



**URBAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
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April 5, 2009

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
9909 Franklin Ave
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 2K4

Attention: Surekha Kanzig, Chief Legislative Officer

RE: Bylaw No. 09/005-Land Use Bylaw Amendment-Project Accommodation

UDI-Wood Buffalo supports administration's recommendation to not allow project accommodations inside the boundaries of any rural hamlet or inside the Urban Service Area (Fort McMurray). UDI-Wood Buffalo applauds administration for taking the necessary steps to ensure that our community is not negatively impacted by these facilities. We agree with administration's position there is a general lack of community support for these types of projects that have the potential to negatively impact the community identity and stability and we lobbied that position when the bylaw was approved in 2006.

We strongly oppose administration's recommendation to extend project accommodations for the MacDonald Island project until May 2010. The business case for this facility as presented in 2006 has not been realized and the esthetics of this facility have fallen far short of what the community was led to expect. The temporary construction fence as opposed to a solid screen fence and the lack of grounds maintenance (grass cutting and snow removal) give credence to the perception that we are a wild and woolly oil boom town. Let's take the lead and change that perception by paying attention to our community identity and cleaning this situation up. The community should not have to accept the project accommodation in its current state for another year.

As per the recent studies and the current economic environment there are ample accommodations available in the community and the requirement for project accommodation is not necessary.

Yours truly,

Cliff Maron, President
UDI-Wood Buffalo