

# Proposed Regional Water Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC)



## Frequently Asked Questions:

### 1. Why are the County and Town creating a Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC)?

The MCC provides a formal way for the County and Town to work together on long-term planning for regional water. By creating an MCC, both municipalities can explore shared infrastructure, apply for grant funding, and prepare for future growth while ensuring reliable access to clean drinking water.

### 2. Why are the Town of Thorsby and the County of Wetaskiwin partnering together?

The County of Wetaskiwin and the Town of Thorsby share common challenges and opportunities when it comes to water infrastructure.

- The County has a large rural population and many businesses that rely on individual wells or trucked-in water, making long-term water access a growing concern.
- Thorsby has existing water system capacity, offering a strong foundation for collaboration.

By forming a Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC), both municipalities can share resources, coordinate long-term planning, and explore options to expand water access. This partnership supports regional growth, strengthens economic development, and builds greater water security and resilience for both communities.

### 3. Why are you creating the MCC now?

Water access, security, and infrastructure are growing challenges in the region. The County recently received a \$100,000 Water for Life grant to study regional water opportunities. This builds on the Select Engineering Report commissioned by the Town of Thorsby. Forming an MCC now allows us to plan for the future responsibly and collaboratively—with no initial cost or asset transfer required.

### 4. Who owns the MCC?

The MCC is proposed to be jointly owned 50/50 by the County of Wetaskiwin and the Town of Thorsby. Both municipalities will maintain control through a shared governance structure and a Unanimous Shareholder Agreement.

### 5. Will this cost residents anything?

The proposed MCC is being created strictly for **planning purposes**. There are **no financial commitments, infrastructure transfers, or utility changes** for residents at this time.



The intent is to **maintain water rates at their current levels** if service delivery occurs in the future. Should the MCC begin operating a utility, any profits generated would be returned to the County and Town as **dividends**, allowing for reinvestment into local services. Any future changes to service delivery or rates would require **public consultation and Council approval**.

**6. What areas will be served?**

The proposed service area includes the Town of Thorsby and portions of the County of Wetaskiwin. Options to extend regional water distribution are being explored, including the Hamlet of Mulhurst.

**7. How will the MCC area expand or grow in the future?**

As planning continues, the service area may expand based on engineering studies, community needs, and Council direction, including areas surrounding Pigeon Lake, where many residents and businesses currently rely on individual wells for their water supply. Any material changes, such as utility delivery or asset transfers, will require another public hearing.

**8. What services will the MCC provide?**

Initially, the MCC will focus on planning, studying, and coordinating the potential development of a regional water system.

**9. What happens next?**

Following the public hearing, after considering the feedback received and if both Councils agree to proceed, each municipality will pass a resolution to formally authorize the creation of the Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC). They will enter into a Unanimous Shareholders Agreement outlining how the MCC will be governed and operated and notify the Minister of Municipal Affairs as outlined under provincial legislation.

Once the MCC is established, the next steps will include using the secured grant funding to complete detailed feasibility studies, develop a business plan, and explore long-term infrastructure options. Public input will continue to be an important part of the process as planning progresses.