CHARTING A COURSE: AN ACTION PLAN AS A TOOL FOR CHANGE

When municipalities agree to join CCMARD and undertake work in its 10 Commitment areas, they also pledge to develop an action plan. Action plans are tools that serve multiple purposes. Developing an action plan provides an opportunity to create dialogue among municipal staff, elected officials, citizens, community groups, and local organizations. Through this dialogue priority areas for immediate work can be identified and community engagement leading to ownership can be encouraged. The action plan can then be used as a guide for the development and implementation of initiatives as well as a mechanism for increased accountability. As progress is made on the plan, it can then provide a basis for future planning and actions.

In this chapter, six CCMARD municipalities share their reflections on the purpose, benefits, and process of crafting an action plan. Through reflection on their own municipality, they explore different dimensions of action plans including the rationale underlying their creation, the development of meaningful action plans, and opportunities that can be made possible through plans. Their reflections point to the utility of the action plan as tool for meaningful and concrete change.

Section 1
THE IMPORTANCE OF CREATING AN ACTION PLAN
A) New Glasgow (Nova-Scotia)

Section 2
DEVELOPING A MEANINGFUL ACTION PLAN
A) Stratford (Prince Edward Island)
B) Whitehorse (Yukon)
C) Ottawa (Ontario)

Section 3
MAKING THINGS POSSIBLE THROUGH AN ACTION PLAN
A) Lethbridge (Alberta)
B) Brooks (Alberta)