

Funding a shot in the arm for economic development
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Page: B2
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The provincial government handed the Calgary Regional Partnership a \$60,000 cheque to help fund an investment profile of the Calgary-area to attract big business to the region.

The grant, which will provide \$180,000 over three years, was announced by Mark Norris, minister of economic development, in Airdrie Tuesday afternoon.

The money will be used to develop a profile of the Calgary Regional Partnership's 15 communities by assessing the strengths of each that will provide an overall look at the area for any potential business ventures.

"It's a regional look, but also looking at each of the individual communities," said Linda Bruce, deputy mayor of Airdrie and vice-chairwoman of the partnership.

"We have some small communities here that do not have economic development officers, so by working together as a region we can provide that support and help them find out all the benefits of their community and be able to put them in this basket and offer the whole basket nationally and internationally."

Norris said the partnership's objective has made his job of promoting Alberta to the world a lot easier.

"Our job is to promote the province and if we can go to people and say at a click of a button you can see what the Calgary region has to offer . . . it really is an amazing thing," said Norris.