will not see any change to the quality or cost of water and wastewater services under the new utility corporation and in fact, there is a greater opportunity for cost savings. The utility corporation will be responsible for setting the rates for water and wastewater services for residents and businesses based on the charges from the provider, The City of Calgary.

**7. Will this change where we get our water?**

No, we will continue to receive water from, and return wastewater to, The City of Calgary. Residents will not see any change to the quality or cost of water and wastewater services under the new utility corporation.