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August 16, 2010

## 2010-2011 Tug Hill Local Leaders Institute

### INVITATION

Our annual Local Leaders Institute is scheduled to begin again this September. I invite you to consider participating in this year's Institute and/or encouraging a fellow board member or other community leader to do so. **Please share this with your fellow board members or interested community members.**

The Local Leaders Institute is based on the belief that a better understanding of the broader regional issues and trends affecting the region will help both elected and non-elected local leaders to be more effective in their own communities. Its purpose is to enhance leadership skills by improving participants' abilities to think strategically; build partnerships; and to better balance economic and environmental issues.

**Schedule.** With the exception of a full-day tour on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the six remaining sessions each fall on a Wednesday evening. Topics will include: intermunicipal cooperation; the contributions of agriculture, forest products, recreation and tourism to the region's economy; the role of land trusts; economic trends; the role of infrastructure; development trends and their impact on the region's landscape and way of life; and leadership skills. The complete schedule is as follows:

- Wed., Sept. 29, 6-9 p.m.: Regional Overview and the Commission's history
- Sat., Oct. 2, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.: Full-day Tour of the Tug Hill Region
- Wed., Nov. 3, 6-9 p.m.: Leadership Styles and Challenges
- Wed., Nov. 17, 6-9 p.m.: Rural Economic Trends and Challenges
- Wed., Jan. 26, 6-9 p.m.: The Region's Environment and Rural Character
- Wed., Feb. 23, 6-9 p.m.: Open Meetings Law and engaging the public
- Wed., Mar. 23, 6-9 p.m.: Tourism on Tug Hill
- Wed., Mar. 30, 4-7 p.m.: Graduation Ceremony and Commission Dinner

Leaders institute workshops are held at various locations in order to expose participants to different settings around the region. Each session features a professional or two in that particular topic area and is conducted in a roundtable format, allowing plenty of opportunity for interactive discussion.

**Registration.** Participation is limited to the first 10 people to apply. Participants or their sponsoring municipality will pay a \$75 fee to help offset costs and to encourage commitment to completing the program. Scholarship assistance would be available to those for whom the cost is prohibitive. Registrations are due by **Friday, September 17, 2010.**

Past years' participants have all agreed that the investment of their time was worthwhile. They found it to be an eye-opening experience, enjoyed the fellowship, and commented that the time went too fast.

I hope you consider participating, and feel free to share with anyone else you think may be interested. Please call the Commission if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John K. Bartow, Jr.  
Executive Director