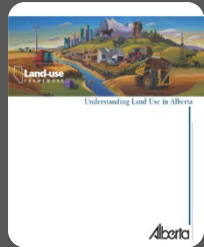




# Alberta's Land Use Planning: continually improving the process

Yukon Land Use Planning Council -  
March 21, 2018



# Albertans chart a new direction

Through a series of multi-stakeholder forums and discussions, Albertans provided ideas and opinions to support development of a framework and remind us that managing our land is a shared responsibility – that each of us has a role to play to ensure a high quality of life for this generation and future generations (2005-2008).

**Strong communities and a  
plan for managing urban growth**



**Healthy  
biodiversity**



**Ample opportunities for outdoor  
recreation and enjoyment of  
Alberta's natural beauty**



**Clean air and water**

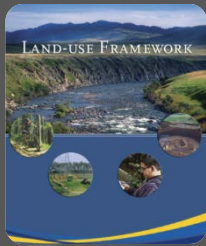


**A diversified and  
value-added economy**



**A transparent and consultative approach to  
planning that includes all Albertans**





# Land-use Framework

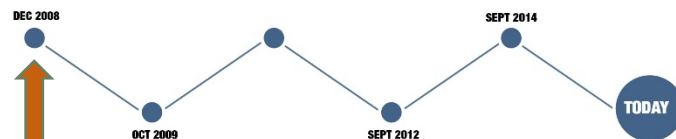
LUF sets out a new approach for managing the province's land and natural resources to achieve Alberta's long-term economic, environmental and social goals. It establishes 7 regions and calls for a regional plan for each region (2008).

## Regional Planning Timeline

Land-use Framework was introduced. The province is divided into seven regions based on our major watersheds.

The Land Use Secretariat was established as an administrative and coordinating body that leads regional planning in Alberta.

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan came into effect.



The Alberta Land Stewardship Act established the legal basis for the development of the regional plans.

The Lower Athabasca Regional Plan came into effect.

The North Saskatchewan Regional Plan will be the third regional plan developed under Alberta's Land-use Framework following the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan and the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

## Provincial Vision:

Albertans work together to respect and care for the land as the foundation of our economic, environmental and social well-being.

well-being

## Provincial Outcomes:

- Healthy economy supported by our land and natural resources
- Healthy ecosystems and environment
- People-friendly communities with ample recreational and cultural opportunities

cultural opportunities  
ample recreational and  
communities with

## Seven strategies to improve land-use decision-making in Alberta

- Strategy 1: Seven regional land-use plans based on land-use regions
- Strategy 2: Create a Land Use Secretariat and seven Regional Advisory Councils
- Strategy 3: Cumulative effects management of air, water and biodiversity
- Strategy 4: Conservation and stewardship strategy on private lands
- Strategy 5: Efficient-use of lands
- Strategy 6: Continuous improvement through monitoring and reporting
- Strategy 7: Inclusion of Indigenous peoples

# Regional Land-use Plans

Regional land-use plans are considered regulations. They provide the policy integration, direction and clarity needed to help decision-makers make decisions that collectively reflect and support the needs and values of Albertans.

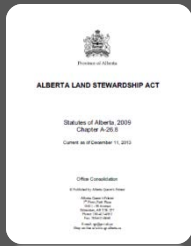


## A Regional Plan:

- Establishes a long-term vision for the region;
- Aligns provincial policies at the regional level to balance Alberta's economic, environmental and social goals;
- Reflects ongoing commitment to engage Albertans, including indigenous peoples, in land-use planning;
- Uses a cumulative effects management approach to balance economic development opportunities and social and environmental considerations;
- Sets desired economic, environmental and social outcomes and objectives for the region;
- Describes the strategies, actions, approaches and tools required to achieve the desired outcomes and objectives;
- Establishes monitoring, evaluation and reporting commitments to assess progress; and
- Provides guidance to provincial and local decision-makers regarding land-use management for the region.

## Status:

Lower Peace – pre-planning
Upper Peace – not started
Lower Athabasca – effective September 2012; amendments underway
Upper Athabasca – not started
North Saskatchewan – RAC recommendations; consultation and drafting next
Red Deer – not started
South Saskatchewan – effective September 2014; amended 2017



# Alberta Land Stewardship Act

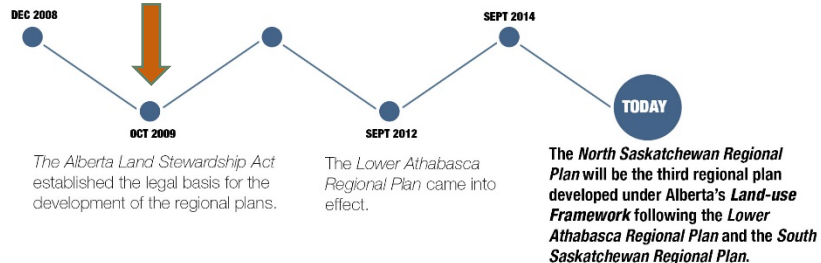
ALSA, proclaimed in 2009, supports the IUF and establishes the legal basis for the development of regional plans. In 2011, ALSA was amended to clarify the original intent of the legislation, i.e., to respect the property and other rights of individuals.

## Regional Planning Timeline

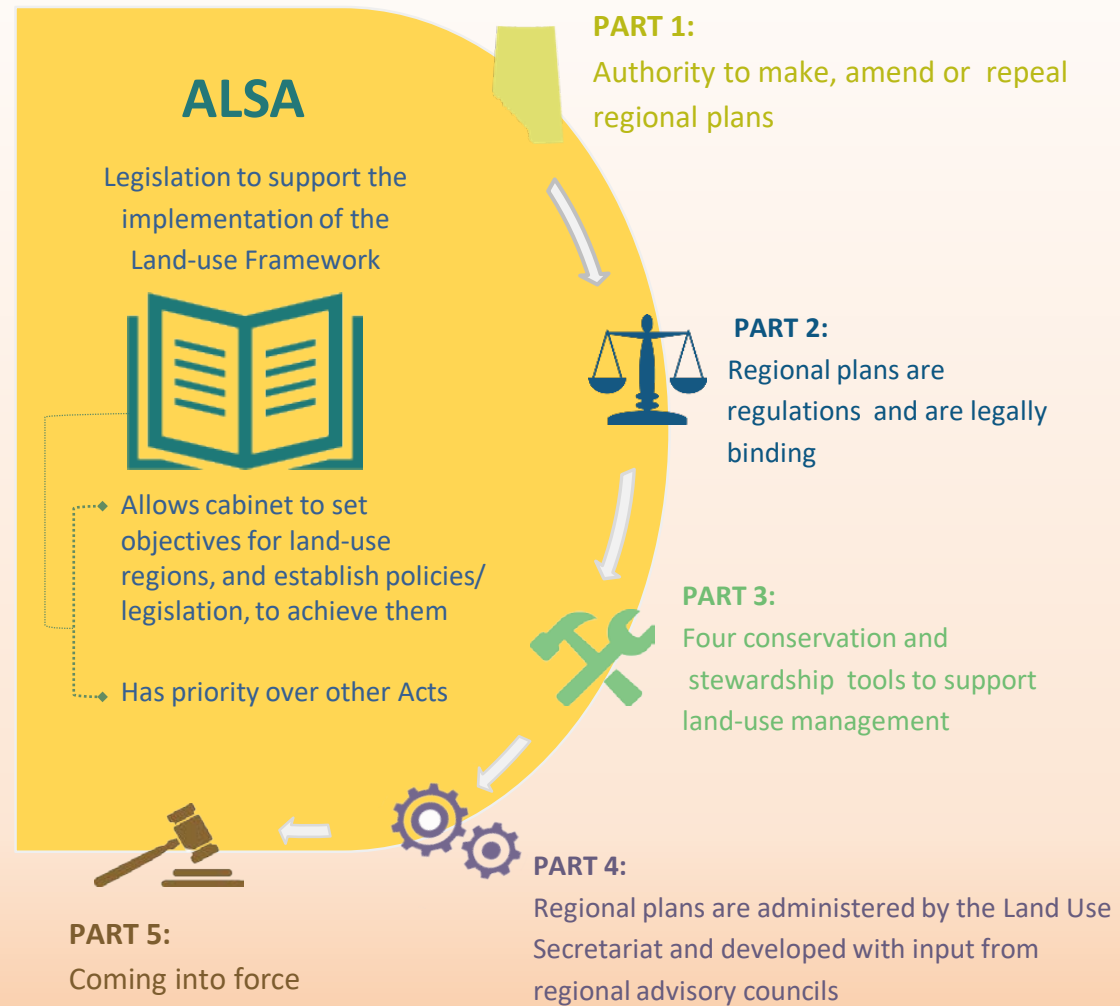
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## Summary of ALSA

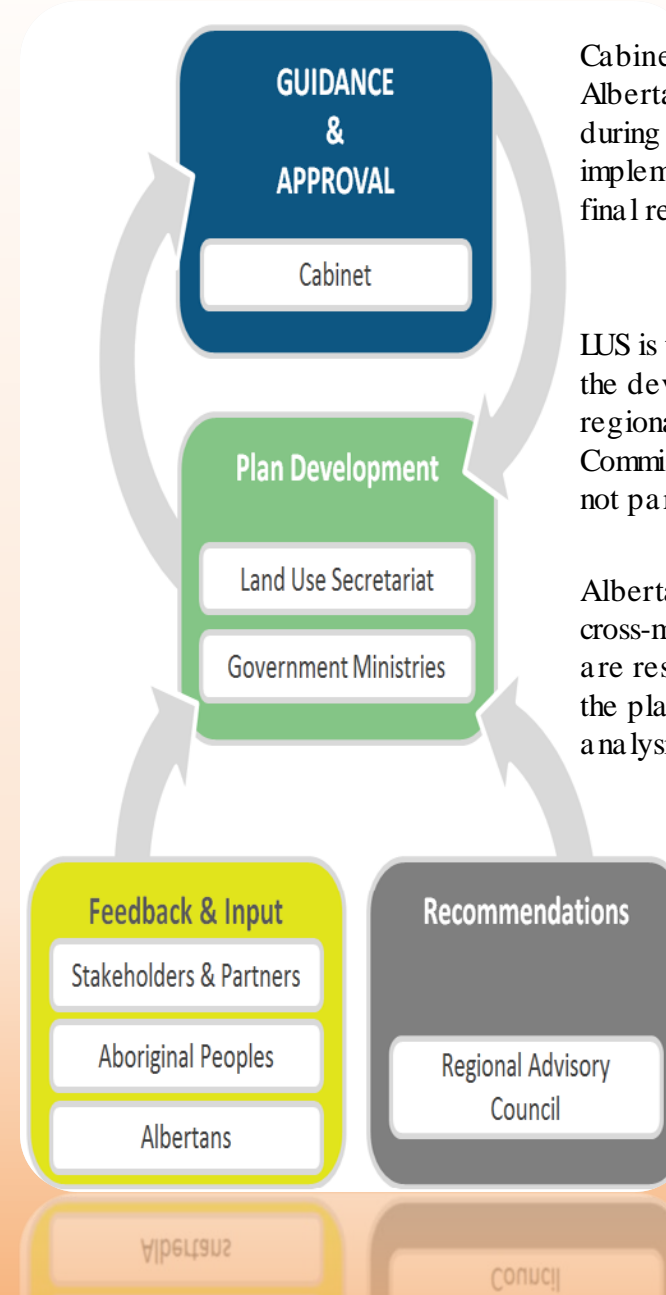




# Regional Planning Responsibilities

Contributions from Regional Advisory Councils (RAC), indigenous peoples, stakeholders and partners (e.g., industry, federal and local governments, non-government associations, special interest groups, landowners), Alberta government ministries and Albertans inform development of the regional plans through a collaborative process. Everyone must comply with a regional plan once it is in effect. Regulatory details are enforceable as law.

Stakeholders, partners, indigenous peoples, and Albertans provide input and feedback to government during development of a plan. Regulatory instruments, decisions, practices, etc. align with an approved regional plan once it is in effect.



Cabinet considers input received from Albertans and provides overall direction during regional plan development and implementation. Cabinet approves draft and final regional plans.

LUS is the co-ordinating body responsible for the development and implementation of regional plans. LUS reports to a Stewardship Commissioner and Stewardship Minister but is not part of a govt. dept.

Alberta government, through collaborating cross-ministry teams (e.g., IIT, RPIT, IUF ADMs) are responsible for drafting and implementing the plans. This includes providing policy, analysis and research.

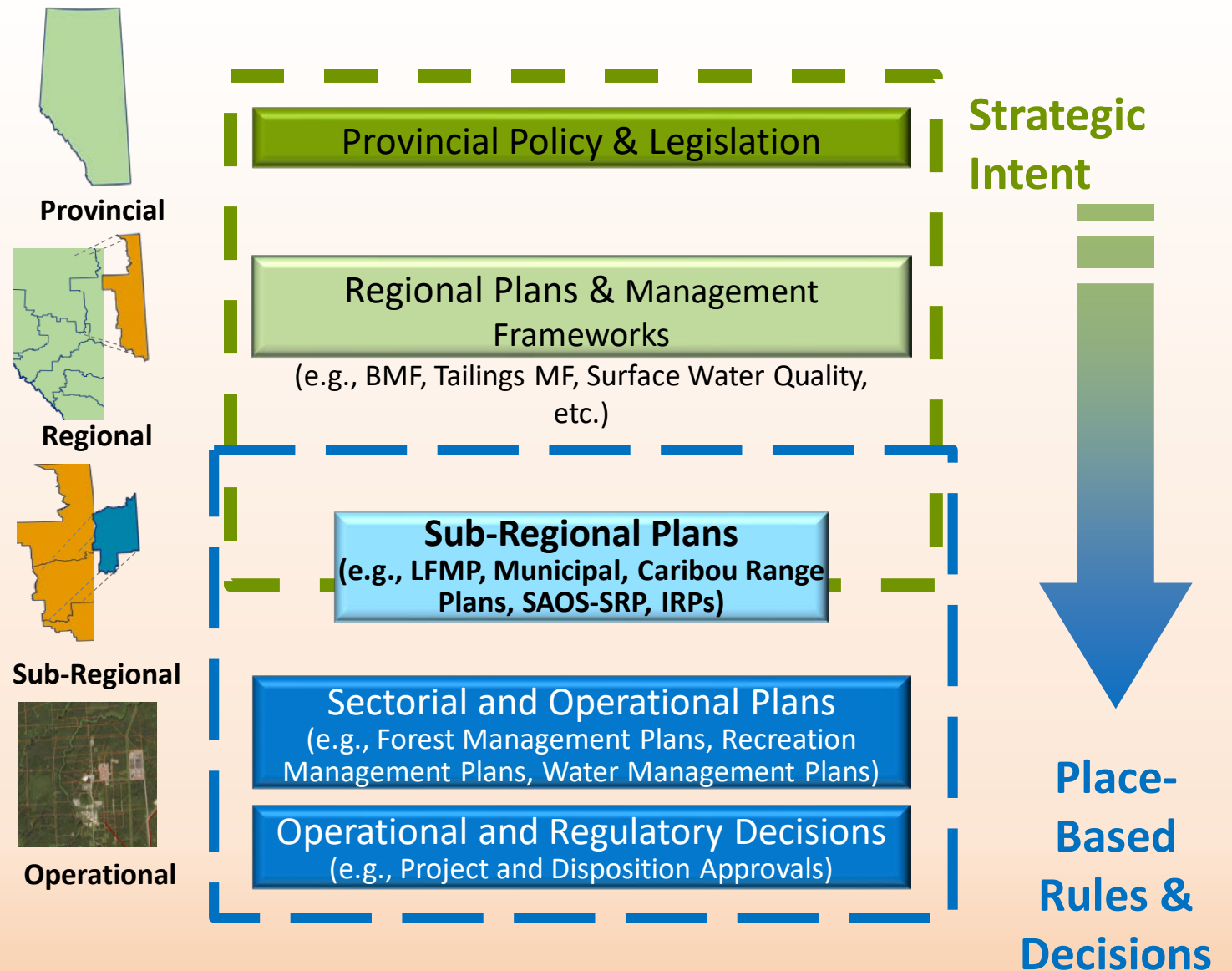
Appointed by cabinet through a public nomination process, RAC members represent regional interests. They provide recommendations to government to help inform development of a regional plan.

# Implementing the Regional Plan

Once approved by cabinet and publicly announced through Orders in Council, regional plans become part of Alberta's land-use planning hierarchy; all land users and decision-makers are required to align with the plan and abide by regulatory details. As decision makers, ALSA sets out compliance requirements:

Local Government Body: 5 years

Decision Making Body: 2 years



# Lower Athabasca Regional Plan

LARP, effective September 2012, sets the stage for robust growth, vibrant communities and a healthy environment within northeastern Alberta over the next 50 years. Amendments are currently underway.

## Lower Athabasca Regional Plan

The Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP) came into effect in September 2012. It is the first of seven land-use regional plans laid before the Legislative Assembly and made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. It presents the desired economic, social and environmental outcomes for northeastern Alberta and a detailed plan to achieve these results. For example, LARP sets regional environmental management triggers and limits for air and surface water quality, and provides for six new conservation areas with the aim of conserving two million hectares or 22 per cent of the region.

The plan encourages economic diversification, addresses infrastructure challenges around Fort McMurray, commits to continued consultation with indigenous peoples, offers greater certainty to industry, and provides for nine new provincial recreation areas to address growing demand for recreational and tourism opportunities. Also, LARP commits government to the development of a biodiversity management framework, a tailings management framework and a surface water quantity management framework to guide the actions and decisions of land and natural resource managers.

## Regional Planning Timeline

Land-use Framework was introduced. The province is divided into seven regions based on our major watersheds.

DEC 2008

OCT 2009

The Alberta Land Stewardship Act established the legal basis for the development of the regional plans.

The Land Use Secretariat was established as an administrative and coordinating body that leads regional planning in Alberta.

SEPT 2012

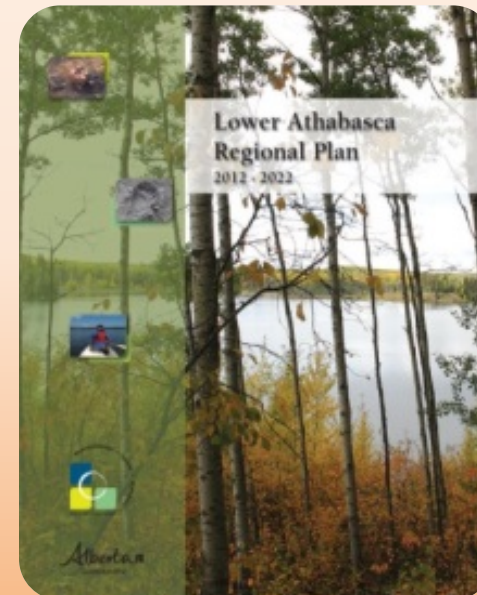
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The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan came into effect.

SEPT 2014

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TODAY





# South Saskatchewan Regional Plan

SSRP, effective September 2014, sets the stage for robust growth, vibrant communities and a healthy environment within southern Alberta over the next 50 years. In early 2017, SSRP was amended to facilitate establishment of new Castle parks under the Provincial Parks Act.

## South Saskatchewan Regional Plan

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP), named after the watershed encompassing the southern portion of the province and home to 44 per cent of Alberta's population, came into effect on September 1, 2014.

The plan provides for eight new or expanded conservation areas and eight new or expanded recreation areas including 12 new areas for "no service" camping and trail access. Further, SSRP sets environmental management triggers and limits for surface water and air quality, and commits to developing a biodiversity management framework, a comprehensive approach to groundwater management, and a regional parks plan and trail system. Finally, the plan continues to protect headwaters in the eastern slopes, promote efficient use of land to reduce human footprint on the landscape, reduce native grassland conversion, and commits to ongoing work on climate variability issues within the region including flood risk and drought management.

## Regional Planning Timeline

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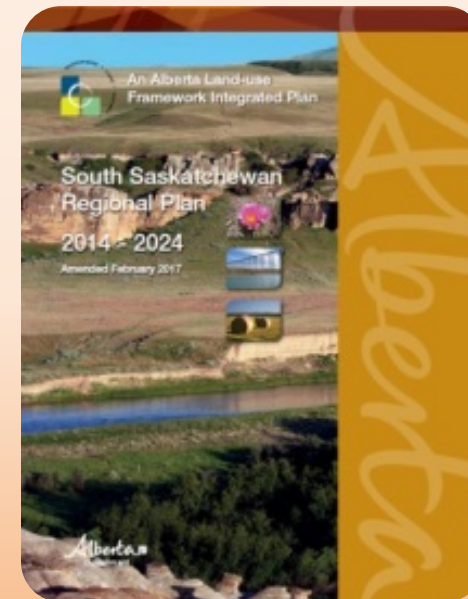
SEPT 2014

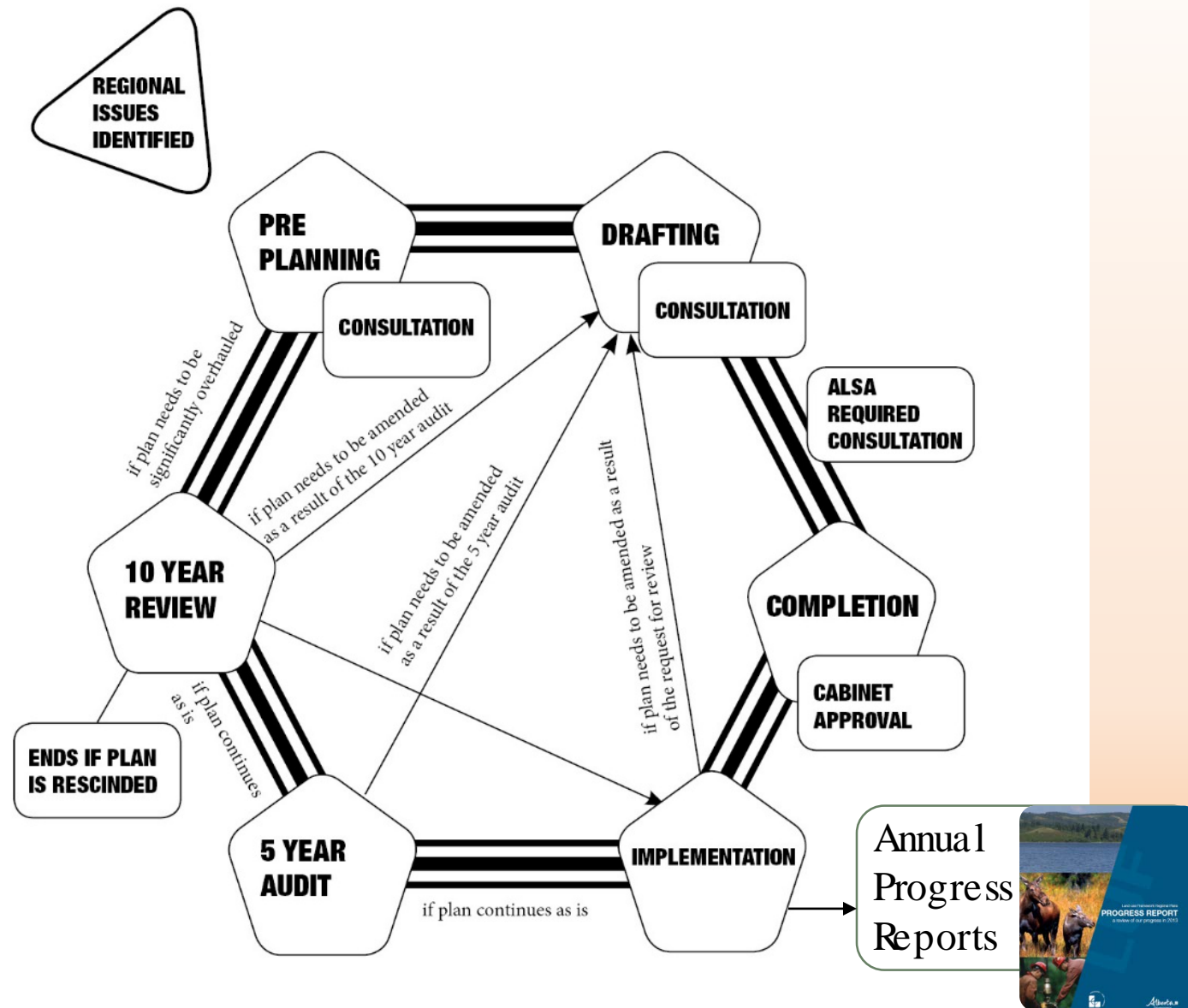
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THANK- YOU!