

MAY 2021

[NEW REPORT: The LEAD Project: Leveraging our Energy Assets for Diversification](#)

[Alberta's Economy - Indicators at a Glance](#)

[Alberta Hiring Bulletin for March 2021](#)

caep
CENTRAL ALBERTA
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



REGISTER

Wednesday, June 23
8:30 - 10:30 am

\$25 Members
\$35 Non-members



Happy
#EconomicDevelopmentWeek2021!



Thanks to all who attended CAEP's 2021 Spring Engagement Sessions!

Special thank you to MP Blaine Calkins for engaging with our elected officials and providing a federal update to members!



Message from CAEP Chair

Deputy Reeve John Vandermeer
Clearwater County

The March 31 board of directors meeting saw the approval of CAEP's 2021-22 budget and projects list. COVID collaborative efforts, member training, MIAR tools/resources updates, 2022 Community Overviews, the Connections Corridor, Workforce Development Strategies, Regional Broadband, and Business Expansion & Attraction efforts cover a good mix of large visionary and member-focused projects. We are eager to garner a robust understanding of the region's opportunities and problems and look together for solutions through the Regional Economic Growth Strategy.

CAEP's Regional Economic Growth Strategy planning is upcoming and will take an inclusive approach to engaging stakeholders across central Alberta. This work demonstrates the value of all CAEP members and the strength we all bring when we work together.

The Broadband Task Force has been put on pause as many municipalities focused their efforts on individual applications to the Universal Broadband Fund (UBF). However, broadband connectivity also ties to the Connections Corridor initiative and is expected to be a key component in generating strong interest and support from all communities along the Corridor. Funding efforts were recently setback, and the scope and pace of broadband efforts will thus need to be reassessed. On a positive note, the federal budget just announced an extra \$1 billion to the UBF, totaling \$2.75 billion in support for rural and remote Canadian communities.

Recent member engagement sessions were an excellent opportunity for information sharing, and I would like to thank those who presented and all who shared their optimism and enthusiasm for central Alberta.

John Vandermeer
CAEP Chair

COVID-19 SUPPORTS

Co-operative Business Supports

The [Alberta Community & Co-operative Association](#) helps strengthen Alberta communities by providing leadership development and fostering co-operative values

[Cooperatives First](#) is a business development agency that supports business, economic, and community development in rural and Indigenous communities across western Canada.

SME Relaunch Grant

Eligible small-and-medium-sized businesses, co-ops, and non-profits can apply for funding so they can open their doors and get Albertans back to work. Eligible job creators can apply for up to \$5,000 through this program. If you have specific questions about the program, send email inquiries:

[**SMErelaunch.program@gov.ab.ca**](mailto:SMErelaunch.program@gov.ab.ca)

CANEXPORT Community Investments 2021

Applications are open for Canadian communities seeking financial support for their foreign direct investment (FDI) initiatives for the year 2021.

Essential Business Services List

Government of Alberta Supports for Businesses

Community Futures Regional Relief & Recovery Fund

Canada-Alberta Job Grant

Temporary program changes are in effect to expand eligibility until February 2022.

STAY CONNECTED



CAEP Mission

Empower our communities to advance sustainable regional economic development.

CAEP Vision

Be recognized across Canada as an innovative and prosperous region.

CAEP Values

Put communities first
Act with integrity
Provide leadership
Be open and inclusive