

Preparing for the Future in the Almaguin Highlands...

July 2025

Armour's Progress Update
(Mayor's 6-month Summary)

Township of Armour Perspective

- *Short-Term Realities*
- *Medium-Term Preparation*
- *Long-Term Vision*

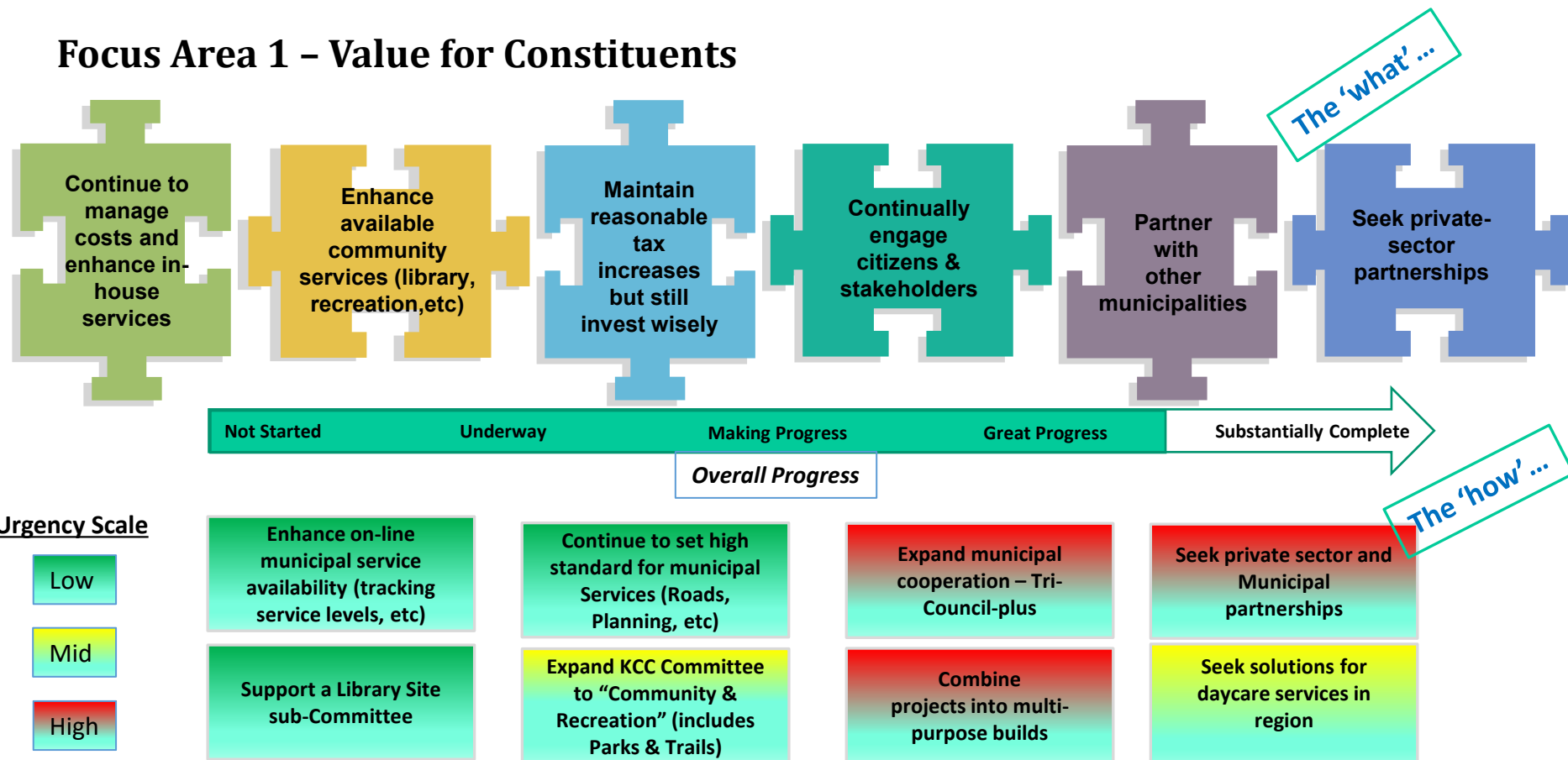


Areas of Focus...

Where we as municipality can make a difference and prepare for future...



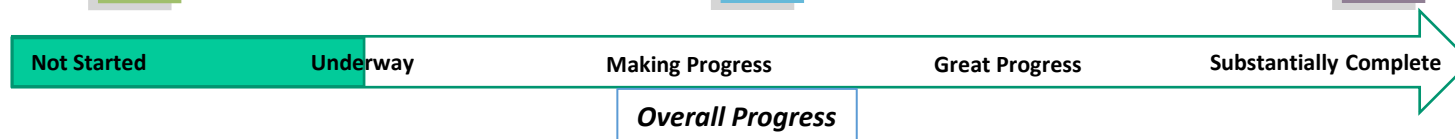
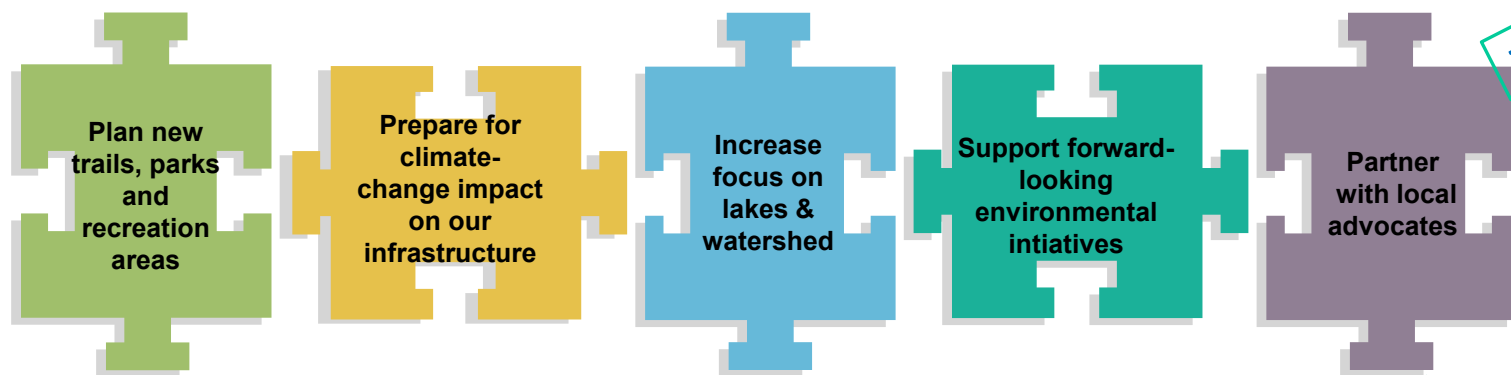
Focus Area 1 – Value for Constituents



Updated progress – January through June 2025

- By-law services serving 7 municipalities, reducing costs region-wide (staff)
- Rec staff planning / managing annual Heritage Day Festival (staff, council)
- Building Services agreement signed with McMurrich/Monteith (staff)
- Emergency Management and 4-partner programs successfully completed (staff)
- Kicked off community engagement and Armour branding renewal strategy (staff, council)
- Roads Department North Pickernel Lake Bridge and Ferguson Road improvement projects underway (staff)
- Community safety enhancements implemented by Roads (staff, council)

Focus Area 2 – Protection of Natural Assets



Urgency Scale

Low

Mid

High

Implement Environmental Advisory Committee – lake associations, public, MNRF; take 'entire-Almaguin' view

Establish Leadership role in 'green' initiatives

Review Roads' assets through lens of climate change

Review potential for Short Term Rental by-law; public consultations

Include trail systems & recreational opportunities in planning / growth

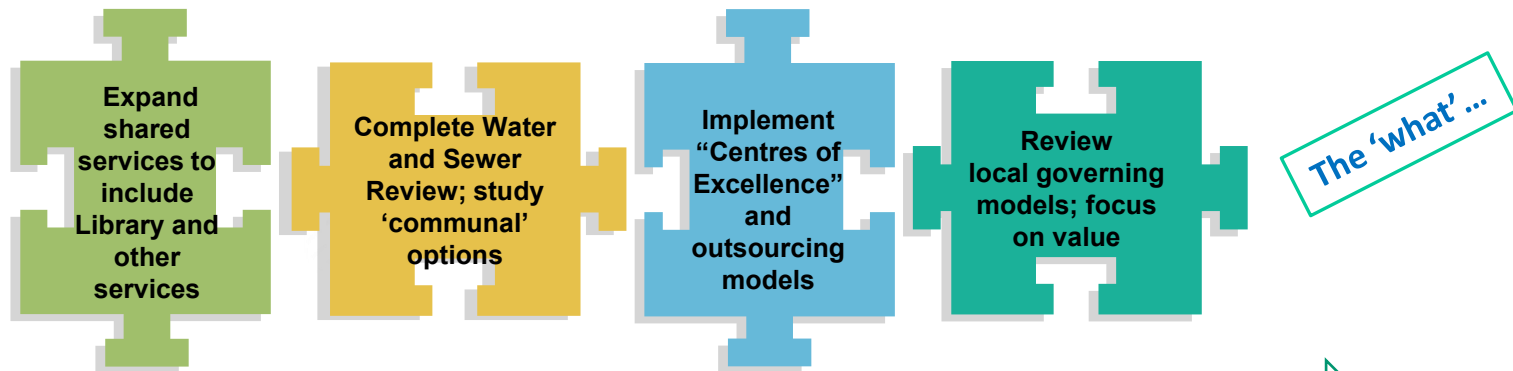
Review OP / Zoning with respect to environmental protection

The 'how' ...

Updated progress – January through June 2025

- On-going expanded Water Quality Grant Program (staff)
- On-going participation with Muskoka - Integrated Watershed (council, staff)
- Reviewing enhancements to septic approvals and testing (staff, council)
- Re-engaged with Almaguin-wide watershed committee (council)

Focus Area 3 – Cooperation & Shared Services



The 'what' ...



Urgency Scale

Low

Mid

High

Expand municipal cooperation – Tri-Council-plus

Complete infrastructure studies (Water/Sewage, etc.)

Develop 'Centres of Excellence' / Outside service offerings

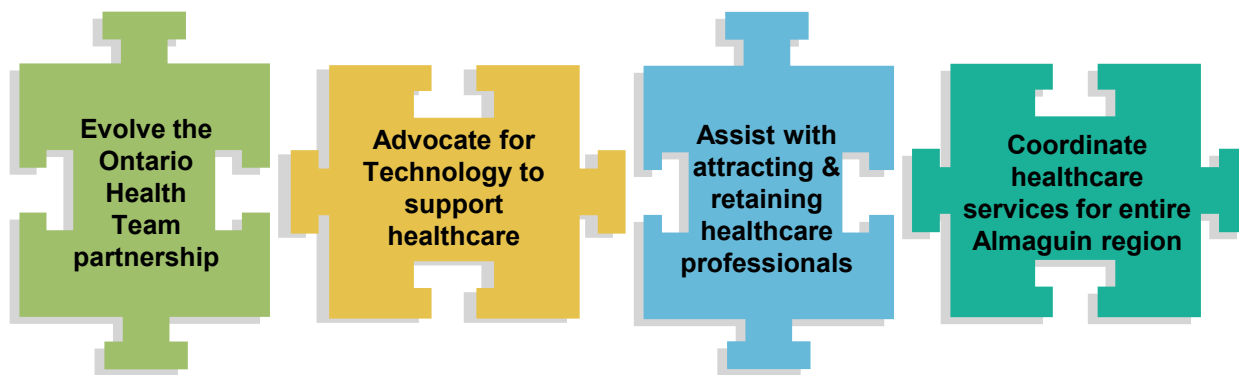
Re-review potential for new governing models (i.e. amalgamation, other models)

The 'how' ...

Updated progress – January through June 2025

- New Fire Services agreement signed; new Library agreement in progress (staff, council)
- RFP selection closed for Fire Hall build (Ryerson admin, staff)
- By-law services serving 7 municipalities; setting regional standards (staff)
- Implemented AMPS by-law enforcement for regional standardization & cost reduction (staff)
- Activated regional agreement for OSPCA (animal control) services (staff)
- Investigating expanded / improved municipal partnerships (council)
- Expanded Centres of Excellence – By-Law, Emergency Management, Building (staff)
- Continued transition to recycling / waste-diversion 'producer-responsibility' model (staff)
- Reviewing enhancement to septic approvals and testing (staff, council)
- Hosted Quarterly "Almaguin Mayors" meeting (council)

Focus Area 4 – Health & Wellness



The 'what' ...



Urgency Scale

Low

Manage impact of MAHC
'local share' on taxpayers....

Expand municipal
partnerships at AHHC

Expand healthcare service
offerings across Almaguin

Investigate potential
healthcare facility
'partnering'

Mid

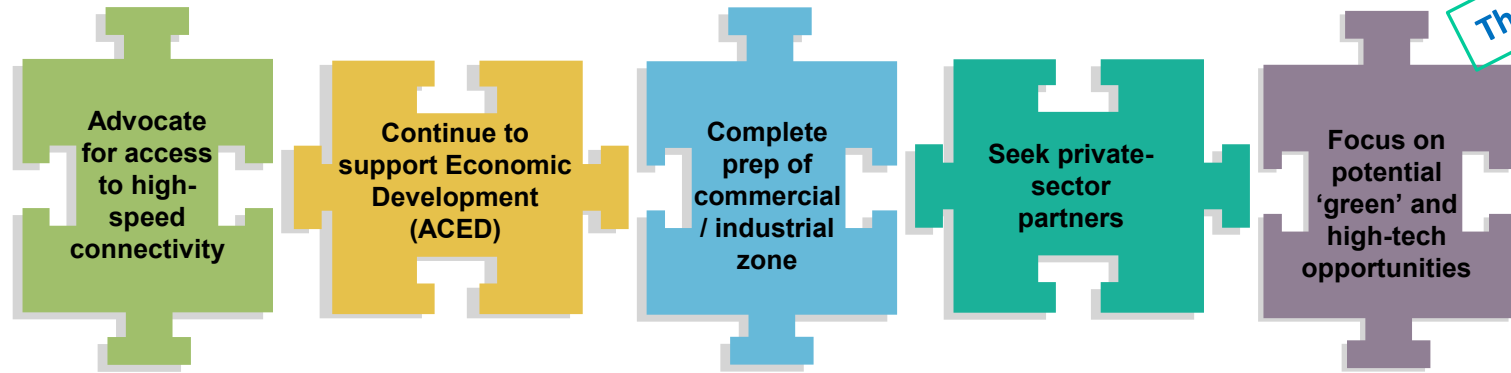
High

The 'how' ...

Updated progress – January through June 2025

- Active discussions with MAHC / MAOHT re: investment in Almaguin (council)
- Regional Ontario Health Team renamed 'Muskoka Almaguin Ontario Health Team' (council)
- Initial planning/design for new Health & Wellness building for Almaguin Highlands (staff/council)
- Continued partnerships for Health & Wellness Centre (council/staff)

Focus Area 5 – Economic Development



Urgency Scale

Low

Mid

High

Fully-leverage ACED
Almaguin brand strategy

Establish region-wide
Housing
& Development
Task Force

Continue lobbying efforts to
expand high-speed
connectivity

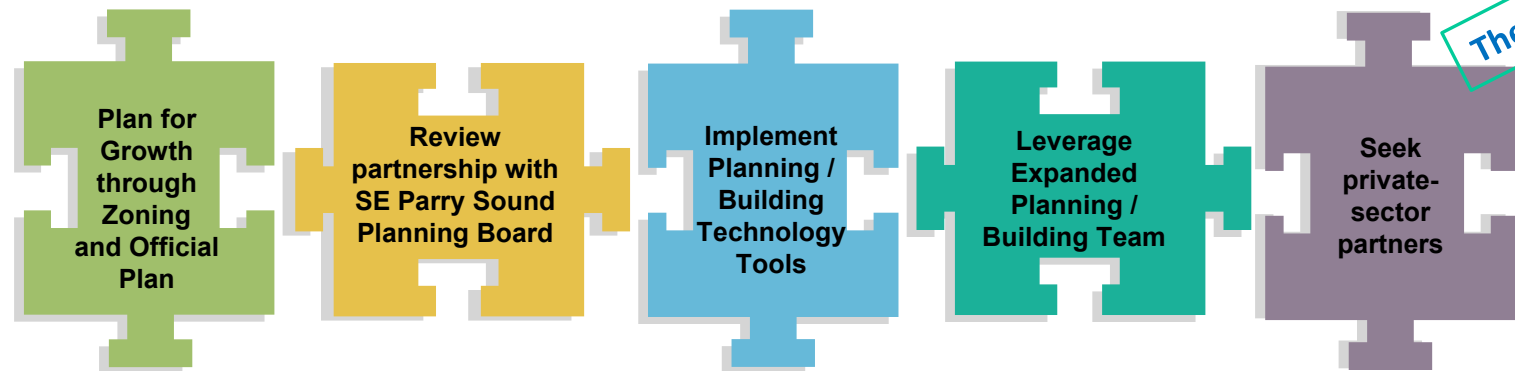
Establish leadership role
in 'green' and tech-based
industries

Expand region's use
of technology infrastructure

Updated progress – January through June 2025

- Implementing recommendations from Housing Task Force (staff, council)
- Adjusting ACED funding model and regional approach (ACED, council)
- Investing to make industrial/commercial lands shovel-ready (staff, council)
- Planning readiness and marketing of industrial/commercial on Highway 520 and Pegg's Mountain (staff, council)
- Supported Community / Regional Transportation initiative (ACED, council)
- Finalized region-wide branding and signage initiative (ACED, council)
- New high-speed internet services roll-out in progress with private-sector partner (staff)

Focus Area 6 – Housing & Growth



Urgency Scale

Low

Mid

High

Streamline approvals through resourcing / tools – Planning Board

Assess requirements to meet provincial targets for housing

Review Planning and Building resourcing

Complete thorough review of Official Plan / Zoning By-Laws

Offer services to other municipalities – cost-sharing

The 'how' ...

Updated progress – January through June 2025

- Implemented smaller minimum house sizes / updated zoning by-law toward Housing Task Force recommendations (staff)
- Reviewing next steps for Official Plan / Zoning By-Law updates (staff)
- Supporting enhanced community service offerings to support growth (staff, council)

Looking ahead.

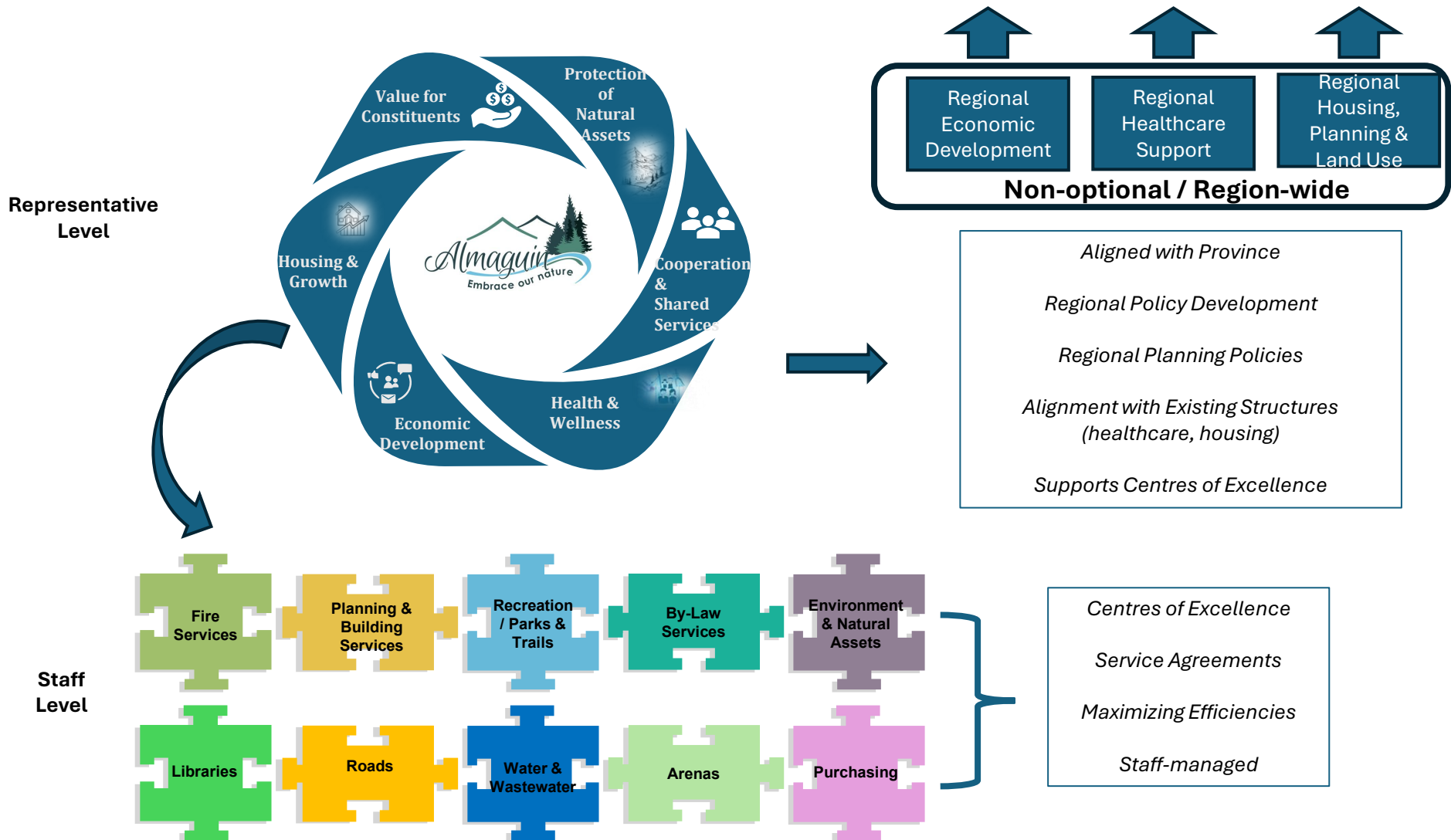
Almaguin Highlands regional approach...

Expand Armour ideas and approach to
a more region-wide view...



Almaguin-wide Agreements / Cooperation

Existing provincial structures / funding



Building on Existing Capabilities

Service Offering	Current Sharing	Potential Further Sharing	Almaguin-wide Approaches
Fire	5 Fire Stations / Managed by Fire Chiefs	On-going	Shared equipment and facilities
Building & Planning	2 Planning Boards (south and central) 2 municipalities in Building Service Agreement / Managed by Armour	Common Official Plan & Zoning By-Laws / Region-wide Centre of Excellence	Standardized technology Standardized OP / ZBL Standard Reporting
Recreation, Parks & Trails	Ad hoc sharing of staff	Region-wide Centre of Excellence	Resource sharing Program sharing
By-Law Services	7 Municipalities in Service Agreement / Managed by Armour	Region-wide Centre of Excellence / Common By-laws	Standardized By-laws Resource sharing
Health and Wellness	10 municipal partners in Almaguin Highlands Health Council	Full integration with healthcare partners in Muskoka Almaguin OHT	Agreed cost-sharing and long-term strategy
Environmental	2 Tri-Councils / Remainder individual (Landfill)	Region-wide Centre of Excellence	Resource sharing
Emergency Planning	4 municipalities in shared agreement / Managed by Armour	Region-wide Centre of Excellence	Resource sharing
Libraries	Separate Library agreements (some tri-council, some individual)	Review of new builds/renos/existing facilities	Region-wide approach to gain efficiencies
Roads	Ad hoc / tactical agreements	Expansion to Shared Services / “Mutual Aid”	Standardized technology Resource sharing
Water & Wastewater	None	Expansion to neighbouring municipalities	Strategy via Housing Task Force
Arenas	2 Tri-Councils	Policies and procedures	Resource sharing
Purchasing	None	Region-wide Centre of Excellence	Cross-region purchasing power