



## COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENT REPORTING

**Appointment:** **Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association**

**Classification:** **External Agency - Intergovernmental**

**Councillor(s):** **Councillor Jennifer Rice**

**Reporting Period:** **November 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023**

### Mandate

The purpose of Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association (AIHA) is to promote responsible development within the region. This includes ensuring the region is ready for development in its infrastructure, services, and land use zoning principles. AIHA recognizes that activities in the area can have a major impact on neighboring communities and affect their service delivery as well. Together, the municipalities take a proactive and cooperative approach to planning and industrial development.

AIHA has four core principles:

1. Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) support and stewardship are critical for future economic prosperity.
2. Stable overall economic growth contributes to resilient and vibrant communities within the member municipalities.
3. Diversification of industries and overall products in the Industrial Heartland reduces the peaks/valleys of macroeconomic cycles, thus facilitating stable economic activity and growth.
4. Industrial clustering improves overall competitiveness for the cluster participants, while providing an enabling environment for companies to reach their ESG goals, ultimately minimizing the environmental footprint of industrial activity.

### Background

The City of Edmonton joined the Board in 2010 to become the fifth municipal partner in an effort to enhance the coordination of industrial development in and around the entire Capital Region.

## Shared priorities and advocacy areas

The City of Edmonton has a goal of being climate resilient. One of the means to achieve this is through Hydrogen Energy (see Urban Planning and Economy Report UPE01799). AIHA has worked closely with the City of Edmonton on Hydrogen Energy and will continue to do so.

## Report on activities, projects, and outcomes

There are numerous hydrogen production projects/studies being progressed in Alberta's Industrial Heartland (AIH), as well as other decarbonization and diversification project initiatives.

- Inter Pipeline Ltd., ITOCHU Corporation and PETRONAS Energy Canada Ltd. announced their plans to evaluate the development of world-scale integrated low-carbon hydrogen and low-carbon methanol production facilities. The proposed project would consist of two facilities based in Alberta Industrial Heartland, producing world-scale volumes of low-carbon hydrogen with low-carbon methanol volumes.
- Mitsubishi Corporation (Japan) and Shell Canada Limited announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding relating to the production of low-carbon hydrogen near the Shell Scotford facility in Alberta's Industrial Heartland.
- Suncor Energy and ATCO Ltd. announced their collaboration on early-stage design and engineering for a potential clean hydrogen project in Alberta's Industrial Heartland.
- Dow announced its plan to study the world's first net-zero carbon emissions integrated ethylene cracker and derivatives site with respect to scope 1 and 2 carbon dioxide emissions in Alberta's Industrial Heartland.
- Alpin Sun announced its latest proposed Canadian renewable energy project, Sol Aurora, to be built in Alberta's Industrial Heartland.
- Silicon Ranch and Shell Canada announced plans to build a 58-megawatt solar farm adjacent to Shell's Energy and Chemicals Park Scotford in Alberta's Industrial Heartland.

## Upcoming events and milestones

In the AIHA 2023 Strategic Plan, three "strategic pillars" are identified to frame the work of AIHA, as follows:

- Promote Project Opportunities in Alberta's Industrial Heartland;
- Improve the Business Case for Alberta's Industrial Heartland; and
- Advance Alberta's Industrial Heartland's Social License and Community Support.

### **Promote Project Opportunities in Alberta Industrial Heartland (AIH)**

Specific activities include outward marketing, client-focused hosting, investor education about local issues, and fostering relationships between investors and potential partners, as appropriate. To extend the reach of the Association to meet its mandate, AIHA develops and maintains strategic partnerships with like-minded organizations to target investment attraction.

### **Improve the Business Case for AIH**

To ensure improved competitiveness and effective application of resources, AIHA will continually assess current business and economic conditions and how those factors may affect development in Alberta's Industrial Heartland. Specific activities include advocating for common rail, utility and

transportation infrastructure, wherever possible and practical, and for open access and competitively priced Carbon Capture and Storage hubs in AIH. Furthermore, robust communication and awareness efforts will be made with relevant stakeholders on the value of industrial clustering for overall competitiveness for the cluster participants, while providing an enabling environment for companies to reach their ESG goals.

### **Advance AIH's Social License and Community Support**

AIH is well-positioned for a new energy future, and AIHA will deploy targeted marketing and advertising activities, maximize engagement opportunities, and leverage media and public relations efforts to:

- Promote and support Life in the Heartland activities and community newsletters.
- Promote investor and stakeholder ESG goals and how the AIHA can support their needs through strategic tactics and communications.
- Identify potential solutions to improve inclusivity relating to the social, economic, and professional benefits for social groups traditionally underrepresented.
- Develop relationships with indigenous communities in the greater Edmonton region.
- Advance AIH's ESG efforts.

### **Evaluation**

It is recommended that the City of Edmonton continue to work with Alberta Industrial Heartland Association to advance municipal priorities and areas of shared interest including how to advocate for the City's interests in investment, low-carbon alternative fuel sources, and infrastructure.