

Regular and Closed Meeting Agenda for Monday, March 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. to be held in the Council Chambers, in the Town Hall Complex, at 240 Main Street, Milk River, Alberta



1. Call to Order

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

3. Delegations 5:40 pm

- A) Milk River and District Ag Society
- B) RCMP

4. Approval of Minutes

- A) Minutes of the February 10, 2025, Regular Meeting

5. Business Arising from Minutes

6. Financial Report

7. Administration Reports

- A) Public Works
- B) Community Peace Officer
- C) Chief Administrative Officer

8. Break (10-15 minutes)

9. Old Business

10. Bylaws and Policies

- A) Policy HR5.0 Chief Administration Officer Appraisal

11. New Business

- A) Correspondence
- B) Housing Needs Assessment
- C) Kinettes Donation Request
- D) Curling Rink Condenser Payment
- E) 2025 Draft Operating Budget
- F) 2025 Capital Plan Adjustment
- G) Lethbridge Region Economic Resilience Task Force

12. Councillor Reports

- A) Authorities, Boards, Committees and Commission Minutes

13. Mayor's Report

- A) Authorities, Boards, Committees and Commission Minutes

14. Closed Session

15. Adjournment

Request for Decision

Delegation: Milk River and District Ag Society

March 10, 2025



RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the update from the Milk River and District Ag Society and thank them for presenting.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act

BACKGROUND

On an annual basis, various community organizations that Council is appointed to are invited to provide an update to Council.

RISKS/CONSEQUENCES

1. Council may provide further direction on any item contained in the report. Council shall be specific in the direction it provides.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

ATTACHMENTS

None

Request for Decision

RCMP Delegation

March 10, 2025



RECOMMENDATION

That the RCMP Report be accepted as information.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

BACKGROUND

On a quarterly basis, the Milk River RCMP detachment will provide a Community Policing Report that serves to provide a quarterly snapshot of the human resources, financial data, and crime statistics.

RISK/CONSEQUENCES

1. Council may provide further direction on any item contained in the report. Council shall be specific in the direction it provides.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

ATTACHMENTS

1. Milk River Community Report



2024 Feb 11

Kelly Lloyd
CAO
Milk River, AB

Dear Ms. Lloyd,

Please find attached the quarterly Community Policing Report covering the period from October 1st to December 31st, 2024. This report serves to provide a quarterly snapshot of human resources, financial data, and crime statistics for the Milk River Detachment.

In the coming weeks and months, we will be engaging with the community and holding town hall meetings as we have done in the past. This will provide us with an opportunity to interact with the community we serve and hear from them directly about what policing issues or priorities they would like our detachment to focus on. I look forward to attending these meetings to connect with our community and will be providing more details as we organize the town hall meetings.

I also want to inform you of the Real Times Operations Centre (RTOC) that is supporting RCMP detachments across Alberta. In October 2022, RTOC was established to optimize our response to incidents around the province. RTOC involves senior police officers monitoring policing operations in real-time, assessing incident risk, coordinating specialized and expert resources, and managing the response. They provide members on the ground with guidance, direction, and support. It is also used to coordinate the deployment of all RCMP resources – federal, provincial, and municipal, both within Alberta and, if required, nationally. The RTOC facility uses cutting-edge technology to provide real time support during emergency situations to RCMP officers across Alberta and is another measure used to enhance public and police officer safety.

I always remain available to discuss your community-identified priorities and any other ideas you may have that will enhance our service delivery to address the priorities that are important to you. As the Chief of Police for your community, I invite you to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,

Sgt. Liam Shiels
Detachment Commander
Milk River RCMP





Alberta RCMP - Provincial Policing Report

Detachment Information

Detachment Name

Milk River

Detachment Commander

Sgt. Liam Shiels

Report Date

February 11, 2025

Fiscal Year

2024-25

Quarter

Q3 (October - December)

Community Priorities

Priority #1: Traffic - Safety (motor vehicles, roads)**Updates and Comments:**

Still have a lack of training for radar/pipeline with members. Have asked for courses, just waiting for them to be put on. Also no valid breath techs here, require training for that as well.

Priority #2: Police / Community Relations - Crime prevention**Updates and Comments:**

Border patrols are a part of the daily patrols of detachment members. Members from the IBET unit are also now committed to conducting extensive patrols every day. Campgrounds are closed for the season.





Community Consultations

Consultation #1

Date	Meeting Type
Topics Discussed	
Notes/Comments:	
No community consultations identified.	



Provincial Service Composition

Staffing Category	Established Positions	Working	Soft Vacancies	Hard Vacancies
Regular Members	4	4	0	0
Detachment Support	2	2	0	0

Notes:

1. Data extracted on December 31, 2024 and is subject to change.
2. Soft Vacancies are positions that are filled but vacant due to maternity/paternity leave, medical leave, etc. and are still included in the overall FTE count.
3. Hard Vacancies reflect positions that do not have an employee attached and need to be filled.

Comments:

Police Officers: Of the four established positions, four officers are currently working with none on special leave. There is no hard vacancy at this time.

Detachment Support: Of the two established positions, two resources are currently working with none on special leave. There is no hard vacancy at this time.



**Milk River Provincial Detachment
Crime Statistics (Actual)
October - December: 2020 - 2024**

All categories contain "Attempted" and/or "Completed"

January 6, 2025

CATEGORY	Trend	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 2020 - 2024	% Change 2023 - 2024	Avg File +/- per Year
Offences Related to Death		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Robbery		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Sexual Assaults		0	0	0	2	0	N/A	-100%	0.2
Other Sexual Offences		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Assault		1	1	3	5	0	-100%	-100%	0.2
Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Extortion		1	0	0	0	0	-100%	N/A	-0.2
Criminal Harassment		1	0	6	1	0	-100%	-100%	-0.1
Uttering Threats		2	2	2	2	2	0%	0%	0.0
TOTAL PERSONS		5	3	11	10	2	-60%	-80%	0.1
Break & Enter		5	2	3	2	0	-100%	-100%	-1.0
Theft of Motor Vehicle		1	1	0	0	0	-100%	N/A	-0.3
Theft Over \$5,000		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Theft Under \$5,000		4	0	3	1	1	-75%	0%	-0.5
Possn Stn Goods		0	0	0	2	0	N/A	-100%	0.2
Fraud		1	4	5	4	1	0%	-75%	0.0
Arson		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Mischief - Damage To Property		3	1	0	4	1	-67%	-75%	-0.1
Mischief - Other		0	1	0	3	0	N/A	-100%	0.2
TOTAL PROPERTY		14	9	11	16	3	-79%	-81%	-1.5
Offensive Weapons		0	0	1	0	1	N/A	N/A	0.2
Disturbing the peace		0	0	2	1	0	N/A	-100%	0.1
Fail to Comply & Breaches		0	0	5	3	3	N/A	0%	0.9
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE		1	2	4	1	2	100%	100%	0.1
TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE		1	2	12	5	6	500%	20%	1.3
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE		20	14	34	31	11	-45%	-65%	-0.1



Milk River Provincial Detachment Crime Statistics (Actual) October - December: 2020 - 2024

All categories contain "Attempted" and/or "Completed"

January 6, 2025

CATEGORY	Trend	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 2020 - 2024	% Change 2023 - 2024	Avg File +/- per Year
Drug Enforcement - Production		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Drug Enforcement - Possession		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Drug Enforcement - Trafficking		0	0	0	2	0	N/A	-100%	0.2
Drug Enforcement - Other		0	0	0	1	0	N/A	-100%	0.1
Total Drugs		0	0	0	3	0	N/A	-100%	0.3
Cannabis Enforcement		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Federal - General		6	0	6	1	3	-50%	200%	-0.5
TOTAL FEDERAL		6	0	6	4	3	-50%	-25%	-0.2
Liquor Act		1	0	1	0	0	-100%	N/A	-0.2
Cannabis Act		0	0	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Mental Health Act		2	1	6	10	8	300%	-20%	2.1
Other Provincial Stats		10	10	3	4	4	-60%	0%	-1.8
Total Provincial Stats		13	11	11	14	12	-8%	-14%	0.1
Municipal By-laws Traffic		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Municipal By-laws		2	0	0	0	3	50%	N/A	0.2
Total Municipal		2	0	0	0	3	50%	N/A	0.2
Fatals		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Injury MVC		0	0	2	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Property Damage MVC (Reportable)		17	18	15	17	12	-29%	-29%	-1.1
Property Damage MVC (Non Reportable)		3	0	4	3	4	33%	33%	0.5
TOTAL MVC		20	18	21	20	16	-20%	-20%	-0.6
Roadside Suspension - Alcohol (Prov)		0	1	1	4	0	N/A	-100%	0.3
Roadside Suspension - Drugs (Prov)		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Total Provincial Traffic		11	54	181	214	29	164%	-86%	19.6
Other Traffic		0	0	0	2	0	N/A	-100%	0.2
Criminal Code Traffic		1	1	0	0	1	0%	N/A	-0.1
Common Police Activities									
False Alarms		0	0	2	3	1	N/A	-67%	0.5
False/Abandoned 911 Call and 911 Act		3	2	4	1	2	-33%	100%	-0.3
Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Property		2	7	6	13	7	250%	-46%	1.6
Persons Reported Missing		0	1	1	1	0	N/A	-100%	0.0
Search Warrants		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Spousal Abuse - Survey Code (Reported)		3	3	1	2	7	133%	250%	0.7
Form 10 (MHA) (Reported)		0	0	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0



Milk River Provincial Detachment Crime Statistics (Actual)

January to December: 2020 - 2024

All categories contain "Attempted" and/or "Completed"

January 6, 2025

CATEGORY	Trend	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 2020 - 2024	% Change 2023 - 2024	Avg File +/- per Year
Offences Related to Death		0	1	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	-0.1
Robbery		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Sexual Assaults		1	1	3	2	2	100%	0%	0.3
Other Sexual Offences		2	0	2	0	0	-100%	N/A	-0.4
Assault		4	7	13	15	6	50%	-60%	1.2
Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction		0	0	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Extortion		1	0	0	0	0	-100%	N/A	-0.2
Criminal Harassment		4	4	14	3	4	0%	33%	-0.1
Uttering Threats		5	12	7	9	8	60%	-11%	0.3
TOTAL PERSONS		17	25	40	29	20	18%	-31%	1.0
Break & Enter		7	5	6	4	1	-86%	-75%	-1.3
Theft of Motor Vehicle		2	2	1	0	4	100%	N/A	0.2
Theft Over \$5,000		0	2	1	1	1	N/A	0%	0.1
Theft Under \$5,000		9	6	9	11	6	-33%	-45%	-0.1
Possn Stn Goods		2	2	1	3	0	-100%	-100%	-0.3
Fraud		8	13	15	11	15	88%	36%	1.2
Arson		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Mischief - Damage To Property		8	12	1	7	6	-25%	-14%	-0.9
Mischief - Other		2	5	7	4	4	100%	0%	0.3
TOTAL PROPERTY		38	47	41	41	37	-3%	-10%	-0.8
Offensive Weapons		0	2	2	2	3	N/A	50%	0.6
Disturbing the peace		8	0	9	7	3	-63%	-57%	-0.3
Fail to Comply & Breaches		7	6	13	11	13	86%	18%	1.7
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE		3	7	12	3	4	33%	33%	-0.2
TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE		18	15	36	23	23	28%	0%	1.8
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE		73	87	117	93	80	10%	-14%	2.0



Milk River Provincial Detachment Crime Statistics (Actual) January to December: 2020 - 2024

All categories contain "Attempted" and/or "Completed"

January 6, 2025

CATEGORY	Trend	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 2020 - 2024	% Change 2023 - 2024	Avg File +/- per Year
Drug Enforcement - Production		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Drug Enforcement - Possession		0	3	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	-0.3
Drug Enforcement - Trafficking		0	0	0	3	0	N/A	-100%	0.3
Drug Enforcement - Other		2	3	0	2	0	-100%	-100%	-0.5
Total Drugs		2	6	1	5	0	-100%	-100%	-0.5
Cannabis Enforcement		0	0	2	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Federal - General		29	5	28	24	10	-66%	-58%	-1.9
TOTAL FEDERAL		31	11	31	29	10	-68%	-66%	-2.4
Liquor Act		1	2	1	0	1	0%	N/A	-0.2
Cannabis Act		0	1	5	0	0	N/A	N/A	-0.1
Mental Health Act		8	13	21	21	27	238%	29%	4.6
Other Provincial Stats		39	31	23	19	23	-41%	21%	-4.4
Total Provincial Stats		48	47	50	40	51	6%	28%	-0.1
Municipal By-laws Traffic		0	1	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	-0.1
Municipal By-laws		3	6	3	5	9	200%	80%	1.1
Total Municipal		3	7	4	5	9	200%	80%	1.0
Fatals		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Injury MVC		1	2	2	0	1	0%	N/A	-0.2
Property Damage MVC (Reportable)		51	47	47	44	37	-27%	-16%	-3.1
Property Damage MVC (Non Reportable)		11	5	5	8	15	36%	88%	1.1
TOTAL MVC		63	54	54	52	53	-16%	2%	-2.2
Roadside Suspension - Alcohol (Prov)		0	3	5	6	0	N/A	-100%	0.3
Roadside Suspension - Drugs (Prov)		0	1	3	0	0	N/A	N/A	-0.1
Total Provincial Traffic		64	280	906	970	299	367%	-69%	116.0
Other Traffic		1	1	1	4	4	300%	0%	0.9
Criminal Code Traffic		10	2	5	2	2	-80%	0%	-1.6
Common Police Activities									
False Alarms		4	5	3	4	6	50%	50%	0.3
False/Abandoned 911 Call and 911 Act		14	29	30	7	6	-57%	-14%	-3.8
Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Property		29	43	27	33	39	34%	18%	1.0
Persons Reported Missing		2	1	4	2	3	50%	50%	0.3
Search Warrants		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Spousal Abuse - Survey Code (Reported)		27	13	10	10	21	-22%	110%	-1.5
Form 10 (MHA) (Reported)		0	0	1	3	1	N/A	-67%	0.5

Request for Decision

Approval of Minutes

March 10, 2025



RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes for the February 10, 2025, regular council meeting be accepted as presented.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act, Section 208(1)(a)
Procedure Bylaw 1060

BACKGROUND

As per the MGA and the Town's Procedural Bylaw, minutes are to be recorded and given to council for adoption at a subsequent council meeting.

RISKS/CONSEQUENCES

1. By not approving the previous meetings minutes, Council would then not approve the decisions they made, as recorded, and no motion would be actioned by administration.
2. The minutes of the Council meetings can be adopted as amended. Council would need to be specific in an amendment to the recording of the previous meetings minutes.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

ATTACHMENTS

1. Prior to Adoption: February 10, 2025, regular council meeting minutes

Prior to Adoption

Minutes of the Town of Milk River Regular and Closed Council meeting held on Monday, February 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, in the Town Hall Complex, at 240 Main Street, Milk River, Alberta.

Present - Elected Officials

Mayor Larry Liebelt, Councillor Peggy Losey, Deputy Mayor Anne Michaelis, Councillor Shayne Johnson, and Councillor Dave Degenstein

Absent - Elected Officials

Present - Administration

Kelly Lloyd, Chief Administrative Officer

1. Call to Order

Mayor Liebelt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Additions / Deletions to the Agenda

Additions / Deletions to the Agenda

Addition 14A) Closed Session: Section 17 Disclosure Harmful to Personal Privacy

Moved by Councillor Johnson, **“that Council approve the agenda for February 10, 2025, regular council meeting as amended.”**

Motion Carried 2025-21

3. Delegation: 5:40 p.m.

A) Riverside Community Golf Course Society

Doug Smith, President of the Riverside Community Golf Course Society, provided an overview on the activities of the Golf Society and Golf Course.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Michaelis, **“that Council thank Mr. Smith for the Riverside Community Golf Course Society report, and to accept the presentation as information.”**

Motion Carried 2025-25

B) Milk River Fire Department

There was not a presentation.

4. Approval of Minutes

A) Minutes of January 13, 2025, Regular Council Meeting

Moved by Councillor Degenstein, **“that Council approve the January 13, 2025, regular council meeting minutes as presented.”**

Motion Carried 2025-22

5. Business Arising from Minutes

6. Financial Report

Council reviewed the 2025 year to date operating budget, the cash report and cheque listing.

Moved by Councillor Losey, **"that the Financial Report for the period ending January 31, 2025, be accepted as information."**

Motion Carried 2025-23

7. Administration Reports

A) Public Works

The report was contained within the agenda package.

Moved by Councillor Degenstein, **"that Council accept the Public Works report for the period ending January 31, 2025, as information."**

Motion Carried 2025-24

B) Community Peace Officer

The report was contained within the agenda package.

Moved by Councillor Degenstein, **"that Council accept the Community Peace Officer report for the period ending January 31, 2025, as information."**

Motion Carried 2025-26

C) Chief Administrative Officer

CAO Lloyd provided a verbal report in addition to the report contained within the agenda package.

Moved by Councillor Losey, **"that the Chief Administrative Officer Report for the period ending January 31, 2025, be accepted as information."**

Motion Carried 2025-27

8. Break

The Mayor recessed the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

9. Old Business

10. Bylaws and Policies

A) Golf Cart Pilot Project Amending Bylaw 1074

Moved by Councillor Losey, **“that Council give first reading to the Golf Cart Pilot Project Amending Bylaw 1074.”**

Motion Carried 2025-28

Moved by Deputy Mayor Michaelis, **“that Council give second reading to the Golf Cart Pilot Project Amending Bylaw 1074 with amendments.”**

Motion Carried 2025-29

Moved by Councillor Degenstein, **“that the Golf Cart Pilot Project Amending Bylaw 1074, with amendments, receive unanimous consent for consideration of third reading.”**

Motion Carried 2025-30

Moved by Councillor Johnson, **“that Council give third and final reading to the Golf Cart Pilot Project Amending Bylaw 1074 with amendments.”**

Motion Carried 2025-31

B) Borrowing Bylaw 1075

CAO Lloyd circulated an amended copy of the Borrowing Bylaw 1075, for approval.

Moved by Councillor Losey, **“that the Borrowing Bylaw 1075 be given first reading.”**

Motion Carried 2025-32

Moved by Councillor Johnson, **“that the Borrowing Bylaw 1075 be given second reading.”**

Motion Carried 2025-33

Moved by Councillor Degenstein, **“that the Borrowing Bylaw 1075 receive unanimous consent for consideration of third reading.”**

Motion Carried 2025-34

Moved by Deputy Mayor Michaelis, **“that the Borrowing Bylaw 1075 be given third and final reading.”**

Motion Carried 2025-35

11. New Business

A) Correspondence

Moved by Councillor Degenstein, **“that correspondence for the period ending February 10, 2025, be accepted as information.”**

Motion Carried 2025-36

B) Pink Shirt Day Proclamation

Moved by Councillor Degenstein, "that Council proclaim February 26, 2025, as Pink Shirt Day in the Town of Milk River."

Motion Carried 2025-37

C) Canada Day Donation Request

Moved by Councillor Losey, "that Council approve the donation of \$1,200.00 towards the 2025 Canada Day Celebrations."

Motion Carried 2025-38

D) Volunteer Awards Night Donation Request

Moved by Councillor Losey, "that Council approve the donation of \$200.00 towards a door prize for the Emergency Services Volunteer Appreciation Evening."

Motion Carried 2025-39

E) 2025 Organizational Meeting Date Change Request

Moved by Councillor Losey, "that the date for the required Organizational Meeting be changed from Monday, October 13, 2025, to Monday, October 27, 2025, due to the municipal election on October 20, 2025."

Motion Carried 2025-40

F) Visitor Information Centre

Moved by Councillor Losey, "that Council send a letter to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services regarding the Visitor Information Centre use and to accept the update on the Visitor Information Centre as information."

Motion Carried 2025-41

G) Milk River Minor Baseball Lease Agreement

Moved by Councillor Degenstein, "that the Milk River Minor Baseball Lease Agreement be approved as presented and authorize for execution."

Motion Carried 2025-42

H) Pros and Cons of Golf Society's Irrigators Licence Transfer

Moved by Councillor Johnson, "that the Pros and Cons of Golf Society's Irrigators Licence Transfer report be accepted as information."

Motion Carried 2025-43

Moved by Councillor Johnson, "that Council pays the building insurance for Riverside Community Golf Society for 2025."

Motion Carried 2025-44

12. Councillors Reports

Deputy Mayor Michaelis attended a Milk River Health Professionals Attraction and Retention Committee meeting.

Councillor Degenstein attended Ridge Country Housing meetings, an FCSS worksite inspection and an FCSS meeting, and will be attending ASHA Conference.

Councillor Losey attended a Ridge Country Housing meeting and reported on the Milk River Watershed.

Councillor Johnson attended a Milk River and District Ag Society meeting and reported on future events.

Moved by Councillor Degenstein, **“that the Councillor reports for the period ending February 10, 2025, be accepted as information.”**

Motion Carried 2025-45

13. Mayors Report

Mayor Liebelt attended a Riverside Community Golf Society, a Chief Mountain Regional Waste Services Commission meeting, and Mayors and Reeves meeting.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, **“that Council accept the Mayors Report for the period ending February 10, 2025, as information.”**

Motion Carried 2025-46

14. Closed Session

A) Section 17: Disclosure Harmful to Personal Privacy

Moved by Deputy Mayor Michaelis, **“that Council move into closed session in accordance with Section 197(2) of the Municipal Government Act at 9:11 p.m., to discuss matters exempt from disclosure under FOIP Section 17: Disclosure harmful to personal privacy, with only Council to remain in attendance.”**

Motion Carried 2025-47

Moved by Councillor Degenstein, **“that the meeting reconvene to the regular Council meeting at 10:20 p.m.”**

Motion Carried 2025-48

15. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Degenstein, **“that the regular council meeting of February 10, 2025, adjourn at 10:20 p.m.”**

Motion Carried 2025-50

Larry Liebelt
Mayor

Kelly Lloyd
Chief Administrative Officer

These minutes were approved on the day of 2025.

Prio to Adoption

Request for Decision

Financial Report

March 10, 2025



RECOMMENDATION

That the Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2025, be accepted as information.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

BACKGROUND

On a quarterly basis, a high-level financial report is provided to council for review and information.

RISKS/CONSEQUENCES

1. Council may provide further direction on any item contained in the report. Council shall be specific in the direction it provides.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2025 Year to Date Operating Budget
2. Cash Report
3. Cheque Listing

Revenue and Expenses - by Funtion
for the 2 Months Ended February 28, 2025

	2024 Actual	2025 Interim Budget	2025 YTD Actual	Remaining Dollars	% Collected/ Used
Operating Revenues					
Taxation	-1,174,373.87	-1,207,616.00	-0.02	-1,207,615.98	0.00
Sale of Goods and Services	-674,293.67	-675,790.00	-91,722.65	-584,067.35	13.57
Other Revenue/Franchise Fees	-307,702.62	-298,216.00	-56,288.80	-241,927.20	18.88
Conditional Grants	-163,938.95	-213,600.00	-426,716.00	213,116.00	199.77
Transfer from other Functions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer from Reserves	0.00	-276,889.00	0.00	-276,889.00	0.00
TOTAL REVENUES	-2,320,309.11	-2,672,111.00	-574,727.47	-2,097,383.53	21.51
Expenditures					
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	800,216.47	745,156.00	106,073.64	639,082.36	14.24
Contracted & General Services	600,227.26	967,080.00	253,967.99	713,112.01	26.26
Materials, Goods & Utilities	469,918.09	514,175.00	63,915.33	450,259.67	12.43
Government Requisitions	270,651.60	258,828.00	0.00	258,828.00	0.00
Transfers to Local Boards	48,535.82	47,701.00	3,197.12	44,503.88	6.70
Transfers to Ind/Organizations	22,561.72	36,640.00	5,500.00	31,140.00	15.01
Bank Charges	9,597.11	7,700.00	2,958.54	4,741.46	38.42
Interest on Capital Long Term	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Transactions	26,528.66	28,440.00	15,378.34	13,061.66	54.07
Transfer from Capital	0.00	66,391.00	0.00	66,391.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,248,236.73	2,672,111.00	450,990.96	2,154,729.04	16.88

Operating Revenue/Expenditures by Department for the 2 Months Ended February 28, 2025

Department	REVENUES				EXPENDITURES				Actual
	Interim Budget	YTD Actual	Remaining Dollars	% Collected	Interim Budget	YTD Actual	Remaining Dollars	% Used	Contribution to Surplus
0 General Government	-1,478,166	-481,134	-997,032	32.5	230,795	11,018	219,777	4.8	-470,116
11 Council	0	0	0	0.0	97,800	8,140	89,660	8.3	8,140
12 Administration	-443,694	-5,597	-438,097	1.3	426,372	89,125	337,247	20.9	83,528
23/24 Fire/Disaster Services	-24,184	-2,370	-21,814	9.8	106,517	11,013	95,504	10.3	8,643
26 Bylaw Enforcement	-2,400	-3,083	683	128.5	76,733	8,260	68,473	10.8	5,177
31 Common Services	-62	-1,173	1,111	0.0	165,832	31,856	133,976	19.2	30,683
32 Roads	-24,450	-47	-24,403	0.2	417,823	45,110	372,713	10.8	45,063
33 Airport	-465	0	-465	0.0	8,701	2,935	5,766	33.7	2,935
4101 Water Supply/Distribution	-307,800	-41,286	-266,514	13.4	348,643	57,121	291,522	16.4	15,835
42 Wastewater	-106,000	-15,331	-90,669	14.5	72,902	9,937	62,965	13.6	-5,394
43 Solid Waste	-117,700	-20,031	-97,669	17.0	113,205	16,859	96,346	14.9	-3,172
43 Transfer Station	-12,385	-34	-12,351	0.3	24,624	3,555	21,069	14.4	3,521
56 Cemetery	-2,500	-200	-2,300	8.0	5,000	5,000	0	100.0	4,800
61 Planning & Development	-7,850	-3,680	-4,170	46.9	15,000	8,572	6,428	57.1	4,892
62 Economic Development	-50,000	0	-50,000	0.0	164,290	0	164,290	0.0	0
72 General Recreation	-6,055	0	-6,055	0.0	178,515	123,891	54,624	69.4	123,891
7201 Campground	-13,000	-762	-12,238	5.9	57,141	4,842	52,299	8.5	4,080
7202 Pool	-75,400	0	-75,400	0.0	134,917	10,486	124,431	7.8	10,486
7203 Golf Course	0	0	0	0.0	7,000	1,523	5,477	21.8	1,523
74 Culture & Library	0	0	0	0.0	20,301	3,197	17,104	15.7	3,197
									0
TOTAL OPERATING	-2,672,111	-574,728	-2,097,383	21.5	2,672,111	452,440	2,219,671	16.9	-122,288



TOWN OF MILK RIVER
Cash and Investments Report
For the Period Ending February 28, 2025

Page 1 of 1
2025-Mar-3
1:48:27PM

General Ledger	Description	2025 Opening Balance	2025 YTD Balance
CHEQUING ACCOUNTS			
3-12-00-120-00	General Bank Chequing Account (ATB)	28,784.63	172,178.32
3-12-00-130-00	General Savings Accout (ATB)	299,096.78	401,089.11
* TOTAL CHEQUING ACCOUNTS		327,881.41	573,267.43
TOWN TERM DEPOSITS			
3-41-00-310-00	Water Capital GIC	4,043.15	4,067.19
3-43-00-310-00	Equipment Replacement Capital GIC	387,070.16	389,371.58
3-97-00-315-00	General Capital GIC	565,917.11	569,281.91
* TOTAL TOWN TERM DEPOSITS		957,030.42	962,720.68
ARMS LENGTH TERM DEPOSITS			
3-43-00-315-00	Transfer Station Operating GIC	5,639.62	5,673.15
* TOTAL ARMS LENGTH TERM DEPOSIT		5,639.62	5,673.15
**P TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS		1,290,551.45	1,541,661.26

*** End of Report ***



TOWN OF MILK RIVER

Page 1 of 2

Cheque Listing For Council

2025-Mar-3
1:50:37PM

Cheque		Vendor Name	Invoice #	Invoice Description	Invoice Amount	Cheque Amount
Cheque #	Date					
20250055	2025-02-10	AMSC INSURANCE SERVICES LTD.	202502 HS019202412	FEBRUARY BENEFITS HEALTH SPENDING ACCT	6,012.68 924 48	6,937.16
20250056	2025-02-10	ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES	RG202501-024	2025 MEMBERSHIP FEE	2,187.79	2,187.79
20250057	2025 02 10	BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT CONSULT	3390	FEB ASSESSMENT FEE	1,423 54	1,423 54
20250058	2025-02-10	BORDERTOWN AUTO BODY INC.	1242	PLOW TRUCK WINDSHIELD	659.93	659.93
20250059	2025 02 10	CARO ANALYTICAL SERVICES	IC2501531	WATER TESTING	3,316 95	3,316 95
20250060	2025-02-10	COPY EXPRESS	88575	8 FLAGS CAMPGROUND ENVELOPE	414.75	414.75
20250061	2025 02 10	FORTIS ALBERTA INC	90260977	CABLE CLUB TERAGRAPH PROJECT	120 21	120 21
20250062	2025-02-10	GATEWAY SAFETY SERVICES LTD.	38315	CLASS 3 DRIVER TRAINING, TRUCK	945.00	945.00
20250063	2025 02 10	L A POWER SYSTEMS LTD	105864	FLUSH MAIN SEWER LINE FOR HOS	525 00	525 00
20250064	2025-02-10	LLOYD, KELLY	202416	CDN TIRE-CLOCK-COUNCIL CHAMBI	41.98	41.98
20250065	2025 02 10	MICROAGE COMPUTER CENTRE	26514	MANAGED IT	609 00	609 00
20250066	2025-02-10	MILK RIVER CABLE CLUB	87441	FEB INTERNET	244.68	244.68
20250067	2025 02 10	MILK RIVER CEMETERY COMPANY	202501	2025 GRANT	5,000 00	5,000 00
20250068	2025-02-10	MILK RIVER HOME HARDWARE	2509349 2509455 2509559 2509678 2509682 2509692 2509763	ICE MELTER, DISP. GLOVES ICE MELT, GAR BAGS, CLEANER-CA KEYS CUT-CURLING RINK ICE MELT CAMPGRD HEATER, FAN-WTP TAPE, THERMOMETER WTP CLEANER-CAMPGD	71.82 137 29 31.45 29 38 83.98 18 65 8.39	380.96
20250069	2025 02 10	MPE ENGINEERING LTD	1440 059 00 18	WASTEWATER LAGOON UPGRADE	37,891 10	37,891 10
20250070	2025-02-10	NOBLES HD & AG REPAIR	5941	GARB TRUCK-CVIP AND REPAIR	6,711.65	6,711.65
20250071	2025 02 10	NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS CAN	31712099	WATER HAULING GOLF COURSE	4,200 00	4,200 00
20250072	2025-02-10	PASSEY ELECTRIC	240650	CMPGRD LIFT STATION-LIGHT MOU	1,115.27	1,115.27
20250073	2025 02 10	RIDGE AUTO PARTS LTD	736481 736848 736892	TRICO SILICONE CERAMI CABLE TIES OIL	45 12 23.61 109 12	177 85
20250074	2025-02-10	RMA	0548167 68751336 68779737 68959495	W.E. GREER-GLOVE, PAPER TOWEL STAPLES ADDING MACHINE STAPLES-BATTERIES, FILE FASTEN STAPLES-KEY HOLDERS, CLOROX V	129.45 180 59 65.60 31 45	407.09
20250075	2025-02-10	TOWN OF RAYMOND	20250005 20250013	ADMIN SERVICE ADMIN SERVICE	1,071.00 167 35	1,238.35
20250076	2025-02-10	TRUCK/RV/CAR/WASH	5956	JAN VEHICLE WASHES	244.25	244.25
20250077	2025 02 10	UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA	115895641 115936440 115944544	FUEL FUEL FUEL	1,160 01 4,362.64 309 20	5,831 85
20250078	2025-02-10	VIDMAR CONTRACTING LTD.	2332	CIVIC CENTER DRAINAGE IMPROVE	59,334.71	59,334.71
20250079	2025 02 10	VILLAGE OF WARNER	20250015	BULK WATER-GOLF COURSE-NUTRI	1,966 74	1,966 74
20250080	2025-02-10	VOLKER STEVIN HIGHWAYS LTD.	C02-029512	WINTER SAND	2,857.53	2,857.53
20250081	2025 02 10	WASTE CONNECTIONS OF CANADA INC	7410-0000551462	RECYCLE TRAILER DUMP AND RETL	1,200 05	1,200 05
20250082	2025-02-10	XEROX BUSINESS SOLUTIONS CANADA	IN1244276	JAN COPIES	222.61	222.61
20250083	2025 02 10	LEUZINGER, JACQUELINE	202501	2025 COMMUNITY GARDEN INSURA	500 00	500 00
20250084	2025-02-26	AMSC INSURANCE SERVICES LTD.	47363 47417	LIBRARY COMM GEN LIABILITY/CRIM INS	1,488.00 97,534 00	106,725.00



TOWN OF MILK RIVER

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Cheque Listing For Council

2025-Mar-3

1:50:37PM

Cheque		Vendor Name	Invoice #	Invoice Description	Invoice Amount	Cheque Amount
Cheque #	Date					
20250084	2025-02-26	AMSC INSURANCE SERVICES LTD.	47557 47570 47799	AG SOCIETY COMM GEN LIABILITY/C CURLING CLUB COMM GEN LIABLIT INS-2002 GMC PUMPER	5,323.00 1,758.00 622.00	106,725.00
20250085	2025-02-26	ATB FINANCIAL MASTER CARD	2025007 2025008 2025009 2025010 2025011 2025012 2025013 2025014 2025015 2025016 C177943044	NAYAX-TESTING WFS CREDIT CARD RIVERSIDE MKT-FEB BIRTHDAYS-C/ PITNEY BOWES LEASING -LATE CH/ MICROSOFT 365-ANNUAL RENEWAL CDN TIRE-WALL CLOCK COSTCO-COFFEE-SHOP SUBWAY-COUNCIL DINNER TRUE NORTH AXE-STAFF PARTY MOXIES-STAFF PARTY MEAL SUBWAY-COUNCIL MEAL CPC-FEB NEWSLETTER	7.50 27.96 13.25 114.45 41.99 44.99 63.84 462.85 809.87 63.84 125.29	1,775.83
20250086	2025-02-26	BDI A DIVISION OF BELL MOBILITY INC.	1305918332	SAMSUNG S23 FE 128 GB-G FLEMIN	68.76	68.76
20250087	2025-02-26		202502		791.21	791.21
20250088	2025-02-26	CLEARTECH INDUSTRIES INC.	INV1149630	SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE	1,884.75	1,884.75
20250089	2025-02-26	EPCOR	202403	POWER-L PITTMAN LOT	47.65	47.65
20250090	2025-02-26		202502 202503	TEST PERMIT	703.73	858.73
20250091	2025-02-26		202503		607.82	607.82
20250092	2025-02-26		202502		1,326.90	1,326.90
20250093	2025-02-26	MCTAGGART HVAC	2432	RAW WATER HEATER REPLACEMEN	3,942.99	3,942.99
20250094	2025-02-26	MPE ENGINEERING LTD.	1440-062-00-07	RAW WATER SUPPLY CONTINGENC'	16,070.24	16,070.24
20250095	2025-02-26	NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS CAN	901873014	TRUCKING WATER TO GOLF COURS	1,522.50	1,522.50
20250096	2025-02-26	OLDMAN RIVER REGIONAL	14659	HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT	1,500.00	1,500.00
20250097	2025-02-26	PITNEY BOWES LEASING	3202518632	DEC 30-MAR 29 POSTAGE METER LI	374.85	374.85
20250098	2025-02-26	RECEIVER GENERAL FOR CANADA	20250022450	RADIO LICENCE RENEWAL	1,706.00	1,706.00
20250099	2025-02-26	RECORDXPRESS/BEST	1216745	SHREDDING SERVICE	60.21	60.21
20250100	2025-02-26	RIDGE AUTO PARTS LTD.	737575	GATER GRIP GRND PLUG	4.40	4.40
20250101	2025-02-26		202502		1,035.21	1,035.21
20250102	2025-02-26	STARTEC REFRIGERATION SERVICES LTD.	INV020342	ICE PLANT CONDENSER UPGRADE-	111,195.00	111,195.00
20250103	2025-02-26		202503 202504		660.00 442.60	1,102.60
20250104	2025-02-26		202502		360.79	360.79
20250105	2025-02-26	TEXT2CAR	681-02125	RENEWAL-WATER FILL STATION PLL	882.00	882.00
20250106	2025-02-26	TNS BUSINESS CENTRE LTD.	74040	WORK ALONE MONITORING	291.06	291.06
20250107	2025-02-26	VOLKER STEVIN HIGHWAYS LTD.	C02-030391	WINTER SAND	1,239.95	1,239.95
20250108	2025-02-26	HOOD, AMANDA	202503	FEBRUARY 2ND JANITORIAL	90.00	90.00
20250109	2025-02-26	RAYMOND SENIOR CITIZENS SOCIETY	202502	DEPOSIT-OPEN HOUSE-RAYMOND F	200.00	200.00

Total 402,370.45

*** End of Report ***

Request for Decision

Administration Reports

March 10, 2025



RECOMMENDATION

That the Administration Reports for the period ending February 28, 2025, be accepted as information.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

BACKGROUND

On a monthly basis, administration provides Council with reports on the following: Public Works, Municipal Enforcement (Community Peace Officer), and the Chief Administrative Officer.

RISK/CONSEQUENCES

1. Council may provide further direction on any item contained in the reports. Council shall be specific in the direction it provides.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

ATTACHMENTS

1. Public Works Report
2. Community Peace Officer Report
3. Chief Administrative Officer Report

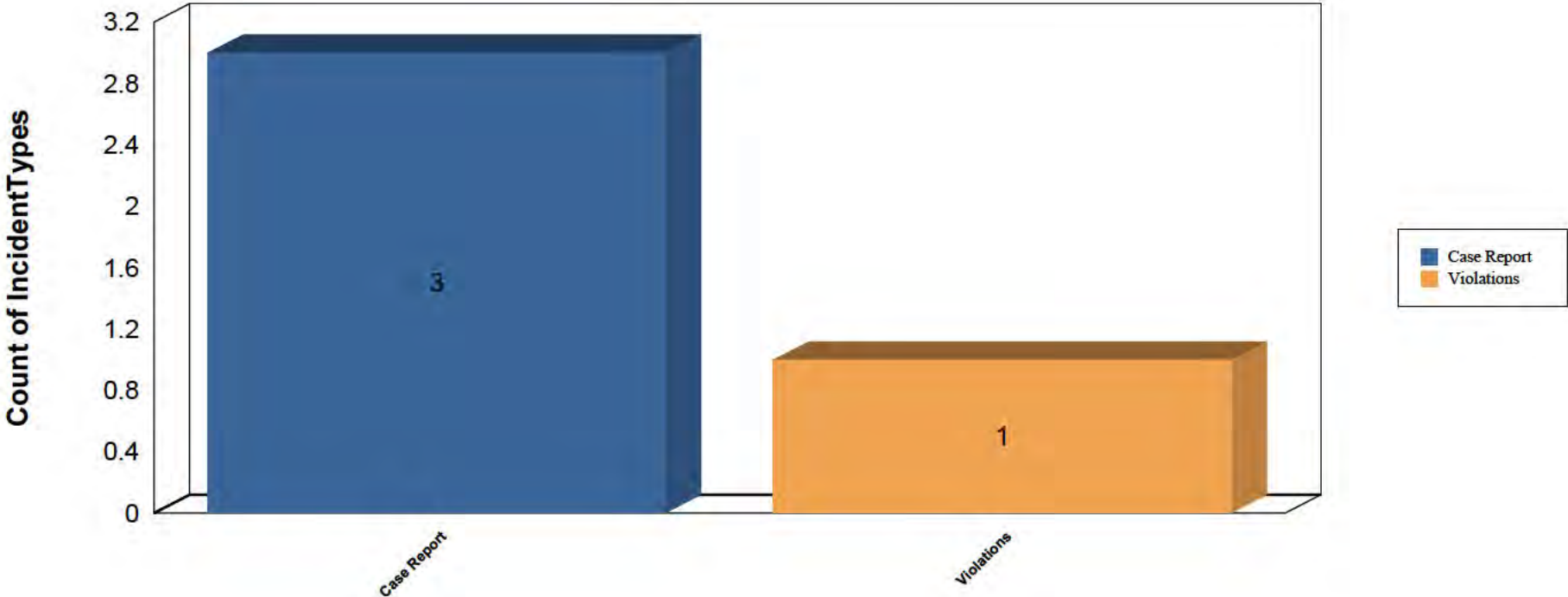
Public Works February 2025

- Snow plowing, sanding, pick up windrows
- Flood control, clearing catch basins, slush and snow
- Received another quote for theater and building next to it demolition
- Pool fence complete
- Generator arrived and placed at Civic Centre
- Toilet in men's bathroom at Townhall changed
- Replaced 2 water meters
- Heater at Raw Water replaced – went down during cold weather
- Fixed pipe in generator room at Water Treatment Plant that burst February 20
- Replaced 2 tires on orange trailer
- Arranging electrical for generator

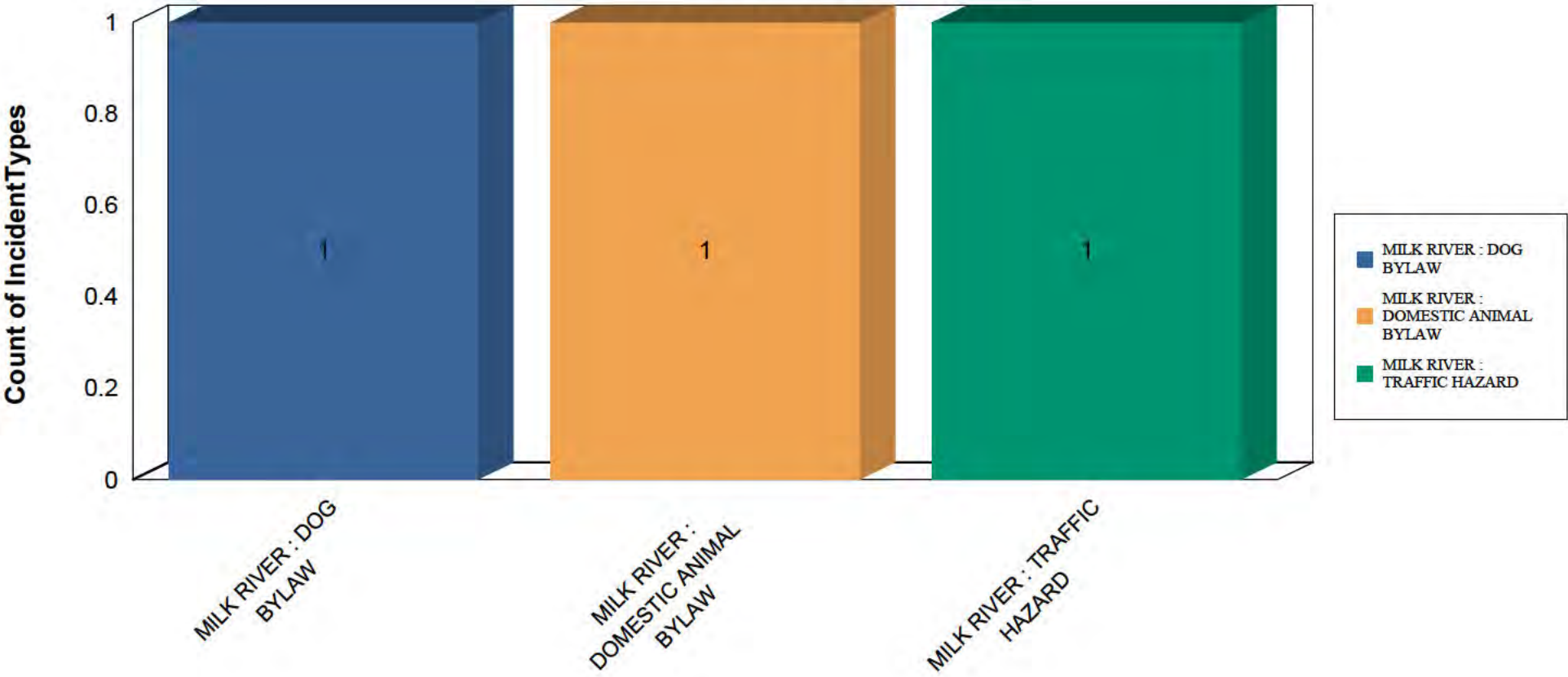
Municipal Enforcement

Statistics from: 2/1/2025 12:00:00AM to 2/28/2025 11:59:00PM

Count of Reports Completed



Count of Incident Types



MILK RIVER : DOG BYLAW

<u>Location</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>
Case Report RIDGE REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES : MILK RIVER	RRPSS2025-0032	MILK RIVER : DOG BYLAW	BRAYDEN FENZ	2025/02/03 1211

Specific Location

[REDACTED]

Report Synopsis : complaint of dogs at large, showing signs of aggression

33.33% # of Reports: 1 Case Report MILK RIVER : DOG BYLAW

MILK RIVER : DOMESTIC ANIMAL BYLAW

<u>Location</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>
Case Report RIDGE REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES : MILK RIVER	RRPSS2025-0041	MILK RIVER : DOMESTIC ANIMAL BYLAW	BRAYDEN FENZ	2025/02/12 1405

Specific Location

Report Synopsis : complaint of ongoing issues with cats on private property

33.33% # of Reports: 1 Case Report MILK RIVER : DOMESTIC ANIMAL BYLAW

MILK RIVER : TRAFFIC HAZARD

<u>Location</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>
Case Report RIDGE REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES : MILK RIVER	RRPSS2025-0031	MILK RIVER : TRAFFIC HAZARD	BRAYDEN FENZ	2025/02/01 0929

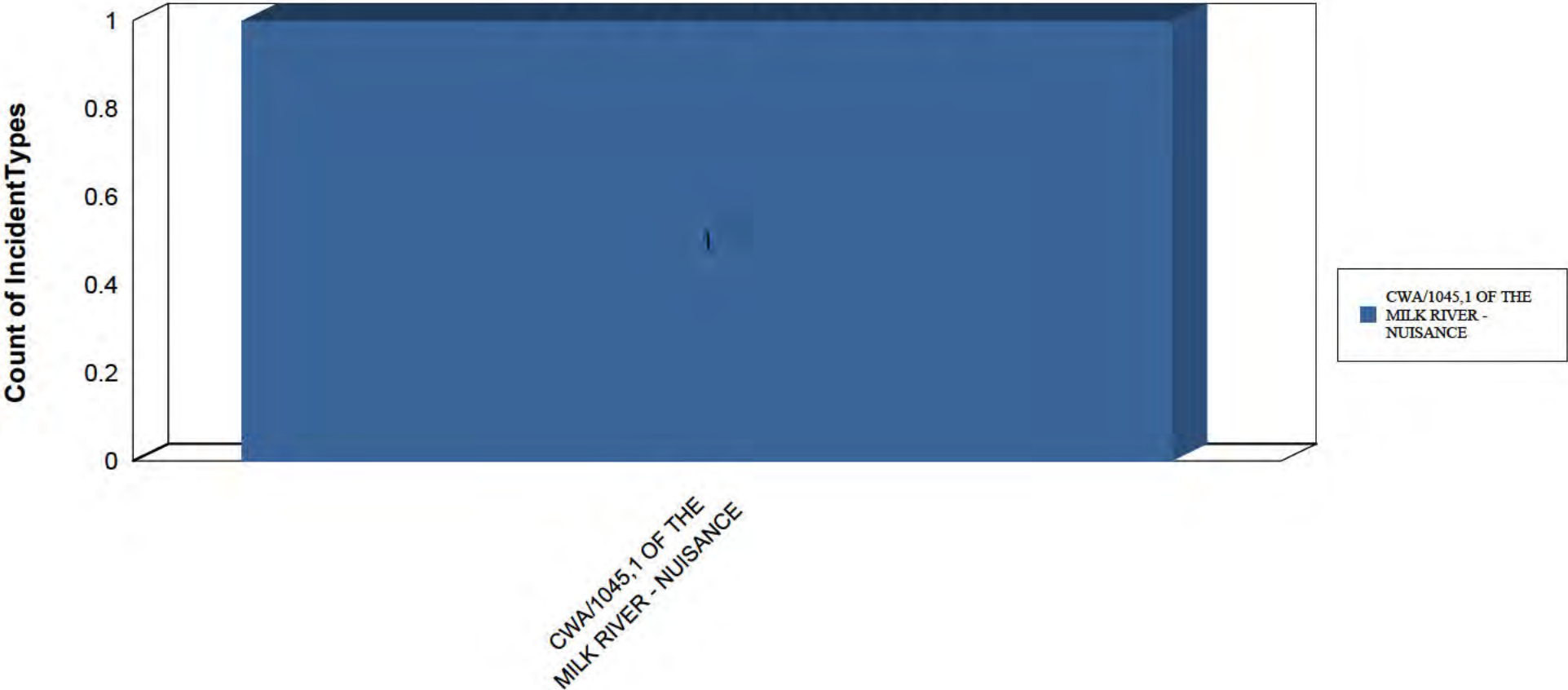
Specific Location

Report Synopsis : basketball hoop impeding snow removal from streets

33.33% # of Reports: 1 Case Report MILK RIVER : TRAFFIC HAZARD

Grand Total: 100.00% Total # of Incident Types Reported: 3 Total # of Reports: 3

Count of Incident Types



CWA/1045,1 OF THE MILK RIVER - NUISANCE - 1045 - FIRST OFFENCE - NON COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER - CWA/1045,1 OF THE MILK RIVER - NUISANCE - 1045 - FIRST OFFENCE - NON COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER

<u>Location</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>
Violations RIDGE REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES : MILK RIVER	E12742516S	CWA/1045,1 OF THE MILK RIVER - NUISANCE - 1045 - FIRST OFFENCE - NON COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER - CWA/1045,1 OF THE MILK RIVER - NUISANCE - 1045 - FIRST OFFENCE - NON COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER	BRANDON BERG	2025/02/07 0000

Specific Location

100.00% # of Reports: 1 Violations CWA/1045,1 OF THE MILK RIVER - NUISANCE - 1045 - FIRST OFFENCE - NON COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER -
CWA/1045,1 OF THE MILK RIVER - NUISANCE - 1045 - FIRST OFFENCE - NON COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER

Grand Total: 100.00% Total # of Incident Types Reported: 1 Total # of Reports: 1

Grand Total: 100.00% Total # of Incident Types Reported: 4



Administration

- Council meeting agenda preparation
- Council meeting attendance
- Council meeting minutes
- Council meeting highlights for newsletter
- Staff meetings
- Weekly meetings with Mayor
- Walk in visitors, phone calls, and emails
- **Updates from CPO's (when applicable)**
- Development inquiries/meetings
- Research and answer council questions
- Bimonthly meetings with Provincial Drought Team
- Updates to Environment regarding the Inter-Basin Transfer
- Process approved bylaws and policies
- Attend Elections Alberta Webinars
- Attend EPR Webinars
- Attend IJC Records Meeting
- Community Foundation/Border Wellness Funding Report
- 2025 Operating and Capital budgets
- 10-year capital plan budget
- Participate in an Inter-pipeline tabletop exercise
- Meeting with Park Enterprises
- Meet with SouthGrow on the inter-basin transfer consultation plan
- Meetings with MPE regarding Lagoon. Receipt of final drawings
- Host two open houses in Raymond and Milk River to gather information for the Inter-Basin Transfer request to the province
- Meeting with Riverside Community Golf Society President
- Golf Cart Bylaw finalization, research of statistics required, and submission to the Registrar for final approval

2022-04-03	Moved by Councillor Losey, "that administration look into the affordability of raising our grants to the small committees."	Budget 2025
	2024	
<u>Motion Carried 2024-196</u>	Moved by Deputy Mayor Johnson, "that Council direct administration to look into water conservation projects."	Budget 2025
<u>Motion Carried 2024-211</u>	Moved by Councillor Degenstein, "that Council pay \$104,000 to replace the condenser at the curling rink with the understanding that half of that is a loan to the curling club, terms to be worked out at a later date. Also included will be work done in the last year crediting them half of the repairs from last year against the loan."	March meeting
<u>Motion Carried 2024-237</u>	Moved by Mayor Liebelt, "that Council direct administration provide a capital equipment plan as well as a surplus plan prior to budget discussion."	Budget 2025
<u>Motion Carried 2024-274</u>	Moved by Councillor Degenstein, "that the Town pay for new eavestroughs for the club house at the golf course."	Waiting for three quotes
<u>Motion Carried 2024-315</u>	Moved by Councillor Johnson, "that administration make the recommended changes to R4.0 Construction Clean Up and Restoration Policy and bring back to a future Council meeting."	WIP
	2025	
<u>Motion Carried 2025-37</u>	Moved by Councillor Degenstein, "that Council proclaim February 26, 2025, as Pink Shirt Day in the Town of Milk River."	Complete
<u>Motion Carried 2025-38</u>	Moved by Councillor Losey, "that Council approve the donation of \$1,200.00 towards the 2025 Canada Day Celebrations."	June
<u>Motion Carried 2025-39</u>	Moved by Councillor Losey, "that Council approve the donation of \$200.00 towards a door prize for the Emergency Services Volunteer Appreciation Evening."	WIP
<u>Motion Carried 2025-41</u>	Moved by Councillor Losey, "that Council send a letter to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services regarding the Visitor Information Centre use and to accept the update on the Visitor Information Centre as information."	Complete
<u>Motion Carried 2025-42</u>	Moved by Councillor Degenstein, "that the Milk River Minor Baseball Lease Agreement be approved as presented and authorize for execution."	Complete
<u>Motion Carried 2025-44</u>	Moved by Councillor Johnson, "that Council pays the building insurance for Riverside Community Golf Society for 2025."	Mid March

March 10 2025 meeting

Remaining 2024 Operational Projects	
Administration	
Council Chambers	Phase 2 WIP
Roads	
Sign Modernization Project	WIP
Economic Development	
Theatre & Rolfe Building Demolition	Abatement - early April / Demolition to follow
CF Beautification Program x 5	WIP - 2

Remaining 2024 Capital Projects	
Roads	
8th avenue power - Phase 8A	WIP
8th avenue power - Phase 8B	WIP
8th and main curb and gutter	WIP
Storm Water	
Drainage Improvement Project	Deferred to 2025
Recreation	
Block 39 Detailed Design - Phase 1	Not started
Campground	
Irrigation	Deferred
Pool	
concrete ramp	Not started
resurface pool - epoxy	Not started
Liner	Not started
Splashpark	Not started

Request for Decision

Policy HR5.0 Chief Administration Officer Appraisal

March 10, 2025



RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the HR5.0 Chief Administrative Officer Appraisal Policy as presented.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act

BACKGROUND

Upon the request of Council, changes have been made to the Chief Administrative Officer Appraisal Policy form.

RISKS/CONSEQUENCES

1. Council may provide further direction on any item contained in the report. Council shall be specific in the direction it provides.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

ATTACHMENTS

1. Policy HR5.0 Chief Administration Officer Appraisal

Council Policy HR5.0

Chief Administrative Officer Appraisal



Responsibility: Council

Effective Date _____

References: Municipal Government Act
Human Resource Policy

Council Resolution _____

POLICY STATEMENT

Section 205(1) of the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* requires Council to give the CAO an annual written performance evaluation regarding results with respect to the CAO's responsibilities under section 207.

PURPOSE

The objective of a performance appraisal system for the CAO is a key building block for a lasting and positive relationship between Council and the CAO. Council has only one employee, the CAO. **The CAO is selected by Council and Council approves the CAO's terms of employment. Council sets performance goals for the CAO and monitors achievement of those goals through regular performance reviews.**

SCOPE

Properly conducted performance reviews serve several key functions:

- They inform the CAO of ~~his/her~~ **their** performance ;
- They allow Council and the CAO to set mutually agreed upon objective measures of job performance in the future;
- They identify ways in which Council can better support the CAO to successfully;
- meet performance expectations; and
- They provide documentation of performance to justify salary increases, promotion, disciplinary actions, or termination.

A general guideline, a good performance review should be 40% about evaluating the past and 60% about planning for the future.¹

DEFINITIONS

CAO - shall mean the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town as appointed pursuant to MGA Section 201(1).

COUNCIL - shall mean the elected Council of the Town of Milk River

¹ Russell Farmer and Associates Consulting Ltd. January 22, 2009

EMPLOYEES - shall refer to permanent, full-time employees of the Town of Milk River as well as part time, casual, or summer employees.

TOWN - shall mean the Town of Milk River in the Province of Alberta.

RESPONSIBILITIES

~~To establish guidelines which Council will use to complete the Chief Administrative Officer's performance appraisal.~~

Council will use the established standards to complete the Chief Administrative Officer's performance appraisal.

STANDARDS

1. Annually, Council as a whole shall meet during a Regular Council Meeting with the Chief Administrative Officer to establish goals, objectives and training requirements for the upcoming calendar year.
2. This meeting shall be held in ~~camera~~ a closed session.
3. The Chief Administrative Officer shall prepare a draft list of goals, objectives and training requirements, to be considered by Council at the meeting.
4. The draft shall be presented in a fashion which assures the Chief Administrative Officer that copies will not be circulated in any manner.
5. The Chief Administrative Officer will be provided the opportunity to discuss the draft with Council.
6. Following agreement between Council and the Chief Administrative Officer, Council shall adopt the goals, objectives, and training requirements for the upcoming year. These documents shall then be attached to and form part of the Chief Administrative Officer's performance appraisal.

PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL

1. Annually, Council shall meet with the Chief Administrative Officer to review progress on the goals and objectives previously established and approved by Council.
2. The Chief Administrative Officer shall be provided the opportunity to comment on the progress achieved to date. These comments may be in written form.
3. Council shall provide written constructive comments on the performance of the Chief Administrative Officer.

4. Staff supervised by the Chief Administrative Officer shall not be required or requested to comment on the performance of the Chief Administrative Officer. Any concerns which staff may have with the Chief Administrative Officer shall be addressed through the system defined in the Human Resource Policy.
5. In addition to the goals and objectives established by Council and the Chief Administrative Officer, the Chief Administrative Officer will be appraised on the following points:
 - working relationship with Council;
 - working relationship with the public;
 - working relationship with staff; and other criteria established by Council.
6. Council may meet in ~~camera~~ a **closed session** to determine the other criteria under which the Chief Administrative Officer will be appraised.
7. The Chief Administrative Officer shall be assured that any comments regarding performance shall be strictly confidential and will not be released to any other staff member or the public.
8. The Chief Administrative Officer shall be given at least three days notice of their performance appraisal. The appraisal will be conducted during hours, at a time convenient to both the Council and the Chief Administrative Officer.
9. Council may meet periodically to discuss performance with the Chief Administrative Officer, to review progress achieved on the goals and objectives previously established and approved by Council.

CHANGES TO PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL SYSTEM

Proposed changes to the method of conducting management performance appraisals will be discussed with the Chief Administrative Officer prior to implementation. The Chief Administrative Officer shall be provided with an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes.

Town of MILK RIVER
CAO Performance Evaluation Form

(If additional pages are needed for comments, please attach them)

1. Communication with Council, including effective written and oral presentation and openness to Mayor and Council feedback or direction.

_____ 4 Exceeds Requirements
_____ 3 Meets Requirements
_____ 2 Marginal
_____ 1 Unsatisfactory

2. Implementation of Council policy and assists Council in the development of annual and long-range goals of the Corporate Strategic Plan.

_____ 4 Exceeds Requirements
_____ 3 Meets Requirements
_____ 2 Marginal
_____ 1 Unsatisfactory

3. Staff support for Council; anticipates and provides reports and recommendations as required by the Council.

_____ 4 Exceeds Requirements
_____ 3 Meets Requirements
_____ 2 Marginal
_____ 1 Unsatisfactory

4. Staff relations: demonstrates leadership and promotes professional staff performance.

_____ 4 Exceeds Requirements
_____ 3 Meets Requirements
_____ 2 Marginal
_____ 1 Unsatisfactory

5. Financial planning and administration; prepares and administers the annual budget, which maintains a multiyear vision.

_____ 4 Exceeds Requirements
_____ 3 Meets Requirements
_____ 2 Marginal
_____ 1 Unsatisfactory

6. Personal and professional development; strives to maintain current knowledge and skill levels.
- _____ 4 Exceeds Requirements
_____ 3 Meets Requirements
_____ 2 Marginal
_____ 1 Unsatisfactory
7. Effective delivery of Town services and community relations.
- _____ 4 Exceeds Requirements
_____ 3 Meets Requirements
_____ 2 Marginal
_____ 1 Unsatisfactory
8. Intergovernmental relationships at the Provincial, Regional and local levels.
- _____ 4 Exceeds Requirements
_____ 3 Meets Requirements
_____ 2 Marginal
_____ 1 Unsatisfactory
9. Overall evaluation of the C.A.O.'s performance.
- _____ 4 Exceeds Requirements
_____ 3 Meets Requirements
_____ 2 Marginal
_____ 1 Unsatisfactory
10. Accomplishments: Has the CAO. accomplished or worked toward accomplishing the goals established by the Council? Why or why not?
11. Strengths: Based upon your overall evaluation of the CAO, what areas would you list as their strong points as a manager?

12. Improvements suggested: Based upon your evaluation, what areas would you suggest the CAO work on to improve their skills and to be more effective in specific areas or situations?
13. Goals for next year: What are the major goals on which the CAO needs to focus in the coming year?

Evaluator's Signature

Date

CAO's Signature

Date

Request for Decision

Correspondence

March 10, 2025



RECOMMENDATION

That correspondence for the period ending March 10, 2025, be accepted as information.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

BACKGROUND

Correspondence is a collection of general information received at the Town Office and is provided to Council as information.

RISKS/CONSEQUENCES

1. Council may provide further direction on any item contained in correspondence. Council shall be specific in the direction it provides.
2. Council may direct Administration on any item contained in correspondence.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

ATTACHMENTS

1. B. Chapman Letter
2. Alberta Advantage Immigration Program Update
3. Environment & Protected Areas
4. 2025 Minister's Awards for Municipal and Public Library Excellence
5. Municipal Affairs: Joint Use Planning Agreements
6. Municipal Affairs: Provincial Priorities Act
7. Municipal Affairs: Budget 2025
8. AltaLink Public Safety Power Shutoff Advertising Campaign
9. D. Sutherland Letter
10. Anonymous Letter
11. Family & Community Support Services Report to the Community

February 26, 2025

Town Council
Town of Milk River
Milk River, AB T0K 1M0

Dear Members of the Town Council,

Re: Flooding Concerns Due to Spring Runoff and Rainstorms

I am writing to formally bring to your attention the ongoing flooding issues affecting both my property and my neighbor's property over the past few years. This matter has been raised previously with the CAO, including an email I sent in June 2022, in which I provided pictures and videos illustrating how summer rainfall has caused flooding in my yard.

Our property is situated near a major water run, and when vehicles block the street, proper snow removal becomes difficult. As a result, leftover snow accumulates and, with warmer weather, melts in a way that directs water toward my neighbor's garage before entering my yard at the northeast corner. In the past, this flooding has even led to water leaking in my home office. On Sunday, February 23, 2025 I contacted a public works employee to request plowing of the street to help prevent further flooding in my yard.


In June 2024, I met with the CAO, town foreman, and a public works employee to discuss the ongoing rainstorm water issues. Although I requested the presence of a town council member, this request was denied. During our discussion, I highlighted how the curb, street, and gutter in front of my neighbor's property (705 1st NE) have heaved, causing stormwater to be redirected across their driveway, into the alley, and ultimately into my backyard. During the meeting, I was informed that MPE Engineering would be conducting a study as part of their work on Block 39. At the time, I left with the impression that our street and flooding issues would be treated as a priority. However, since that meeting, I have received no updates, and the flooding problem remains unresolved.

I would like to know whether these concerns have been brought to your attention. If you require further details, I would be happy to provide the pictures and videos documenting the extent of the flooding.

To help mitigate future flooding, I respectfully request that the Town Council consider installing **snow plow route signage** on 1st Street. This would ensure vehicles are moved in advance, allowing for proper snow removal and reducing the risk of water accumulation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response and a resolution to this ongoing issue.

Sincerely,



Barry Chapman
403-642-7776



February 13, 2025

TABER CONCLUDES ALBERTA ADVANTAGE IMMIGRATION PROGRAM

TABER, AB – After two years of success, the Town of Taber is wrapping up our participation in the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program's (AAIP) Rural Renewal Stream. This decision follows recent Federal and Provincial immigration policy changes that have lowered immigration allocation spaces throughout the province and aligns with the conclusion of the Settlement, Integration, and Language Projects (SILP) Grant funding that was due to end on March 31, 2025.

The initiative was first brought to the Town's attention by local businesses struggling to fill vacancies. After researching the program, Taber's Economic Development Department brought it forward as a solution to assist local businesses in addressing their workforce shortages.

The Rural Renewal Program has played a vital role in supporting economic growth and workforce development across the region. Based on Taber's success, we were also able to assist the Municipal District of Taber, Vauxhall, Coaldale, Lethbridge County, Picture Butte, Milk River, Raymond, Cardston, and Nobleford with their own AAIP programs, demonstrating the power of regional collaboration. Since its inception, 235 full-time jobs in the region have been filled through endorsed candidates, benefiting 88 local businesses.

“With provincial immigration allocations cut in half to 4,875 across all six AAIP streams and over 49,000 individuals already in the queue, this was a natural transition point for our participation,” said Amy Allred, Economic Development Manager. “The reduction in allocations presented increasing challenges for continuing the program, but we are incredibly proud of what we’ve achieved and grateful for the businesses and communities that helped make it a success.”

Throughout the program, SILP Grant funding enabled the employment of a dedicated coordinator and supported various employer training and community engagement initiatives. These included sessions on topics such as addressing racism in the workplace, cross-cultural team building, and inclusive hiring practices. Additionally, community engagement events helped connect service providers and stakeholders to better support newcomers and local businesses.

As the program winds down, Taber remains committed to ensuring a smooth transition for our candidates and our partner communities. Every qualified candidate who applied during the program's pause will receive their Endorsement Letter before March 31. The Town of Taber looks forward to exploring new opportunities to support business growth, workforce development, and community stability.

“We welcome the many workers and families who have chosen our region as their new home,” added Allred. “Taber and our partner communities remain open for business and committed to fostering economic growth and prosperity for all.”

###



The Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force

Recommendation Report
December 2024

Alberta 

The Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force Recommendation Report | Environment and Protected Areas

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Executive Summary

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) pose a significant threat to Alberta's aquatic ecosystems and water infrastructure. These non-native species, including invasive mussels, plants, and fish, often outcompete native species due to a lack of natural predators. They disrupt aquatic ecosystems, cause costly damage to water infrastructure, and negatively impact recreation and tourism.

Recent encroachment of invasive mussels presents a critical risk to Alberta's water resources, making prevention and early detection a priority. The Provincial AIS Task Force was tasked with providing a set of recommendations to address the threat of invasive mussels by strengthening Alberta's prevention and early detection efforts. Invasive mussels (zebra and quagga mussels) pose a serious threat to Alberta's waters and economy. If introduced, these invasive mussels could clog water intake pipes for irrigation, municipal water systems, and hydro-power facilities, leading to millions of dollars in annual maintenance costs. Their spread would also impact recreational areas, as mussels attach to watercraft, docks, and other equipment, making them difficult to clean and maintain. Environmentally, invasive mussels disrupt ecosystems by outcompeting native species for food and altering aquatic habitats. This disruption reduces biodiversity, damages fish habitats, and can degrade water quality by promoting harmful algal blooms, impacting fish, wildlife, and human health. Given these potential impacts, preventing the introduction of invasive mussels is critical to preserving Alberta's water resources.

The Provincial AIS Task Force recommends several key measures to combat the spread of aquatic invasive species, with particular emphasis on invasive mussels:

1. Implement a mandatory annual watercraft sticker initiative in Alberta with all revenue dedicated to support the AIS program, in addition, a second inspection sticker that also provides visual proof of inspection when reporting to an inspection station. Target March 2026.
2. Environment and Protected Areas pilot a dip tank in Alberta. Target March 2026.
3. Mandatory Watercraft Inspection - Issue a Ministerial Order requiring mandatory watercraft inspections for all watercraft entering Alberta from eastern or southern provincial borders. Watercraft must report to designated provincial inspection stations during operational hours to prevent high-risk watercraft from introducing invasive species into Alberta's waters. Target March 2026.
4. Environment and Protected Areas Minister advocates to the federal government on behalf of the AIS program for more chemical options be registered to treat aquatic invasive species. Target March 2025.
5. Environment and Protected Areas establishes an eDNA monitoring program for Aquatic Invasive Species. Target March 2026.
6. Environment and Protected Areas creates an invasive mussel specific, early detection and rapid response (EDRR) Plan as well as a detailed Invasive Mussel Tactical Plan. Target March 2025.
7. Conduct Tabletop and Field-Based Exercises for Invasive Mussel Response Training in Alberta. Target May 2025 and May 2026.

These recommendations are essential for safeguarding Alberta's biodiversity, water resources, and economy. Prevention, education, monitoring, and robust management strategies are critical to mitigating the impact of AIS in the province.

Aquatic Invasive Species in Alberta

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Alberta refer to non-native organisms that threaten the province's aquatic ecosystems. These species, which include invertebrates like invasive mussels, plants, fish, and pathogens, can be introduced through various means such as contaminated watercraft, equipment/gear, or accidental or intentional release. Once introduced, they often have few natural predators, which allows them to thrive, outcompete native species, and disrupt local ecosystems.

Key Threats to Alberta:

1. **Zebra and Quagga Mussels:** Deemed the most significant threat to Alberta. Invasive mussels can clog water infrastructure, damage watercraft, and negatively impact water quality by filtering the water column, promoting harmful algal blooms, and harming local aquatic ecosystems. Prevention efforts are working, as Alberta remains invasive mussel free.
2. **Prussian Carp:** This species competes with native fish for resources and can reproduce rapidly, threatening Alberta's aquatic biodiversity. This species was originally identified as Goldfish, however, after 10 years was found to be a unique species called Prussian Carp and by then containment was no longer possible. The Province has tried netting efforts for removal with little success. Education remains the best approach to prevent further human assisted movement and gather new detection areas. A lack of effective control measures has allowed Prussian carp to build significant populations in central and southern Alberta.
3. **Invasive Aquatic Plants:** Species like Flowering Rush and invasive Phragmites can overtake waterbodies, outcompeting native plants, clog waterways, and reduce recreational access. A handful of aquatic plants have broken through prevention efforts and are undergoing active management, overseen or lead by the AIS program, to mitigate impacts. Limited control measures in irrigation areas have allowed invasive aquatic plants to build significant unaddressed populations in Alberta.
4. **Whirling Disease:** A pathogen that affects salmonid fish, including trout, causing deformities and death in young fish. Alberta was the first detection of Whirling Disease in Canada and has now been confirmed in BC. No control measures exist, and prevention remains a priority. Whirling Disease is now found in Alberta's North Saskatchewan, Red Deer, Bow and Oldman River watersheds.

AIS Impacts:

Aquatic invasive species pose significant threats to Alberta's water systems. If left unchecked, they can lead to:

- **Costly infrastructure damage:** Invasive mussels can clog drinking water intake structures, hydroelectric facilities, and irrigation systems, leading to expensive control and maintenance costs.
- **Biodiversity loss:** AIS can outcompete native fish and plants, leading to a reduction in species diversity and altering ecosystems. Invasive mussels are known as efficient filter feeders and while they are perceived to be beneficial for creating clearer water, filter feeding allows sunlight to penetrate deeper which can increase aquatic plant growth and promote harmful algae blooms.
- **Recreational impact:** Fishing, water sports, and tourism can be negatively affected by the proliferation of AIS in lakes and rivers, leading to decreased water quality and access.

Alberta AIS Program:

The Alberta government has taken several proactive steps to prevent the spread of AIS, including:

- **Legislation:** Alberta has strict legislation prohibiting the possession, import, and release of 52 aquatic invasive species (fish, plants, and invertebrates). Watercraft owners must also stop at open watercraft inspection stations and pull the drain plug during transport.
- **Education and Outreach:** Public campaigns, such as the "Clean, Drain, Dry" initiative, encourage watercraft users and anglers to clean their equipment to prevent the spread of AIS. "Don't Let it Loose" targets the illegal dumping and movement of invasive species. The AIS program could benefit from the development of a comprehensive communications strategy. There is still a gap with people not aware of the threat of AIS; the requirement to stop at watercraft inspection stations (particularly for non-motorized boaters); pull the drain plug; and Clean Drain Dry your gear behaviours. Strategic, targeted messaging is critical to raise

awareness, understand why some people skip inspections, and find ways to engage and encourage them to comply.

- **Monitoring:** Environment & Protected Areas along with partners ensure that our invasive mussel free status remains known through water sampling, substrate sampling, eDNA/DNA monitoring, and watercraft/shoreline inspection with conservation K9s. The Conservation K9s program will continue to support AIS program efforts where possible. K9's has been most effective as program ambassadors and raising public awareness regarding AIS.
- **Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination:** Watercraft inspection stations are deployed across provincial borders to inspect watercraft and equipment for AIS, particularly focused on high-risk watercraft entering from eastern provinces and southern states. 2024 inspection and decontamination highlights are included in Appendix A.
- **Response:** When prevention fails, the province continues to identify and survey for new and ongoing detections of AIS which threaten Alberta's water resources. AIS threats established in Alberta are shown in Appendix B. Continued effort and vigilance is essential to safeguarding Alberta's aquatic environments from the threats posed by invasive species.

2024 AIS Program Enhancements

- The 2024 Aquatic Invasive Species Program:
 - Operated seven watercraft inspection stations and one roving crew during the boating season.
 - Increased the number of dedicated watercraft inspectors to 50, from 35 the previous year.
 - Watercraft inspection stations extended the operating season by opening some stations in early April. All seven stations were open by May long weekend and in operation through the September long weekend. Stations with high watercraft traffic or in high-risk locations remained open until October 31.
 - Increased penalties in 2024: In response to growing concerns that invasive mussels could arrive in Alberta, fines under the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act* were increased from \$324 to \$4,200 for failing to stop with a watercraft at an open inspection station, and from \$180 to \$600 for failing to remove a drain (bilge) plug when transporting a watercraft on a roadway. Using billboards at key entry points into Alberta was another strategy implemented to raise public awareness. This approach ensures that travelers, especially those transporting watercraft, are informed about inspection requirements and new fines when entering Alberta.
- 2024 Communication campaign
 - Using digital transportation signs during high-traffic periods, like the September long weekend, was a strategy used to reinforce the Clean, Drain, Dry behaviors to water users when they are actively traveling with watercraft.
 - Taking inspiration from rat control posters used in the 1950s, '60s and '70s, the province released a new retro campaign to help all Albertans remember to clean, drain, and dry their gear, and stop at all open inspection stations. This was part of a multi-phase campaign running through the summer to stop dangerous mussels at the border.

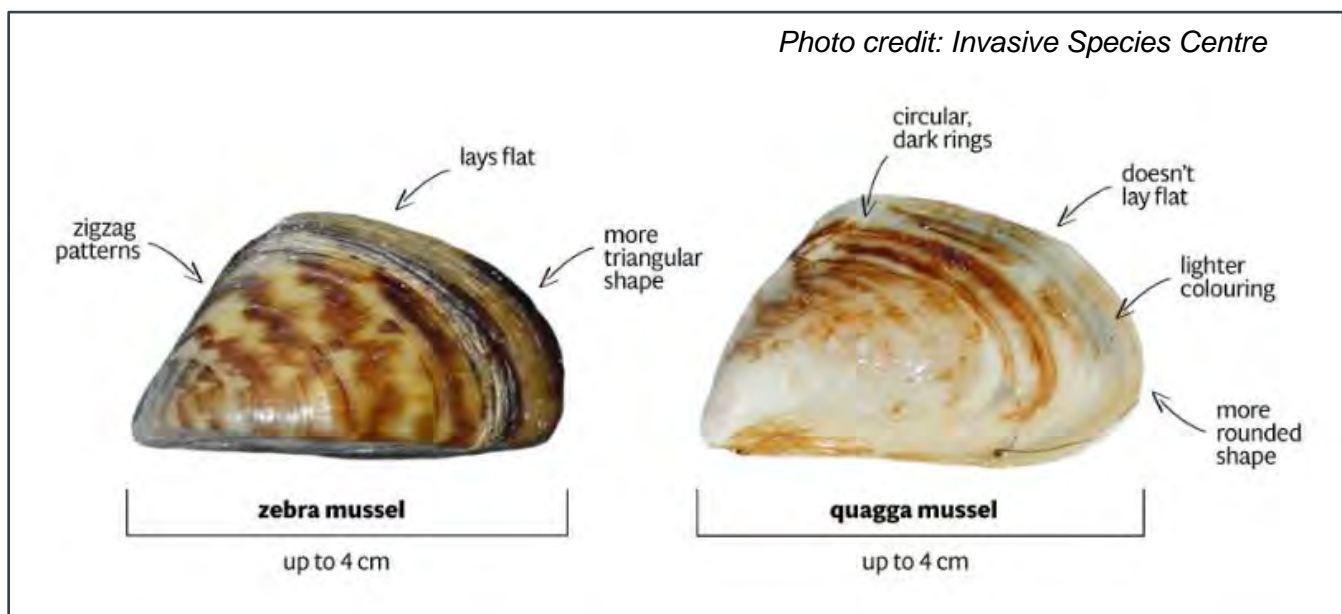


Zebra and Quagga Mussels

Invasive mussels, including zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and quagga mussels (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) are among the most damaging aquatic invasive species in North America, posing significant environmental, economic, and societal threats. These small, freshwater mussels originate from the Black and Caspian Seas but were introduced to North America in the 1980s through ballast water from ships. Since that time, they have made significant movements to the south and west in North America. The Pacific Northwest region of North America remains the last mussel free jurisdictions (YK, NT, NU, BC, AB, SK, OR, WA, MT and WY are self-reported to be invasive mussels free).

Characteristics:

Zebra and quagga mussels are small, usually about the size of a fingernail (1-2 cm) but can reach sizes of 4 cm long, with distinct striping patterns on their shells (zebra mussels have more pronounced stripes).



Both species reproduce prolifically, with a single female mussel capable of producing over a million eggs annually. Their free-swimming larvae, called veligers, can easily spread through water currents, standing water or by attaching to watercrafts and equipment. Invasive mussels attach to hard surfaces using strong byssal threads, making them difficult to remove from watercraft hulls, docks, pipes, and water infrastructure.

Environmental Impact:

Ecosystem Disruption: Invasive mussels filter large amounts of water, removing plankton and nutrients vital to the food chain. This disrupts the diet of native fish and other aquatic organisms, leading to biodiversity loss and altered ecosystems. Evidence from other jurisdictions demonstrates that filter feeding by mussels does not improve water quality or biodiversity.

Water Quality Issues: Mussel filtration can increase water clarity, which may seem positive to the public, but it often leads to the proliferation of harmful algal blooms, which can further degrade water quality.

Harm to Native Species: By covering surfaces, invasive mussels outcompete and smother native mussel species and other bottom dwelling organisms, further stressing aquatic ecosystems.

Economic Impact:

Infrastructure Damage: Zebra and quagga mussels clog pipes, water intake systems, and hydroelectric dams. In areas like the Great Lakes, maintenance costs for water utilities, power plants, and industrial facilities run into the millions annually. The Alberta Government has undertaken two economic impact assessments and have estimated the following costs associated with invasive mussels; province wide occurrences expected to incur costs of \$75 Million/year (2013) and Lake McGregor occurrences \$284 Million/year (2020). Under threat is Alberta's irrigation infrastructure which includes 8000 km of distribution systems owned by districts and government plus several thousand kilometers of farmer-owned pipes and over fifty reservoirs.

Recreational Costs: Mussel infestations in lakes and rivers can reduce the usability of beaches, docks, and recreational areas. Watercraft owners face costly maintenance and repair as the mussels can damage motors and clog cooling systems.

Human Impact:

Property Damage: Colonies of mussels can cover shorelines, piling up shells that make beaches and waterfronts injurious, impossible to access to use and unpleasant due to the odor and sharp shells.

Impact on Recreation: Mussels attach to docks, boats, and water equipment, making recreational activities like boating, fishing, and swimming less enjoyable and in some cases injurious.

Spread:

Watercraft and Equipment: The primary mode of transportation for these mussels is through contaminated watercraft, trailers, and equipment. Invasive mussels can survive out of water for extended periods in damp environments, making uncleaned watercraft a significant vector for their spread.

Natural Waterways: Once established in a waterbody, their larvae can be carried by currents, facilitating rapid spread throughout interconnected lakes, rivers, and reservoirs.

Global trade: In 2021, jurisdictions across U.S. & Canada were alerted to invasive mussels being found in commercial shipments of moss balls in the pet and plant distribution networks: a pathway no one was paying any attention to as a vector for invasive mussel introduction. Including the 2021 response effort, Alberta has responded to four occurrences of moss ball imports that contained invasive mussels.

Bait: Lake Simcoe, a popular bait collection waterbody in Ontario, has resulted in zebra mussel shells appearing in bait fish containers. While these shells are not considered viable for mussel introduction through this pathway, they pose concerns from a monitoring perspective as they could trigger eDNA detections. Additionally, discovery of the shells could prompt a significant response effort to assess the extent of their establishment.

Prevention and Control:

Many jurisdictions, including Alberta, have established mandatory watercraft inspection stations to check for and decontaminate watercraft. The "Clean, Drain, Dry" program encourages the public to remove AIS and water before transporting their watercraft and equipment between waterbodies. Early detection programs use substrates and water sampling to identify the presence of invasive mussels before they can establish large populations. In some cases, chemicals like potash (potassium chloride) have been used in infested waterbodies to kill invasive mussels, though such measures can have other ecological consequences and are costly. Prevention remains the most cost-effective approach. For heavily infested areas, mechanical scraping or filters may be used, though these are labor-intensive and not always effective in the long term.

Alberta's Situation:

Alberta is currently mussel free but faces significant risk due to the proximity of infested waters in the U.S. and Central/Eastern Canada. The province has established rigorous inspection and monitoring systems to prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive mussels. The Provincial AIS Task Force aims to explore innovative approaches to further bolster Alberta's defenses against invasive mussels. Refer to Appendix C for the current distribution of zebra & quagga mussels in U.S. and Canada.

The Provincial AIS task force recommendations will also address the emerging threat of golden mussels (*Limnoperna fortunei*), detected in North America for the first time in California in October 2024. Native to Southeast Asia, this invasive species shares similar risks with zebra and quagga mussels, including biofouling, ecological disruption, and significant socio-economic impacts. Its rapid spread is driven by traits like high reproduction, fast development, and similar distribution pathways of zebra and quagga mussels.

The Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force

The Ministry of Environment & Protected Areas (EPA) is committed to preventing the entry of invasive species into Alberta and implementing rapid response measures to mitigate impacts if invasive species are detected (EPA Business Plan 2023-26 Key Objective 1.6) to help ensure balanced economic growth and a better quality of life for all Alberta residents. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) pose a significant threat to the ministry's commitments to both the environment, the public and to economic growth. Prevention of both the introduction and spread of AIS remains a top priority of the ministry.

The management of AIS in Alberta is increasingly complex and success will rely heavily on collaboration through effective partnerships between government and non-government organizations.

Recognizing the threat posed by AIS, specifically invasive mussels, Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas commissioned an Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force in June 2024. The AIS Task Force has been led by Grant Hunter MLA for Taber- Warner.

The Provincial AIS Task Force Purpose

While AIS prevention remains a top priority for the ministry, members recognize that success relies heavily on collaboration through effective partnerships with both government and non-government organizations. The Provincial AIS Task Force was conceived to promote collaboration between these organizations and the program on provincial AIS prevention strategies, including education and awareness, the watercraft inspection program, AIS monitoring, detection, response, and management of current and emerging AIS threats. The Provincial AIS Task Force will serve as a forum to induct recommendations on strategic delivery of the provincial AIS program.

The following key elements will guide the work of this task force:

1. Engage with key stakeholders to ensure that the provincial program is robust and positioned to deal with present and future challenges.
2. Collaborate to assist with implementation of the AIS monitoring and prevention program, including exploring and securing funding solutions and partnerships.
3. Review and endorse the annual operational plans for AIS Program delivery in a collaborative model.

The Provincial AIS Task Force members:

Grant Hunter, Provincial AIS Task Force Chair and MLA for Taber-Warner



Grant Hunter was first elected in 2015 and re-elected in 2019 and 2023 in the riding of Taber-Warner. Grant has been an entrepreneur for most of his life and has a deep passion and understanding for small business. In 2019, Grant was tasked with setting up Alberta's Red Tape Reduction strategy. He was a member of cabinet for two and a half years while he took Alberta from a grade of F to a grade of A on the Canadian Federation of Independent Business Red Tape Report Card. This was the first time that Alberta had ever received a grade higher than a D. Grant has been working for the past two years on building a super-

cluster of agri-food processors in southern Alberta, and he was instrumental in the Highway 3 twinning, the 230,000-acre irrigation expansion, and the Lethbridge Exhibition Centre expansion.

Bradley Peter, Executive Director, Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS)



Bradley completed a B.Sc. In Ecology in 2010 at the University of Alberta with a special interest in freshwater biology. Bradley has spent 15 years with the Alberta Lake Management Society developing and delivering community-based water quality monitoring programs on Alberta's lakes. These monitoring programs incorporate multiple forms of monitoring for the early detection of aquatic invasive species.

Patrick Hanington, PhD, Professor, University of Alberta (UofA)



Professor at the School of Public Health, University of Alberta, Hanington's work focuses on human health and potential impacts from the environment. Much of his work has focused on developing, validating, and implementing DNA-based tests to precisely detect and quantify organisms of interest in aquatic ecosystems. Patrick has been involved in invasive species research and monitoring since 2016. He and his research group have advanced the understanding of whirling disease in Alberta and have developed several Alberta-specific environmental DNA tests for priority invasive species in the province. Patrick has also been a board member of the Alberta Invasive Species Council since 2019, and he currently serves as the board

Vice Chair.

Jay White, Director, Vice-President, Alberta Water Council (AWC)



Jay White is a Professional Biologist and owner of Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd. in Edmonton, and Scientific Advisor to eDNA Metagenomics Inc (EMI). Jay has considerable experience in water testing technology and policy, environmental regulations, policy and law, consultation, project management, and consensus decision making. He is an entrepreneur, author, speaker, and leader. At Aquality, he manages an amazing team of professional biologists who guide and support a variety of development activities. EMI and Aquality have been working closely together for the past four years. Most of Jay's career has been spent developing source tracking methodologies for water

contaminants. He was a past President of the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists, is currently the Vice-President of the Alberta Water Council, a past president of the Alberta Lake Management Society, and a past Board Member of Inside Education. He is also currently active on the City of Edmonton's Environmental Advisory Committee.

Kelly Carter, CEO, Alberta Wildlife Federation (AWF)



Kelly Carter is an experienced non-profit CEO change maker who leads with a vision that is driven by strategic plans. Skilled in strategic planning, organizational change management, public speaking, event management, stakeholder engagement, financial management, organizational risk assessment, and reporting to governance boards. He holds a Bachelor of Management focused on Social Responsibility and Supply Chain Management from the University of Lethbridge.

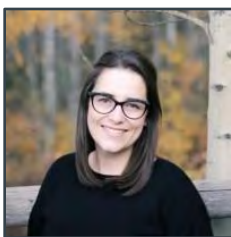
Martin Shields, MP, Bow River Constituency



Prior to a career in politics, Martin served as a teacher and administrator for 30 years and a part-time university instructor for 20 years. He has been a volunteer member on many boards and committees for the City of Brooks. Some of his elected positions include Member of Parliament for Bow River, Mayor and Councillor of the City of Brooks, Board member and vice chair of the Palliser Regional Health Board, Shortgrass Regional Library, Alberta Provincial Library Trustees Association, Bow River Basin Council, as well as a Director and Vice President of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association. He has previously served as the Director of Strathmore-Brooks Alberta Conservative Constituency Association and is a past President of the Medicine Hat

Federal Conservative Constituency Association. During his tenure as Member of Parliament for Bow River he has served on the Environment, Heritage, Status of Women, and Center Block Rehabilitation committees as well as vice chair of the CPC-Alberta MP Caucus. Martin has lived in Brooks with his family for over 40 years. He has raised three children and is a proud grandfather of five. In his free time Martin enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, fly fishing, and sailing – all activities of which are plentiful in the Bow River riding. Martin is committed to the growth and success of the Bow River riding.

Megan Evans, Executive Director, Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC)



Megan is passionate about protecting biodiversity which is evident through her work with the Alberta Invasive Species Council and as the founding President of the Alberta Native Bee Council. An experienced biologist with over ten years in the field, Megan combines strategic thinking with a passion for making a positive impact on the world. A natural leader with high emotional intelligence and a demonstrated ability to start, build and grow non-profit organizations. Megan is creative, ambitious, and innovative. She values integrity and transparency and is

keen to foster a culture of innovation, inclusivity, kindness, and excellence within the non-profit sector. She is recognized for her ability to connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds and forge meaningful relationships. Skilled in team building, organizational development, and fundraising, she consistently exceeds targets and drives sustainable growth. Megan is an exceptional communicator with strong interpersonal skills that enable the cultivation of strong partnerships and collaborations.

Richard Phillips, Vice-Chair, Alberta Irrigation Districts Association (AIDA)



A professional engineer, Richard is the General Manager of the Bow River Irrigation District. The Bow River Irrigation District (BRID) headquarters are in Vauxhall, Alberta. The BRID owns and operates over a thousand kilometres of earth canals and water pipelines, as well as several reservoirs. This infrastructure is used to provide irrigation to 290,000 acres and domestic water for farming, industry, wildlife, and communities within the district's boundaries. Richard is also vice chair of the Bow River Basin Council, chair of the Vauxhall and District

Regional Water Services Commission, chair of Irrigating Alberta Inc., and Canadian co-chair of the

public advisory group for the International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study, and fishing is his favorite hobby.

Richard Stamp, President, Stamp Seeds



Stamp Seeds was established in 1978 by Richard and Marian Stamp of Enchant, Alberta. Stamp Seeds is in the heart of irrigation country in the hamlet of Enchant. The Stamp Seeds irrigation farm consists of sandy loam soil and has water rights from the Bow River Irrigation District. This water comes from rain, snowpack, and glacial melt in the Rocky Mountains of the Banff National Park area. The land is irrigated by pivot irrigation systems, for the optimum use of our water supply and maximum crop production. The farming experience includes greenhouse production with nuclear seed potatoes as well as the field production of elite seed potatoes. Stamp Seeds has also grown dry beans, sugar beets, lentils, and conducted research crop trials for speciality items such as spinach and radish seeds. For several years, the farm has processed pedigreed flax straw for soil reclamation use in pipeline construction. Since 2005 Stamp Seeds has been involved with a wildlife habitat restoration and creation project which involves planting thousands of trees around fields and enhancing wetland and grassland areas between fields for habitat.

The Provincial AIS Task Force Meeting overview and highlights

Meeting History

The Provincial AIS Task Force met on the following dates:

- June 12, 2024, 12:00pm-4:30pm
- July 4, 2024, 10:00am-2:00pm
- July 26, 2024, 10:00am-2:00pm
- August 16, 2024, 10:00am-2:00pm
- September 16, 2024, 10:00am-2:00pm
- October 25, 2024, 12:00pm-4:00pm

Meetings have been offered with both in person and virtual attendance options. Quorum has been achieved at each meeting.

Topics Discussed

June 12, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force Mandate and Scope • Overview of AIS Program • Draft Terms of Reference
July 4, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize Terms of Reference • Highlights of other program efforts • Watercraft Inspection, if all watercraft was mandatory for inspection prior to launch • Dip tank details
July 26, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dip Tank additional information • Stickers/Decal • eDNA potential for monitoring
August 16, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation review • Economic Breakdown: Station vs K9 vs Dip Tank • Moratorium Discussion
September 16, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Detection Rapid Response Plan – Presentation/Discussion • Utah State Dip Tank Presentation and Discussion
October 25, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review DRAFT Progress Report • Receive information on Delegated Administrative Organization

The Provincial AIS Task Force Recommendations

These recommendations have not been prioritized, as each is essential for building a robust, province-wide defense against invasive mussels in Alberta.

Recommendation 1: Implement a mandatory annual watercraft sticker initiative in Alberta with all revenue dedicated to support the AIS program, in addition, a second inspection sticker that also provides visual proof of inspection when reporting to an inspection station. Target March 2026.

A sticker initiative to generate revenue for Alberta’s Aquatic Invasive Species program could include or consist of a system where watercraft owners are required to purchase and display a special "AIS sticker" to legally operate their watercraft in Alberta waters. The funds collected from the sale of these stickers are directed toward efforts to prevent and manage the spread of AIS, including inspection, decontamination, and public education programs. Additionally, a date/time “inspection sticker” would also be offered at points of inspection to ensure additional visual proof of inspection efforts.

Annual AIS sticker purchase will have to operate independently of watercraft registration as that operates federally and does not offer an annual renewal touchpoint. The number of registered watercrafts in Alberta varies based on various categories. Most vessels are classified as "pleasure craft," which are licensed if they have motors with at least ten horsepower. Licensing is typically managed through Transport Canada, and all registered vessels are subject to their guidelines. However, there is not a definitive, centralized public source listing the exact total number of registered watercrafts in Alberta. Alberta will have to build a process to allow for purchase and mailout of stickers like fishing tags, but the volume will be significant as we estimate about 165,000 motorized watercraft and 200,000 non-motorized watercraft given the recent uptake of paddleboard/kayak/canoe users. Accurate estimates of watercraft numbers will not be available until revenue collection commences.

The stickers would apply to all watercrafts, motorized and non-motorized, from pontoon boats to inflatable belly boats, kayaks, and paddleboards. There would be a 2-tier price for non-motorized and for motorized watercraft based on the risk they have for transfer of aquatic invasive species. No price was discussed specifically by the Provincial AIS Task Force, but EPA would suggest the following be considered when developing a fee based on a jurisdictional scan:

Jurisdiction	Category	Fee
Montana	Motorized	\$30
	Non-motorized	\$10
Nevada	Motorized	\$13
	Non-motorized	\$6
Washington	Non-residents	\$24
	Residents	\$2
Oregon	Motorized, resident	\$20
	Non-motorized (>10 feet), resident	\$5
	Non-motorized (> 10 feet), non-resident	\$17
Idaho	Motorized, resident	\$30
	Non-motorized, non-resident	\$7
Minnesota	Motorized	\$10.60
Utah	Motorized	\$20
	Non-motorized	\$10
Colorado	Motorized, resident	\$25
	Motorized, non-resident	\$50
South Dakota	Motorized	\$25

How the AIS Sticker Works:

Watercraft owners must purchase an AIS sticker annually and display it on their watercraft, including motorized and non-motorized. This requirement applies to both residents and non-residents who use Alberta's waters. The cost of the AIS sticker can vary depending on the type of watercraft (e.g., motorized vs. non-motorized) and whether the owner is a resident or non-resident. Some states offer a tiered pricing system, with higher fees for non-residents.

The fees collected from the sticker sales are allocated as revenue to the provinces' AIS program. This funding is then used for support of watercraft inspection stations, public outreach, and the maintenance of infrastructure like decontamination units. Law enforcement officers or water resource managers can check watercraft for the appropriate sticker and issue fines or deny launch to those not in compliance. This ensures that all watercrafts contribute to AIS program efforts, price reflective of risk.

Example of annual sticker fee	Estimated Revenue Generated
\$30 for 165,000 Motorized boats	\$4,950,000
\$15 for 200,000 Non-Motorized boats	\$3,000,000
TOTAL	\$7,950,000

Benefits of a Sticker:

- **Sustainable Funding:** The sticker approach provides a steady stream of revenue that can be directly funneled into AIS program measures. It helps reduce the reliance on general tax funds or potential for sporadic federal grants.
- **Increased Awareness:** By requiring all boaters to purchase an AIS sticker, the program helps raise awareness about the importance of preventing the spread of AIS. Boaters are more likely to comply with decontamination and cleaning guidelines when they have a financial involvement in the effort.
- **Boater Responsibility:** The sticker program emphasizes that watercrafts are responsible for preventing the spread of AIS. It incentivizes compliance with AIS regulations, including cleaning, draining, and drying boats between uses.
- **Expanded Prevention Efforts:** Dependent on the level of funding generated, additional AIS program enhancements could be implemented. This could take on various education and awareness efforts to ensure the public actively practices behaviors to prevent AIS introductions.

Challenges for a Sticker:

- **Boater Compliance:** Some watercraft owners may resist paying for an additional permit, especially if they feel the fees are high or if they do not frequently use watercrafts in high-risk waters. Strong public education and enforcement are crucial to ensure compliance.
- **Fee Setting:** The Province must balance generating sufficient revenue with setting fees at a level that will not discourage recreational watercraft use or cause backlash from the watercraft community. Needs to be marketed as a stewardship fee, users are contributing to the protection of Alberta's water resources.
- **Coordination with Other Programs:** In regions where multiple jurisdictions share waterbodies, coordination between states or provinces may be necessary. For example, neighboring provinces could create reciprocal agreements where watercrafts only need to purchase one sticker to use watercraft in shared waters.
- **Enforcement Costs:** A portion of the revenue may need to be allocated for enforcement to ensure watercrafts are purchasing and displaying the required sticker and following up with enforcement actions if not complying with sticker requirement.
-

Alberta's Potential Use of a Sticker:

Given Alberta's proactive stance with regards to AIS prevention, a sticker program could provide much-needed revenue to support expanding these efforts. Revenue from the sticker program could help fund inspection stations, decontamination infrastructure, public education campaigns, and rapid response teams for AIS outbreaks. Alberta could follow the models of U.S. states like Idaho or Montana, tailoring the program to local needs and watercraft habits.

An inspection sticker could provide a clear visual confirmation of inspection and may be used at controlled boat launches to approve launch access. Its validity could depend on the date and time elapsed since the sticker was issued.

Recommendation 2: Environment and Protected Areas pilot a dip tank in Alberta. Target March 2026.

Utah's dip tank system is a proactive approach designed to combat the spread of invasive mussels, particularly quagga mussels, by ensuring that watercraft are thoroughly decontaminated before entering or leaving waterbodies. The state implemented this program in response to the ongoing containment effort of quagga mussels in Lake Powell, one of Utah's major reservoirs. Utah has managed to contain the mussels at one location, Lake Powell, since 2012 with dip tank use.

Overview of Utah's Dip Tank System:

The Utah dip tanks are designed to kill invasive mussels or their larvae (veligers) on watercraft and trailers to prevent their spread between waterbodies. In Utah, watercraft arriving from another state/country or watercraft which have been at a mussel infested waterbody (Lake Powell) in the last 30 days have two options for decontamination prior to launch: 1) complete full Clean, Drain, Dry process or 2) Obtain professional decontamination (paid or offered by state).



Photo credit: Utah Department of Natural Resources

A dip tank is typically a large basin/pool filled with hot water. Watercraft are submerged in the tank, allowing the hot water to kill mussels, larvae, and other invasive species present on the boat's hull, intakes, and ballast tanks. This is especially useful for large or complex watercraft where traditional decontamination methods (e.g., high-pressure washing) might not be fully effective. The water in the dip tank is heated to around 110°F (43°C), a temperature that has been proven to kill mussels within a short amount of time. Boats are typically immersed in the dip tank for several minutes, allowing the hot water to thoroughly penetrate hard-to-reach areas where mussels might be hiding. Water is cycled through watercraft to ensure hot water accesses the engine and any water-holding plumbing. This

system is particularly useful for large watercraft with ballast tanks that are difficult to decontaminate using standard hot pressure wash methods. It ensures complete coverage and is more efficient for certain types of watercrafts compared to manual wand washing.

Benefits of Utah's Dip Tank System:

- **Increased Efficiency:** By submerging watercraft in heated water, the dip tank ensures that all areas, including those with difficult to access internal plumbing, are effectively decontaminated.
- **Cost-Effective for Larger Boats:** Dip tanks are a more practical solution for large watercraft that would require extensive manual labor to fully clean.
- **Prevention of Mussel Spread:** By thoroughly decontaminating boats, the dip tank significantly reduces the risk of mussel larvae being transferred from one waterbody to another.
- **Rapid Process:** The hot water kills mussels quickly, allowing for a faster decontamination process compared to traditional high-pressure wash stations.

Challenges of Utah's Dip Tank System:

- **Operational Costs:** Maintaining and operating a dip tank, especially heating large volumes of water, can be resource intensive and a challenge to maintain consistent temperatures.
- **Mussels remain physically present:** Physical presence of invasive mussels is not eliminated. Possession is applied to alive or dead invasive mussels, so this decontamination does not comply with Alberta's current possession prohibitions.
- **Infrastructure Requirements:** Dip tanks require space and utilities for setup near a boat launch or watercraft inspection stations, limiting their use in some locations.
- **Limited Availability:** Currently, dip tanks are not widespread and are typically located at key Utah waterbodies, such as Lake Powell, where the risk of movement is the highest.

Utah's approach, including the use of dip tanks, has been seen as a successful step in slowing the spread of invasive mussels, particularly quagga mussels from Lake Powell. While it is not feasible to fully eradicate established populations in Lake Powell, dip tanks have assisted a robust AIS program to prevent further infestations in other waterbodies within the state.

Alberta is considering a dip tank, inspired by Utah's success, to enhance its own defense against invasive mussels. Alberta is still in prevention and not containment-based program like Utah so it will be interesting to see how a dip tank functions within a prevention-based AIS program. The intent of the provincial AIS task force is to pilot one dip tank initially and if effective to expand dip tank use to more locations to support inspection stations.

Recommendation 3: Mandatory Watercraft Inspection - Issue a Ministerial Order requiring mandatory watercraft inspections for all watercraft entering Alberta from eastern or southern provincial borders. Watercraft must report to designated provincial inspection stations during operational hours to prevent high-risk watercraft from introducing invasive species into Alberta's waters. Target March 2026.

The AIS program currently operates seven watercraft inspection stations, and they are positioned on the highest risk highways into Alberta. The transport of live larval and adult mussels on watercraft and related conveyances (trailers) represents the highest risk vector of spread of these AIS. The most effective means of defense against the entry of invasive mussels into Alberta is to inspect and decontaminate watercraft at provincial highway border crossing locations, particularly those coming through points of entry from locations east and south of Alberta.

Current legislation requires those transporting watercraft to stop when passing an "open" inspection station. This means that watercraft can still travel into the province using points of entry where inspection stations are not present or are not required to stop for inspection if the inspection station is

closed. There are thirty-two highways into Alberta and numerous secondary gravel roads which makes it challenging to be at every entry point.

Recommendation considerations:

- **Mandatory Requirement:** Legislative authorities exist to enable an attempt for one hundred per cent inspection requirements. Every watercraft can be required to report for inspection upon entry into Alberta under Ministerial Order *Fisheries (Alberta) Act*, section 32(7) (c), which requires owners and individuals operating or in charge of conveyances to report to inspection stations and to provide any information or assistance relevant to determining the possible presence of invasive organisms in or on the conveyances such as trailer, watercraft, dock or wharf etc. Traffic cameras could also be leveraged as a tool to assess compliance and enforcement actions but does little to reduce risk of AIS introduction.
- **All Season Support:** The mandatory inspection requirement needs to accommodate those not coming through the above established boat inspection stations. This may require those transporting watercraft into Alberta to ensure travel arrangements account for inspection station locations and operating hours. Winter accommodation will need to be put in place when inspection stations are no longer operational.
- **Budget Dependencies:** The goal will be to increase the number of watercraft inspection stations in Alberta from seven to eleven for the 2025 operating season, dependent on budget approval. Hours of operation and decontamination capabilities will also be increased where possible to support new mandatory reporting requirements, dependent on budget approval.
- **Support Systems:** Other dependencies will need to be addressed to support a mandatory reporting requirement. This may include increased enforcement support to ensure compliance, the ability to track watercraft compliance on a provincial basis (across eleven stations and enforcement agencies) and call center support for public inquiries, to triage risk or to direct public to the closest open inspection station.

Recommendation 4: Environment and Protected Areas Minister advocates to the federal government for more chemical options be registered to treat aquatic invasive species. Target March 2025.

The limited number of approved aquatic pesticides in Canada presents several challenges for managing AIS, particularly in the context of growing threats like zebra and quagga mussels. There are several key factors contributing to this shortage:

- **Regulatory Stringency:** Canada's regulatory framework for pesticides, overseen by the Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), is known for its rigorous safety and environmental standards. Aquatic pesticides must undergo extensive testing for potential environmental and human health impacts before approval. This prominent level of scrutiny can result in lengthy delays for product registration, limiting the availability of effective treatments in time-sensitive scenarios.
- **Environmental Concerns:** Due to the sensitivity of aquatic ecosystems and their importance for biodiversity, Canadian regulators are cautious about the approval of chemical treatments in water. The risk of unintended harm to non-target species, such as fish and aquatic plants, as well as concerns about long-term ecosystem health, has led to a more cautious approach compared to other regions like the U.S.
- **Alternative Control Measures:** In the absence of a wide range of aquatic pesticides, Canada has focused on non-chemical methods of managing AIS, such as physical removal, barriers, and the use of biological controls. While effective in some cases, these methods are often labor-intensive, costly, and may not be feasible for large infestations.
- **Economic Impact and Cost of Inaction:** The lack of chemical control options can lead to significant economic costs in the form of infrastructure damage. Without efficient and effective chemical controls, maintenance costs are expected to rise, placing a burden on the sectors that rely on water systems, including agricultural, industrial, and recreational.

- **Limited Research and Innovation:** The mandate of environmental protection, which fall largely to government managers, often lacks chemical industry drivers to seek aquatic pesticide registrations in Canada. The lack of economic drivers from industry has resulted in limited investment in aquatic pesticides that could be both effective and environmentally sustainable to address AIS.

Recommendation considerations:

- The Provincial AIS Task Force recommends that EPA lobby the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and/or Environment and Climate Change Canada to seek aquatic pesticide registrations since pesticide companies lack the economic drivers to pursue Canadian Registrations for aquatic pesticides.
- Aquatic pesticide registration challenges that will need to be addressed:
 - **Data Requirements:** Complex and/or Canadian-specific data requirements for efficacy, dissipation, and other environmental assessments.
 - **Return on Investment:** The costs to develop data, especially Canadian-specific data, do not justify the apparent small market of such pesticides. For example, Canada represents only 4% of the global pesticide market. Aquatic pesticides would represent a minuscule part of that 4%.
 - **Public:** There is a negative perception of pesticides being used directly in water. Water is perceived to be an extremely sensitive use-site category given the association of pesticides with surface water contamination.
 - **Expertise:** Some registrants have cited a lack of company expertise with such products. Expertise is required for technical maintenance of products to respond to questions on use pattern, including restricted use permits, drinking water intake setbacks and restricted withdrawal timing, association with eutrophication (algal blooms), and vegetation disposal.

Recommendation 5: Environment and Protected Areas establish an eDNA monitoring program for Aquatic Invasive Species. Target March 2026.

DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, carries the genetic instructions for all living organisms. The sequence of its building blocks, called base pairs, is what makes each species and individual unique. Environmental DNA (eDNA) refers to genetic material released into the environment by organisms, such as through skin, feces, or saliva. This eDNA can be collected from sources like water, soil, or air, making it useful for monitoring species without directly sampling them.

In Alberta, the Aquatic Invasive Species program, in collaboration with the University of Alberta, is using eDNA to detect aquatic invasive species. This method helps monitor ecosystems for harmful species like zebra and quagga mussels. Early detection allows for quicker responses, reducing the environmental and economic damage these species cause. However, detecting eDNA does not always prove the presence of live organisms, it may indicate past exposure. As a result, further monitoring is needed to confirm if an invasive species is actively present. However, eDNA can certainly be effective in prioritizing water bodies for more extensive monitoring efforts given the current AIS program monitoring capacity.

Recommendation considerations:

- The Provincial AIS Task Force recommends that EPA include eDNA monitoring as part of the provincial AIS monitoring program, replacing the University of Alberta which has been leading a pilot project.
- This will require additional provincial lab capacity and staff time to complete eDNA lab analyses. The Provincial Fish Disease lab could be positioned to successfully take on this programming.

- The University of Alberta will remain a partner to advance eDNA research needs but may also require additional funding to support emerging initiatives.

Recommendation 6: Environment and Protected Areas create an invasive mussel specific, early detection and rapid response (EDRR) Plan as well as a detailed Invasive Mussel Tactical Plan. Target March 2025.

Prevention is regarded as the best and most cost-effective means of addressing potential new infestations of AIS including invasive mussels. However, if prevention efforts fail, the Province of Alberta must be prepared to respond rapidly and effectively to minimize environmental and economic impacts and reduce the risk of spread. Monitoring programs are only as useful as the rapid eradication response system that they inform. Rapid response is an integral component of AIS management programs.

The purpose of the Alberta AIS EDRR Plan is to provide a consistent framework to guide response actions needed to detect, assess and respond to an AIS introduction anywhere in Alberta. The plan clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of different levels of government and stakeholders and how they may be involved in a rapid response including monitoring, detection, containment, and treatment procedures.

EPA oversees all aspects of an environmental incident from initial emergency response, cleanup, and containment to long-term monitoring and remediation activities. However, in the event of an AIS emergency, such as a confirmed invasive mussel detection, EPA will work in coordination with the Alberta Support and Emergency Response Team (ASERT). ASERT is a group of highly trained individuals that would take a lead role in EPA's response to an emergency event 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, anywhere in Alberta.

The goal of rapid response is the elimination of the target species and any risks associated with its presence. However, rapid response must encompass a range of goals, from containment and suppression through eradication and long-term infestation management.

Recommendation Considerations:

- The AIS EDRR plan was last updated in 2019. However, since 2019 there has been a marked increase in frequency of reports and confirmed detections of AIS in Alberta. Invasive mussels have spread throughout the Great Lakes and many lakes in Ontario, Manitoba, and the U.S., increasing Alberta's risk of infestation. EPA, along with ASERT, have undertaken a review of the EDRR plan with the intention of updating the plan's overarching framework, response protocols, and ensuring coordination between levels of government and applicable partners is consistent and aligns with the increased threat of AIS in Alberta. The Provincial AIS Task Force recommends internal resources be provided to complete the review and update by March 2025.
- An Invasive Mussel EDRR specific plan has also been drafted but is yet to be made public. Finishing touches are required but this plan is strengthened, due to species-specific details. The Provincial AIS Task Force recommends internal resources are provided to complete the review and update by March 2025.
- Increasing internal resources to complete an Invasive Mussel Tactical Plan is also recommended by March 2025. A well-structured tactical plan ensures that key measures such as early detection, rapid response, and containment are in place to address invasive mussel outbreaks effectively. This includes the deployment of inspection and decontamination checkpoints at a specific site, establishing protocols for monitoring waterbodies, and mobilizing resources for emergency containment and decontamination efforts. More importantly, the plan aligns stakeholders, government agencies, and local communities, creating a unified approach

that enables swift, effective response. Specific resources should be sourced and stockpiled for response efficiency if Alberta were to have an invasive mussel detection.

Recommendation 7: Conduct Tabletop and Field-Based Exercises for Invasive Mussel Response Training in Alberta. Target May 2025 and May 2026.

The Provincial AIS Task Force supports enhancing AIS emergency readiness training to improve response coordination and deployment in the event of a mussel detection in Alberta. The aim of this training is to ensure that "boots on the ground" personnel have practice to deploy response assets effectively and mobilize resources in line with the Invasive Mussel Tactical Plan. By focusing on real-world scenarios, the training will enhance the ability of responders to address potential outbreaks of invasive mussels quickly and efficiently. Additionally, this training will bring together key response partners to strengthen collaboration and ensure a unified approach. This increased readiness is essential to prevent the establishment and spread of harmful species like zebra and quagga mussels in Alberta's waterways.

To enhance preparedness, coordination, and effectiveness in responding to invasive mussel detections, this recommendation outlines a framework for tabletop and field-based exercises that simulate real-world scenarios and develop practical response skills.

Recommendation Considerations:

Tabletop Exercises: Simulate decision-making, coordination, and communication during a hypothetical invasive mussel incident in a controlled, discussion-based environment. Participants identify roles, key actions, and communication plans. Expected outcomes of this type of exercise are an enhanced understanding of roles and responsibilities, improved coordination among agencies, and identification of gaps in response plans or existing resources.

Field-Based Exercises: Provide hands-on training in detection, containment, and eradication techniques, ensuring field teams are operationally ready. Possible simulations could include:

- Set up mock sampling points in a waterbody for veliger collection and substrate inspection.
- Simulate a containment zone setup, including signage and perimeter management.
- Demonstrate watercraft decontamination.
- Conduct a mock chemical treatment using a simulated molluscicide application.
- Train on monitoring post-treatment effectiveness.

Executing this recommendation will be contingent on the support of Alberta Environmental Support and Emergency Response Team (ASERT). Additional staff and resources are needed to host a field-based exercise given specialization of hazards and the elevated coordination needed. Tabletop exercises have been held previously by ASERT staff in collaboration with AIS staff. The most recent tabletop exercise was held in November 2022. Tabletop exercises are best held in winter, whereas field-based exercises are best held in the open water season.

Through training exercises, the Provincial AIS Task Force is striving to ensure Alberta has the staff and partners with improved readiness with strong inter-agency coordination. These efforts should work towards an enhanced readiness and public confidence in Alberta's ability to address an invasive mussel threat should a detection ever occur in Alberta.

Conclusions

Invasive mussels, such as zebra, quagga, and now golden mussels, pose a severe risk to Alberta's ecosystems, infrastructure, and economy. They spread rapidly, clog water systems, outcompete native species, and degrade water quality. Once established, eradication is nearly impossible, leading to long-term ecological damage and costly management efforts. Prevention through inspections, public awareness, monitoring, and response preparedness is critical to mitigate this threat.

An annual sticker purchase program for watercraft users can generate sustainable funding to support Alberta's AIS prevention and management efforts. Revenue from sticker sales could be used to expand watercraft inspection station operations, enhance public awareness through educational campaigns, expand monitoring and invest in rapid response measures. This user-pay approach ensures those involved in recreational water activities contribute directly to protecting Alberta's waterways.

A dip tank will enhance Alberta's AIS program by providing an efficient, on-site method for decontaminating watercraft, particularly for hard-to-reach areas like ballast tanks and live wells. This proactive approach reduces the risk of invasive mussel spread while streamlining inspections and treatments at high-traffic watercraft entry points. Implementing a dip tank pilot project will also provide valuable insights for broader deployment across the province.

Mandatory watercraft inspections are critical to preventing the spread of invasive species like zebra and quagga mussels. These inspections ensure watercraft are free from contamination before entering Alberta's waterways and reduce the risk of introduction. By enforcing compliance, the program strengthens public awareness, protects ecosystems, and avoids the prohibitive costs of managing established infestations.

The response to invasive mussels in Alberta will only be effective if there are a broader range of chemical response options available for use across different waterbodies that may face initial infestations. While the Alberta government has already supported the use of the first pesticide approved for open waterbodies, it is crucial that the federal government expands its support for Canadian registration of additional pesticides that are already approved in the U.S. This would provide Alberta, along with other provinces and territories, a comprehensive suite of chemical options, maximizing the chances of successful eradication and management of invasive mussels.

eDNA (environmental DNA) monitoring is a vital tool for AIS response as it allows for early detection of invasive species, even at low population levels, before they become widespread. By collecting water samples and analyzing DNA traces left by aquatic organisms, eDNA monitoring can identify the presence of invasive species like mussels without the need for direct visual sightings. This time and cost-effective method enhance surveillance efforts, enables rapid response, and helps prioritize resources for more conventional monitoring that struggles under current resources.

A well-developed response plan is crucial for effectively managing and mitigating the spread of invasive mussels. It provides a clear framework for coordinated actions, ensuring timely and efficient responses to mussel infestations. The plan outlines all aspects of identification, risk assessment, containment, and eradication strategies, as well as roles and responsibilities for various key positions. A robust response plan minimizes ecological, economic, and human damage, improves resource allocation, and enhances public trust by demonstrating preparedness and proactive management of invasive mussels. Training and practicing the plan also strengthens the preparedness for actual detection.

For over 70 years, Alberta has upheld its status as the last rat-free jurisdiction in North America, a testament to intentional and dedicated prevention efforts. Building on this legacy, the Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force presents seven key recommendations in this report to safeguard Alberta's invasive mussel-free status. By implementing these measures—such as an annual watercraft sticker program, mandatory inspections, enhanced monitoring, rapid response plans with training exercises, and improved access to pesticides—the province can fortify its defenses against invasive

mussels. These actions will not only protect Alberta's ecosystems and infrastructure but also secure the long-term health of its economy against the profound impacts of invasive mussels.

WATERCRAFT INSPECTION STATIONS

2024 Summary

13,408
Inspections in 2024

15
Mussel-fouled boats

1610 HOT WASHES
to prevent all aquatic invasive species from entering Alberta

7+1
STATIONS ROVING



to prevent the spread of invasive species and diseases.

STOPPING AT A WATERCRAFT INSPECTION STATION IS **MANDATORY**



\$4200 Fine
for skipping inspection

In 2024,

4 Warnings

22 Charges

PULL the PLUG

Standing water in bilges, ballasts, live wells and buckets can harbour aquatic invasive species and diseases!

13% of watercraft inspected did not have drain plugs removed

\$600 Ticket
for plugs not removed

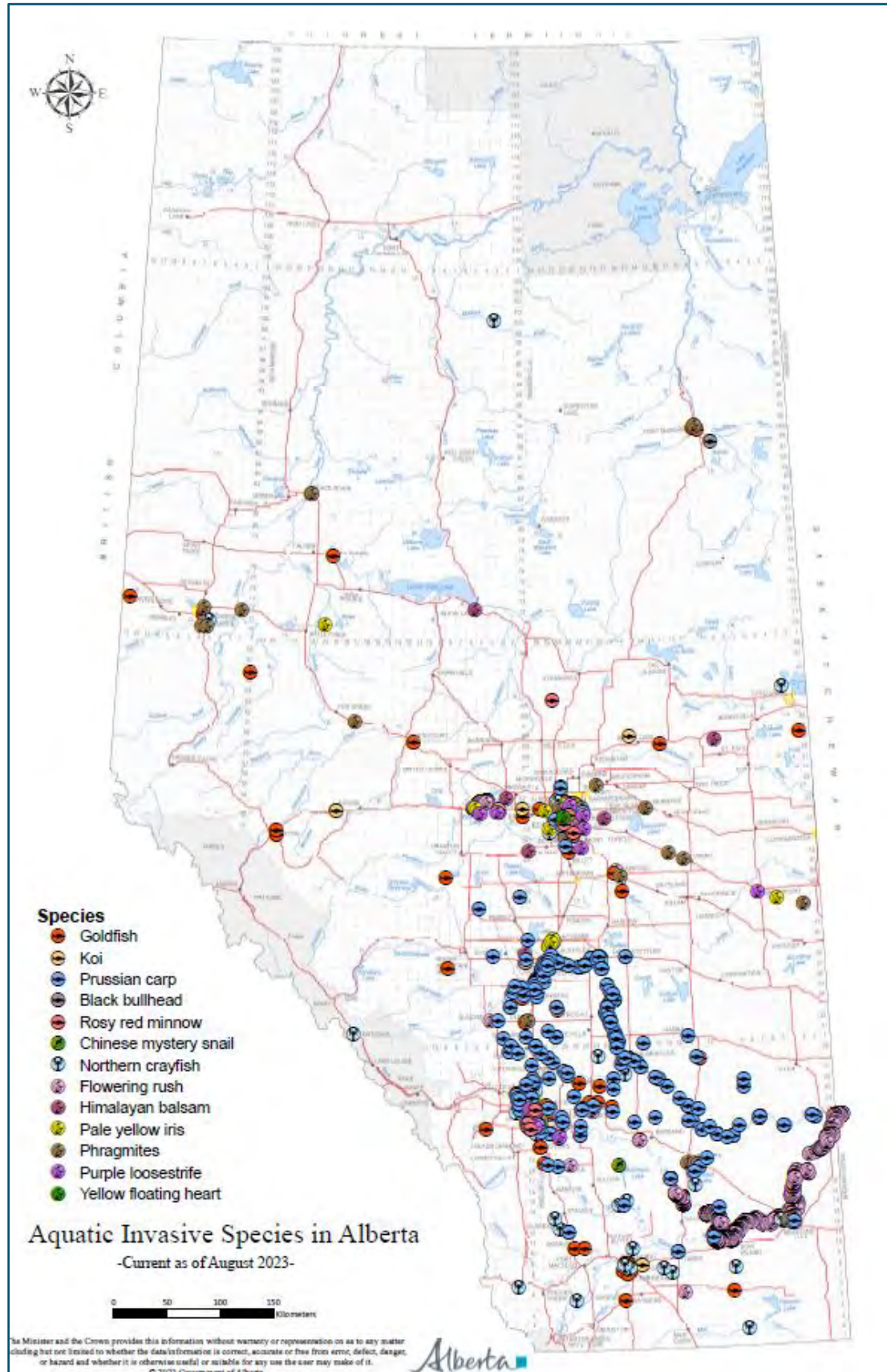
In 2024,

19 Warnings

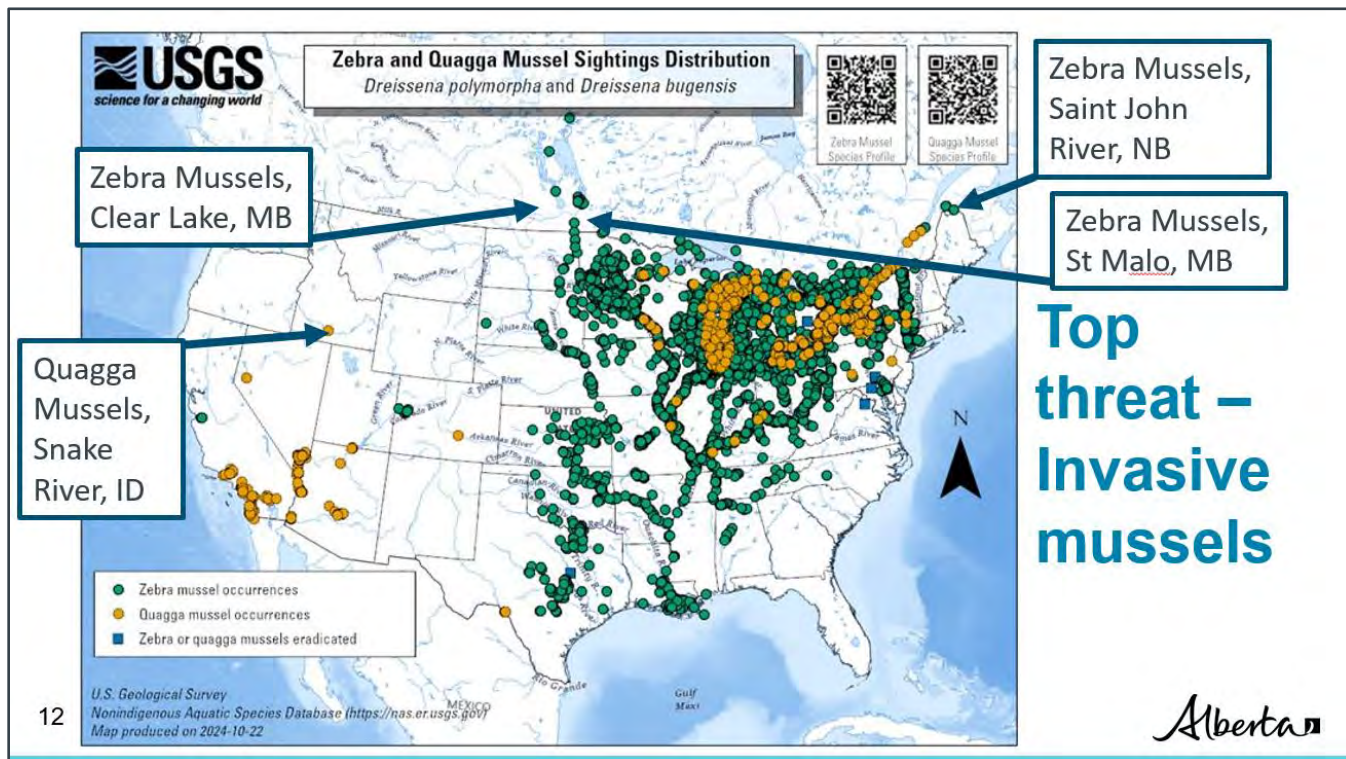
1 Charge

Alberta

Appendix B: AIS Threats in Alberta



Appendix C: Invasive Mussel Distribution





ALBERTA

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Minister

MLA, Calgary-Hays

AR117411

February 4, 2025

Dear Chief Elected Official or Library Board Chair:

I am pleased to invite your municipality or library board to provide submissions for the 2025 Minister's Awards for Municipal and Public Library Excellence (MAMPLE). This program recognizes excellence in municipal government initiatives and provision of library services and promotes knowledge-sharing to build capacity. These awards offer an opportunity to recognize the truly great work happening in communities across Alberta.

For the 2025 program, we have introduced modest changes to align with current priorities and enhance the recognition of successful initiatives that can be shared across the province. The updated program now features four municipal and two library award categories. For each municipal category, one award will be given for municipalities with populations under 10,000, and one for municipalities with populations over 10,000. For each library category, two awards will be given to library boards serving populations under 10,000, and two for library boards serving populations over 10,000.

Submissions will be accepted in the following categories:

○ ***Building Economic Strength (open to all municipalities)***

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

- building the economic capacity and/or resiliency of the community; and/or
- improving the attractiveness of the community to businesses, investors, and visitors.

○ ***Enhancing Community Engagement or Livability (open to all municipalities)***

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

- increasing accessibility of community services;
- fostering inclusive and welcoming communities;
- improving engagement opportunities for community members; and/or
- strengthening wellness and safety responsiveness.

○ ***Partnership (open to all municipalities)***

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

- enabling a local or regional partnership* that achieves results that could not have been accomplished by the municipality alone;
- generating lasting relationships between partners; and/or
- leveraging unique skill sets or resources of each partner.
- *Partners may include municipalities, businesses, First Nations, non-profit organizations, community groups, and other orders of government.

.../2

○ **Red Tape Reduction or Service Delivery Enhancement (open to all municipalities)**

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

- improving upon or presenting a new approach to how a municipality can deliver a program or service;
- streamlining processes and reducing administrative requirements, leading to more efficient service delivery;
- saving time, money, and/or resources by implementing practices that enhance operational effectiveness;
- reducing regulatory, policy, or procedural requirements to simplify access to municipal services for residents and businesses; and/or
- promoting transparency and accountability in municipal operations, fostering trust within the community.

○ **Public Library Services (open to all library boards, serving a population of under 10,000)**

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

- demonstrating responsiveness to community need(s); and
- providing direct benefit to the public.

○ **Public Library Services (open to all library boards, serving a population of over 10,000)**

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

- demonstrating responsiveness to community need(s); and
- providing direct benefit to the public.

Details regarding eligibility and submission requirements are available on the Minister's Awards for Municipal and Public Library Excellence webpage at www.alberta.ca/ministers-awards-for-municipal-excellence.aspx or on the submission form. **The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2025.**

Questions about the program from municipalities can be sent to municipalexcellence@gov.ab.ca or program advisors may be reached at 780-427-2225 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

Questions about the program from library boards can be sent to libraries@gov.ab.ca or program advisors can be reached at 780-427-4871 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

I encourage you to share your success stories, and I look forward to celebrating these successes with your communities.

Sincerely,



Ric McIver
Minister



ALBERTA

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Minister

MLA, Calgary-Hays

AR117690

February 13, 2025

Dear Chief Elected Official:

Joint use and planning agreements (JUPAs) between municipalities and school boards operating within municipal boundaries enable the integrated and long-term planning and use of school sites on municipal reserve, school reserve, and municipal and school reserve lands.

On June 10, 2020, Section 670.1 of the *Municipal Government Act* was proclaimed, setting the deadline for municipalities to complete these agreements with the applicable school boards to June 10, 2023. A two-year extension was granted to June 10, 2025, via Ministerial Order No. MSD:013/23.

The ministries of Municipal Affairs and Education have heard from municipalities and school boards about the challenges of meeting this year's deadline. My colleague, the Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister of Education, and I have agreed to extend the deadline for municipalities and school boards by one year, to June 10, 2026, to provide sufficient time to complete these agreements. As a result, Ministerial Order MSD:013/23 is rescinded and Ministerial Order No. MSD:004/25 is now in effect. Please find attached a copy of the new Ministerial Order.

Municipal Affairs advisory staff can provide additional supports to municipalities to assist with the development of these agreements. Questions regarding JUPAs can be directed to a planning advisor at ma.advisory@gov.ab.ca, or call toll-free by first dialing 310-0000, then 780-427-2225. Should municipalities require support to mediate discussions with school boards, please email municipalcollaboration@gov.ab.ca, or call the number above for more information.

Sincerely,

Ric McIver
Minister

Attachment: Ministerial Order No. MSD:004/25

cc: Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister of Education



ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

MINISTERIAL ORDER NO. MSD:004/25

I, Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs, pursuant to Section 605(2) of the *Municipal Government Act*, make the following order:

The date by which a municipality must enter into a joint use and planning agreement with a school board, as required by Section 670.1(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*, is extended to June 10, 2026.

Ministerial Order No. MSD:013/23 is hereby rescinded.

Dated at Edmonton, Alberta, this 29 day of January, 2025.

Ric McIver
Minister of Municipal Affairs



ALBERTA

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Minister

MLA, Calgary-Hays

AR118277

February 26, 2025

Dear Chief Elected Officials/Associations/Library Boards/Regional Services
Commissions/Municipally Controlled Corporations:

In May 2024, our government passed the *Provincial Priorities Act* to establish a process for provincial oversight of agreements between provincial entities and the federal government. The *Act* will come into force on April 1, 2025, and will ensure Ottawa is not undermining the province's jurisdiction to make decisions about what is best for Alberta and Albertans. Under the *Act*, provincial entities, such as municipalities, are required to obtain prior approval from the Alberta government before entering into, amending, or renewing an agreement with the federal government.

Throughout last summer, Alberta's government led a comprehensive stakeholder engagement with provincial entities to inform the supporting regulations. The Provincial Priorities Regulation (attached), which also comes into force on April 1, 2025, designates additional municipal entities that are subject to the *Act*. These entities include library boards, regional services commissions, municipally controlled corporations, and any entity that is established by bylaw, with the exception of business improvement areas. In addition, the regulation sets out the approval process for proposed intergovernmental agreements and includes some exceptions for the municipal sector where no provincial approvals will be needed. Examples of these exceptions include agreements under \$100,000, agreements that are in-kind contributions only, agreements with the Canadian Armed Forces, and agreements for disaster response and assistance; these will not require provincial approval.

Effective April 1, 2025, municipalities and municipal entities will be required to submit information on all new agreements with the federal government, agreement amendments and agreement renewals, along with a copy of the agreement, to Municipal Affairs, regardless of the monetary value of the agreement. Information on agreements eligible for an exception must also be submitted to Municipal Affairs in order for the exception to apply. Additional details on the process for submitting required information on federal agreements to Municipal Affairs will be shared in March.

I am looking forward to working together with you to ensure Alberta municipalities maintain access to federal dollars while protecting areas of provincial jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Ric McIver
Minister

cc: Chief Administrative Officers



Province of Alberta
Order in Council

O.C. 041/2025

FEB 26 2025

ORDER IN COUNCIL

Approved and ordered:

Shakharu

Lieutenant Governor
or
Administrator

The Lieutenant Governor in Council makes the Provincial Priorities
Regulation set out in the attached Appendix.

FILED UNDER

THE REGULATIONS ACT

as ALBERTA REGULATION 21/2025

ON February 26 2025

Carl

REGISTRAR OF REGULATIONS

CHAIR

[Signature]

For Information only

Recommended by: President of Executive Council

Authority: Provincial Priorities Act
(section 4)

APPENDIX
Provincial Priorities Act
PROVINCIAL PRIORITIES REGULATION

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Designation of provincial entities

- 1 The following entities are designated as provincial entities for
the purposes of the Act:

- (a) an intermunicipal library board as defined in the *Libraries Act*;
- (b) a municipal library board as defined in the *Libraries Act*;
- (c) a controlled corporation as defined in section 75.1 of the *Municipal Government Act* and the controlled corporation's board;

- (d) a growth management board as defined in the *Municipal Government Act*;
- (e) a regional services commission as defined in the *Municipal Government Act*;
- (f) an entity created by a municipal bylaw, except a business improvement area within the meaning of the *Municipal Government Act* and the business improvement area's board;
- (g) an entity that is a party to an agreement in which the entity has agreed to operate and administer real property assets of the Alberta Social Housing Corporation;
- (h) Calgary Homeless Foundation;
- (i) Homeward Trust Edmonton.

Approvals

Approval by responsible Minister

2(1) Subject to the exceptions set out in this Regulation, a provincial entity may only enter into, amend, extend or renew an intergovernmental agreement after obtaining the prior approval of the Minister responsible for the provincial entity.

(2) For the purposes of this Regulation,

- (a) the Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Minister responsible for the *Post-secondary Learning Act* is responsible for a public post-secondary institution as defined in the *Post-secondary Learning Act*,
- (b) the Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Minister responsible for the *Education Act* is responsible for a board as defined in the *Education Act*,
- (c) the Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Minister responsible for the *Provincial Health Agencies Act* is responsible for

- (i) a regional health authority, and any subsidiary health corporation of the regional health authority, under the *Provincial Health Agencies Act*, and
 - (ii) Covenant Health and any subsidiary of Covenant Health,
- (d) the sector Minister responsible for a health services sector under the *Provincial Health Agencies Act* is responsible for a provincial health agency established for that health services sector, and any subsidiary health corporation of that provincial health agency, under the *Provincial Health Agencies Act*,
- (e) the Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Minister responsible for the *Libraries Act* is responsible for
- (i) an intermunicipal library board as defined in the *Libraries Act*, and
 - (ii) a municipal library board as defined in the *Libraries Act*,
- (f) the Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Minister responsible for the *Municipal Government Act* is responsible for
- (i) a municipal authority as defined in the *Municipal Government Act*,
 - (ii) a controlled corporation as defined in section 75.1 of the *Municipal Government Act* and the controlled corporation's board,
 - (iii) a growth management board as defined in the *Municipal Government Act*,
 - (iv) a regional services commission as defined in the *Municipal Government Act*, and
 - (v) an entity created by a municipal bylaw, except a business improvement area within the meaning of the *Municipal Government Act* and the business improvement area's board,

and

- (g) the Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Minister responsible for the *Alberta Housing Act* is responsible for
 - (i) a management body as defined in the *Alberta Housing Act*,
 - (ii) an entity that is a party to an agreement in which the entity has agreed to operate and administer real property assets of the Alberta Social Housing Corporation,
 - (iii) Calgary Homeless Foundation, and
 - (iv) Homeward Trust Edmonton.

(3) The President of the Executive Council may approve a provincial entity to enter into, amend, extend or renew an intergovernmental agreement if no other Minister is responsible for the provincial entity.

Authority to approve municipal agreements

3(1) Despite anything to the contrary in section 2(2)(f), the Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Minister responsible for the *Municipal Government Act* may designate another Minister as the Minister responsible for a provincial entity referred to in section 2(2)(f) in relation to an agreement or a class of agreements if the Ministers agree that the subject-matter of the agreement or class of agreements relates to a matter under that other Minister's administration.

(2) Despite anything to the contrary in section 4(1), a provincial entity referred to in section 2(2)(f) shall submit a proposed agreement, amendment, extension or renewal in accordance with the directions of the Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Minister responsible for the *Municipal Government Act* despite that Minister designating another Minister as the Minister responsible for the provincial entity under subsection (1).

Approval of agreements

4(1) To obtain approval to enter into, amend, extend or renew an intergovernmental agreement, a provincial entity must submit the proposed agreement, amendment, extension or renewal in accordance with the directions of the Minister responsible for the provincial entity.

(2) The Minister responsible for the provincial entity must assess the proposed agreement, amendment, extension or renewal by considering the following factors prior to approving a provincial entity to enter into, amend, extend or renew the agreement:

- (a) whether the agreement aligns with the priorities of the Government of Alberta;
- (b) whether the agreement
 - (i) intrudes into an area of provincial legislative jurisdiction under the Constitution of Canada,
 - (ii) affects or interferes with an area of provincial legislative jurisdiction under the Constitution of Canada, or
 - (iii) imposes conditions that would restrict the Government of Alberta in an unacceptable manner from establishing and implementing policies and programs in an area of provincial jurisdiction;
- (c) whether the agreement aligns with the Government of Alberta's long-term fiscal plan.

(3) Subject to subsections (4) to (6), after assessing the proposed agreement, amendment, extension or renewal by considering the factors described in subsection (2), the Minister may

- (a) approve a provincial entity to enter into the agreement, amendment, extension or renewal, subject to any terms or conditions the Minister considers appropriate, or
- (b) decline to approve the provincial entity to enter into the agreement, amendment, extension or renewal.

(4) A Minister must receive the approval of the Executive Council prior to approving a provincial entity to

- (a) enter into an intergovernmental agreement in which a federal entity is agreeing to provide a provincial entity with \$5 million or more in funding, excluding any in-kind contributions, or
- (b) amend, extend or renew an intergovernmental agreement if the amendment, extension or renewal would result in \$5 million or more in additional funding, excluding any in-kind contributions, being provided by a federal entity to a provincial entity under the agreement.

(5) A Minister must receive the approval of the Executive Council prior to approving a provincial entity to enter into, amend, extend or renew an intergovernmental agreement if, in the Minister's opinion, the agreement

- (a) intrudes into an area of provincial legislative jurisdiction under the Constitution of Canada,
- (b) affects or interferes with an area of provincial legislative jurisdiction under the Constitution of Canada, or
- (c) imposes conditions that would restrict the Government of Alberta in an unacceptable manner from establishing and implementing policies and programs in an area of provincial jurisdiction.

(6) A Minister must receive the approval of the Executive Council prior to approving a provincial entity to amend an intergovernmental agreement in a material way if subsection (4) or (5) applies or applied to the agreement.

(7) If a Minister approves a provincial entity to enter into, amend, extend or renew an intergovernmental agreement, the Minister must provide written notice to the provincial entity, including written notice of any terms or conditions that apply to the Minister's approval.

(8) If a Minister declines to approve a provincial entity to enter into, amend, extend or renew an agreement, the Minister must provide written notice to the provincial entity.

**Funding applications by management
bodies and similar entities**

5(1) Subject to subsection (2), a management body as defined in the *Alberta Housing Act* or an entity described in section 1(g) must notify the Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Minister responsible for the *Alberta Housing Act* of any intent of the management body or entity to apply for funding from a federal entity when the body or entity submits its annual business plan to the Minister in accordance with the *Management Body Operation and Administration Regulation* (AR 243/94) or the terms of an operating agreement.

(2) Where it is not possible to comply with subsection (1) without foregoing the opportunity to apply for funding from a federal entity, a management body as defined in the *Alberta Housing Act* or an entity described in section 1(g) must notify the Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Minister responsible for the *Alberta Housing Act* of the intent of the management body or entity to apply for funding from a federal entity at least 60 days before submitting the application for funding from the federal entity.

(3) Calgary Homeless Foundation and Homeward Trust Edmonton must notify the Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Minister responsible for the *Alberta Housing Act* of the intent of Calgary Homeless Foundation or Homeward Trust Edmonton to apply for funding from a federal entity at least 60 days before submitting the application for funding from the federal entity.

(4) The Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Minister responsible for the *Alberta Housing Act*, within 30 days of being notified of an intent to apply for funding, must conduct a preliminary assessment of the proposed application and must advise the provincial entity whether the Minister

- (a) has concerns with the proposed application, including the nature of those concerns, and
- (b) is likely, based on the preliminary assessment, to approve the provincial entity to enter into an agreement, or the amendment, extension or renewal of an agreement, that would result from the provincial entity's application for

funding from a federal entity being approved by a federal entity.

(5) The Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Minister responsible for the *Alberta Housing Act* must consider whether notice required by this section has been provided when deciding whether to approve a provincial entity to enter into, amend, extend or renew an intergovernmental agreement.

Exceptions

Exceptions re funding amounts

6(1) If, under an intergovernmental agreement, a federal entity

- (a) would not provide any funding to a provincial entity or would only provide in-kind contributions, or
- (b) would provide less than \$100 000 in funding, excluding any in-kind contributions, to a provincial entity,

and the provincial entity has provided or agreed to provide the Minister responsible for the provincial entity with any information specified by the Minister, including a copy of the agreement, in the time and manner specified by the Minister, the provincial entity is not required to obtain the Minister's approval before entering into, amending, extending or renewing that agreement unless an amendment, extension or renewal of the agreement would result in the provincial entity receiving a total of \$100 000 or more in funding, excluding any in-kind contributions, from the federal entity under the agreement as amended, extended or renewed.

(2) If an intergovernmental agreement relates to the construction, maintenance or development of housing accommodations, then a provincial entity is not required to obtain approval before entering into, amending, extending or renewing that agreement if the federal entity is providing the provincial entity \$250 000 or less in funding, excluding any in-kind contributions, under the agreement initially entered into, or as amended, extended or renewed.

(3) This section does not apply to Calgary Homeless Foundation or Homeward Trust Edmonton.

Exceptions re amendments, extensions and renewals

7(1) If a provincial entity has been approved to enter into an agreement under this Regulation, the provincial entity is not required to obtain prior approval to amend, extend or renew that agreement if the provincial entity has provided or agreed to provide the Minister responsible for the provincial entity with any information specified by the Minister, including a copy of the agreement, in the time and manner specified by the Minister and any of the following circumstances apply:

- (a) the agreement includes a provision requiring a project to start or end by a certain date and the amendment, extension or renewal is for the purpose of allowing the project to start or end by a date that is no more than one year different from the start or end date that is in the agreement;
- (b) the agreement includes a provision establishing the length of a project and the amendment, extension or renewal is for the purpose of allowing the project to be extended by one year or less;
- (c) the amendment, extension or renewal provides additional federal funding, excluding any in-kind contributions, to a provincial entity that is
 - (i) less than \$100 000, and
 - (ii) less than 10% of the federal funding being provided under the agreement that the Minister approved;
- (d) the proposed amendment, extension or renewal of an agreement would make or result in minor administrative changes.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to Calgary Homeless Foundation or Homeward Trust Edmonton.

Exceptions for public post-secondary institutions

8(1) For the purposes of this section,

- (a) “fee-for-service agreement” means an agreement in which a particular set of services is provided in exchange for a set fee, and

- (b) “research” means an undertaking directed to the discovery, extension or application of knowledge through a disciplined inquiry or systematic investigation.

(2) If a public post-secondary institution as defined in the *Post-secondary Learning Act* has provided or agreed to provide the Minister responsible for the *Post-secondary Learning Act* with any information specified by the Minister in respect of an agreement with a federal entity, including a copy of the agreement, in the time and manner specified by the Minister, the public post-secondary institution is not required to obtain prior approval to enter into, amend, extend or renew that agreement with a federal entity if

- (a) the agreement pertains to research, unless greater than 50% of the total funding being provided under the agreement, excluding any in-kind contributions, is capital funding for the development of research facilities,
- (b) greater than 50% of the total funding being provided under the agreement pertains to the following matters:
 - (i) the delivery of an apprenticeship education program as defined in the *Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act*;
 - (ii) the delivery of a program of study as defined in the *Post-secondary Learning Act*;
 - (iii) the delivery of a foundational learning program as defined in the *Programs of Study Regulation* (AR 91/2009);
 - (iv) the delivery of work placement experiences, including mentorship programs, cooperative placements, practicums and internships, for students as defined in the *Post-secondary Learning Act*, including the provision of wage subsidies;
 - (v) the delivery of language instruction that enables individuals to develop basic language proficiency in one of the official languages of Canada;
 - (vi) the delivery of a continuing education program;
 - (vii) a conference, symposium or other non-instructional event,

or

- (c) the public post-secondary institution is entering into, amending, extending or renewing an agreement in which the public post-secondary institution is
 - (i) a party to a fee-for-service agreement, or
 - (ii) providing space to a federal entity through a lease or short-term rental, the term of which does not exceed 2 months.

Exception for Banff Centre

9 If Banff Centre as defined in the *Post-secondary Learning Act* has provided or agreed to provide the Minister responsible for the *Post-secondary Learning Act* with any information specified by the Minister in respect of an agreement with a federal entity, including a copy of the agreement, in the time and manner specified by the Minister, Banff Centre is not required to obtain prior approval to enter into, amend, extend or renew that agreement with a federal entity.

Exceptions for school boards

10 If a board as defined in the *Education Act* has provided or agreed to provide the Minister responsible for the *Education Act* with any information specified by the Minister in respect of an agreement with a federal entity, including a copy of the agreement, in the time and manner specified by the Minister, the board is not required to obtain prior approval to enter into, amend, extend or renew that agreement with a federal entity in either of the following circumstances:

- (a) the agreement provides for federal funding under Jordan's Principle;
- (b) the agreement provides for federal funding as part of an education services agreement under section 63 of the *Education Act*.

Exceptions for Banff, Jasper and Lloydminster

11 If the Municipality of Jasper, the Town of Banff or the City of Lloydminster have provided or agreed to provide the Minister responsible for the *Municipal Government Act* with any

information specified by the Minister in respect of an agreement with a federal entity, including a copy of the agreement, in the time and manner specified by the Minister, the Municipality, Town or City, as the case may be, is not required to obtain prior approval to enter into, amend, extend or renew that agreement with a federal entity.

Exception for controlled corporations

12 If a controlled corporation as defined in section 75.1 of the *Municipal Government Act* or the controlled corporation's board has provided or agreed to provide the Minister responsible for the *Municipal Government Act* with any information specified by the Minister in respect of an agreement with a federal entity, including a copy of the agreement, in the time and manner specified by the Minister, the controlled corporation or the controlled corporation's board, as the case may be, is not required to obtain prior approval to enter into, amend, extend or renew that agreement with a federal entity.

Exception for municipal agreements with Canadian Armed Forces

13 If a municipal authority has provided or agreed to provide the Minister responsible for the *Municipal Government Act* with any information specified by the Minister in respect of an agreement with the Canadian Armed Forces, including a copy of the agreement, in the time and manner specified by the Minister, the municipal authority is not required to obtain prior approval to enter into, amend, extend or renew that agreement with the Canadian Armed Forces.

Exceptions during emergencies and disasters

14 If a municipal authority has provided or agreed to provide the Minister responsible for the *Municipal Government Act* with any information specified by the Minister in respect of an agreement with a federal entity, including a copy of the agreement, in the time and manner specified by the Minister, the municipal authority is not required to obtain prior approval to enter into, amend, extend or renew that agreement with a federal entity if the agreement is for the purpose of responding to a disaster or emergency as those terms are defined in the *Emergency Management Act*.

**Exception for mortgage agreements with Canada
Mortgage and Housing Corporation**

15 If a management body as defined in the *Alberta Housing Act* or an entity described in section 1(g) has provided or agreed to provide the Minister responsible for the *Alberta Housing Act* with any information specified by the Minister in respect of a mortgage agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, including a copy of the agreement, in the time and manner specified by the Minister, the management body or entity is not required to obtain prior approval to enter into, amend, extend or renew that mortgage agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

**Exception for entities that operate and administer
Alberta Social Housing Corporation assets**

16 If an entity described in section 1(g) has provided or agreed to provide the Minister responsible for the *Alberta Housing Act* with any information specified by the Minister in respect of an agreement with a federal entity, including a copy of the agreement, in the time and manner specified by the Minister, the entity is not required to obtain prior approval to enter into, amend, extend or renew that agreement with a federal entity if that agreement does not relate to the operation or administration of real property assets of the Alberta Social Housing Corporation.

Agreements to provide information

17 For the purposes of this Regulation, an agreement to provide a Minister with information may relate to a particular intergovernmental agreement or to a class of intergovernmental agreements.

Coming into Force

Coming into force

18 This Regulation comes into force on the coming into force of the *Provincial Priorities Act*.



ALBERTA

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

AR117795

February 27, 2025

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

I am writing to share information with you about *Budget 2025*, tabled in the Alberta Legislature by my colleague, the Honourable Nate Horner, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance. Below are some details relevant to Alberta Municipal Affairs.

Budget 2025 is meeting the challenges facing Alberta with responsible decisions to fund today's priorities, investing more than \$1 billion to build stronger communities provincewide. Through these investments, my ministry will continue to support local governments in providing fiscally responsible, collaborative, and accountable services to Albertans.

Last year, Municipal Affairs introduced the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF), delivering predictable capital infrastructure funding to municipalities and Metis Settlements across Alberta. The LGFF represents years of collaboration between the province and local governments, replacing the Municipal Sustainability Initiative with a modern and predictable model.

LGFF funding allocations for the 2025/26 fiscal year have been known to communities for several months. Thanks to the LGFF's revenue index factor, which ties the funding level to provincial revenue from three years prior, *Budget 2025* increases LGFF capital funding by more than 13 per cent, from \$722 million to \$820 million. This increase will help your communities achieve their local infrastructure priorities. *Budget 2025* also maintains LGFF Operating funding at \$60 million to assist with operational costs and help respond to inflationary pressures. This grant was doubled in 2023 to reflect lost municipal revenue through the Grants in Place of Taxes program.

Budget 2025 also increases funding for the Grants in Place of Taxes program (GIPOT). Over the last few years, we heard loud and clear from municipalities that have provincially run buildings within their boundaries about the need for stronger recognition of the impact provincial properties have on municipal services. Starting in the 2025/26 fiscal year, GIPOT will be paid to municipalities at 75 per cent of the property tax amount that would be owed if the properties were subject to municipal taxation. Next year, in 2026/27, GIPOT will be fully restored to 100 per cent.

.../2

In light of these increases, the Local Growth and Sustainability Grant (LGSG) program will not continue. Introduced in *Budget 2024*, this three-year, \$60-million grant program aimed to alleviate pressures in fast-growing communities. We received numerous applications from municipalities for the initial \$20 million in LGSG funding allocated in 2024. Those funds will still be distributed, with successful applicants notified by the end of March 2025. However, after careful consideration, our government made the difficult decision to discontinue the LGSG program for *Budget 2025* and focus the investment of taxpayer dollars into other areas, including a comprehensive capital plan to enhance public infrastructure.

As in previous years, *Budget 2025* includes capital support through the federal Canada Community-Building Fund and Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. We are also maintaining funding levels for public libraries, with more than \$33 million going toward operating grants across the province.

Budget 2025 is meeting the challenge of the cost of living by helping families keep more money in their pockets through lower personal income taxes and continuing investments in education and health care. Our municipal partners are integral to our work. As we face global uncertainties, I look forward to working together over the next year as we continue to build strong, vibrant, and sustainable communities that help keep our province the best place in Canada to live, work, and raise a family.

Sincerely,



Ric McIver
Minister

From: [Harvey, Colin \(AltaLink\)](#)
Subject: AltaLink's PSPS Advertising Campaign
Date: February 28, 2025 2:29:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[AltaLink Wildfire Handout.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Municipal Stakeholder,

I am contacting you today to make you aware of AltaLink's upcoming media advertising campaign.

As wildfires increase in frequency and intensity throughout Alberta, protecting your community while providing safe, reliable power, is our highest priority. While according to Alberta Wildfire, fewer than 10% of the total wildfires in Alberta over the couple of years were started by electricity infrastructure, AltaLink is committed to reducing the likelihood that its infrastructure may contribute to the ignition of a catastrophic wildfire.

AltaLink has had a wildfire mitigation plan in place since 2019, which includes a last-resort safety measure called a **Public Safety Power Shutoff**. During extreme and dangerous weather conditions when a catastrophic fire could easily ignite and quickly spread, AltaLink may proactively shut off the power to our impacted transmission lines until conditions are safe to turn it back on.

Starting in early March, we are launching an advertising campaign in your area that will continue through October to help get the message out. This campaign includes a rotation of digital advertising (social media and website ads), print advertising (newspapers, billboards and direct mail) and radio spots.

The campaign objectives include:

- Increase public awareness of the potential for a Public Safety Power Shutoff as a last-resort safety measure
- Encourage emergency preparedness
- Direct people to AltaLink's website and social media platforms for more information and real-time information updates

Attached you will find a handout (see "AltaLink Wildfire Handout") that includes the information that will be shared in the campaign. Please feel free to share this.

Further information is also available on AltaLink's website at <https://www.altalink.ca/safety-and-preparedness/wildfire-safety/>.

REQUEST – To better keep our municipal stakeholders up to date during wildfire season, AltaLink will be sending a weekly PSPS Situational Awareness email. This email is to inform stakeholders of the current weather situation from a PSPS standpoint and if AltaLink is tracking (or not tracking) towards a PSPS. Please let me know if your municipality would like to be included on the distribution list. If so, please include the emails for the individuals who should be on the distribution list.

REQUEST – If your municipality has a communications lead, AltaLink Communications department would like the opportunity to connect with that individual. If you could please provide their contact information that would be appreciated. AltaLink's communication lead is Amanda Sadleir, Manager of Corporate Communications and she can be contacted at Amanda.sadleir@altalink.ca.

In the meantime, I would be happy to answer questions about AltaLink's Wildfire Mitigation Program including our Public Safety Power Shutoff protocol. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Colin Harvey, RPF

Municipal and Community Relations Manager

P: (403) 267-2113

C: (403) 861-4629

E: colin.harvey@altalink.ca

AltaLink

2611 – 3rd Avenue SE

Calgary, Alberta, T2A 7W7

www.altalink.ca



This e-mail message contains confidential information. The contents of this message are the property of AltaLink Management Ltd. the general partner of AltaLink, L.P. If you have received this e-mail in error, please return it to the sender and delete the message immediately.

STAYING SAFE IN WILDFIRE SEASON.

**ARE YOU PREPARED
FOR AN EMERGENCY?**

With wildfires becoming more frequent and intense, AltaLink's highest priority is protecting your community while providing safe, reliable power.

WILDFIRE SAFETY



AltaLink's fire prevention measures

- + Enhanced vegetation clearing around power lines
- + Increased inspections
- + Strengthening our system
- + Expanding preparedness



Public Safety Power Shutoff

- + Last resort safety measure
- + Extreme and dangerous weather conditions
- + Power may be shut off until conditions are safe
- + Advance notice and regular updates provided when possible



How you can prepare

- + Create an emergency plan and kit with supplies to last at least 72 hours
- + Plan for any medical needs
- + Ensure your local retailer has your updated contact information to receive alerts

Learn more about what AltaLink is doing and how you can prepare at

altalink.ca/wildfiresafety

Follow us on social media for regular updates.



From: Doug Sutherland <cosmodoodle2016@gmail.com>
Sent: March 2, 2025 4:43 PM
To: cao@milkriver.ca; liebelt@milkriver.ca
Cc: degenstein@milkriver.ca; johnson@milkriver.ca; losey@milkriver.ca; michaelis@milkriver.ca
Subject: BACK ALLEY 2025

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To CAO-Kelley Lloyd, the Mayor and Town Council of Milk River

We are writing to see if the issue of our back alley is going to be addressed in 2025? We had previously written to see if a portion of the alley could have been incorporated into our back yard back in 2021 which was turned down. We now asking when will the alley be graded to a final grade from 8th Avenue to our north to 7th Avenue? We have on at least two other occasions asked the CAO if the alley was on the agenda to be completed and the answer was a no. As we would like to continue work on the rest of our yard but are waiting to see where the final grade will be for drainage etc. We will also support any of our neighbours who may be writing regarding the issue of the back alley as well.

Thank you
Doug and Trudi Sutherland

Sent from Mail for Windows

Dear Town Council

RECEIVED
FEB 1 2025

I am a very concerned person living in the community of Milk River.

There are some issues with the management that I feel need to be addressed. This lady is a manager at multiple places in Milk River. She is the manager of the Prairie Rose Lodge, low-income housing units, as well as senior housing, (Milk River, Warner, and Coutts).

1. She has hired multiple people for maintenance for these places and days or the day of their three-month probation being up she lets them go and hires another.
2. A friend of mine who is a tenant in one of her units has asked to have her toilet fixed. To make this long story short, the management does nothing about it and she has had to fix the leaking toilet herself. Another issue is she had an electrical problem AGAIN Management did nothing about it and she had to pay an electrician to come in and fix it herself. Rent is paid to management she collects the cheque and does not clear them for months after. As a person on a fixed budget, there's a conflict there because not everyone has sufficient funds. They live month-to-month paycheque to paycheck.

Obviously, there's something wrong with this picture that management is the issue, not the people they hire especially when it's continuously happening. SOMETHING needs to be done! People want to complain to the town council but this manager has friends on the board. Nothing would be done.

Another example is a lady who has complained to Town Hall about the manager issues and because of this, she has been giving notice that she will be kicked out of her lodging. She has lived there for almost 20 years. The manager threatened her that she would be kicked out and would have nowhere to go. It must be taken into consideration this lady's age if kicked out where would she go?

The time has come that something needs to be done about this management. I am afraid for the tenants of these places.

Please listen to the people and do something about these matters. We are a small community and should keep our people here. This means keeping the workers here in the community so they don't have to take their families and move and help these people young or old with things they need done to keep them safe!

Thanks for your time,

A concerned resident of the community.



REPORT TO MUNICIPALITIES

FAMILY SERVICES 2024



Introduction

The Family Services team provides timely, relevant and evidence-informed services to children, youth and families, the purpose for which are as follows:

PARENT EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT

To improve the knowledge and confidence of parents/caregivers, thereby building resiliency, healthy families, and improved child and adolescent development.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

To provide caregivers and children opportunities to attend together, learn new skills through play, meet other families and get connected to resources in their community.

FAMILY PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

To promote social well-being and create a sense of community amongst residents thereby increasing the visibility of FCSS and FCSS services.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

To provide resources, expand individual coping strategies, and create safe spaces for youth to develop their skills for adulthood.

Throughout 2024, the Family Services department prioritized the following goals and sub-goals to align with the 2023 Strategic Plan.

GOAL 1: Timely and Relevant Direct Service Delivery

- 1.1 Addressing Social Isolation
- 1.2 Life Skills and Personal Development
- 1.3 Collaborative Youth Programming

GOAL 2: Enhance Community Spirit

- 2.1 Community Awareness and Engagement
- 2.2 Volunteering
- 2.3 Cultural Programming

GOAL 3: Entry Point for supports

- 3.1 Information and Referral
- 3.2 Community Capacity Building

GOAL 4: Capture Impact

- 4.1 Information study and research



► FAMILY SERVICES AT A GLANCE

REGISTERED SERVICES

2,034 CLIENTS

987 NEW CLIENTS

23,795 SERVICE HOURS

14,128 SERVICE VISITS

* Benchmark Data

Clients **1,736**

New Clients **996**

Service Hours **19,480**

Service Visits **12,426**



NON-REGISTERED SERVICES

1,146 SERVICE HOURS

1,223 SERVICE VISITS

Non-Registered services includes: Events, Presentations, and Entry point supports.

KEY:

Client: A resident who is registered with BEW FCSS.

New Client: A resident who registered for the first time between January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.

Registered Service: Registration and demographic information is collected.

Non-Registered Service: No registration or demographic information is collected.

Service Hours: Number of service hours received by clients.

Service Visits: Number of times clients received services.

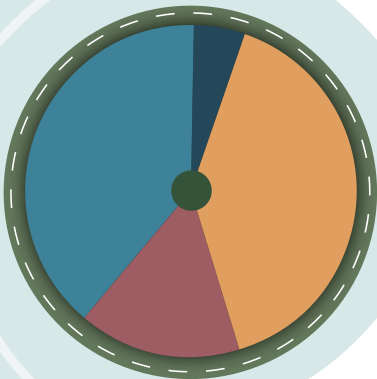
**Data used in this report was collected between January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024. Benchmarks were established based on the first four years of data collected using the Outcome Tracker Data Management System.*



► HOW WE SERVE

93.84% IN PERSON

► WHO WE SERVE

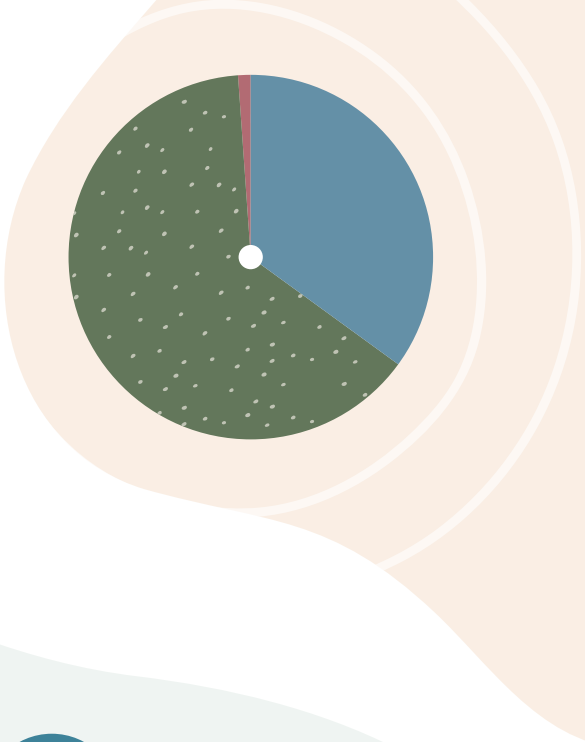


AGES:

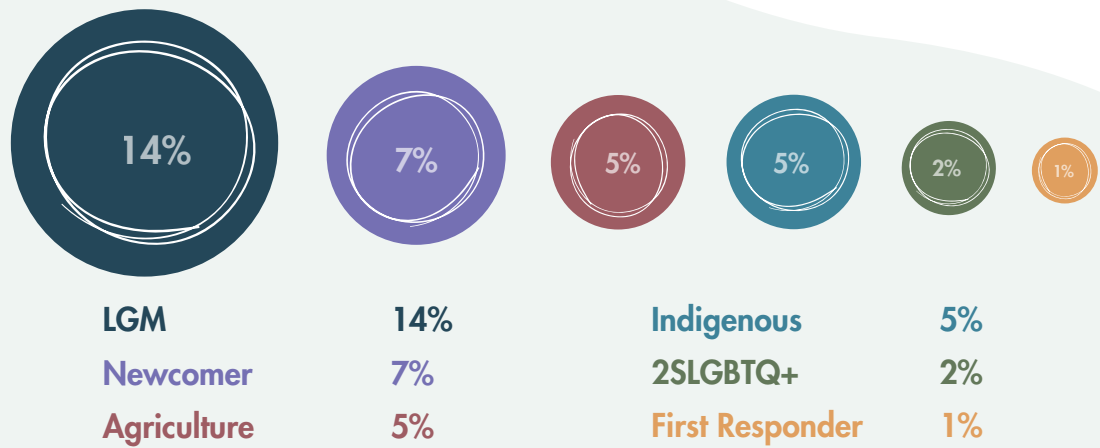
Children (0-5)	40%
Youth (6-17)	16%
Adult (18-54)	39%
Seniors (55+)	5%

GENDER:

Females	64%
Males	35%
Non-binary or Transgender	1%



CLIENT SELF IDENTIFY AS:



Goal 1

Timely and Relevant Direct Service Delivery

Deliver accessible and evidence-informed services to meet community needs throughout the lifecycle of residents.

Goal 1.1

► ADDRESSING SOCIAL ISOLATION

It takes a village to raise a child! Research shows that constructive and supportive social connections help parents build protective factors from stressors and support nurturing parenting behaviors that promote secure attachments in young children. The Family Services Team offers many different programs to enhance social connection and build natural supports for all members of the family.

“This program and others provided by FCSS enrich our lives and improve my mental health. Wonderful and valuable resources for mothers and our community! thank you!”

– Parent

17,806

SERVICE HOURS

9,712

SERVICE VISITS



Goal 1.2

► LIFE SKILLS AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

PARENT EDUCATION

Group Programs

Parent Education programs are designed to increase the knowledge and confidence of parents/caregivers, thereby building resiliency, healthy families, and improved child and adolescent development.



Caregiver Café

2,500 SERVICE HOURS

1,593 SERVICE VISITS

“ I loved the caregiver cafe! The group sessions have helped me feel reassured, loved, validated, and made me feel like I’ve contributed to the love in this community. ”

– Parent

ASQ – Developmental Check-ups

Ages and Stages Questionnaires is a developmental check-up tool for parents to complete, to ensure their child is developing typically. It is a great tool to know what activities to try next to support a child’s development and to assess whether additional support or specialized services are needed.

131 SCREENINGS COMPLETED

16 REFERRALS TO SPECIALIZED SERVICES TO ADDRESS DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS

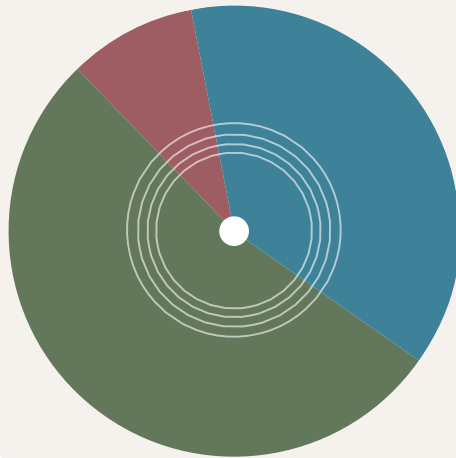


One-on-One Triple P and Stepping Stones

The purpose of these sessions is to help families increase positive parenting skills, gain knowledge of child development, increase protective factors and build familial resilience. This is done by first helping the family to identify parenting strengths and challenges, set goals for positive change, and lastly develop a parenting/family plan where new skills and strategies are introduced and practiced.

913 SERVICE HOURS

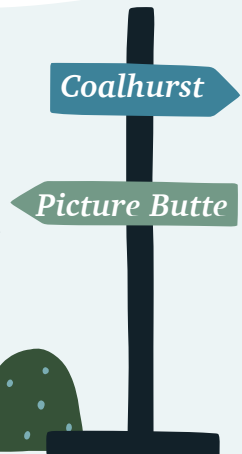
1,165 SERVICE VISITS



38% Online
53% In-Person
9% Phone

DID YOU KNOW:

- To accommodate working parents, Family Support Workers provide services on average 2 evenings a week.
- To decrease barriers for parents attending programs, the Family Services team provided Childcare 266 times for a total of 412 hours.



Goal 1.3

► COLLABORATIVE YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Youth programs are designed to provide a safe and inclusive environment for youth where they can make social connections and learn new skills. Collaborating with Local Schools, Libraries and Eagle Spirit Nest Community Association the team offered the following programs:

- Do Crew Jr
- Rainbows
- Lego Club
- Indigenous Arts & Culture
- After School programs
- Kaleidoscope

1,445 SERVICE HOURS

1,000 SERVICE VISITS



Do Crew Jr Program



Goal 2

Enhance Community Spirit

Recognize the uniqueness of each municipality with an inclusive approach.

Goal 2.1

► COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

The Family Services Team participated in **92** Community Events in 2024.

- Back to school events
- Little Santa's
- Heritage Days
- Clothing Fests
- Multicultural Festival
- Library Events

The Family Services Team provided **55** presentations to local agencies, community groups and residents.



Goal 2.2

► VOLUNTEERING

This year the Family Services team hosted **5** Practicum Students. We hosted 4 students from the Lethbridge Polytechnic, Child and Youth Care program, and one student from the Medicine Hat College, Social Work Diploma program.

1,130 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Jaycie



Lexi



Amanda



Ruth



Nelly



MEDICINE HAT
COLLEGE



LETHBRIDGE
POLYTECHNIC



Goal 2.3

► CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

The Indigenous and Newcomer Teams provide culturally relevant services to indigenous and newcomer families, including the LGM community. Supports and services are provided with a respectful, holistic and collaborative approach. Families receive support with basic needs, including navigating the system of natural and community supports, building parental resiliency by focusing on the family unit and fostering familial wellness. This includes one-on-one support as well as group programming. Services are client driven, strength-based and evidence informed.

719 SERVICE HOURS

392 SERVICE VISITS

NEW FAMILY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



Ribbon Skirt sewing event



Nobleford

Barons

Goal 3

Entry Point for Supports

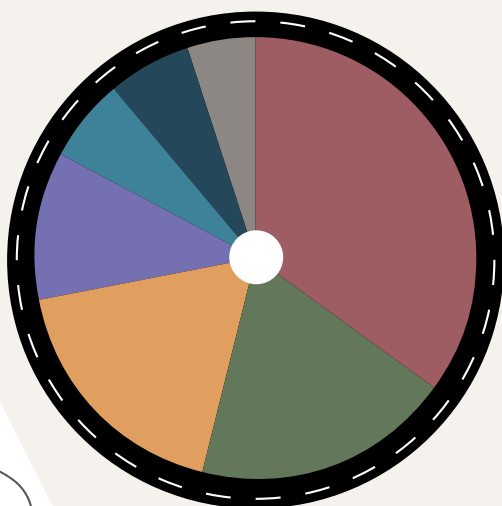
Connect residents to supports at the earliest opportunity through a person-centred approach.

Goal 3.1

► INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

ACTION - Serve as an entry point for residents.

The Family Services Team provided **797** Entry Point Supports.



- 35% Referrals
- 19% Resources Provided
- 17% System Navigation
- 12% Advocacy
- 6% Translation Support
- 6% Documentation
- 5% Delivery/Food

Hola



Goal 3.2

► CAPACITY BUILDING

The Family Services Team connects and partners with local organizations to promote FCSS, create additional opportunities for residents to access support, and ensure that there is no duplication of services.

Partnerships that the team collaborates with day to day:

- Local School Districts
- Safe Haven
- Parents As Teachers
- Interfaith Food Bank
- Victim Services
- Taber Adult Learning
- County of Lethbridge Community Learning Council
- Local Libraries
- Family Supports for Children with Disabilities
- Alberta Health Services
- Eagle Spirit Nest Community Association
- Southern Alberta Kanadier Association
- Mennonite Central Committee

Food Share Program - Interfaith Food Bank



Safe Haven - Family Violence Prevention Walk



Goal 4

Capture Impact

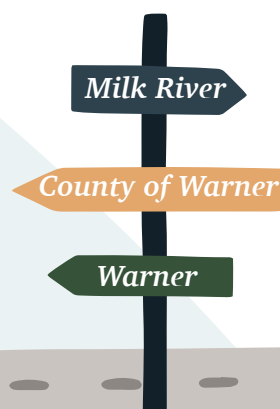
Measure the positive impact of programs and services.

Goal 4.1

► INFORMATION STUDY AND RESEARCH

ONE-ON-ONE PRE AND POST SURVEYS

	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
I am more aware of how my child's needs change and develop as they grow.	57%	75%
I have confidence in my parenting skills.	42%	68%
I have more information on what resources are available for my family.	64%	79%



GROUP PROGRAMMING SURVEYS

ADULT CLIENTS

95% OF PARTICIPANTS AGREE THEY ARE MORE AWARE OF HOW THEIR CHILD/TEEN NEEDS CHANGE AS THEY GROW AND DEVELOP, AS A RESULT OF FCSS PROGRAMS.

96% OF PARTICIPANTS AGREE THEY HAVE MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THEIR FAMILY, AS A RESULT OF FCSS PROGRAMS.

89% OF PARTICIPANTS AGREE THEY HAVE MET OTHER PARENTS THEY CAN ASK FOR HELP AND SUPPORT, AS A RESULT OF FCSS PROGRAMS.

YOUTH CLIENTS

93% OF YOUTH AGREE THAT THEY KNOW ADULTS THAT THEY CAN GO TO WHEN THEY NEED HELP, AS A RESULT OF FCSS'S YOUTH PROGRAMS.

89% OF YOUTH AGREE THAT THEY UNDERSTAND IT IS OKAY TO BE THEMSELVES, AS A RESULT OF FCSS'S YOUTH PROGRAMS.

Barnwell

Stirling

Raymond



CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

“I was beginning to dread spending an entire day with my 5-year-old daughter. When I woke up in the morning and realized that I was spending the day with her, I felt miserable. Since coming for individual Triple P sessions, I feel lighter about it now, I know it’s going to be fine. Since birth, for 5 years I was afraid for her to cry, now I know it’s okay because I cry sometimes too. This makes it easier for me to say, “no” to things I know I need to say no to. I understand that it’s important to allow her to have sad feelings. ” – Parent

“FCSS programming has been a blessing to our family over the first year of our daughters’ life. We have participated in Triple P Baby, Baby and Me, Baby Signing, Infant Massage, Precious Connections, Walk and Talk and Stay and Play. Each of these programs has positively influenced our parenting and given us many parenting strategies we have implemented daily. These programs have given us tools that support our mental well-being and our child’s development, we are so grateful to FCSS for their support while we navigated the first year of our daughter’s life. Getting to attend FCSS programming over the past year has greatly enriched our lives by providing us the opportunity to meet new parents. The parenting strategies we have learned has allowed us to build a secure relationship with our daughter and parent her with confidence! We appreciated the ASQ Developmental Check-Ups over the past year as we wanted to ensure that we were doing everything we could to assist our daughter in meeting her developmental milestones. We look forward to attending future FCSS programming! ” – Parent

“This program has given me confidence to say no to my child and still feel like I’m a good parent. Even my husband has noticed that I’m not yelling as much. Our marriage was actually getting a little rocky there for a while. I was so burnt out and it was nothing but yelling and toxicity with everyone in the house. Now there is peace, I actually feel some happiness and I now feel like I’m be able to breath. ” – Parent

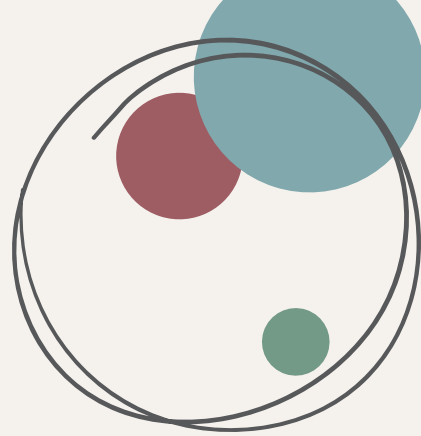
“I am so grateful for FCSS and the programs they offer. I have been having significant issues with my 8 year old daughter. She has been having huge emotional explosions. They were so overwhelming to the whole house. I was very worried about her mental health. Every day was so stressful as I was never sure what was going to set her off. She was negative about all aspects of her life. My heart was broken as I felt like such a failure not being able to help my daughter. My daughter was so angry about everything. We started and completed the Worry Dragons program. This was a great program. I wish it had gone longer. Being able to talk to other parents facing similar difficulties was very enlightening. For the first time I did not feel completely alone. My daughter also took the Rainbows program. I also signed up for the Triple P parenting program. Honestly, I am so overwhelmed with the positive support I have received from FCSS! I went from feeling hopeless to having resources to help me learn how to help and support my daughter and my daughter is getting tools for her mental health that will help her throughout her life. ” – Parent

“Meeting moms and making friends with the babies that my son is going to grow up with warms my heart beyond words. The sense of community has always been so important to me. ” – Parent

“Caregiver Café is sooo great for my mental well being. The ability to go to a space where my kids are able to play and engage safely but also know that this is a time I’m allowed and encouraged to sit and share experiences is invaluable. Learning how to manage and what to anticipate as my child grows is super helpful as well. ” – Parent

“Thank you so much for providing this service. I learned so much in each session and it sparked a light in me that I didn’t think would ever come back on. My children and I benefited greatly. ” – Parent





www.fcss.ca



Request for Decision

Housing Needs Assessment

March 10, 2025



RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the Housing Needs Assessment as information.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

BACKGROUND

In the 2024 operating budget, Council approved dollars to have Oldman River Regional Services Commission prepare a Housing Needs Assessment specific to the Town of Milk River.

RISK/CONSEQUENCES

1. Council may provide further direction on any item contained in the report. Council shall be specific in the direction it provides.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

\$1,500.00

ATTACHMENTS

1. Housing Needs Assessment

20
24

TOWN OF MILK RIVER

HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Table of Contents

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Executive Summary

The Town of Milk River performed a Housing Needs Assessment in partnership with the Oldman River Regional Services Commission. The final takeaways and recommendations of the assessment are as follows:

01

More affordable housing needed

17.2% of households are unaffordable, up from 16.0% in 2016

02

More smaller units needed

Data shows that smaller households are living in larger dwellings. For example, 1-bedroom units comprise 6% of total housing stock but 38% of households are one-person households

03

Population increase with development

Milk River has approximately 18 vacant lots available for residential development which if developed would increase the number of households as well as population

04

Up to 172 new dwellings needed

By 2041, Milk River could require an additional 172 new dwelling units if the Town experiences a high rate of growth with an average of 1.8 persons per dwelling

Introduction

The Town of Milk River partnered with the Oldman River Regional Services Commission to produce this assessment, which will be used to support the development of affordable and non-market housing in Milk River and contribute to provincial and federal grant applications.

Milk River is located in Southern Alberta, 20 kilometres north of the border to the United States at Coutts Port of Entry, and 86 kilometres south-east of the City of Lethbridge. The Town sits just off Highway 4 that runs from the border to Lethbridge. Milk River is considered the gateway to Alberta as it is the first town north of the U.S. border. The location of Milk River places it in close proximity to provincial parks and camping facilities. Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park and the Milk River itself have become popular destinations.

Data was collected from 1996 - 2021 Statistics Canada Community Profile reports (demographic and housing statistics) and the Alberta Regional Dashboard. These sources were analyzed to obtain information on key indicators, demographic profiles (population, households, income, etc.), housing profiles (housing type, size, etc.), projections, and housing need by number of bedrooms. Some total values may not match the sum of individual values due to a random rounding process by Statistics Canada to ensure confidentiality of responses collected. Some values are based on a 25% sample size due to the long-form questionnaire that was given to roughly 25% of households. Italicized terms are defined on page 21.

Engagement activities involved interviews and consultations with representatives from Ridge Country Housing (information on rent assistance programs and non-market housing supply for seniors and low income housing options) and Family & Community Support Services (information on specific needs and demographics within the Town).

Location of Milk River



Housing Trends

KEY INDICATORS

Adequacy, suitability and affordability are the three core affordable housing indicators integral to understanding affordable housing concerns. The following information is from Census data.



ADEQUACY

Adequate housing refers to housing that isn't in need of any major repairs, including things like defective plumbing and structural issues. 13.8% of Milk River households are inadequate, down from 14.7% in 2016.



SUITABILITY

Suitable housing refers to housing that has enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of the household's residents. 4% of Milk River households are not suitable, up from 3% in 2016.

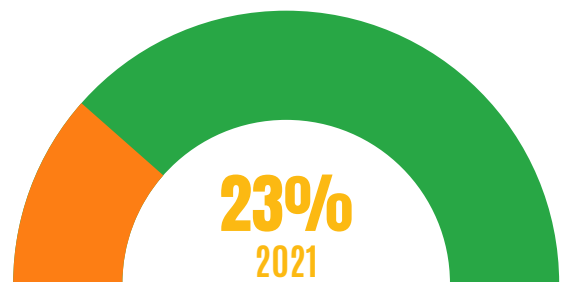


AFFORDABILITY

Housing is considered affordable when it costs less than 30% of before-tax income. 17.5% of households are unaffordable, slightly up from 16.0% in 2016. This is the most pressing indicator facing the Town.

Core Housing Need in Milk River

Core housing need refers to when a household has fallen below at least one of the three indicators and attaining acceptable housing would be unaffordable given the household's income. 23% of Milk River's households are in core housing need as of 2021.



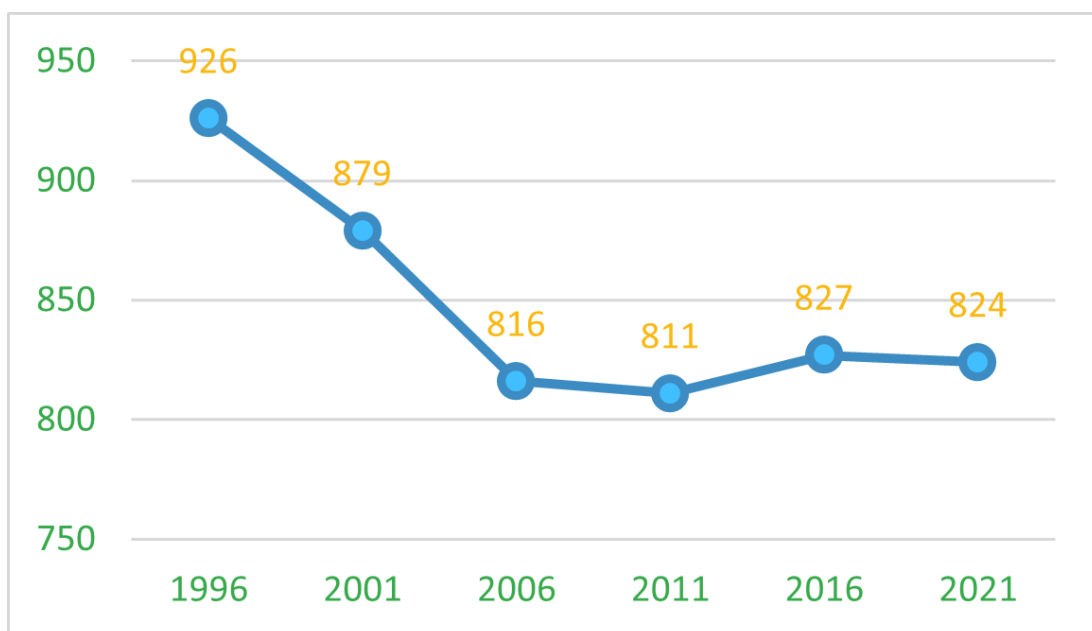
Demographic Profile

In 2021, Milk River's population was 824

Understanding who lives in the Town is key in helping determine housing needs and goals. Studying past and present population statistics provides a basis for population projections, and the way in which a population has changed may reveal important municipal trends.

1996 was the peak population for the Town of Milk River at 926 people for the period from 1996 to 2021. Between 1996 to 2011 there was an 11% decrease in population down to 811 and since then population in the town has shown relative stability with minimal change in numbers over the last 15 years of data. Fluctuations in population are impacted by the number of births, deaths, and immigration in and out of the community.

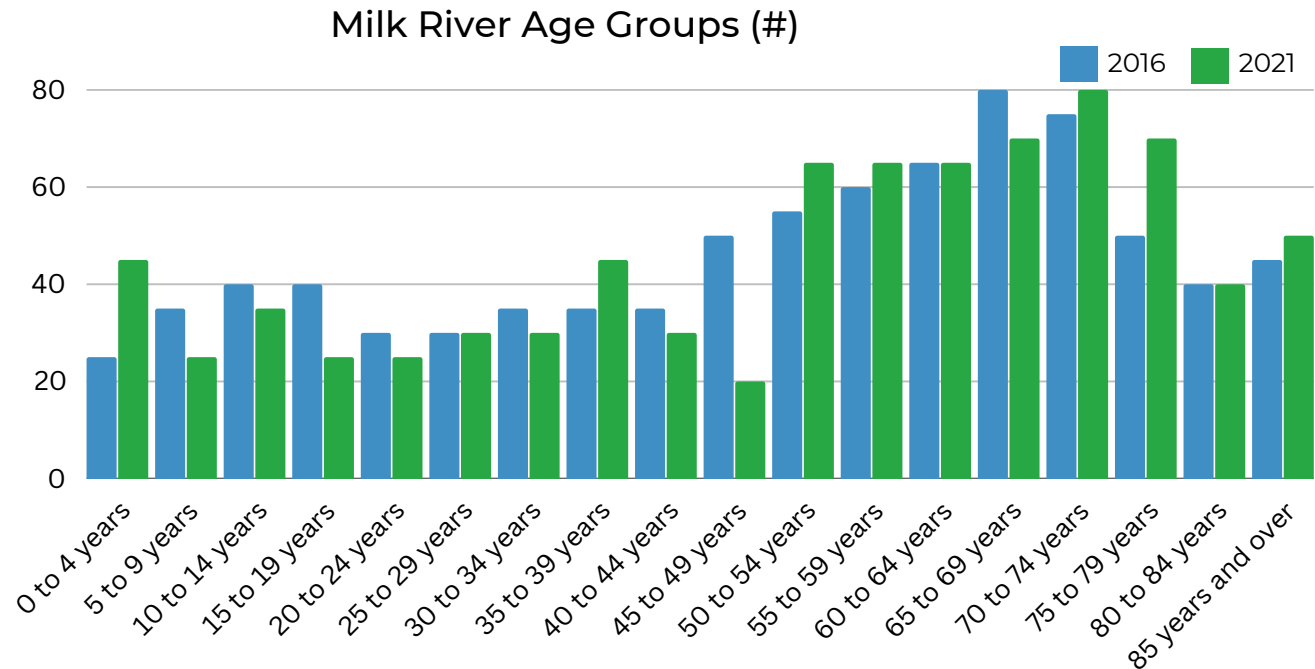
Milk River Population from 1996 to 2021



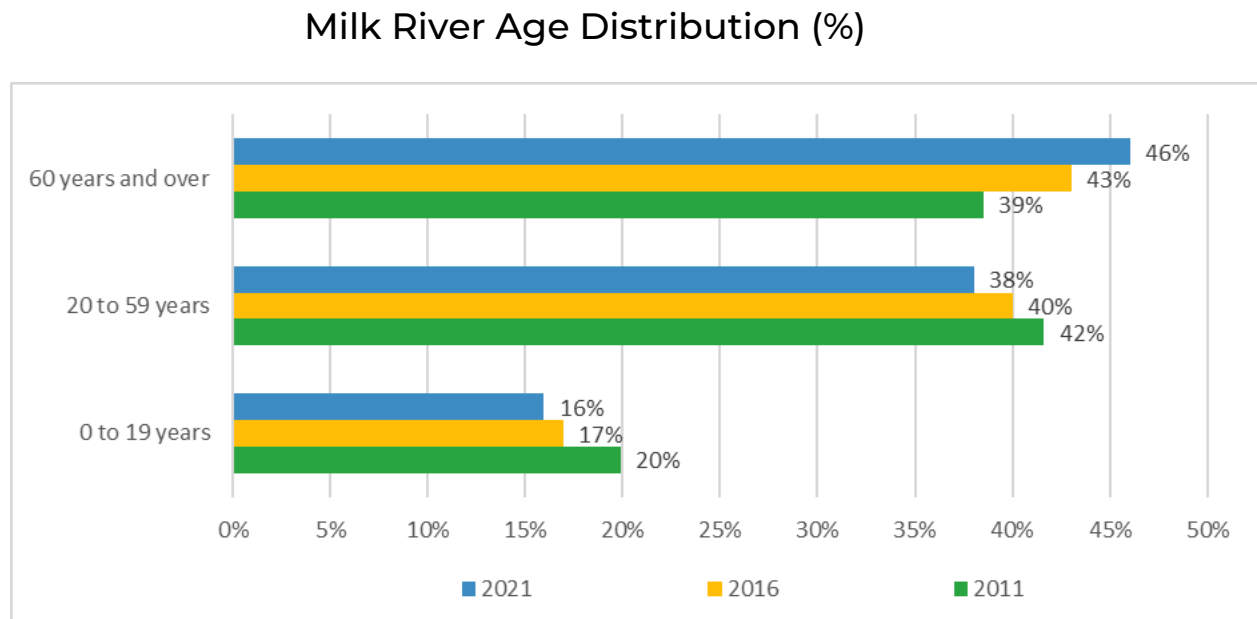
Source: Census Data

Milk River has a mature population

The data on population in Milk River shows that residents are aging in place. With minimal movement in the number of people that live in the community, we can see the trends continuing to move up in the age category break down below. The median age in Milk River has slightly increased from 55.2 (2016) to 57.2 (2021), showing a more mature population.



Source: Census Data



Source: Census Data

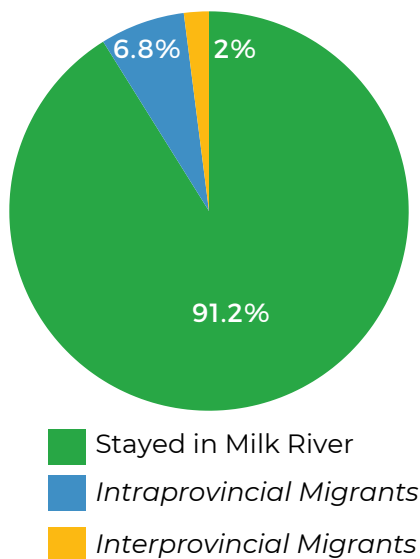
Mobility

Mobility data collects information on a person's place of residence 1 year and 5 years prior to Census Day (May 2021). In Milk River, 12.8% of residents had moved to the town since May 2020 and 38.5% since May 2016. These numbers are similar to those for County of Warner but significantly higher than Alberta as a whole, suggesting that Milk River has 38.5% of their population that is new to the town. In the table below, people who moved but only from one residence to another in Milk River are classified as *non-movers*.

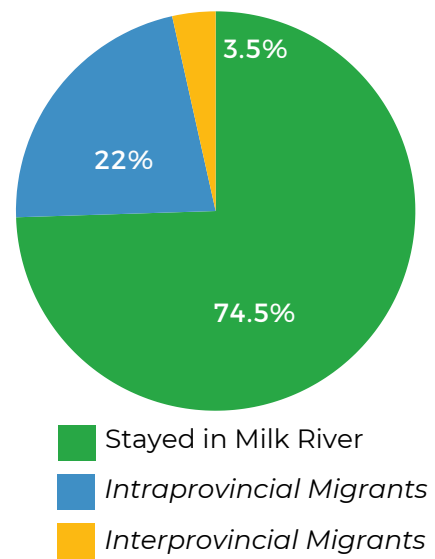
Mobility Status	Milk River		County of Warner		Alberta	
Data from 2021 Census	Non-Movers	Movers	Non-Movers	Movers	Non-Movers	Movers
1 Year Ago	86.5%	12.8%	89.7%	10.3%	95.6%	4.4%
5 Years Ago	60.8%	38.5%	68.9%	31.3%	80.6%	19.4%

Source: Census Data

Milk River Mobility Status 1 Year Ago (2021)



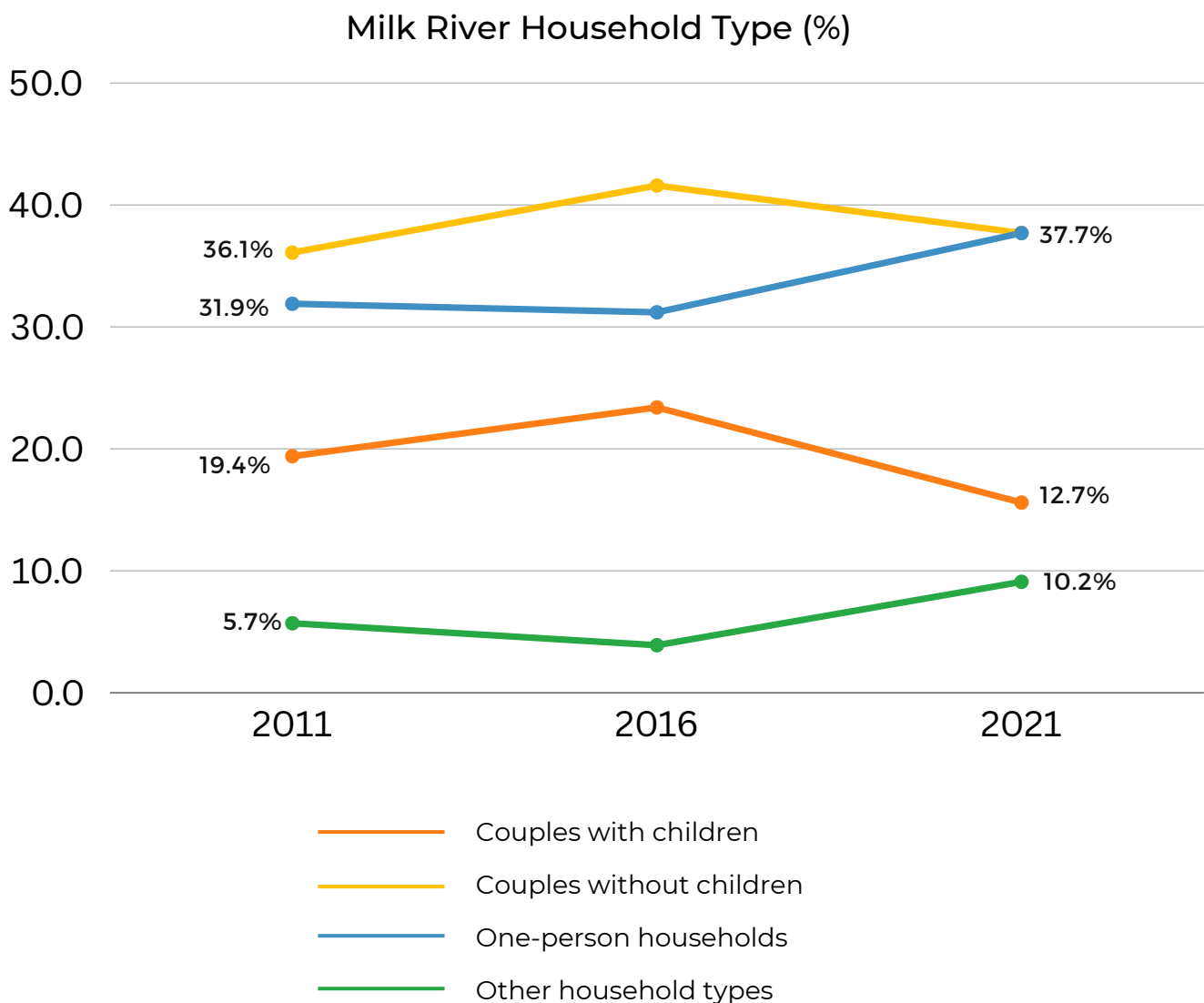
Milk River Mobility Status 5 Years Ago (2021)



Source: Census Data

Couples Without Children Most Common

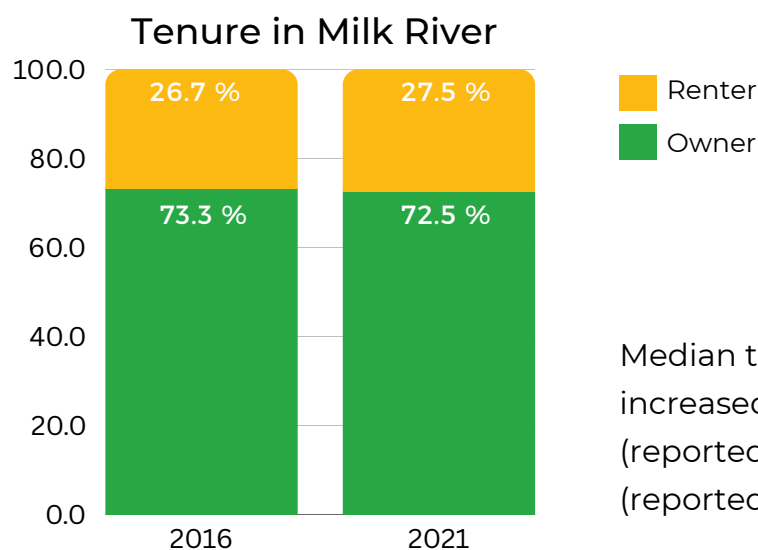
Couples without children and one person households are the most common household types in Milk River, each making up 37.7% of total households in the 2021 Census. The data shows a recent decline in the number of couples with children households between 2016 and 2021. One-person households and “other” household types (*multigenerational, multiple census family, lone parent and census family with additional persons*) are increasing while couples with and without children are decreasing.



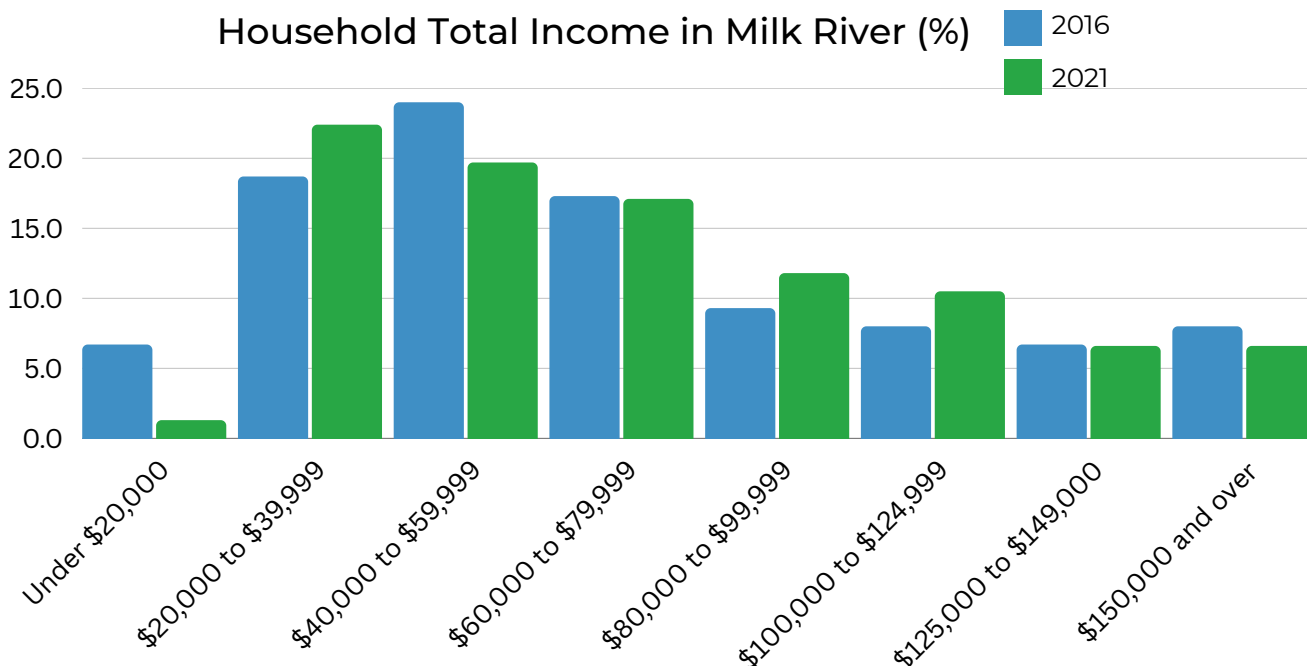
Source: Census Data

Most households are owners

In Milk River, 72.5 % of households are owned and 27.5 % are rented (2021). The share of owners is slightly larger than that across Alberta, where 71% of households are owners and 29% are renters. The median monthly shelter cost for owned households in Milk River is \$760, and slightly lower for renters at \$632. FCSS has indicated that there is a demand for more affordable rental properties in the town.



Median total household income has increased slightly from \$57,984 in 2015 (reported in 2016) to \$64,000 in 2020 (reported in 2021).



Source: Census Data

Affordable Housing in Milk River

Lone parent families and people not living in *census families* have significantly lower incomes than those living with a partner or a family, and therefore a lower amount of money to spend on housing (just \$960 - \$980 per month). Lone parents with children financial information was not available but we can assume a single adult income would then be used for a 2-3 bedroom dwelling. The overall average household size in Milk River is 2.0. Based on census information the data suggests that if there are vacancies, that there are affordable housing options for all household types in Milk River. However, information gathered from FCSS indicates the cost of rental properties in the town are out of reach for low income households.

Median Total Income by Household Type in Milk River, 2021

	Couples with children	Couples without children	Lone parents with children	People not living in census families
# of Households	60	145	15	165
Median total income	\$109,000	\$73,000	\$38,400	\$39,200
Maximum to spend on shelter monthly before it becomes unaffordable	\$2,725	\$1,825	\$960	\$980
Average family size	4	2	2.5	n/a
Required # of bedrooms for average family size	3	1	2-3	n/a

Average Monthly Shelter Cost for
Owned Dwellings

\$840

Average Monthly Shelter Cost
for Rented Dwellings

\$760

Source: Census Data

Labour Force

The top sector that people in Milk River are employed in is retail trade (17.5 %). Other top industries include public administration (12.7 %) and health care and social assistance (11.1 %). Another 9.5% of residents are employed in jobs such as repairs, general vehicle and machine maintenance, personal care services, funeral services, pet care services, etc. which fall under the “Other services” industry code. Next is transportation and warehousing (7.9%), followed by agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (6.3%). This data is shown using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) of 2017. Numbers in brackets below show % change from the 2016 census.

Occupation by Industry (%)



Labour Participation Rate



Unemployment Rate

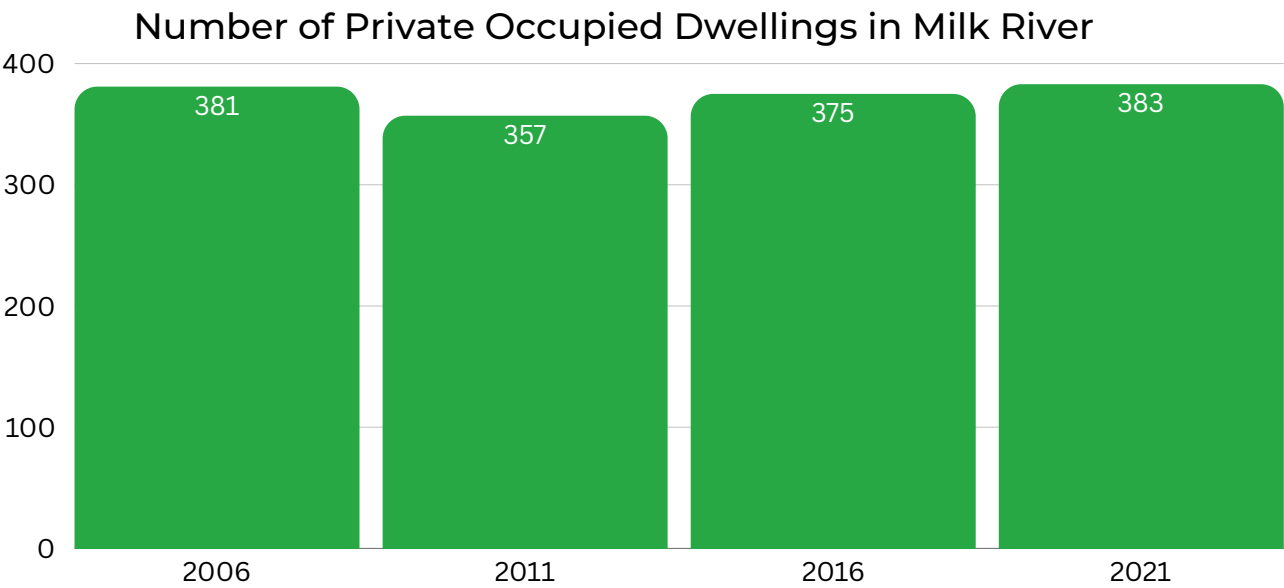


Based on 2021 data from Alberta Regional Dashboard

Source: Census Data

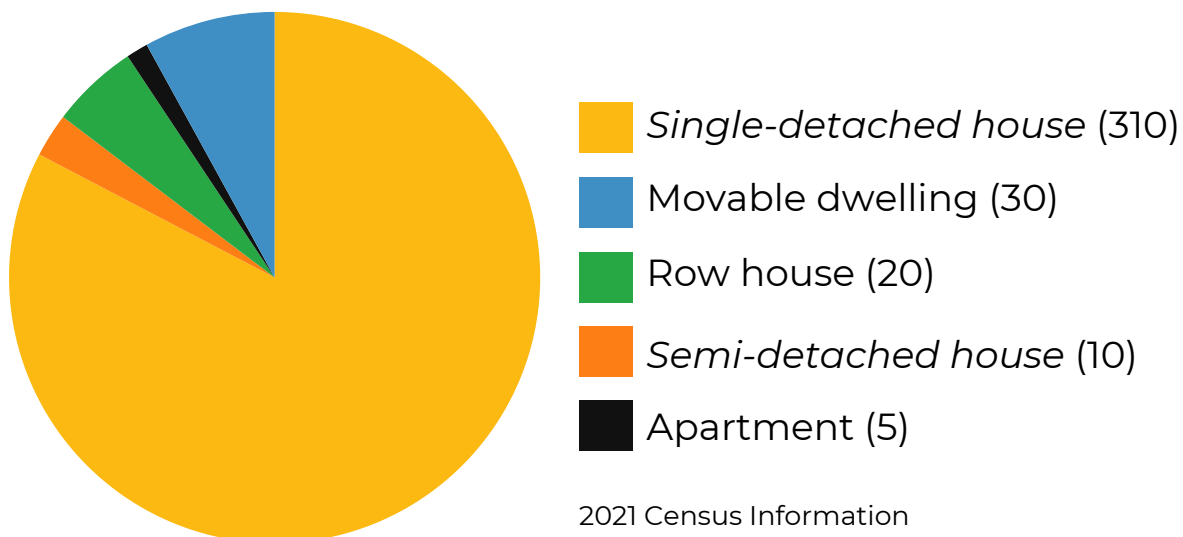
Housing Profile

There has been very little movement in the number of dwellings in Milk River over the last 18 years. The housing stock in Milk River is primarily single-detached houses, representing 82.7% of total units. The next most prominent household types are movable dwellings (8.0% of total) and row-houses (5.3% of total).



Source: Census Data

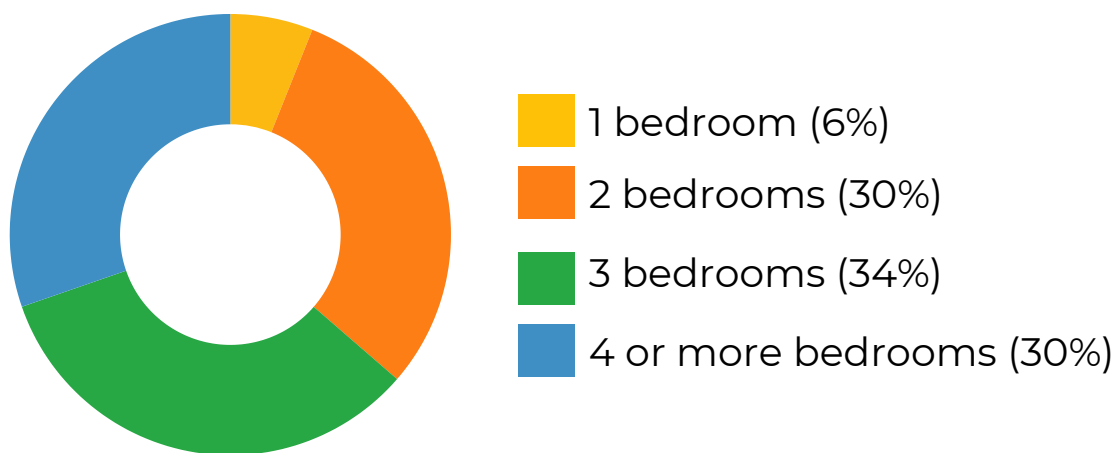
Housing in Milk River - by Type (#)



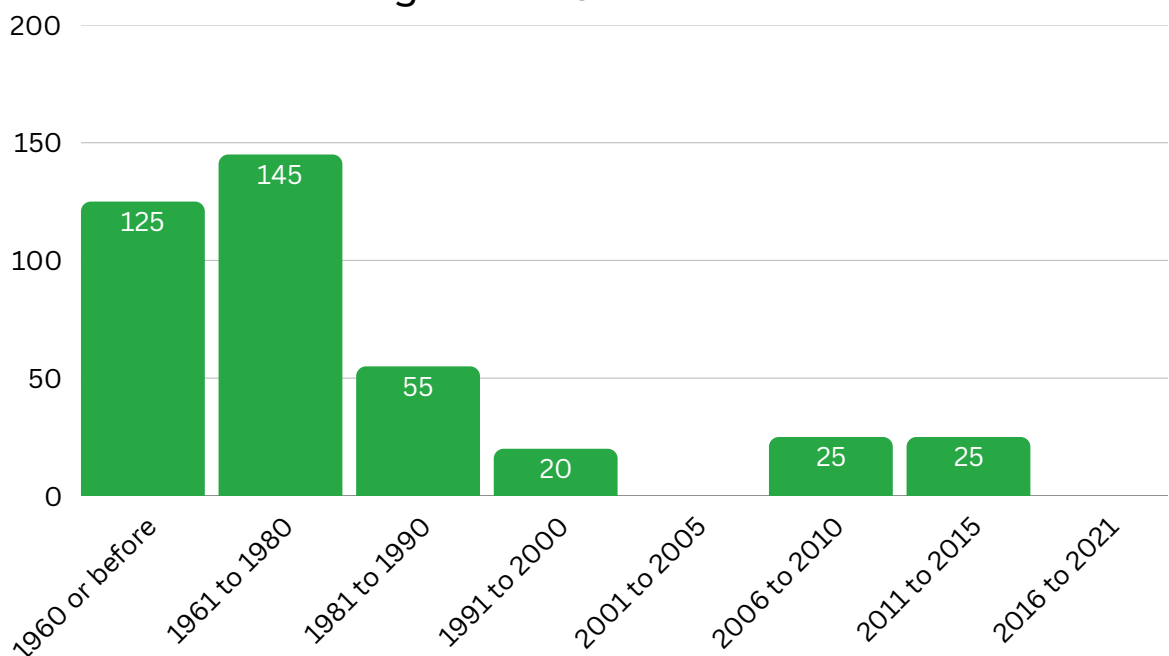
3 bedroom units dominate

There is almost an even balance of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom dwellings in Milk River, with the 3 bedroom units taking the lead by 4%. There are twenty-five 1 bedroom units and no studio units (without bedrooms) within the Town. 82% of the housing stock was built prior to 1991, showing Milk River as a very established community. Since the 2021 Census there have been 2 housing starts between 2021 and 2024 as noted by the municipality.

Housing Size in Milk River



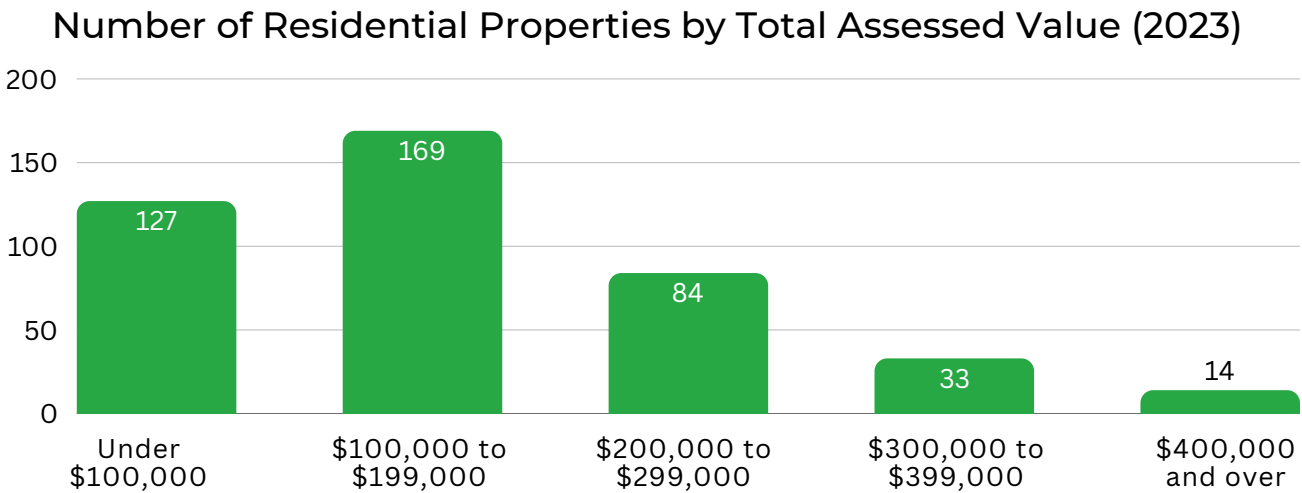
Housing Year of Construction



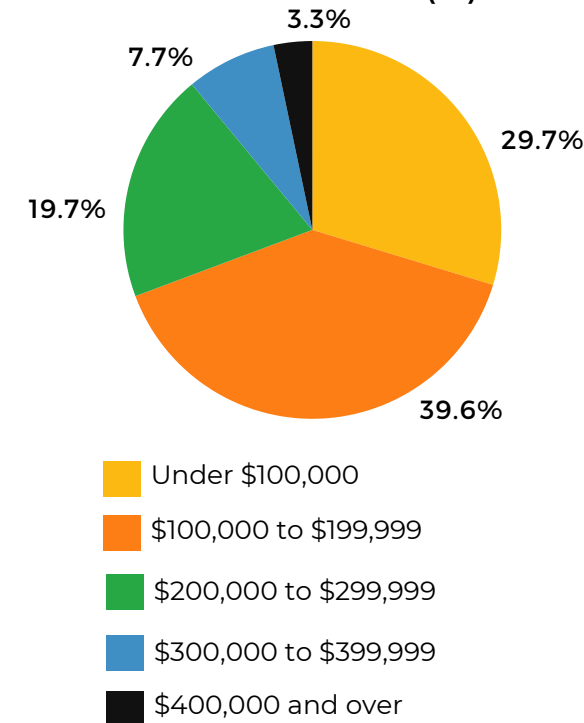
Source: Census Data

Residential Assessed Property Values

In Milk River, the average *assessed residential property value* with improvements is \$165,840. This number includes both the land value of the property, as well as the improved value (taking into account things like buildings, landscaping, and other enhancements that increase the overall value). The majority of homes fall into the \$100,000 to \$199,999 assessment value range (39.6%).



Total Assessed Value (%) - 2023



\$95,655

Average assessed value of properties zoned "Manufactured Home Park - MHP"

\$174,322

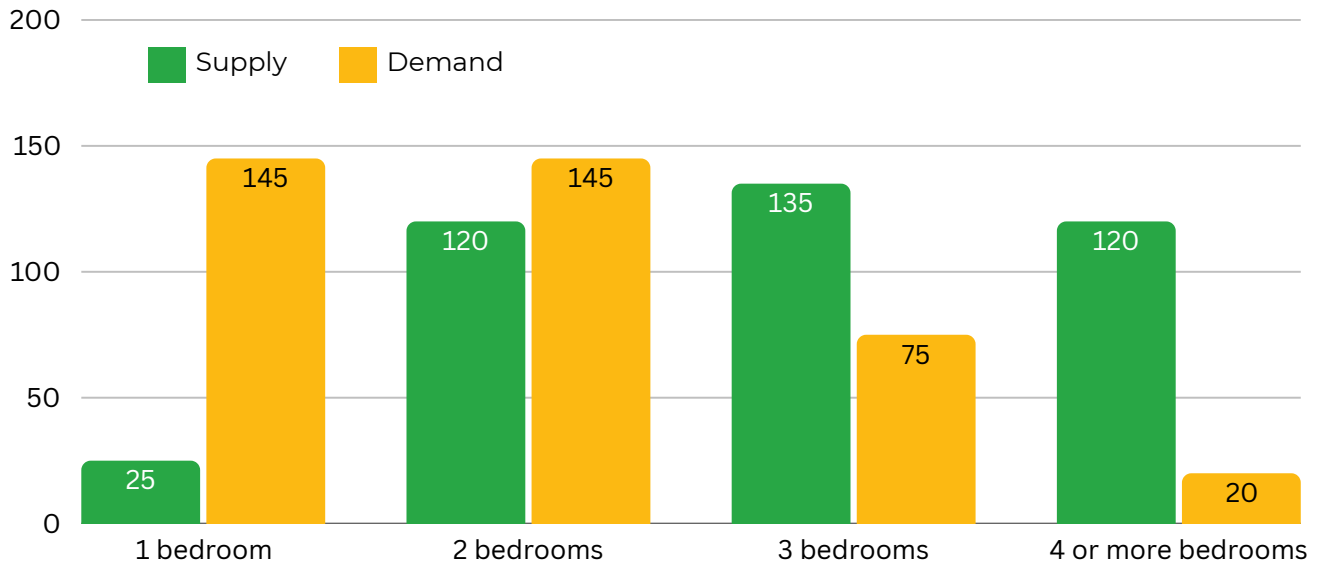
Average assessed value of properties zoned "Residential - R"

\$258,832

Average assessed value of properties zoned "Large Lot Residential - LLR"

Assumed demand for smaller units

Milk River Demand vs. Supply by Size (2021)



Housing demand was calculated using the following assumptions:

- 1-bedroom units: demand calculated to be all one-person households
- 2-bedroom units: demand calculated to be all couple households without children
- 3-bedroom units: demand calculated to be the sum of all couples with children, one-parent families, and two-or-more person *non-census-family* households
- 4-bedroom units: demand calculated to be the sum of all *multigenerational family households* and one-*census family* households with additional persons

Due to the nature of assumptions, it is important to note that this calculation primarily offers a broad overview of significant disparities in housing availability, rather than reflecting the specific preferences or needs of individual households.

These assumptions generally allocate more space to a household than the minimum required to meet suitability standards. These assumptions also imply that many households might desire additional space; for instance, couples may require only one bedroom, but they are assumed to desire two-bedroom units. The main factor limiting the size of units is typically affordability, meaning that people would ideally prefer larger units but can only afford smaller ones. Furthermore, households may seek more space to accommodate remote work, particularly in the context of the increased prevalence of virtual and flexible work arrangements in the current trends of work life balance.

Housing Supply & Demand

The Town of Milk River is part of Ridge Country Housing which is a housing authority for municipalities throughout the County of Warner including Milk River, Raymond, Stirling, Warner, Coutts and the County of Warner. This service provides affordable housing options for seniors and families throughout these communities. Milk River has options for seniors needing care, seniors needing some assistance as well as affordable housing for families.

Housing Type	# of Units	Notes
Senior Lodge Program		
Prairie Rose Lodge	39	Government owned facility with options for subsidy. Current vacancy of 12 units, supports local community only (2024).
Senior Self Contained Program		
Big Sky Villa	6	1 Bedroom units that allow seniors to live on their own with minor assistance with outside maintenance. Options for subsidy available.
Hillside Terrace	5	Government owned facility with options for subsidy. Current vacancy of 12 units, supports local community only.
Community Housing Program		
Ridge Country Housing - Community Housing	9	Affordable 3 bedroom housing accommodation for low to moderate income families.

Projections

Milk River is projected to grow slowly

Although Milk River has not shown an increase in population in the last 8 years, these numbers can be significantly impacted by one or two families moving into or out of the municipality. Using the straight linear method with a slow growth rate of 2% over five years, the population of Milk River could be expected to grow to 910 by the year 2046. The projected number of households is calculated using census information that reports that the average household consists of 2.0 people per household.

Projected Population and Households in Milk River
(2011 to 2046)

Year	Population	Households
2011	811	357
2016	827	375
2021	824	383
2026	840	420
2031	857	429
2036	874	437
2041	892	446
2046	910	455

Projected

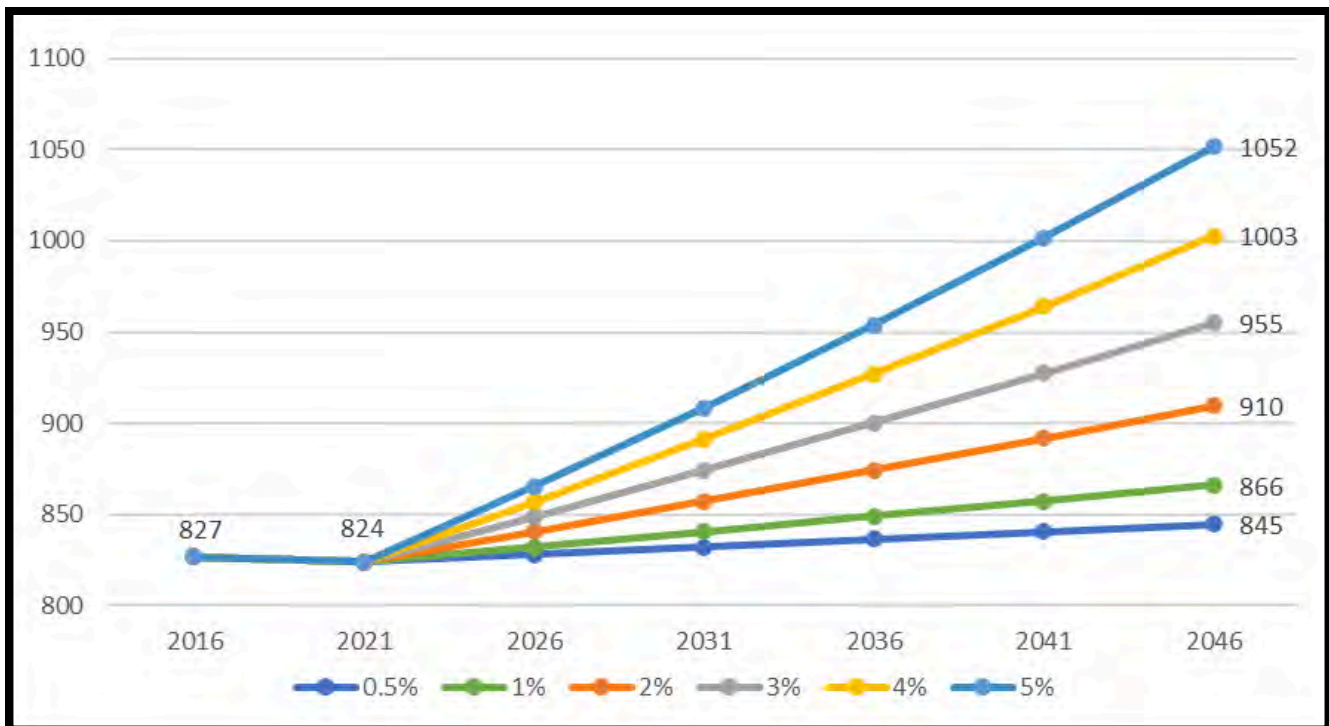
Projections

Growth potential for Milk River

Milk River's population has stayed static for several years but with vacant lots available in the community and a migration of people out of the cities to smaller communities the population of the municipality could expect to grow. Below you will find five different straight-line projections from 1% growth to 5% growth.

One percent growth every five years to 2046 will result in an increase of 42 people to 866 population, which is approximately 21 households. With a 5% increase in population the increase would be 186 people and 93 households. This is based on the average household in Milk River being 2.0 people as per the 2021 Census information.

Projected Population Growth in Milk River
2016 to 2046



Projections

Up to 172 new dwelling units may be needed

The number of new dwelling units required in Milk River is dependent upon existing dwelling units and future population growth. The current density for all types of residential land uses in Milk River is 15 housing units per hectare, with 29.09 hectares of total residential land. The table below shows the land area requirements for three population projections over the next 20 years. Projections are calculated using straight line population increases of 0.5%, 3%, and 5% for a high rate of growth. The average number of persons per dwelling is currently 2.0 as recorded in the 2021 Census report, this number will vary from year to year. The average land required for a residential property is 661 square meters, calculated by using current residential property zoning, area and units. According to the analysis below, the Town could require up to 172 additional residential dwelling units by 2041 using the highest population growth scenario increase and an assumed 1.8 persons per dwelling.

Milk River Residential Land Requirements With Population Increase

Year	Population			Assumed Persons Per Dwelling Unit (Current In Bold)	Total Required Dwelling Units			Existing Dwelling Units	New Dwelling Units Needed			New Land Area Required (Hectares)		
	High 5%	Med 3%	Low 0.5%		High	Med	Low		High	Med	Low	High	Med	Low
2026	865	849	828	1.8	481	472	460	385	96	87	75	6.3	5.7	5.0
				2.0	433	425	414		48	40	29	3.1	2.6	1.9
				2.2	393	386	376		8	1	0	0.5	0.1	0
2031	908	874	832	1.8	504	486	462	385	119	101	77	7.9	6.7	5.1
				2.0	454	437	416		69	52	31	4.6	3.4	2.1
				2.2	413	397	378		28	12	0	1.8	0.8	0
2036	954	900	836	1.8	530	500	464	385	145	115	79	9.6	7.6	5.3
				2.0	477	450	418		92	65	33	6.1	4.3	2.2
				2.2	434	409	380		49	24	0	3.2	1.6	0
2041	1002	927	841	1.8	557	515	467	385	172	130	82	11.4	8.6	5.4
				2.0	501	464	421		116	79	36	7.7	5.2	2.3
				2.2	455	421	382		70	36	0	4.7	2.4	0

Definitions & Key Terms

Assessed Residential Property Value

The dollar value assigned to a property to determine applicable taxes which includes both land value and improvement value (buildings, landscaping, and other enhancements)

Census Family

A married couple (with or without children), a common-law couple (with or without children) or a one-parent family

Core Housing Need

Refers to whether a private household's housing falls below at least one of the indicator thresholds for housing adequacy, affordability or suitability, and would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (attains all three housing indicator thresholds)

Interprovincial Migrant

Is the movement of people between provinces or territories, where they change their usual place of residence.

Intraprovincial Migrant

Is the movement of people from one region to another within the same province or territory, where they change their usual place of residence.

Labour Participation Rate

The total labour force (persons who are working or are actively looking for work) relative to the working age population

Migrants

People who moved to a different city, town, township or village within Canada.

Movers

Persons who have moved from one residence to another. Movers include non-migrants and migrants.

Multi-Generational Household

Households where there is at least one person who is both the grandparent of a person in the household and the parent of another in the same household. They also represent all households where there is at least one person who is both the child of a person in the household and the grandchild of another person in the same household

Non-Migrants

Persons who moved but remained in the same city, town or village.

Non-Movers

Persons who have not moved residences

Semi-detached House

One of two dwellings attached side by side (or back to back) to each other, but not attached to any other dwelling or structure.

Single-detached House

A single dwelling not attached to any other dwelling or structure, except its own garage or shed, and has open space on all sides, with no dwellings either above or below.

Unemployment Rate

The percentage of the total labour force that is unemployed

Request for Decision

Kinette Donation Request

March 10, 2025



RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve sponsorship to the Kinette Club of Milk River in the amount of \$_____.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act

BACKGROUND

The Kinette Club of Milk River is the host community for the 2025 District 4 Convention.

District 4 includes all of Alberta and northeastern British Columbia and will be participating in Convention in Lethbridge on June 20 and 21, 2025.

RISK/CONSEQUENCES

1. Council may provide further direction on any item contained in the report. Council shall be specific in the direction it provides.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

ATTACHMENTS

1. Sponsorship Request Letter

January 15, 2025

Dear Potential Event Sponsor,

Town of Milk River



Kin Canada
Kinette Club
of Milk River

Kin Canada is an all-Canadian service organization, composed of hundreds of clubs and thousands of dedicated volunteers across the country. Kin has proudly invested more than \$1 billion to Canadian communities and dedicated countless volunteer hours since our Association's founding in 1920. We raise money and awareness to our partners, Cystic Fibrosis, Canadian Blood Services, Organ & tissue donation, STARS, HREF bursary scholarships, as well as for local community projects. Volunteers work hard to support their communities and create a meaningful impact.

Annually, District 4 (all of Alberta and northeastern British Columbia) gather together at District Convention. This weekend is a time for our volunteers to gather together, share in some fellowship, network and celebrate together. We put together and provide service projects within the host community, take care of business at our AGM and cap off the weekend celebrating our volunteers' for their dedication, hard work, and the impact we have had on our local communities and partnerships. Our small town Club is the host for District Convention 2025 in Lethbridge AB.

One of our goals is to have a record turnout at Convention, bringing as many volunteers as possible to the southernmost Club in District 4. To achieve this we want to refrain from financially burdening clubs and members with registration fees, travel costs and accommodation. In an attempt to keep these costs lower, we are seeking Corporate sponsorship for various aspects of Convention (please see page 2). Funds raised at District Convention will go towards local projects in our community.

We are hoping that your Corporation will consider sponsoring our event. Should you choose to sponsor a portion of this event, we will advertise your sponsorship and have professional posters with your Company logo at our registration table, the Buffet line, and publicized in all printed materials. We will also include your Corporation logo and name in our advertising, News coverage and wrap up thank yous for this event. Additionally we would welcome any business swag or advertising material to add to our swag bags for each attendee.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact me at 403-647-7374. I hope to hear from you soon and thank you in advance for your generosity.

Thank you,

Kim Swanson
kswanson820@gmail.com
Kinette Club of Milk River
PO Box 232 Milk River, AB ToK 1M0

January 15, 2025

Milk River Business Sponsor Levels



Kin Canada
Kinette Club
of Milk River

Premier Platinum Sponsorship

\$400+

Inclusion in newspaper, media and event advertising

Half page ad in event program

Logo printed on photo backdrop

Included in advertising & all wrapup posts and write ups

Posted in bulletin delivered to all members and posted on webpage

XLarge posters throughout 3 day event

Premier Platinum Thank you package

Gold Sponsorship

\$300

Logo printed on photo backdrop

Included in advertising & all wrapup posts and write ups

Posted in bulletin delivered to all members and posted on webpage

Large posters throughout 3 day event

Platinum Thank you package

Silver Sponsorship

\$200

Included in advertising & all wrapup posts and write ups

Posted in bulletin delivered to all members and posted on webpage

Medium posters throughout 3 day event

Gold Thank you package

Bronze Sponsorship

\$100

Included in advertising & all wrapup posts and write ups

Small posters throughout 3 day event

Bronze Thank you package

Any donation is greatly appreciated! If there is a certain portion of the Convention your Corporation would like to sponsor, please let me know, we will be sure to have this announced throughout the weekend! Thank you again for your consideration!!

January 15, 2025



Kin Canada
Kinette Club
of Milk River

About KIN CANADA, KINSMEN, KINETTES & KIN:

Kin Canada is an all-Canadian service organization, composed of hundreds of clubs and thousands of dedicated volunteers across the country. Kin has proudly invested more than \$1 billion to Canadian communities and dedicated countless volunteer hours since our Association's founding in 1920. We raise money and awareness in support of our partners, Cystic Fibrosis, Canadian Blood Services, Organ & tissue donation, STARS, HREF bursary scholarships, as well as local community projects. Volunteers are dedicated and invested in our communities and the world around us.

Our Mission, Vision, and Values: We strive to be "Canada's Service Organization" as our focus is local, regional, and national. Our volunteer members work hard to impact Canadian communities while demonstrating Excellence, Pride, Integrity, Inclusiveness, and Compassion.

Our Kin Motto: Serving the Community's Greatest Need.

About District Convention:

Annually, District 4 (all of Alberta and northeastern British Columbia) gather together at our District Convention. This weekend is a time for our volunteers to gather together, work together on local service projects, network and collaborate on new fundraising ideas and ways to support our many projects. Our Club is putting together service projects within the host community for all attendees to show their volunteer spirit and support southern our chosen Alberta projects. Volunteers will be involved in clean-up projects, donating and volunteering at food banks, putting together backpacks and donating new shoes to support underprivileged students in the fall, collecting distraction toys for pediatric units in hospitals in our area and so much more!

About our Club:

Our small town Club, The Kinette Club of Milk River, is the host for District Convention 2025 in Lethbridge AB. We are hosting in Lethbridge due to the lack of accommodations in Milk River. Milk River has a population of 844 surrounded by many family farms and ranches. We have a total membership of 5 Kinettes in our Club, and yes at times we feel overwhelmed at hosting such a large event. All the volunteer hours and work we are putting into hosting District Convention will be rewarded when we are able to support so many of the needs in our community! But we also have the opportunity to include all the Clubs in our Zone (Brooks, Claresholm, Coaldale, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat & Taber) and support their Clubs projects. Each Club is bringing forward the projects they are most passionate about, so these are the highlighted service projects during our volunteer weekend. To date these projects include collecting coats for the Coldest day of the Year, filling backpacks, school breakfast & lunch programs, after school programs, distraction kits used at pediatric units for children who are ill or children who may have received terrible news. We are a small group but we make up for that with our passion and drive to "Support our communities greatest need".

Request for Decision

Curling Rink Condenser Payment

March 10, 2025



RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve payment of the curling rink condenser invoice to Startec in the amount of \$111,195.00.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act

BACKGROUND

Last Fall, Council approved payment of a condenser for the curling rink, as follows:

Moved by Councillor Degenstein, "that Council pay \$104,000 to replace the condenser at the curling rink with the understanding that half of that is a loan to the curling club, terms to be worked out at a later date. Also included will be work done in the last year crediting them half of the repairs from last year against the loan." Motion Carried 2024-211

Once the invoice was received, it was noted that the total is higher than the approval for payment.

RISK/CONSEQUENCES

1. Council may provide further direction on any item contained in the report. Council shall be specific in the direction it provides.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

\$105,900.00

ATTACHMENTS

1. Condenser Invoice



Startec Refrigeration Services Ltd
9423 Shepard Road SE
Calgary, AB T2C 4R6
CAN

GST# 104998539

Invoice

Page No. 1 of 1
Invoice Number: INV020342
Pro forma Number: PIP-024223
Invoice Date: 01-15-2025
Payment Terms: Net 30
Due Date: 02-14-2025
Project Contract: CONT-001022
Billing Rule: BIL-001361
Customer Reference:
Currency: CAD

Bill MILK RIVER CURLING CLUB
To : P.O. BOX 502
MILK RIVER, AB T0K 1M0
CAN

Ship MILK RIVER CURLING CLUB
To : P.O. BOX 502
MILK RIVER, AB T0K 1M0
CAN
LSD:

Comment:

Billing Rule	Description	Sales Amount	Hold Back %	Retained Amount	Net Amount
Milestone	Ice Plant Condenser Upgrade	99,000.00	0.00	0.00	99,000.00
Milestone	CO #1 - Condenser Stand	6,900.00	0.00	0.00	6,900.00

Taxable : 105,900.00
Non Taxable : 0.00
Sub Total : 105,900.00
Tax : 5,295.00

Total : 111,195.00

CAD

Thank you For Your business. Pastdue invoices will be charged intrest at a rate of 1.5% per month(18%) per annum

Request for Decision

2025 Operating Budget

March 10, 2025



RECOMMENDATION

That the discussion on the 2025 Operating budget be approved.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 242 (1) of the Municipal Government Act states each council must adopt an operating budget for each calendar year.

BACKGROUND

The first draft of the 2025 Operating Budget is ready for presentation to Council for discussion and prioritization.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2025 Operating Budget
2. Operational Project Pressures

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

		2022	2023	2024	2024 YTD	2025	
		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	31-Dec	BUDGET	Budget vs.
							Budget
Tax Requirement Summary							
0	General Government Services	(995,448)	(1,093,273)	(1,247,371)	(1,208,405)	(1,289,128)	195,855
11	Council - Legislative	72,217	74,230	97,789	65,556	100,810	(26,580)
12	Administration	227,230	194,699	(17,322)	213,997	285,045	(90,346)
23	Fire Services	43,309	28,873	82,333	52,494	93,154	(64,281)
26	Municipal Enforcement	59,129	68,020	74,333	73,618	75,833	(7,813)
31	Common Services	140,630	159,736	165,771	191,302	187,609	(27,873)
32	Roads	269,492	198,458	393,373	164,133	289,503	(91,045)
33	Airport	7,030	4,409	8,236	4,382	6,141	(1,732)
41	Water	(39,641)	30,553	39,459	78,662	236,054	(205,501)
42	Wastewater	(43,318)	(39,463)	(33,098)	(34,590)	(21,330)	(18,133)
43	Solid Waste	(10,013)	(17,483)	7,744	22,877	12,353	(29,836)
56	Cemetery	1,400	1,600	2,500	1,426	2,000	(400)
61	Planning & Development	36,779	(37,493)	121,440	(1,602)	69,715	(107,208)
72	Recreation Administration	134,281	136,649	172,460	136,795	173,543	(36,894)
7201	Campground	13,037	25,405	44,141	16,949	25,440	(35)
7202	Pool	42,625	122,397	59,517	162,134	87,765	34,632
7203	Golf Course	7,837	6,717	7,000	10,702	76,874	(70,157)
74	Culture & Library	20,782	20,301	20,301	20,317	20,301	0
	Operating (Surplus) Deficit	(12,642)	(115,664)	(1,394)	(29,253)	431,682	(547,346)

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 BUDGET	
General Government Services	(1,237,474.08)	(1,325,967)	(1,478,166)	(1,450,322)	(1,574,114)	248,147
Council	-	(267)	(11)	(19)	-	(267)
Finance	(113,766.66)	(168,698)	(443,694)	(169,988)	(169,130)	432
Fire Services	(19,042.74)	(20,865)	(24,184)	(26,493)	(20,000)	(865)
Municipal Enforcement	(2,972.00)	(2,475)	(2,400)	(3,937)	(2,700)	225
Common Services	(272.10)	(424)	(62)	(407)	(300)	(124)
Roads	(24,450.00)	(28,550)	(24,450)	(25,279)	(25,380)	(3,170)
Airport	(465.00)	-	(465)	(465)	(465)	465
Water	(310,061.90)	(307,249)	(307,800)	(270,272)	(2,267,800)	1,960,551
Wastewater	(103,651.89)	(105,588)	(106,000)	(98,829)	(97,000)	(8,588)
Solid Waste	(129,600.96)	(131,420)	(130,085)	(129,641)	(138,605)	7,185
Cemetery	(3,600.00)	(3,400)	(2,500)	(3,574)	(3,000)	(400)
Planning & Development	(9,915.97)	(79,845)	(57,850)	(81,017)	(7,200)	(72,645)
Recreation Administration	-	(268)	(6,055)	(400)	(5,400)	5,132
Campground	(21,623.14)	(12,957)	(13,000)	(19,234)	(17,000)	4,043
Pool	(29,727.98)	(15,723)	(75,400)	(40,432)	(151,650)	135,927
Library	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	(2,006,624.42)	(2,203,697)	(2,672,122)	(2,320,309)	(4,479,744)	2,276,047
General Government Services	242,026.39	232,695	230,795	241,918	284,986	(52,291)
Council	72,217.24	74,497	97,800	65,576	100,810	(26,313)
Finance	340,997.05	363,398	426,372	383,985	454,175	(90,777)
Fire Services	62,351.33	49,738	106,517	78,987	113,154	(63,416)
Municipal Enforcement	62,100.97	70,495	76,733	77,555	78,533	(8,038)
Common Services	140,901.71	160,160	165,833	191,709	187,909	(27,749)
Roads	293,942.29	227,008	417,823	189,412	314,883	(87,875)
Airport	7,494.60	4,409	8,701	4,847	6,606	(2,197)
Water	270,421.10	337,802	347,259	348,933	2,503,854	(2,166,052)
Wastewater	60,334.25	66,125	72,902	64,239	75,670	(9,545)
Solid Waste	119,587.47	113,938	137,829	152,519	150,958	(37,020)
Cemetery	5,000.00	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	-
Planning & Development	46,695.30	42,351	179,290	79,415	76,915	(34,564)
Recreation Administration	134,280.52	136,917	178,515	137,195	178,943	(42,026)
Campground	34,660.48	38,363	57,141	36,183	42,440	(4,077)
Pool	72,352.97	138,120	134,917	202,566	239,415	(101,295)
Golf Course	7,837.01	6,717	7,000	10,702	76,874	(70,157)
Library	20,782.24	20,301	20,301	20,317	20,301	0
Total Expenditures	1,993,982.92	2,088,033	2,670,728	2,291,056	4,911,426	(2,823,393)

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
GENERAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE							
1-00-00-111-00	Property Taxes Levied	(775,947.88)	(811,356.00)	(936,947)	(924,253.47)	(1,011,957)	
1-00-00-112-00	ASFP Residential Tax Levied	(156,301.93)	(160,778.71)	(176,608)	(165,957.71)	(199,390)	
1-00-00-113-00	ASFP Non Residential Tax Levied	(34,526.93)	(32,987.13)	(48,816)	(38,923.94)	(48,792)	
1-00-00-115-00	Homes For The Aged Tax Rate	(20,953.58)	(21,920.56)	(20,795)	(20,788.75)	(20,975)	
1-00-00-510-00	Penalties and Costs Levied on Taxes	(11,524.00)	(12,423.82)	(10,000)	(15,559.10)	(10,000)	
1-00-00-540-00	Revenues From Franchises	(190,825.55)	(195,259.89)	(190,000)	(198,055.54)	(198,000)	
1-00-00-550-00	Returns On Investments	(47,394.21)	(91,241.17)	(95,000)	(86,783.58)	(85,000)	
TOTAL REVENUE		(1,237,474.08)	(1,325,967.28)	(1,478,166)	(1,450,322.09)	(1,574,114)	-
GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES							
2-00-00-741-00	School Found. Program Requisition	194,562.39	194,463.06	194,000	205,823.44	248,011	
2-00-00-752-00	Ridge Country Housing	21,201.44	21,904.67	20,795	20,795.16	20,975	
2-00-00-990-00	Discount on Taxes	26,262.56	16,326.86	16,000	15,298.95	16,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES		242,026.39	232,694.59	230,795	241,917.55	284,986	-
NET		(995,447.69)	(1,093,272.69)	(1,247,371)	(1,208,405)	(1,289,128)	-

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
LEGISLATIVE REV							
1-11-00-590-00	Other Revenue From Own Sources	-	(266.68)	(11)	(19.05)	-	
1-11-00-840-00	Provincial Conditional Grants	-	-	-	-	-	
1-11-00-850-00	Local Gov't Conditional Grants	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL REVENUE		-	(266.68)	(11)	(19.05)	-	-
LEGISLATIVE EXP							
2-11-00-110-00	Remuneration	33,075.12	30,575.12	33,000	31,675.12	35,000	increase Mayor 4500 / Council 4,000 / meetings
2-11-00-120-00	Benefits	809.42	-	700	788.38	1,000	
2-11-00-210-00	Contracted Services	22,188.13	2,451.21	2,700	100.00	2,500	
2-11-00-213-00	Insurance	397.00	397.00	400	507.00	510	
2-11-00-215-00	Training	10,742.40	725.00	1,500	860.00	4,500	
2-11-00-216-00	Travel and Subsistance	-	11,596.14	13,500	12,878.54	13,000	
2-11-00-217-00	Conference and Convention Fees	-	3,100.00	15,000	7,085.00	4,000	
2-11-00-224-00	Memberships	-	2,242.85	4,000	2,878.63	4,300	
2-11-00-510-00	Legislative Supplies	2,434.72	3,870.02	5,000	1,373.13	5,000	
2-11-00-520-00	Promotional Items	-	-	2,000	1,350.00	2,000	
2-11-00-770-00	Community Grants	2,570.45	19,539.80	20,000	6,079.72	20,000	
2-11-01-110-00	Election - Honorarium	-	-	-	-	5,000	
2-11-01-212-00	Election - Advertising	-	-	-	-	1,500	
2-11-01-510-00	Election - Materials, Goods/Supplies	-	-	-	-	2,500	
TOTAL EXPENSES		72,217.24	74,497.14	97,800	65,575.52	100,810	-
NET		72,217.24	74,230.46	97,789	65,556.47	100,810	74,230

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
ADMINISTRATIVE REVENUE						
1-00-00-755-00 Grants - MSI Operating	(58,715.00)	(117,620.00)	(117,430)	(117,430.00)	(117,430)	
1-12-00-410-00 Sales of Goods	-	(75.00)	-	-	-	
1-12-00-420-00 Sale of Services	(754.06)	(709.74)	(100)	(603.60)	(500)	
1-12-00-421-00 Tax Certificates	(1,980.00)	(1,410.00)	(1,200)	(1,440.00)	(1,200)	
1-12-00-510-00 Tax Sale Costs Recovered	(225.00)	-	(75)	-	-	
1-12-00-560-00 Rental Revenues	(49,850.08)	(48,883.38)	(48,000)	(50,194.77)	(50,000)	
1-12-00-590-00 Other Revenue From Own Sources	(2,242.52)	-	-	(320.00)	-	
Transfer from Reserves	-	-	(276,889)	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	(113,766.66)	(168,698.12)	(443,694)	(169,988.37)	(169,130)	-
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE						
2-12-00-110-00 Salaries & Wages - Admin	143,299.67	148,309.51	152,907	152,784.35	165,000	wage step
2-12-00-120-00 Benefits	39,939.22	37,143.04	34,835	37,325.34	38,390	
2-12-00-210-00 Contracted Services	88,199.91	12,328.58	15,000	12,145.95	45,000	communications / grant writing
2-12-00-211-00 Postage and Freight	6,801.91	7,108.17	7,500	6,991.80	7,200	
2-12-00-212-00 Advertising	478.19	-	500	268.55	500	
2-12-00-213-00 Insurance	20,193.00	23,514.88	24,588	24,588.00	27,474	
2-12-00-214-00 Repairs & Maintenance - Building	-	19,147.77	33,000	20,302.37	20,000	
2-12-00-215-00 Training	4,141.54	176.19	300	110.00	300	
2-12-00-216-00 Travel and Subsistence	-	6,119.07	6,500	1,333.17	2,000	
2-12-00-217-00 Conference and Convention Fees	-	2,257.43	3,000	952.50	3,000	
2-12-00-224-00 Memberships	-	445.38	300	562.50	570	
2-12-00-231-00 Auditor	-	-	11,600	12,000.00	15,000	
2-12-00-232-00 Solicitor	-	-	5,000	119.05	5,000	legal not completed
2-12-00-233-00 Assessor	-	14,050.02	16,270	15,214.79	16,830	
2-12-00-234-00 Safety Officer	-	-	3,600	-	-	
2-12-00-239-00 IT Network Systems/Website	-	20,195.32	35,000	26,067.61	30,000	
2-12-00-240-00 Janitorial Services/Supplies	-	8,713.73	8,800	8,814.23	9,000	
2-12-00-263-00 Rentals and Leases - Equipment	-	5,520.00	5,520	5,520.00	5,700	
2-12-00-510-00 Materials, Goods and Supplies	4,948.57	11,715.47	10,000	6,512.61	10,000	owl and TV
2-12-00-511-00 Utilities	20,766.36	-	-	-	-	
2-12-00-515-00 Natural Gas	-	5,603.05	6,000	6,582.62	6,800	
2-12-00-516-00 Electricity	-	12,843.70	13,000	11,610.92	12,000	
2-12-00-513-00 Telephone	-	5,293.32	5,500	5,259.12	5,500	
2-12-00-514-00 Internet	-	1,544.00	1,625	1,570.42	1,630	
2-12-00-810-00 Bank Charges/Short Term Interest	736.82	1,128.49	1,200	1,093.10	1,200	
2-12-00-814-00 POS (Visa/MC) Fees	-	6,315.35	6,500	8,504.01	8,800	
2-12-00-890-00 Bad Debt	-	7,220.14	-	-	-	
2-12-00-990-00 Other Trans. Discounts & Adjustments	5,008.18	6,705.00	7,300	4,883.12	5,000	town taxes \$4,875 / linear tax
2-51-00-770-00 FCSS	6,483.68	-	6,750	6,592.00	6,725	2% increase for 2025
Transfer to Capital	-	-	4,277	6,277.00	5,556.00	
TOTAL EXPENSE	340,997.05	363,397.61	426,372	383,985.13	454,175	-
NET	227,230.39	194,699.49	(17,322)	213,996.76	285,045	

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
FIRE SERVICES REVENUE						
1-23-01-420-00 Sale of Services	(3,200.00)	(20,865.00)	(5,000)	(17,113.00)	(10,000)	
1-23-01-590-00 Other Revenue From Own Sources	(145.98)	-	(1,184)	-	-	
1-23-01-850-00 County of Warner	(15,696.76)	-	(18,000)	(9,379.95)	(10,000)	
TOTAL FIRE SERVICES	(19,042.74)	(20,865.00)	(24,184)	(26,492.95)	(20,000)	-
FIRE SERVICES EXPENSES						
2-23-01-110-00 Honourarium	11,307.50	-	15,000	12,307.50	15,000	
2-23-01-210-00 Contracted Services	5,292.78	1,730.74	2,000	1,513.54	2,000	
2-23-01-211-00 Dispatch Services	-	3,675.98	3,700	3,561.68	3,700	
2-23-01-213-00 Insurance	6,748.32	6,716.61	7,497	6,988.50	8,344	
2-23-01-214-00 Repairs & Maintenance	8,226.78	-	-	-	-	
2-23-01-214-00 Repairs & Maintenance - Building	-	-	5,000	-	10,000	
2-23-01-214-01 Repairs & Maintenance - Equipment	-	5,214.58	6,500	3,623.68	5,000	
2-23-01-214-02 Repairs & Maintenance - Vehicles	-	8,532.31	8,600	2,509.29	2,000	
2-23-01-215-00 Fire Training	-	-	1,000	-	3,000	
2-23-01-510-00 Materials, Goods & Supplies	16,410.11	7,891.31	40,000	32,828.61	35,000	
2-23-01-511-00 Utilities	11,973.09	-	-	-	-	
2-23-01-513-00 Fuel - Town	918.40	809.75	1,000	821.69	1,000	
2-23-01-515-00 Natural Gas	-	4,246.18	4,500	4,215.21	4,500	
2-23-01-516-00 Electricity	-	6,856.75	6,900	6,354.19	6,500	
2-23-01-517-00 Telephone	-	1,915.01	2,000	1,935.99	2,000	
2-23-01-518-00 Internet	-	920.00	1,000	960.00	1,000	
2-23-01-990-00 Other Transactions/Discounts/Adj	15.90	19.08	20	19.08	20	
2-23-03-513-00 Fuel - County	958.45	1,209.41	1,300	847.74	1,000	
2-24-00-210-00 Emergency Management	500.00	-	500	500.00	500	
Transfer to Capital	-	-	-	-	12,590	
TOTAL EXPENSES	62,351.33	49,737.71	106,517	78,986.70	113,154	
NET	43,308.59	28,872.71	82,333	52,493.75	93,154	

**Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025
Draft**

		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT REVENUES							
1-26-00-520-00	Animal Licenses	(1,870.00)	(2,082.00)	(2,000)	(2,322.00)	(2,300)	
1-26-00-530-00	Fines	(1,102.00)	(393.00)	(400)	(1,615.00)	(400)	
TOTAL REVENUES		(2,972.00)	(2,475.00)	(2,400)	(3,937.00)	(2,700)	-
MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT EXPENSES							
2-26-00-210-00	Ridge Regional Public Safety	32,906.25	30,117.78	32,500	33,522.00	34,500	
2-26-00-215-00	Provincial Policing	28,822.75	40,377.25	44,033	44,033.00	44,033	
2-26-00-510-00	Materials, Goods & Supplies	371.97	-	200	-	-	
TOTAL EXPENSES		62,100.97	70,495.03	76,733	77,555.00	78,533	-
NET		59,128.97	68,020.03	74,333	73,618.00	75,833	(7,813)

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
COMMON SERVICES REVENUE							
1-31-00-590-00	Other Rev from Own Sources	(272.10)	(424.15)	(62)	(407.45)	(300)	- Dividend
TOTAL REVENUES		(272.10)	(424.15)	(62)	(407.45)	(300)	-
COMMON SERVICES EXPENSES							
2-31-00-110-00	Salaries and Wages	30,046.76	37,475.91	38,638	56,177.66	57,800	includes WCB ↑10.61%
2-31-00-120-00	Benefits	15,224.23	26,842.28	19,647	25,574.91	27,000	
2-31-00-210-00	Contracted Services	3,456.08	2,969.15	3,200	3,364.50	3,500	
2-31-00-212-00	Freight	-	-	500	285.32	500	
2-31-00-213-00	Insurance	5,953.95	7,399.29	7,428	7,721.00	8,239	
2-31-00-214-00	Repairs & Maintenance	14,653.94	-	-	-	-	
2-31-00-214-00	Repairs & Maintenance - Building	-	1,777.52	3,000	8,782.17	2,000	
2-31-00-214-01	Repairs & Maintenance - Equipment	-	17,730.37	13,000	12,781.29	13,000	
2-31-00-214-02	Repairs & Maintenance - Vehicles	-	13,615.41	11,000	15,638.44	12,000	
2-31-00-215-00	Training	2,023.89	1,197.77	4,000	2,470.86	5,000	
2-31-00-216-00	Travel and Subsistance	-	585.52	2,000	2,244.63	2,500	
2-31-00-224-00	Memberships	-	-	-	114.28	120	
2-31-00-263-00	Rentals and Leases - Equipment	-	-	3,300	656.00	1,000	
2-31-00-510-00	Materials, Goods, Supplies	17,299.88	9,723.66	15,000	10,026.38	7,500	
2-31-00-511-00	Utilities	14,059.38	-	-	-	-	
2-31-00-513-00	Fuel	38,164.52	28,239.93	30,000	32,338.11	33,500	
2-31-00-515-00	Natural Gas	-	4,765.36	4,800	4,974.33	5,200	
2-31-00-516-00	Electricity	-	4,102.45	4,500	4,317.78	4,500	
2-31-00-517-00	Telephone	-	2,796.12	2,800	3,329.91	3,500	
2-31-00-518-00	Internet	-	920.00	1,000	866.42	1,000	
2-31-00-762-00	transfer to capital	-	-	-	-	-	
2-31-00-990-00	Discounts & Adjustments	19.08	19.08	20	45.00	50	
	IT	-	-	2,000	-	-	
TOTAL EXPENSES		140,901.71	160,159.82	165,833	191,708.99	187,909	160,160
NET		140,629.61	159,735.67	165,771	191,301.54	187,609	

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
ROADS, STREETS, WALKS, LIGHTS							
1-32-00-100-00	Road Operating Special Levy	(24,450.00)	(24,500.00)	(24,450)	(24,450.00)	(24,500)	
1-32-00-580-00	EV Charger Revenue	-	-	-	(813.80)	(850)	
1-32-00-590-00	Other Revenue From Own Sources	-	(4,050.00)	-	(15.23)	(30)	AB Govt permits
TOTAL REVENUE		(24,450.00)	(28,550.00)	(24,450)	(25,279.03)	(25,380)	-
ROADS EXPENSE							
2-32-00-110-00	Salaries and Wages	24,312.77	27,432.22	128,283	40,411.73	42,000	
2-32-00-120-00	Benefits	5,247.79	3,324.33	24,285	7,090.23	7,500	
2-32-00-210-00	Contracted Services	48,483.19	15,530.18	40,000	11,300.00	64,500	
2-32-00-213-00	Insurance	660.27	744.83	755	755.00	833	
2-32-00-214-00	Repairs and Maintenance	105,936.97	93,120.31	106,500	25,966.22	85,000	
2-32-00-214-02	R&M Equipment	-	1,236.00	5,000	5,400.20	5,500	
2-32-00-263-00	Equipment Lease / Rental	-	-	1,000	130.00	1,000	
2-32-00-510-00	Materials, Goods and Supplies	11,980.56	12,741.62	20,000	18,213.51	26,600	
2-32-00-511-00	EV Charging Station Internet/Power	-	587.89	1,500	1,584.00	1,950	
2-32-00-762-00	Transfer to Capital	29,025.13	-	10,500	-	-	
2-32-02-511-00	Street Lights	68,295.61	72,290.72	80,000	78,561.42	80,000	
TOTAL EXPENSE		293,942.29	227,008.10	417,823	189,412.31	314,883	
NET		269,492.29	198,458.10	393,373	164,133.28	289,503	

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
AIRPORT REVENUE							
1-33-00-560-00	Rental Revenue - Airport	(465.00)	-	(465)	(465.00)	(465)	
TOTAL AIRPORT REVENUE		(465.00)	-	(465)	(465.00)	(465)	-
AIRPORT EXPENSES							
2-33-00-210-00	Contracted Services	144.10	97.09	150	319.17	250	
2-33-00-213-00	Insurance	3,051.84	2,933.92	2,901	2,901.00	2,581	
2-33-00-214-00	Repairs and Maintenance	-	-	2,000	-	1,000	
2-33-00-513-00	Fuel	-	-	250	-	100	
2-33-00-510-00	Materials, Goods and Supplies	3,062.27	-	2,000	-	1,000	
2-33-00-511-00	Airport Utilities	1,236.39	1,377.71	1,400	1,626.86	1,675	
TOTAL AIRPORT EXPENSES		7,494.60	4,408.72	8,701	4,847.03	6,606	-
NET		7,029.60	4,408.72	8,236	4,382.03	6,141	

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
WATER REVENUE							
1-41-00-420-00	Sales of Water	(295,875.06)	(293,008.33)	(295,000)	(257,642.65)	(255,000)	
1-41-00-510-00	Penalties	(1,818.32)	(1,904.43)	(1,800)	(1,894.92)	(1,800)	
1-41-00-590-00	Resident Services	(902.00)	(1,180.00)	(1,000)	(870.79)	(1,000)	
1-41-00-940-00	Sales of Farm Water	(11,466.52)	(11,156.08)	(10,000)	(9,863.29)	(10,000)	
	Debenture	-	-	-	-	(2,000,000)	
		-	-	-	-		
TOTAL REVENUE		(310,061.90)	(307,248.84)	(307,800)	(270,271.65)	(2,267,800)	-
WATER EXPENSES							
2-41-00-990-00	Other Trans., Dis. & Adjustments	3,251.00	2,365.78	2,500	2,276.63	2,500	
2-41-01-110-00	Water Treatment Salaries	45,983.50	42,876.27	39,681	69,642.46	75,000	
2-41-01-120-00	Water Treatment Benefits	10,963.91	7,727.32	7,993	13,511.87	14,000	
2-41-01-210-00	W.T. Ridge Water Commission	28,449.26	123,986.91	18,500	16,030.94	16,500	
2-41-01-212-00	Shipping/Freight	-	5,751.73	6,000	7,522.72	7,700	
2-41-01-213-00	Water Treatment Insurance	16,270.67	17,364.77	18,234	18,234.00	17,472	
2-41-01-214-00	W.T. Repairs & Maintenance	26,313.95	-	-	-	-	
2-41-01-214-00	W.T. R&M - Building	-	-	500	473.31	1,000	
2-41-01-214-01	W.T. R&M - Equipment	-	16,722.90	30,000	22,440.84	30,000	additional equip changesfor water treatment
2-41-01-217-00	Water Testing	-	9,568.50	11,000	11,820.50	22,000	additional water testing
2-41-01-510-00	W.T. Materials, Goods & Supplies	(1,935.47)	221.93	2,000	2,728.75	2,000	
2-41-01-511-00	Water Treatment Utilities	47,879.79	-	-	-	-	
2-41-01-515-00	Natural Gas	-	6,776.86	6,800	7,381.86	7,600	
2-41-01-516-00	Electricity	-	40,426.57	42,000	37,001.73	38,100	
2-41-01-517-00	Telephone	-	937.36	1,000	951.96	1,000	
2-41-01-518-00	Internet	-	920.00	1,000	960.00	1,000	
2-41-01-519-00	Chemicals	-	10,254.49	12,000	8,375.14	12,200	
2-41-02-110-00	P&P Salaries	390.00	-	-	9,249.42	9,550	
2-41-02-120-00	P&P Benefits	73.65	-	-	1,447.63	1,500	
2-41-02-210-00	P&P Contracted Services	-	-	-	331.21	29,000	
2-41-02-213-00	P&P Insurance	2,710.36	2,892.61	3,037	3,037.00	4,232	
2-41-02-214-00	P&P Repairs & Maintenance	43,980.48	-	-	1,926.69	2,000	
2-41-02-214-00	P&P R&M - Building	-	-	2,000	99.77	5,000	
2-41-02-214-01	P&P R&M - Equipment	-	1,612.72	25,500	4,152.19	2,000	
2-41-02-510-00	P&P Materials, Goods & Supplies	188.32	-	1,000	1,827.89	1,000	
2-41-02-511-00	P&P Utilities	11,366.71	-	-	-	-	
2-41-02-515-00	Natural Gas	-	915.11	1,000	954.74	1,000	
2-41-02-516-00	Electricity	-	11,431.29	11,000	10,498.16	11,000	
2-41-03-110-00	Trans. Lines Salaries	1,355.50	1,856.99	6,086	10,096.04	10,400	
2-41-03-120-00	Trans. Lines Benefits	218.16	408.13	986	1,602.24	1,650	
2-41-03-210-00	Trans. Lines Contracted Services	17,481.67	3,356.79	5,000	3,773.36	2,027,000	overland piping/water purchase
2-41-03-213-00	Trans. Lines - Insurance	421.43	421.36	442	442.00	450	
2-41-03-214-00	Trans. Lines R&M	4,424.57	24,750.35	84,000	48,001.88	50,000	
2-41-03-510-00	Trans. Lines Materials, Goods & Supplies	10,633.64	4,255.07	8,000	32,140.22	100,000	rain barrels/toilet rebate
	transfer to capital	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL EXPENSES		270,421.10	337,801.81	347,259	348,933.15	2,503,854	
NET		(39,640.80)	30,552.97	39,459	78,661.50	236,054	

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
WASTE WATER REVENUE							
1-42-00-410-00	Sales of Goods	(20.00)	-	(1,000)	(30.00)	-	
1-42-00-420-00	Sales of Sewage Services	(102,451.61)	(104,037.36)	(104,000)	(95,596.65)	(96,000)	
1-42-00-421-00	Sales of Services - Other	(1,180.28)	(1,550.58)	(1,000)	(3,202.01)	(1,000)	
TOTAL REVENUE		(103,651.89)	(105,587.94)	(106,000)	(98,828.66)	(97,000)	-
WASTE WATER EXPENSES							
2-42-00-110-00	Salaries and Wages	10,753.30	10,067.95	10,380	20,115.15	20,700	
2-42-00-120-00	Benefits	2,510.87	1,690.36	2,122	3,583.54	3,700	
2-42-00-210-00	Contracted Services	7,820.74	3,309.14	5,000	273.00	314	utility safety partners
2-42-00-213-00	Insurance	1,609.76	1,713.99	1,800	1,800.00	2,056	
2-42-00-214-00	Repairs and Maintenance	20,215.70	32,036.91	33,000	18,346.22	27,500	
2-42-00-510-00	Materials, Goods and Supplies	7,298.57	7,265.51	10,000	11,186.49	12,000	
2-42-00-511-00	Utilities	8,846.56	-	-	-	-	
2-42-00-515-00	Natural Gas	-	1,356.46	1,400	1,287.03	1,400	
2-42-00-516-00	Electricity	-	7,674.62	7,700	6,681.64	7,000	
2-42-00-990-00	Other Trans., Discounts & Adjustments	1,278.75	1,010.12	1,500	965.71	1,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES		60,334.25	66,125.06	72,902	64,238.78	75,670	-
NET		(43,317.64)	(39,462.88)	(33,098)	(34,589.88)	(21,330)	-

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
SOLID WASTE REVENUE							
1-43-00-420-00	Sales of Garbage Service	(115,876.39)	(116,156.21)	(117,000)	(113,404.05)	(115,000)	
1-43-00-590-00	Other Revenue from Own Sources	(190.00)	(2,103.50)	-	(2,198.50)	(200)	
1-43-01-590-00	Recycling - Other	(1,294.04)	(769.29)	(700)	(1,629.25)	-	
	Circular Materials	-	-	-	-	(11,000)	
TOTAL SOLID WASTE REVENUE		(117,360.43)	(119,029.00)	(117,700)	(117,231.80)	(126,200)	-
TRANSFER STATION REVENUE							
1-43-00-550-00	Return on Investments	(124.73)	(275.65)	(270)	(280.33)	(275)	
1-43-00-850-00	County of Warner and Coutts	(12,115.80)	(12,115.80)	(12,115)	(12,129.00)	(12,130)	
TOTAL TRANSFER STATION REVENUE		(12,240.53)	(12,391.45)	(12,385)	(12,409.33)	(12,405)	
SOLID WASTE EXPENSE							
2-43-00-110-00	Salaries and Wages	33,146.51	36,368.76	37,496	37,727.21	38,850	
2-43-00-120-00	Benefits	7,468.38	6,445.74	7,815	7,045.70	7,850	
2-43-00-213-00	Insurance	641.44	727.00	735	735.00	798	
2-43-00-214-00	Garbage Repairs and Maintenance	9,644.25	3,317.94	14,000	23,436.11	20,000	
2-43-00-510-00	Garbage Materials, Goods, Supplies	34.80	-	1,500	1,156.43	1,000	
2-43-00-513-00	Fuel	12,126.16	10,283.86	12,000	10,987.04	11,500	
2-43-00-765-00	Chief Mountain Commission	25,991.53	25,082.91	26,500	27,395.18	28,200	↑ from \$31.24 / per to \$32.18 @827
2-43-00-990-00	Other Trans., Disc. & Adjustments	1,124.00	1,091.13	1,100	3,040.17	3,000	
2-43-01-210-00	Recycling Contracted Services	6,253.30	7,173.11	12,000	16,501.68	14,500	
2-43-01-213-00	Recycling Insurance	55.85	55.84	59	59.00	60	
TOTAL SOLID WASTE EXPENSES		96,486.22	90,546.29	113,205	128,083.52	125,758	
TRANSFER STATION EXPENSES							
2-43-00-111-00	Wages - Transfer Station	20,869.24	20,979.79	21,630	20,976.22	21,500	
2-43-00-121-00	Transfer Station Benefits & W.C.B.	495.63	478.77	494	483.99	500	
2-43-00-211-00	Transfer Stn. Supply / Service / Repair	-	-	500	940.89	1,100	
2-43-00-511-00	Transfer Station Cell Phone/Utilities	1,736.38	1,932.88	2,000	2,033.97	2,100	
TOTAL TRANSFER STATION EXPENSES		23,101.25	23,391.44	24,624	24,435.07	25,200	
NET: SOLID WASTE		(20,874.21)	(28,482.71)	(4,495)	10,851.72	(442)	
NET: TRANSFER STATION		10,860.72	10,999.99	12,239	12,025.74	12,795	
NET: OVERALL		(10,013.49)	(17,482.72)	7,744	22,877.46	12,353	

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
CEMETERY REVENUES						
1-56-00-420-00 Cemetary Sale of Service	(3,600.00)	(3,400.00)	(2,500)	(3,573.81)	(3,000)	
TOTAL REVENUE	(3,600.00)	(3,400.00)	(2,500)	(3,573.81)	(3,000)	-
CEMETERY EXPENSES						
2-56-00-770-00 Grants To Individuals & Organizations	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000	5,000.00	5,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000	5,000.00	5,000	-
NET	1,400.00	1,600.00	2,500	1,426.19	2,000	-

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REVENUES							
1-61-00-420-00	Planning / Development Services	-	(300.00)	(200)	(180.00)	(200)	
1-61-00-520-00	Development Permit Revenue	(630.00)	(750.00)	(750)	(544.66)	(550)	
1-61-00-521-00	Permit Revenue from Agencies	(9,285.97)	(1,794.50)	(1,500)	(518.49)	(550)	
1-62-00-420-00	Business Licenses	-	(5,419.00)	(5,400)	(6,105.00)	(5,900)	
1-62-00-590-00	Other Revenue	-	-	-	(150.00)	-	
TOTAL REVENUES		(9,915.97)	(8,263.50)	(7,850)	(7,498.15)	(7,200)	
SUBDIV, LAND & DEV REV							
1-66-00-410-00	Sale of Land	-	(71,581.23)	(50,000)	(73,518.35)	-	
TOTAL SUBDIVISION REVENUES		-	(71,581.23)	(50,000)	(73,518.35)	-	-
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES							
2-61-00-210-00	Contracted Services	13,185.20	13,111.27	15,000	17,264.92	24,000	
TOTAL PLANNING & ZONING EXPENSE		13,185.20	13,111.27	15,000	17,264.92	24,000	-
ECON. DEV./COMM SERV EXP							
2-62-00-210-00	EDT - Contracted Services	-	-	26,500	17,250.00	-	
2-62-00-510-00	EDT Materials, Goods and Supplies	2,365.70	1,836.20	2,000	130.17	200	
2-62-00-765-00	EDT Con't To Own Mun. Agencies	824.00	824.00	900	824.00	825	
2-62-00-770-00	Heritage Handi Bus	4,890.00	4,890.00	4,890	4,890.00	4,890	
TOTAL EC D. EXPENSES		8,079.70	7,550.20	34,290	23,094.17	5,915	-
SUBDIV, LAND & DEV EXP							
2-66-00-210-00	Contracted Services	25,430.40	21,690.00	100,000	9,055.45	47,000	
	Transfer to capital	-	-	30,000	30,000.00	-	
TOTAL SUBDIVISION EXPENSES		25,430.40	21,690.00	130,000	39,055.45	47,000	-
NET: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		3,269.23	4,847.77	7,150	9,766.77	16,800	
NET: SUBDIVISION		25,430.40	(49,891.23)	80,000	(34,462.90)	47,000	
NET: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		8,079.70	7,550.20	34,290	23,094.17	5,915	
NET: OVERALL		36,779.33	(37,493.26)	121,440	(1,601.96)	69,715	

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
RECREATION GENERAL REVENUE						
1-72-00-840-00 Summer Jobs Grant	-	-	(6,055)	-	(5,400)	
1-72-00-590-00 other revenue from own sources	-	(268.10)	-	(400.00)	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	-	(268.10)	(6,055)	(400.00)	(5,400)	-
RECREATION GENERAL EXPENSES						
2-72-00-110-00 Salaries and Wages	73,411.64	71,249.29	73,458	84,669.93	87,083	
2-72-00-120-00 Benefits	15,541.46	10,725.32	13,647	14,421.82	14,833	
2-72-00-210-00 Contracted Services	11,155.00	7,733.34	25,000	10,204.72	20,000	arbourist
2-72-00-213-00 Insurance	5,135.90	5,485.10	5,760	5,760.00	5,827	
2-72-00-214-01 Repairs & Maintenance - Building	-	129.68	150	668.54	200	
2-72-00-214-02 Repairs & Maintenance - Equipment	3,027.66	3,835.53	10,000	3,969.89	5,000	
2-72-00-215-00 Training	-	-	1,500	-	1,000	
2-72-00-510-00 Materials, Goods & Supplies	2,828.61	354.13	10,000	1,435.15	10,000	chemical added
2-72-00-511-00 Utilities	23,180.25	-	-	-	-	
2-72-00-515-00 Natural Gas	-	7,016.99	7,000	4,859.24	5,000	
2-72-00-516-00 Electricity	-	30,387.49	32,000	11,205.52	30,000	to account for curling
2-72-00-762-00 transfer to capital	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL EXPENSES	134,280.52	136,916.87	178,515	137,194.81	178,943	-
NET	134,280.52	136,648.77	172,460	136,794.81	173,543	-

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
REC - CAMPGROUND REV							
1-72-01-420-00	Sale of Services	(21,623.14)	(12,957.49)	(13,000)	(19,234.30)	(17,000)	
TOTAL CAMPGROUND REV		(21,623.14)	(12,957.49)	(13,000)	(19,234.30)	(17,000)	-
RECREATION - CAMPGROUND							
2-72-01-210-00	Contracted Services	588.75	-	500	-	5,000	
2-72-01-213-00	Insurance	330.35	318.90	336	336.00	340	
2-72-01-214-00	Repairs & Maintenance	7,388.28	3,945.83	4,000	2,978.47	4,000	
2-72-01-214-01	R&M Building	1.00	204.41	205	1,331.72	1,000	
2-72-01-510-00	Mat., Goods & Supplies	3,171.85	3,468.22	4,500	2,806.06	2,500	
2-72-01-511-00	Utilities	23,180.25	-	-	-	-	
2-72-01-515-00	Natural Gas	-	1,722.80	1,800	1,888.60	1,950	
2-72-01-516-00	Electricity	-	28,702.38	30,000	26,842.11	27,650	
	transfer to capital	-	-	15,800	-	-	
TOTAL CAMPGROUND EXP		34,660	38,362.54	57,141	36,183	42,440	-
NET		13,037.34	25,405.05	44,141	16,948.66	25,440	-

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
RECREATION - POOL REV							
1-72-02-410-00	Sale of Goods - Pool	(8.55)	(204.26)	(200)	(93.20)	(100)	
1-72-02-420-00	Sales of Services - Pool	(5,671.43)	(14,994.65)	(15,000)	(14,996.06)	(15,000)	
1-72-02-560-00	Pool Rentals	-	(428.57)	(200)	(142.86)	(150)	
1-72-02-590-00	Other Revenue from Own Sources	-	(95.75)	-	(200.00)		
1-72-02-850-00	Local Gov't Conditional Grants	(24,048.00)	-	(24,500)	(25,000.00)	(25,000)	
	Donation	-	-	-	-	(85,000)	
	Summer Jobs Grant	-	-	(35,500)	-	(26,400)	
	TOTAL POOL REVENUE	(29,727.98)	(15,723.23)	(75,400)	(40,432.12)	(151,650)	
RECREATION - POOL							
2-72-02-110-00	Salaries and Wages	33,595.49	76,636.12	79,012	134,037.84	80,000	
2-72-02-120-00	Benefits	1,613.59	3,387.22	3,492	7,959.19	4,500	
2-72-02-210-00	Contracted Services	3,805.80	6,238.82	10,000	7,800.24	5,000	
2-72-02-212-00	Shipping/Freight	-	-	-	1,532.00	1,550	
2-72-02-213-00	Insurance	1,974.84	2,107.64	2,213	2,213.00	3,505	
2-72-02-214-00	Repairs & Maintenance	1,104.37	-	1,000	-	-	
	Repairs & Maintenance - Building	-	-	1,000	5,990.00	1,000	
2-72-02-214-00	Repairs & Maintenance - Pool	-	7,028.40	2,000	276.99	100,000	liner/skimmer
2-72-02-215-00	Training	3,743.74	1,896.67	3,000	915.00	2,500	
2-72-02-510-00	Materials, Goods & Supplies	12,936.43	3,298.64	-	2,267.84	1,000	
2-72-02-511-00	Utilities	13,578.71	-	-	-	-	
2-72-02-515-00	Natural Gas	-	13,396.00	13,500	13,768.52	14,200	
2-72-02-516-00	Electricity	-	12,801.35	13,000	20,055.11	20,200	
2-72-02-517-00	Telephone	-	596.16	600	596.37	600	
2-72-02-518-00	Internet	-	100.00	100	160.00	160	
2-72-02-519-00	Chemicals	-	10,633.29	6,000	4,994.14	5,200	
2-72-00-762-00	transfer to capital	-	-	-	-	-	
	TOTAL POOL EXPENSE	72,352.97	138,120.31	134,917	202,566.24	239,415	
	NET	42,624.99	122,397.08	59,517	162,134.12	87,765	

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
Golf Course Revenue							
TOTAL REVENUE		-	-	-	-	-	-
Golf Course Expenses							
2-72-03-510-00	Materials, Goods and Supplies	-	-	-	5,966.74	8,500	water hauling
	Insurance	-	-	-	-	7,474	building
	Repairs & Maintenance - Building	-	-	-	-	6,000	eavestrough
	Donation	-	-	-	-	50,000	as per Feb Council meeting
2-72-03-516-00	Golf Course Electricity	7,837.01	6,717.13	7,000	4,735.23	4,900	
TOTAL EXPENSES		7,837.01	6,717.13	7,000	10,701.97	76,874	-
NET		7,837.01	6,717.13	7,000	10,701.97	76,874	-

Town of Milk River Operating Budget 2025 Draft

		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 YTD 31-Dec	2025 Budget	Explanation
CULTURE AND LIBRARY REVENUE		-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL REVENUE		-	-	-	-	-	
CULTURE AND LIBRARY EXPENSES							
2-74-00-765-00	Municipal and Regional	20,782.24	20,301.12	20,301	20,316.64	20,301	
TOTAL EXPENSES		20,782.24	20,301.12	20,301	20,316.64	20,301	-
NET		20,782.24	20,301.12	20,301	20,316.64	20,301	-

2025 Operational Projects	
Council	
Remuneration Increase (4000 to 4500 / 3500 to 4000 x 4)	\$ 2,500.00
Election	\$ 9,000.00
Regional Orientation	\$ 1,200.00
Professional Development	\$ 3,000.00
	\$ 15,700.00
Administration	
Wage Step	\$ 12,000.00
Owl and TV	\$ 2,600.00
Communications	\$ 12,000.00
Grant Writing Services	\$ 20,000.00
Atrium Repairs	\$ 5,000.00
Eavestrough / Power Repairs	\$ 10,000.00
	\$ 61,600.00
Roads	
Sand Increase	\$ 9,000.00
	\$ 9,000.00
Water	
Water purchase from SMRID	\$ 10,332.00
Overland pipe project	\$ 2,000,000.00
Debenture	-\$ 2,000,000.00
Rain Barrels	\$ 67,500.00
Inter Basin Engagement	\$ 1,000.00
Toilet Rebate (450/2=225 accounts x \$50)	\$ 11,250.00
	\$ 90,082.00
Planning and Development	
Orthophoto	\$ 2,800.00
Demolition of Theatre	\$ 45,000.00
	\$ 47,800.00
Pool	
Liner/Skimmer	\$ 85,000.00
	\$ 85,000.00
Golf Course	
Building Insurance	\$ 7,474.00
Water Hauling	\$ 8,500.00
Eavestrough	\$ 6,000.00
Donation (as per February Council meeting)	\$ 50,000.00
	\$ 71,974.00
Grand Total	\$ 381,156.00

Request for Decision

2025 Capital Budget Adjustment

March 10, 2025



RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the discussion on the 2025 capital budget adjustment as information.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act

Section 245 each council must adopt a capital budget for each calendar year.

BACKGROUND

Council approved the 2025 Capital Budget at their December 9, 2024, Council meeting.

Adjustments have been made and are presented to Council for discussion and prioritization.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2025 Capital Budget Adjustment
2. Capital Project Pressures

2025 Capital Budget Adjustment

Dept.	Project Description	2025 Proposed Budget Estimated Cost	TF from Operating	LGFF \$348,395	Debentures / Loan	From Reserves	Other Funds	CCBF \$51,772	Total Funds	COMMENTS
12 Administration										
	LED Lights - Dental Office	\$ 5,556					\$ 5,556			
	Total	\$ 5,556	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,556	\$ -	\$ 5,556	
24 Emergency Management										
	Breathing Apparatus	\$ 12,590	\$ 12,590							
	Wire in Generator	\$ 10,000				\$ 10,000				
	Total	\$ 22,590	\$ 12,590	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,590	
32 Roads										
	8th Avenue Phase 8A Power	\$ 255,274				\$ 255,274				CF
	8th Avenue Phase 8A Power	\$ 106,742				\$ 106,742				CF
	8th Avenue Curb/Gutter/grading	\$ 775,000			\$ 775,000					
	Sander Replacement	\$ 40,000				\$ 40,000				
	1st Street East Rehabilitation									
	School Traffic Control	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000							two units
	Curb and Gutter and Road	\$ 45,000				\$ 45,000				CF - between main & 1st st/ 8th ave/Main
	Rexall to DC Metals Sidewalk / C&G	\$ 50,000				\$ 50,000				was coming out of LGFF
	Total	\$ 1,296,016	\$ 24,000	\$ -	\$ 775,000	\$ 497,016	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,296,016	
37 Storm Water										
	CCTV	\$ 45,000				\$ 45,000				CF (flush out taps) reall from wastewater
	Total	\$ 45,000	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 45,000		\$ -	\$ 45,000	
41 Water										
	Phase 1A: Design RW Pump Stn/Tr. Line	\$ 515,131				\$ 128,783	\$ 386,348			
	Water Source Study & Contingency Plan	\$ 200,000					\$ 200,000			
	Total	\$ 715,131	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 128,783	\$ 586,348		\$ 715,131	
42 Wastewater										
	Lagoon Project \$10,330,000	\$ 450,000		\$ 400,000				\$ 50,000		
	Total	\$ 450,000	\$ -	\$ 400,000	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 450,000	
43 Solid Waste										
	Garbage Truck	\$ 448,000			\$ 448,000					Deferred from 2023
	Total	\$ 448,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 448,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 448,000	
62 Planning & Development										
	Theatre abatement/air quality	\$ 128,200				\$ 128,200				
	Total	\$ 128,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 128,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 128,200	
72 Recreation										
	Spraying equipment	\$ 95,300								
	Curling Rink Roof	\$ 36,075								
	Block 39 Detailed Design - Phase 1	\$ 710,000					\$ 710,000			CF
	Total	\$ 841,375	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 710,000	\$ -	\$ 710,000	
72-02 Pool										
	Main-pool liner/skimmer-drain-and-box									CF Move to operating \$85,000
	Engineered Exit Light	\$ 10,000								
	Sun Shelter	\$ 15,000				\$ 15,000				
	Total	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	
Total 2025 Capital Budget		\$ 3,976,868	\$ 36,590	\$ 400,000	\$ 1,223,000	\$ 853,999	\$ 1,301,904	\$ 50,000	\$ 3,865,493	

2025 Capital Projects	
Administration	
LED Lighting - Dental Office	\$ 5,556.00
	\$ 5,556.00
Emergency Management	
Wire in generator	
2 Breathing Apparatus (approved \$12,000)	\$ 12,590.00
	\$ 12,590.00
Roads	
1 Street NE Rehabilitation	
Sander Replacement	\$ 40,000.00
8th avenue roadworks	\$ 775,000.00
8th avenue power	\$ 362,016.00
Curb/Gutter (on 8th ave between main & 1 street)	\$ 45,000.00
Sidewalk - Rexall to DC	\$ 50,000.00
Traffic Control Devices - School	\$ 24,000.00
	\$ 1,296,016.00
Storm Water	
CCTV	\$ 45,000.00
	\$ 45,000.00
Water	
Water Source Study (ACP)	\$ 200,000.00
Phase 1A: Design Raw Water Pump/Main Transmission Line	\$ 128,783.00
	\$ 328,783.00
Wastewater	
Lagoon	\$ 450,000.00
	\$ 450,000.00
Solid Waste	
Garbage Truck	\$ 448,000.00
	\$ 448,000.00
Economic Development	
Theatre Abatement and Air Quality Monitoring	\$ 128,200.00
	\$ 128,200.00
Recreation	
Block 39 Phase 1	\$ 710,000.00
Curling Rink Roof	\$ 36,075.00
Spray Equipment	\$ 95,300.00
	\$ 841,375.00
Pool	
Shade for Viewing Area	\$ 15,000.00
Engineered Exit Light	\$ 10,000.00
	\$ 15,000.00
Sub-total	\$ 3,570,520.00

curb gutter/grading

CF

CF

CF from wastewater

Request for Decision

Lethbridge Region Economic Resilience Task Force

March 10, 2025



RECOMMENDATION

That the Lethbridge Region Economic Resilience Task Force report be accepted as information.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

BACKGROUND

The imposition of broad 25% tariffs levied against Canadian exports to the United States has the potential to significantly disrupt the national, provincial, and regional economy. Alberta government revenues are heavily dependent on revenues from oil and gas exports to the USA.

By virtue of the Town of Milk River's membership in the SouthGrow Regional Initiative, SouthGrow, the Alberta Southwest Regional Alliance, and Economic Development Lethbridge have created a task force with the following vision to:

Strengthen and diversify the economy of southwest Alberta while building resilience in the business community to withstand and thrive through disruption to protect our quality of life.

RISK/CONSEQUENCES

1. Council may provide further direction on any item contained in the report. Council shall be specific in the direction it provides.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

ATTACHMENTS

1. Lethbridge Region Economic Resilience Task Force Backgrounder and Terms of Reference



Backgrounder

Task Force Terms of Reference

Lethbridge Region Economic Resilience Task Force (LERTF)

The Why:

The imposition of broad 25% tariffs levied against Canadian exports to the United States has the potential to significantly disrupt the national, provincial and regional economy. Alberta government revenues are heavily dependent on revenues from oil and gas exports to the USA.

Lethbridge ranks 10th out of 41 Canadian cities in terms of potential U.S. tariff exposure according to a recent report from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. The risk to our economy is significant. Annual exports from the Lethbridge region are over \$2.2 billion, or just over \$15,000 per capita. Approximately 90% of all goods exported from the Lethbridge Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) goes to the United States representing a risk to almost ~19.4% of the city's GDP.

There is considerable stress and uncertainty in the business community and there will be a need for reliable information to support data driven decision making. Manufacturers will be under considerable pressure to relocate all or a portion of their operations to the United States to avoid the impact of tariffs and make the most of other incentives being offered.

Provincial government funding could be under pressure from a potential drop in the price of and demand for oil and gas. Municipal funding could be under pressure from increased unemployment and the risk of lower property tax assessment.

Attracting new investment, supporting continued growth and expansion as well as retaining existing business activity will be key to protecting the economy of the Lethbridge region. The change in our trade relationship with the United States is not temporary and unlikely to ever return to what it once was.

The Bank of Canada has outlined its expectation that what lies ahead is a “structural change” to the Canadian economy. A permanent shift downward in growth potential with implications for quality of life of every Canadian. Canada has long suffered from a productivity gap with the United States that could widen with the additional complications of a trade war.

More importantly, however, within every crisis comes opportunity. By galvanizing the business community and providing sufficient tools and resources, there is an opportunity to reimagine southern Alberta's economy to make it stronger for the long term. The current crisis should be a clarion call for change to make Canadian businesses more competitive and for governments at all levels to remove barriers to growth to enable industry to leverage free trade agreements with other global markets.



Backgrounder

Task Force Terms of Reference

What:

Task Force Vision:

Strengthen and diversify the economy of southwest Alberta while building resilience in the business community to withstand and thrive through disruption to protect our quality of life.

Key Goals:

- Advocate for the elimination of the barriers to interprovincial trade relevant to the region and local industry.
- Diversify global trade opportunities and expand export development in markets appropriate for the region's industry.
- Elevate the region's voice and promote the subject matter expertise of our industry leaders on the national and international stage.
- Promote the region an attractive place to invest and work with municipal partners to enhance the value proposition for investment.
- Support the ease of doing business in the region through the elimination of regulatory red tape at all levels of government.
- Support entrepreneurs and business owners to navigate a changing economic landscape.
- Ensure increased investment in post-secondary institutions and positioning them as world-leading research institutions and position Lethbridge as destination of choice for domestic students.
- Promote the region's tourism potential and increasing visitation.
- Speak with one unified, consensus voice on key economic issues even when we disagree.

How:

- Coordination of resources (training, research, marketing) between organizations.
- Alignment of messaging and focusing on the positive opportunities where possible.
- Focused, joint advocacy to all levels of government.
- Shared intelligence and market data to support improved decision making.
- Facilitate import replacement strategies enabling increased local sourcing and stronger local supply chains. (B2B)
- Leveraging export development and market access agencies and encouraging a "boots on the ground" presence in the region. (EDC, GAC-TCS, Travel Alberta, Invest Alberta etc.)
- Promotion of "Buy Local" (or "Experience Local") education and awareness. (B2C)
- Increased workforce and business capability by developing/delivering training, workshops and other resources.
- Building investor networks and increasing access to capital.
- Bi-weekly coordination calls among the partners.



Backgrounder

Task Force Terms of Reference

Who:

Partners:

- Alberta Southwest Regional Alliance (*Bev Thornton, Executive Director*)
- Community Futures Lethbridge Region (*Troy Grainger, Executive Director*)
- Economic Development Lethbridge (*Trevor Lewington, CEO*)
- Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce (*Cyndi Crane, CEO*)
- Lethbridge Construction Association (*Erin Low, Executive Director*)
- Lethbridge Polytechnic (*Bryon Anderson, Director, Government and Public Affairs*)
- SouthGrow Regional Initiative (*Peter Casurella, Executive Director*)
- Tourism Lethbridge (*Erin Crane, CEO*)
- University of Lethbridge (*Richard Westlund, Executive Director, Communications, Marketing & Government Relations*)

Supported by:

- City of Lethbridge (*Perry Stein, Partner Services Manager*)
- Lethbridge County (*Mattie Watson, Communications & Marketing Strategist*)
- Prairies Economic Development Canada (*Brandie Lea, Senior Business Officer*)

Key Initiatives:

- Canada's Premier Food Corridor (CPFC)
- Canada's Western Gateway Trade & Logistics Corridor (CWG)
- Lethbridge Manufacturing Association
- Regional Innovation Network of Southern Alberta (RINSA)
- Southern Alberta Alternative Energy Partnership (SAAEP)
- Southern Alberta Investment & Trade Initiative (SAITI)
- Team Lethbridge

Guiding Principles:



Backgrounder

Task Force Terms of Reference

- ✓ Lethbridge has weathered economic storms before and will emerge stronger through this crisis. (ie: BSE and COVID)
- ✓ Crisis brings opportunity – resilience is about seeing and taking advantage of new opportunities that arise. Scout vs soldier mindset.
- ✓ The regional economy is interdependent and interconnected – taking a big picture view is important as we work together to build on our strengths.
- ✓ Time is of the essence – momentum through action is more important than crossing every T and dotting every I.
- ✓ Governance is by consensus and through collaboration in keeping with the spirit of historical projects in the region among our organizations.
- ✓ The Task Force is temporary and will be ended when the partners feel sufficient progress has been accomplished.
- ✓ Participation is voluntary and on a project-by-project basis
 - There is no financial contribution required, organizations contribute staff time and other in-kind resources within the capacity available within their scope.
 - Projects with funding requirements will be evaluated and resourced through available support programs and voluntary contributions on a case-by-case basis.
- ✓ We have a long-term focus – getting off the commodity and resource dependent rollercoaster. We recognize the task force is temporary but our outcomes are based on long term impact.

Communities:

The following 40 communities are included in the scope of the Task Force’s work by virtue of their inclusion in either the Alberta Southwest Regional Alliance, SouthGrow Regional Initiative or Economic Development Lethbridge:

Arrowwood	County of 40 Mile	Milo	Vauxhall
Barnwell	Coutts	MD of Pincher Creek	Vulcan
Blood Tribe	Cowley	MD of Ranchland	Vulcan County
Bow Island	Crowsnest Pass	MD of Taber	Warner
Cardston	Fort MacLeod	MD of Willow Creek	
Cardston County	Foremost	Nanton	
Carmangay	Glenwood	Picture Butte	
Champion	Hill Spring	Pincher Creek	
City of Lethbridge	ID#4 - Waterton	Raymond	
Claresholm	Lethbridge County	Stavely	
Coaldale	Magrath	Stirling	
Coalhurst	Milk River	Taber	

Request for Decision

Councillor Reports

March 10, 2025



RECOMMENDATION

That the Councillors reports for the period ending March 10, 2025, be accepted as information.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

BACKGROUND

Elected Officials, appointed at the annual organizational meeting, attend regular meetings of various boards, commissions, and committees. Each elected official is required to keep Council informed by providing regular activity of the board, commission, or committee they are appointed to.

RISKS/CONSEQUENCES

Should committee reports not be relayed, members of Council will not be informed on the various boards, commissions, and committees.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

ATTACHMENTS

1. Family & Community Support Services
2. Oldman River Regional Services Commission
3. Veterans Memorial Highway Association

Barons-Eureka-Warner Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Minutes of Board Meeting – Wednesday, December 4, 2024
Coaldale HUB (2107-13th Street)
In-person and Online

Attendance (in-person)

Board Members:

Degenstein, Dave – Town of Milk River, Chair
Chapman, Bill - Town of Coaldale, Vice-Chair
Bekkering, Garth – Town of Taber
Caldwell, Heather – Town of Coalhurst
Doell, Daniel – Village of Barons
Foster, Missy – Village of Barnwell
Harris, Merrill – M.D. of Taber
Heggie, Jack – County of Warner
Jensen, Kelly – Town of Raymond
Jensen, Melissa – Town of Nobleford
Kirby, Martin – Village of Warner
Nilsson, Larry – Village of Stirling
Payne, Megan – Village of Coutts

Attendance (on-line)

Feist, Teresa - Town of Picture Butte

Absent

Deleeuw, Shelley – Town of Vauxhall
Hickey, Lorne – Lethbridge County

Staff

Morrison, Zakk – Executive Director
Florence-Greene, Evelyn – Accounting Assistant
Hashizume, Linda – Executive Assistant

Call to Order

D. Degenstein called the meeting to order at 4.05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

M. Harris moved the Board approved the agenda as presented.

Carried Unanimously

Minutes

L. Nilsson moved the minutes of November 6, 2024, FCSS Board meeting be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously



Business Arising from Minutes

Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSSAA) Conference

M. Kirby, H. Caldwell, B. Chapman and D. Degenstein attended the 2024 FCSSAA Conference. Each Board member provided an update on the conference.

Z. Morrison shared that Kayla Blanchette was elected to the position of FCSSAA President.

Z. Morrison shared that Michelle McKenzie was re-elected as the South Region representative.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was presented for information:

- President Nominations Final 2024.
- FCSSAA Annual Report 2024.
- FCSSAA Board Meeting Highlights October 4, 2024.
- FCSSAA News - November 2024.

Board Appointment Confirmations received:

- 2024-10-23 Village of Stirling - Larry Nilsson.
- 2024-10-30 Town of Picture Butte - Teresa Feist.
- 2024-11-30 Town of Taber - Garth Bekkering.
- 2024-10-31 County of Warner - Jack Heggie.
- 2024-10-31 Town of Vauxhall - Shelley Deleeuw.
- 2024-10-31 Village of Coutts - Megan Payne.
- 2024-11-01 Town of Milk River - Dave Degenstein.
- 2024-11-01 Town of Nobleford - Melissa Jensen.
- 2024-11-01 Village of Barnwell - Missy Foster.
- 2024-11-06 Town of Coalhurst - Heather Caldwell.
- 2024-11-08 Town of Raymond - Kelly Jensen.
- 2024-11-21 Town of Coaldale - Bill Chapman.
- 2024-11-21 Village of Warner - Martin Kirby.

B. Chapman requested Z. Morrison ask the FCSSAA the process for choosing a parliamentarian for the FCSSAA AGM and report back to the Board in February.

M. Payne moved to receive the correspondence as presented for information.

Carried Unanimously

Handwritten signature and initials in blue ink, likely representing a board member or the secretary.

Reports

Executive Director

Z. Morrison reviewed the Executive Director's report.

The following was highlighted:

- FCSS Monthly Message – Self-Care Over the Holidays.
Visit: <https://fcss.ca/monthly-message/self-care-over-the-holidays/>

J. Heggie moved the Board to approve the Executive Director's Report as presented.

Carried Unanimously

Financial Report

Z. Morrison reviewed the Financial Report.

The Board discussed the Financial Report and monthly accounts.

B. Chapman moved the Board to approve the December 2024 Financial Report including:

- Financial statement for October 31, 2024;
- Monthly accounts for October 1-31, 2024;
- Mastercard statement for October 11 to November 13, 2024.

Carried Unanimously

New Business

Community Needs Assessment Update

The Board discussed the Community Needs Assessment project.

L. Nilsson strongly encouraged the Board to go back to their Councils and ask them to schedule interviews for the Community Needs Assessment.

M. Harris asked if the Taber Police Chief and local TCAPS could be involved in the assessment.

Z. Morrison responded that data collection includes other service providers across sectors of the communities, and will forward contact information for the Taber Police Chief and TCAPS.

M. Payne moved the Board to receive the Community Needs Assessment update for information.

Carried Unanimously



Interim Budget 2025

Z. Morrison presented the proposed interim budget for 2025.

The Board discussed the interim budget and no concerns were raised.

The Board discussed the 2025 Municipal Requisition rate.

All-Councils meeting 2025

The All-Councils event (BEW FCSS 55th Anniversary) was discussed.

B. Chapman offered the Town of Coaldale Facility with Country Kitchen as the Caterer.

J. Heggie moved the Board to host the All-Councils event in Coaldale on April 2, 2025, following the regular Board Meeting.

Carried Unanimously

Round Table:

The Board shared municipal updates.

Closed Session

B. Chapman moved the Board move in-camera, based on the Governance Policies Board Meeting in Absence of the Public, at 4:58 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

Evelyn Florence-Greene and Linda Hashizume left the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

T. Feist left the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

G. Bekkering moved the Board back to regular session at 5:11 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

H. Caldwell left the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

Evelyn Florence-Greene and Linda Hashizume entered back into the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

M. Harris moved the Board approve a 2% increase per capita for the 2025 Municipal requisition based on the population list as provided by the Municipalities.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next regular Board meeting will be February 5, 2025, at the Coaldale Hub (2107-13th Street) in-person and online (via Teams) starting at 4:00 p.m.



Adjournment

J. Heggie moved the meeting adjourn at 5:24 p.m.

Carried Unanimously



Chairperson



Executive Director

05 FEB 25

Date

Feb 5/2025

Date

Barons-Eureka-Warner Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Minutes of Board Meeting – Wednesday, February 5, 2025
Coaldale Hub (2107-13th Street)
In-person and Online

Attendance (in-person)

Degenstein, Dave – Town of Milk River, Board Chair
Chapman, Bill – Town of Coaldale, Vice-Chair
Bekkering, Garth – Town of Taber
Doell, Daniel – Village of Barons
Feist, Teresa – Town of Picture Butte
Kirby, Martin – Village of Warner
Nilsson, Larry – Village of Stirling
Heggie, Jack – County of Warner
Foster, Missy – Village of Barnwell
Hickey, Lorne – Lethbridge County
Harris, Merrill – M.D. of Taber

Attendance (online)

Jensen, Melissa – Town of Nobleford
Payne, Megan – Village of Coutts

Absent – Board Members

Deleeuw, Shelley – Town of Vauxhall
Jensen, Kelly – Town of Raymond
Caldwell, Heather – Town of Coalhurst

Staff (in-person):

Morrison, Zakk – Executive Director
Florence-Greene, Evelyn – Accounting Assistant

Delegation:

Read, Barb - Balanced and Restorative HR

Call to Order

D. Degenstein called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Tabled: 3 b) Report to Municipalities – Petra DeBow
Addition: 7 c) Board Minutes

L. Nilsson moved the Board to approve the agenda as amended.
Carried Unanimously

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. M.', located in the bottom right corner of the page.

Closed Session - Delegation

G. Bekkering moved the Board move in-camera, based on the Governance Policies Section 2.5.7 - Meeting in Absence of the Public, at 4:01 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

Evelyn Florence-Greene left the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

J. Heggie moved the Board back to regular session at 4.46 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

The Board thanked Barb Read for her 2024 Employee Pulse Check Survey Report.

Barb Read left the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

Evelyn Florence-Greene entered back into the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Minutes

J. Heggie moved the minutes of December 4, 2024, FCSS Board meeting be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

Business Arising from the Minutes

FCSSAA AGM Parliamentarian

Z. Morrison provided an update.

B. Chapman thanked Z. Morrison for the follow-up.

Community Needs Assessment - TCAPS

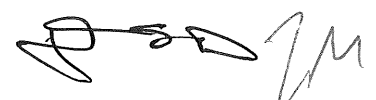
Z. Morrison provided an update.

D. Degenstein thanked L. Nilsson for his well worded encouragement to Board members to remind their councils to participate in the Community Needs Assessment survey.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was presented for information:

- November 2024 – FCSSAA President's Message.
- December 2024 – FCSAA News.
- January 2025 – FCSSAA News.
- 2024 – Petra DeBow, Certificate in Appreciation for Commitment to Social Work Education through Practicum Supervision, Medicine Hat College.
- 2024 – Kaitlynn Weaver, Certificate in Appreciation for Commitment to Social Work Education through Practicum Supervision, Medicine Hat College.



- 2025-01-02 – Employer Letter for Zakk Morrison from Canadian College of Health Leaders.

B. Chapman moved the Board write a letter of congratulations to Z. Morrison for receiving the Certified Health Executive designation from the Canadian College of Health Leaders as well as BEW FCSS supervisors for their commitment to supporting practicum students.

T. Feist moved the Board to receive the correspondence as presented for information.

Carried Unanimously

Reports

Executive Director

Z. Morrison reviewed the Executive Director's report.

The following was highlighted:

Upcoming Meetings:

- 2025-02-11 – FCSS Staff meeting.
- 2025-02-12 – FCSSAA South Region Director's meeting.
- 2025-02-13 – FCSSAA Director's Network meeting.
- 2025-02-18 - Joint Health & Safety Committee Meeting
- 2025-02-19 - TDCALA Meeting

G. Bekkering moved the Board to approve the Executive Director's Report as presented.

Carried Unanimously

Financial Report

Z. Morrison reviewed the Financial Report.

The Board discussed the Financial Report.

M Harris moved the Board to approve the December 2024 Financial Report including:

- Financial statement for December 31, 2024;
- Monthly accounts for November 1-30, 2024;
- Monthly accounts for December 1-31, 2024;
- ATB Mastercard statement – ATB Financial Mastercard Nov 14, 2024, to Dec 12, 2024; and
- ATB Mastercard statement – ATB Financial Mastercard Dec 13, 2024, to Jan 13, 2025.

Carried Unanimously

Professional Development Report

Z. Morrison updated the Board on the staff Professional Development report for 2024.



B. Chapman moved the Board to accept the Professional Development report for information.

Carried Unanimously

New Business

All Councils Update

Z. Morrison provided an update, including the venue and catering has been confirmed. Z. Morrison will present a draft Agenda to the Board at the March 5th, 2025, Board meeting.

FCSSAA South Region Spring Meeting

Z. Morrison confirmed the FCSSAA South Region Spring Meeting is scheduled for May 28th, 2025, in Cypress County. Venue to be determined.

Board Minutes

D. Degenstein discussed that when a motion is voted on, the minutes will reflect if the motion was either carried or defeated, unless a recorded vote is requested by a Board Member.

L. Nilsson left the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

Round Table

The Board shared municipal updates.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next regular Board meeting will be March 5, 2025, at the Coaldale HUB (2107 – 13th St.) in person and online (via Teams) starting at 4:00pm.

Adjournment

D. Doell moved the meeting to adjourn at 5:35 p.m.

Carried Unanimously



Chairperson

05 MAR 25

Date



Executive Director

March 5/2025

Date



OLDMAN RIVER REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2025; 6:00 pm

ORRSC Boardroom (3105 - 16 Avenue North, Lethbridge)

The Executive Committee Meeting of the Oldman River Regional Services Commission was held on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 6:00 pm, in the ORRSC Administration Building.

Attendance

Executive Committee

Christopher Northcott, Chair
Don Anderberg, Vice Chair
Evan Berger
David Cody
Brad Schlossberger
Neil Sieben

Absent

Gordon Wolstenholme

Staff

Lenze Kuiper, Chief Administrative Officer
Raeanne Keer, Executive Assistant
Stephanie Sayer, Accounting Clerk

Chairman Northcott called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Don Anderberg

THAT the Executive Committee adopts the January 9, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Agenda, as presented.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: David Cody

THAT the Executive Committee approves the November 14, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, as presented.

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Official Business

a. ATB Financial Municipal Borrowing Bylaw Annual Endorsement

Moved by: Don Anderberg

THAT the Executive Committee authorizes the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer to endorse the 2025 Municipal Borrowing Bylaw (Revolving Line of Credit) for ATB Financial Signing Authority – ATB Financial.

CARRIED

b. Signing Authority

R. Keer inquired if the Executive Committee would like to grant authorization to a member of the Executive, other than the Chair, to have signing authority. R. Keer further explained that historically the Executive Committee has granted signing authority to a second individual for situations where the Chair is unavailable.

B. Schlossberger stated that he would let his name stand for signing authority.

Moved by: Evan Berger

THAT the Executive Committee authorizes the Chair, Christopher Northcott, and an Executive Member, Brad Schlossberger, signing authority for the Oldman River Regional Services Commission on behalf of the Executive Committee.

CARRIED

c. 2025 Schedule of Fees – Chinook Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board

R. Keer stated that in accordance with the agreements for the Chinook Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, an annual schedule of fees must be set for 2025. R. Keer presented that the only change proposed is to increase the mileage rate from \$0.70/km to \$0.72/km, in accordance with the Canada Revenue Rate.

Moved by: Neil Sieben

THAT the Executive Committee approves the 2025 Schedule of Fees for the Chinook Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, as presented.

CARRIED

d. Subdivision Activity – As of December 31, 2024

L. Kuiper presented the Subdivision Activity Report as of December 31, 2024 to the Executive Committee.

e. Staff Update

L. Kuiper stated that a posting has gone out in search of a new Planner to join ORRSC, and that a staff member has begun their Gradual Return to Work Plan after being away on Long-Term Leave.

f. ORRSC Strategic Plan 2016-2026

L. Kuiper presented the 2016-2026 Strategic Plan to the Executive and highlight some of the action items in the Plan.

g. ORRSC Planning Contracts

R. Keer presented the various editions of the Planning Services Agreements and Contracts that the organization currently has, varying from 1995 to 2024.

The Executive discussed ideas for updating the contracts and determined they would discuss them further at the next Executive Committee meeting.

h. For Information: Brownlee LLP Emerging Trends in Municipal Law

L. Kuiper presented details on the Brownlee LLP Emerging Trends in Municipal Law event in February for anyone who is interested in attending.

i. For Information: Community Planning Association of Alberta

R. Keer presented details on the Community Planning Association of Alberta Conference in Red Deer, Alberta in April.

R. Keer advised that historically 2-3 Executive Members have attended on behalf of ORRSC, and that the agenda will be distributed once it is available.

5. Accounts

a. Office Accounts

L. Kuiper presented the Monthly Office Accounts and the Payments and Credits for October to November 2024 to the Executive.

Moved by: Brad Schlossberger

THAT the Executive Committee approves the Monthly Office Accounts and the Payment and Credits for October to November 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

b. Financial Statements

L. Kuiper presented the Balance Sheets and Comparative Income Statements for October to November 2024 and the Details of Account for November 2024 to the Executive.

Moved by: Don Anderberg

THAT the Executive Committee approves the Balance Sheets and Comparative Income Statement for October to November 2024 and the Details of Account for November 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

6. New Business

E. Berger inquired about the appointees of the Assessment Review Board and stated that his municipality has a Councillor who has been appointed for a number of years, has completed the training, but has not participated in a hearing.

R. Keer reviewed the training requirements and the process for scheduling Assessment Review Board hearings with the Regional Board.

The Executive requested that a list of appointees and their Municipalities be brought forward to a future Executive Committee meeting to review our distribution of appointees.

7. CAO's Report

L. Kuiper presented CAO Report to the Committee.

8. Round Table Discussions

Committee members and staff reported on various projects and activities in their respective municipalities.

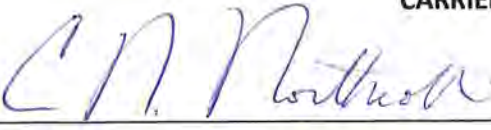
9. Next Meeting – February 13, 2025

10. Adjournment

Moved by: Neil Sieben

THAT the Executive Committee closes the meeting.

CARRIED AT 7:48 PM



CHAIR



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



Veterans Memorial Highway Association (VMHA) – Central Zone Meeting Minutes

Date: December 3, 2024 **Time:** 11:00 AM **Location:** County of Paintearth Office

In Attendance: Dale Norton, Dale Pederson, Kevin McDougall, Howard Shield, Donna Rowland, Ron Checkel, Quinton Flint, Carol Thomson

1.Call Meeting to Order 11:05

2.Welcome and Introductions

- Opening remarks by Margaret Plumtree, Executive Director, VMHA
- Roundtable introductions

3. Highway Concerns and Celebrations by Region

- **Highway 36 Updates**
 - **Train Tracks at Viking and Killam:** Talks have been initiated with CN regarding safety concerns at these crossings.
 - **Hill at Alliance:** It was noted that the hill frequently becomes inaccessible to wide loads, causing transportation challenges.
 - **Accident Reporting:** Members were reminded to keep the Executive Director updated on accidents along Highway 36 within their areas. This information is crucial for supporting the association's advocacy efforts.
- **Other Regional Highways** (e.g., Highways 41, 13, 12, 14)
 - **Highway 599:** 10 miles of Highway 599 was discussed
 - **Highway 870 and Highway 26 Intersection (near Viking):** Members suggested that paving 10 miles of this intersection could further ease traffic congestion and improve accessibility in the region.

4. Tourism Initiative – Explore the Eastern Route

- The tourism website **ExploreVMH.ca** continues to gain traction. The next phase of development will include adding **travel itineraries** to help visitors plan their trips along the Veterans Memorial Highway.

Promotional Success – Ducks Campaign:

- The **duck giveaways** have been a big hit, with attendees at events expressing enthusiasm for the unique promotion. Due to their popularity, the association will **order more ducks for 2025** to continue engaging visitors and promoting the Eastern Route.

Workshops for Communities and Businesses:

- To support regional tourism growth, the association plans to host **workshops** with communities and businesses. These sessions will focus on how to leverage tourism opportunities, promote local attractions, and enhance visitor experiences along the route.

Workshops for Communities and Businesses:

- The Tourism Magazine contained several errors, and considering the cost, it did not provide the value we had hoped for. If we choose to produce another edition, it is essential that these errors are corrected to ensure a higher-quality publication.
- To help offset production costs, we should consider **selling advertising space**. A potential format could feature a **municipality profile on the left page** and **advertisements from local businesses on the right page**, creating a balanced layout that highlights both the community and its business opportunities.
- This approach can help us create a more polished, cost-effective magazine while supporting local businesses and showcasing our communities effectively.

5. Economic Development Updates

- The new economic development website, **GrowEast.ca**, is in development and is expected to launch by the end of **January 2025**.
- The website will feature valuable resources, including:
 - **Business and Investor Resources:** Tools and information to support business growth and investment opportunities.
 - **Key Projects and Developments:** Highlighting significant projects and investments within member communities.

- **Community Economic Profiles:** Providing detailed profiles showcasing local economic strengths and opportunities.

The association is excited for this platform to become a vital tool in promoting economic growth and attracting investment along the Eastern Route.

8. Next Meeting Date

- To be determined after executive and zone chair meeting.

9. Adjournment at 11:52 am



Veterans Memorial Highway Association (VMHA) – South Zone Meeting Minutes

Date: December 9, 2024 **Time:** 2:30 PM **Location:** MD of Taber Municipal Office

In Attendance: John DeGroot, Chris Koehn, Greg Skriver, Russ Norris, Jack Brewin, Derrin Thibault, Chris Burns, Mindy Dunphy

1.Call Meeting to Order at 2:32

2.Welcome and Introductions

3. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Jack, to adopt the agenda. Carried.

4. Highway Concerns and Celebrations by Region

- **Highway 36 Update**
 - **Taber to Vauxhall – Highway Lanes:** The highway is **not four lanes through Taber** but is **four lanes in Vauxhall**, creating traffic flow issues.
 - **Bridge and Hill North of Taber to South of Vauxhall:** This area causes significant traffic delays for wide loads, as they must **block traffic from just before the bridge to the top of the hill**. Twinning this section could alleviate delays.
 - **North of Highway 1 – JBS Intersection:** There is a suggestion to **twin the highway north of Highway 1**, particularly at the JBS intersection, to improve traffic flow and safety.
 - **Oil Road – Highway 526 to Highway 875 Towards Highway 25:** Members proposed that this **oil road should be paved** to enhance transportation routes and support local industries.
 - **Truck Stop North of Warner:** A new **truck stop** has been established approximately **10 minutes north of Warner**, serving feedlot operations and providing a rest area for commercial drivers.

- **Other Regional Highways** (e.g., Highways 41, 13, 12, 14)
 - **Brooks to Kinbrook – Highway 837**

A discussion was held regarding potential improvements and connections for regional highways:

- **Connecting Three-Digit Highways to Economic Corridors:** Members inquired if there are any **plans to connect three-digit highways to major economic corridors**, enhancing access and supporting regional economic growth.
- **VMHA's Role in Advocacy:** The association can agree to **advocate for these connections** and ensure that relevant authorities and stakeholders are aware of the potential benefits. VMHA will do its part to raise awareness and promote the importance of integrating these highways into the broader transportation network.

5. Tourism Initiative – Explore the Eastern Route

- The tourism website **ExploreVMH.ca** continues to gain traction. The next phase of development will include adding **travel itineraries** to help visitors plan their trips along the Veterans Memorial Highway.

Promotional Success – Ducks Campaign:

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The association is excited for this platform to become a vital tool in promoting economic growth and attracting investment along the Eastern Route.

7. Next Meeting Date

- To be determined after executive and zone chair meeting.

8. Adjournment at 3:55 pm

Request for Decision

Mayors Report

March 10, 2025



RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayors Report for March 10, 2025, be accepted as information.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

BACKGROUND

Mayor Liebelt will provide a report from the Mayors Desk.

RISKS/CONSEQUENCES

1. Council may provide further direction on any item contained in the report. Council shall be specific in the direction it provides.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

ATTACHMENTS

1. Chief Mountain Regional Solid Waste Services Commission
2. Mayors & Reeves

**MINUTES OF THE CHIEF MOUNTAIN REGIONAL SOLID WASTE SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING HELD
JANUARY 8, 2025, AT THE TOWN OF MAGRATH.**

Members Present:

Tanya Smith – Village of Coutts
Josh Bourelle – Town of Magrath
Larry Liebelt – Town of Milk River
Kate Kindt – Town of Raymond
Gary Bikman – Village of Stirling

Wayne Harris – Cardston County
John Grainger – Town of Cardston (Zoom)
Randy Taylor – County of Warner
Tyler Lindsay – Village of Warner

Others Present:

Marian Carlson – SEO
Suzanne Pierson – Secretary/Treasurer (Zoom)

Lee Beazer – Operator
Arnold Paintsil – Stantec (Zoom)

Commenced at 4:30 pm

Larry Liebelt in the Chair.

AGENDA

Randy Taylor moved to approve the agenda.

Carried

MINUTES

Kate Kindt moved that the minutes of the December 11, 2024, board meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried

NEW BUSINESS

The SEO reviewed the memorandum that Stantec sent in December 2024. The consultant is looking for input on a number of waste diversion strategies that were presented in the draft memorandum.

Arnold Paintsil, Stantec, advised the board that there are excellent opportunities to reduce the Landfill waste disposal by diverting the food and yard waste.

The board discussed the suggestions and would like to focus collection of organics at curbside as that may bring the biggest change in waste taken to the Landfill. Some of the board would like to look at giving incentives to municipalities that have developed organic recycling programs.

Arnold Paintsil was excused at 6:00 p.m.

Tanya Smith moved to file the memorandum from Stantec for information.

Carried

Randy Taylor reported on the Biogas tour in Lethbridge that occurred today. The SEO, a representative from the Town of Raymond and Biogas will meet to talk about doing a study on curbside waste from the Town of Raymond.

The SEO advised that it has been agreed that the Commission will reimburse the Town of Raymond \$250/load for the number of loads that will not be required to be picked up in Raymond due to the town delivering the curb side pickup directly to the Landfill during the 3-month trial period. The savings will be calculated based on the number of loads per week in comparison to the current schedule. The SEO believes this expense may be allocated to the ACP grant funding.

Tanya Smith moved to approve the SEO's report.

Carried

The Operator advised that 643.95 tonnes of waste were delivered to the Landfill in December 2024, making the year-to-date tonnage 9,999.125. Waste picked up on the 31st stayed on the semi until January 2025.

The Operator is concerned about the quantity of waste that will be brought to Landfill as Blood Tribe cleans up the Transfer Station in Standoff.

Wayne Harris moved to approve the Operator's report.

Carried

Approval of Bills

Bills for December 2024 were reviewed.

Randy Taylor moved to approve the bills for December 2024.

Carried

Gary Bikman moved to go In-Camera at 6:22 p.m.

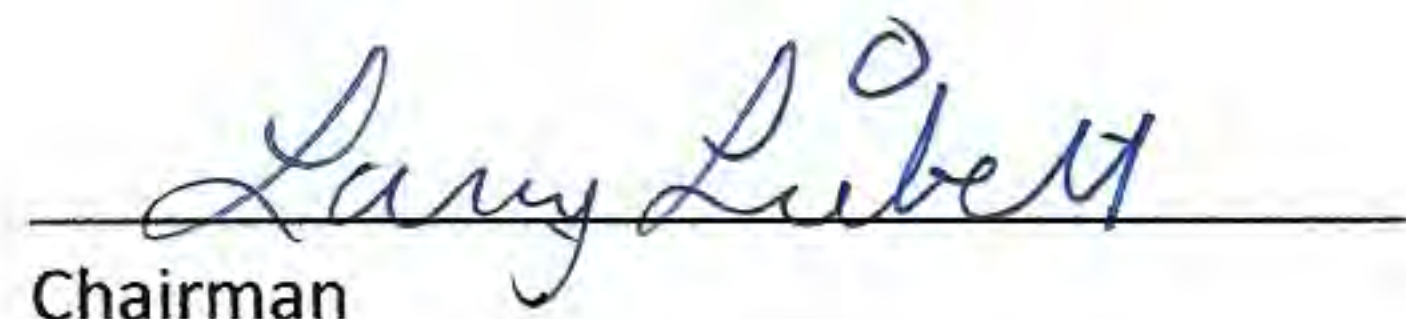
Tyler Lindsay moved to Reconvene at 6:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Tanya Smith moved the meeting adjourned.

Adjournment at 6:26 p.m.

The Next Commission board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. in the Town of Magrath.


Chairman



1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Reeve Randy Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:00pm

2.0 ADDITIONS TO / APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Reeve Dan Hamilton - **Carried**

3.0 ADDITIONS TO / APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Reeve Maryanne Sandberg- **Carried**

4.0 BUSINESS ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 MP Reports –

5.2 MLA Reports

MLA Nathan Neudorf

- Discussed visiting towns and cities to have affordability round table discussions.
- Discussed the tremendous amount of work done on the restructuring electricity project.
- Discussed working rebalancing the ATCO service area.
- Discussed insurance moving to a care first model similar to Manitoba's model.
- Discussed having seen some record housing starts this year.
- Discussed rural optometrists looking to expand their scopes.

MLA Grant Hunter

- Discussed Bill 27, the education amendment act – children were making decisions without the knowledge of their parents. This allows parents to be informed and advocate for their children.
- Children under the age of 16 can not have gender reassignment surgery or hormone blockers.
- Discussed a bill put forward by Minister Schow that stops transgender males from playing female sports.
- Discussed the invasive species task force and submitted 7 recommendations.
- Discussed the water availability engagement that is ongoing. The province is working through the best path forward and how to most effectively use a precious resource while still following legal documents.
- Discussed the potential border issues and provincial response – the borders are federal jurisdiction so the province has to be careful with their response but will be providing provincial support.

6.0 REPORTS

6.1 RMA – Reeve Jason Schneider

- Discussed policing. Still unsure of what that will look like for municipalities that fall under the provincial police.
- Discussed talking with the federal government about all things rural. Rural Alberta is 3 times more productive than the average Canadian.
- Discussed infrastructure funding and the need for the federal government to help with costs associated.
- Discussed EMS – currently working through over 90 recommendations. We have seen some minor improvements.
- Discussed mature assets and the need for a definition and the model to be revised.

6.2 AM – Councillor Scott Akkermans

- Discussed the board holding an outstanding resolution webinar.
- Discussed increased capital funding and increasing fines in playground and construction zones.
- Discussed policing, changes to require new civilian governance bodies. Still unsure about the election process.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

- The water sharing agreement MOU survey was confidential but basically asked about the lessons learned through the process.
- Discussed having the Cardiac Center of Excellence come do a presentation. Currently in the process of setting that up.
- Reeve Tamara Miyanaga **moved** to move the meeting to February 7, 2025 - **Carried**

8.0 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

- Discussed the vetting process Canada is lacking in regards to immigrants.
- Discussed defense spending for Canada – in the US they put broadband under the national defense spending as well as interstates. We need to start looking at if some of those projects could be accounted for national defense spending.

10.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Friday, February 7, 2025, 1:00pm – Chinook Regional Library Systems/Zoom

11.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 2:11pm.

Alberta's government is again taking the federal government to court over its unconstitutional Impact Assessment Act after they failed to meet the province's four-week deadline.

Key Messages:

- The *Impact Assessment Act* remains unconstitutional, and Alberta's government is challenging the legislation to protect Alberta's jurisdiction and our economy.
- In October, we gave the federal government a four-week deadline to address the unconstitutional provisions in the *Impact Assessment Act* or face another legal challenge.
- That four-week deadline has passed, so we are referring the matter to the Court of Appeal of Alberta where we will ask the court to confirm Alberta's position that the *Impact Assessment Act* remains unconstitutional.
- The federal government's recent amendments to the *Impact Assessment Act* fail to address the constitutional deficiencies the Supreme Court of Canada has identified.

Background:

- The *Impact Assessment Act* (formerly part of Bill C-69) lays out new rules for assessing the impacts of major infrastructure projects, such as pipelines, in Canada.
- Alberta is asking the court to consider Alberta's position that the *Impact Assessment Act* remains unconstitutional.
- Alberta published a question on the constitutionality of the amended *Impact Assessment Act* through an [Order in Council](#) filed it with the Court of Appeal of Alberta on November 28.
- Alberta's government has published several statements on the *Impact Assessment Act* since 2022. Highlights include:
 - [May 10, 2022](#): Premier statement calling the Court of Appeal of Alberta's ruling that the *Impact Assessment Act* is unconstitutional a win for Alberta. The statement says the legislation puts jobs and investment at risk and undermines provinces' rights to manage their own affairs.
 - [March 21, 2023](#): Justice Minister statement on the Supreme Court of Canada hearing an appeal of the Court of Appeal of Alberta decision. The statement calls the *Impact Assessment Act* a threat to economic prosperity and commits to continue speaking up for Albertans' interests and pushing back against federal intrusion.
 - [October 13, 2023](#): joint Premier and Justice Minister statement on the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling that the act is largely unconstitutional. The statement expresses pleasure with the decision, calling it a win for provincial rights and saying it will allow provinces to re-attract investment and jobs.
 - [May 13, 2024](#): joint Premier, Justice Minister and Environment and Protected Areas Minister statement saying the *Impact Assessment Act* remains unconstitutional following proposed amendments from the federal government.

[October 4, 2024](#): news release announcing Alberta has given the federal government a four-week deadline to respond to the province's concerns with the amended act before initiating legal action.

As Albertans face housing affordability and supply pressures, especially in the province's largest cities, Alberta's government has established a Construction Codes Working Group to explore how construction code changes can speed up homebuilding.

Key Messages:

- Our government is focused on finding creative and innovative solutions that encourage new investments in housing while ensuring Albertans can find homes that fit their budgets.
- We are partnering with municipalities and industry to form a working group that will look at how we can better address housing supply and affordability through potential changes to construction codes.
- The new Construction Codes Working Group will explore how we can make the homebuilding process more efficient while still maintaining high quality and safety standards through our building and construction codes.
- Examples of code changes the working group may consider includes those for secondary suites and single-stair apartments to make housing easier to build.

Key Facts:

- The 2023 Alberta editions of the building and fire codes and the 2020 National Energy Code for Buildings came into force on May 1, 2024.
- The Construction Code Working Group (CCWG) will include representatives from the Safety Codes Council, the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) of Alberta, the cities of Edmonton and Calgary and staff from Municipal Affairs.
- The 2024 Accessibility Design Guide was recently released that includes detailed information and context to help the public and construction industry understand and apply the provincial building code's accessibility requirements.

Effective April 1, 2025, automated traffic enforcement on numbered provincial highways will end as photo radar will be restricted to school, playground, and construction zones. Intersection safety devices in Alberta will also be restricted to red light enforcement only, ending the 'speed-on-green' ticketing function.

Key messages:

- **Our government is killing the photo radar cash cow, eliminating areas where photo radar is focused on revenue generation, not traffic safety.**
 - Many Albertans have expressed growing frustration with photo radar, questioning its focus on revenue rather than safety.
 - To ensure photo radar remains used for safety, not revenue, all existing photo radar sites will be reviewed and those that are ineffective will be removed, reducing the footprint of photo radar, and cutting the number of sites by two thirds, or approximately 70%.
 - Photo radar will still be permitted to protect Albertans in school, playground, and construction zones, as those areas are very clearly focused on traffic safety.

- We are also ensuring that municipalities can request additional photo radar locations when they can prove that an area is a high-collision location and other traffic safety measures are ineffective.
 - When an additional photo radar site is approved, the municipality will be required to do an audit every two years to assess whether or not photo radar is effectively reducing the number of collisions.
- We want every Albertan to be confident that going forward, photo radar will only be used to improve traffic safety.

Key facts:

- Alberta first introduced photo radar in 1987.
- All photo radar sites were removed from ring roads in Calgary and Edmonton on December 1, 2023.
- Alberta has approximately 2,200 photo radar sites in 24 municipalities, which is more than any other province in Canada.
- The province engaged with municipalities in summer 2024 about photo radar and specifically to discuss solutions to eliminate ‘fishing holes’ and ensure photo radar is used for safety, rather than revenue generation.

Alberta’s government is working to enhance athlete safety in combative sports, including exploring the possibility of establishing a provincial combative sports commission.

Key messages:

- The recent death of Trokon Dousuah following a combative sport competition in our province is tragic. Our thoughts are with his family, loved ones and community.
- Alberta’s government takes athlete safety seriously, and we’re taking steps to ensure that combative sport participants can safely compete in the sports that they love.
- Alberta’s government is committed to creating a fair, safe sport system in our province, which is why government is carefully reviewing recommendations to increase athlete safety in combative sports.
- We will be engaging with Alberta’s combative sport partners, including existing municipal combative sport commissions, to determine our next steps in enhancing athlete safety.
 - As part of this engagement, we will explore steps needed to establish a provincial combative sport commission.

Key facts:

- On November 5th, a fatality inquiry into the 2017 death of Timothy Hague was released. Timothy passed due to injuries sustained during a boxing match in Edmonton.
 - A fatality inquiry released November 5th listed 14 recommendations.
 - One recommendation of the inquiry is the creation of a provincial body to sanction combative sports in Alberta.
 - Alberta is the only province in which combative sports are sanctioned by municipal combative sports commissions.

- On November 23rd, 2024, an Edmonton man, Trokon Dousuah, passed following an amateur MMA fight on Enoch Cree First Nation.
 - While his cause of death is unknown, it is believed to be connected to his participation in the fight.
- Engagement on the enhancement of athlete safety in combative sports will begin prior to Christmas.
 - Engagement will be led by Victor Cui, an experienced sport executive and combative sport expert.

Enhanced literacy and numeracy screening will help Alberta's young learners build foundational skills.

Key Messages:

- The ability to read, write, speak, and understand basic math concepts is fundamental for the success of a child.
- To ensure that every child can build these fundamental skills, we recently rolled out screening tools so our youngest learners who need a helping hand get the timely and impactful intervention they need to succeed.
- As part of the screening, kindergarten students will now have their literacy and numeracy screened for the first-time with a consistent, province-wide approach starting January 2025.
- Having a consistent approach will help our youngest learners get the right start to their education and set them up to build the fundamental literacy and numeracy skills they need to succeed throughout their education and life after school.

Background:

- All students in grades 1 to 3 are being screened twice a year, in September and January. Students requiring additional support will be screened a third time at the end of the school year to monitor their progress.
- New screening requirements will be introduced for students in kindergarten in January 2025.
- New screening requirements will be introduced for students in grades 4 and 5 in September 2026.
- Budget 2024 provides \$10 million through Budget 2024 to support literacy and numeracy interventions for students in the early grades.

Alberta is positioning itself as a competitive player in the global AI landscape, focused on attracting more tech companies, investment and talent from around the world.

Key messages:

- Alberta is nationally and internationally recognized for its leadership in artificial intelligence (AI) and we're looking to build on that reputation.

- We have released a new AI data centre strategy, called Powering the Future of Artificial Intelligence, which outlines the potential opportunities that lie ahead for Alberta within the global AI landscape.
- The strategy also outlines how the province can ensure it is competitive and able to take advantage of every available opportunity to benefit Albertans.
 - In order to do this, the strategy identifies three critical areas that set the foundation to attract investment – power capacity, sustainable cooling, and economic growth and revenue.
- Our government is committed to putting Albertans first, including ensuring the affordability and reliability of Alberta's power grid.
- Alberta's government is pursuing the best path forward to partner with AI data centre owners and operators to help facilitate them as establish their projects in Alberta, create jobs for Albertans, and grow our economy.

Key facts:

- Over the past several months, Technology and Innovation met with AI data centre builders and operators, power generators, natural resource sector participants, telecommunications companies, and municipalities actively pursuing AI data centres.
- The Alberta Electricity System Operator (AESO) has identified numerous potential projects totalling over 6000 megawatts in demand that have expressed interest.
- AI data centres can start at 90 megawatts with a 150,000 sq.ft. facility and scale up to multiple gigawatts to align available capacity with demand for high-quality AI computing.
- Alberta's Concierge Team is available to help proponents understand the process and move them through regulatory stages as efficiently as possible.
 - With a variety of investors already engaged in the regulatory process, Alberta could see additional AI data centres coming online as early as 2026.
- AI data centre market size is anticipated to more than double by 2030 to over \$820 billion.
 - Source: P&S Market Research, psmarketresearch.com/market-analysis/data-center-market)

Alberta is entering into a bilateral agreement with the federal government under the National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases.

Key Messages:

- Hundreds of rare diseases currently exist across Canada, impacting the lives of many Albertans.
- Alberta's government recognizes that with only a small percentage of those conditions having treatment options, Albertans living with a rare disease often have limited or unaffordable treatment options.
- To build on Alberta's \$130 million investment in rare disease drugs, and to further expand Alberta's comprehensive rare disease coverage, Alberta's government has entered into a bilateral agreement with the federal government under the National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases.

- Under the agreement, Alberta will receive approximately \$54 million annually for three years for new and emerging rare disease drugs, proven drugs, as well as diagnostics and screening.
- This agreement means Albertans struggling with rare diseases will have better access to new drugs, enhanced access to existing drugs, and expanded opportunities for early diagnosis, screening, and potentially life-changing treatments.

Background:

- Alberta's current rare disease coverage includes access to more than 100 drugs, for more than XXX rare diseases.
- The first new drugs to be provided include:
 - Poteligeo, for the treatment of mycosis fungoides or Sézary syndrome;
 - Oxlumio for the treatment of hyperoxaluria type 1;
 - and Epcinly for the treatment of relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.
- In March 2023, the Government of Canada announced the National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases.
- Through the strategy, up to \$1.4 billion over three years will be made available to provinces and territories through bilateral agreements.
- Through the National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases, approximately \$162 million over the next three years will be provided to support access to new rare disease drugs on an agreed upon list, effective existing drug treatments, and early screening and diagnosis for rare diseases.

Alberta's government is undertaking a province-wide review of potential sites for dams and other infrastructure to help meet future water needs.

Key Messages:

- Alberta's government has now begun a province-wide study looking at more than 100 locations across the province.
 - The Water Storage Opportunities Study will identify and rank potential water storage sites across the province to help support Alberta's future water needs.
 - As Alberta's population and economy grow, demand for water from communities and industry is also increasing and expanding water storage capacity could help reduce the risk of future floods and droughts while meeting those demands.
 - The Water Storage Opportunities Study will look at over 100 potentially suitable locations across the province, with potential water storage sites identified and ranked in all major river basins in Alberta.
 - It's expected that up to five potential reservoir sites will be deemed suitable to potentially advance to a full feasibility study in the future.
 - This study will support the government's long-term planning and help meet Alberta's water needs for its economy, communities and ecosystems, both now and in the future.

Background and Key facts:

- The Water Storage Opportunities Study is expected to be completed in 2025.
- The cost of the study is approximately \$200,000.
- The government currently has two feasibility studies underway for potential reservoir projects, the Ardley reservoir east of Red Deer (directed by Environment and Protected Areas) and the Eyremore Dam west of Brooks (directed by Agriculture and Irrigation).
- The Alberta government owns and operates several large reservoirs in the South Saskatchewan River and Red Deer River basins that help ensure sufficient water supply to meet demand from communities, irrigators and businesses, while also maintaining a healthy aquatic environment.
- The government previously completed a provincewide strategic review of potential water storage sites in 2008 as part of the *Water for Life* strategy.

This fall, Alberta's government fought for the protection and advancement of Albertans' rights and freedoms in an ever-evolving world.

Key messages:

- This session, Alberta's government was laser-focused on the protection and promotion of Albertans' rights and freedoms, a theme that united all thirteen pieces of legislation passed.
- The legislation passed this session ensured Alberta is a leader in Canada by enshrining fundamental rights and improving privacy protections, while simultaneously ensuring the province remains a haven for job-creating investment with strong, business-friendly policies.
- We continued to stand up against the federal government's continual over-reach, passing an *Alberta Sovereignty Within a United Canada Act* motion to safeguard Alberta's economy from the job killing, unconstitutional federal emissions cap.
- Our government remained unapologetic in our fight to protect the best interests of Albertans, and to ensure our province remains the best place in the world to live, work, invest, and raise a family.

Fall legislation highlights:

- The *Alberta Bill of Rights Amendment Act* ensures Albertans' rights and freedoms remain properly protected in an ever-changing world.
- The *Early Learning and Child Care Amendment Act* increases accountability and transparency, addresses workforce challenges and enhances health, safety and quality in child care.
- The *Health Statutes Amendment Act* preserves choice for minors, supports continued efforts to refocus the health care system, and protects the rights of Albertans.
- The *Education Amendment Act* supports student success and well-being in Alberta schools.
- The *Meat Inspection Amendment Act* protects consumers by increasing penalties for illegal slaughter and sale of uninspected meat.
- The *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act* ensures Albertans are able to fairly, safely and meaningfully participate in the sports they love.
- The *Service Alberta Statutes Amendment Act* supports Alberta's economic sector, while ensuring Albertans have the protections they need, and promoting fairness in both the workplace and at home.

- The *Justice Statutes Amendment Act* ensures effective representation, transparent crime reporting, modern processes for court evidence, and housekeeping to ensure the definition of essential infrastructure is contained in one place, which is the act.
- The *Financial Statutes Amendment Act* ensures Alberta's financial system continues to provide benefit programs that help Albertans when they need it, is sustainable over the long term, and keeps Alberta's economic future bright.
- The *Protection of Privacy Act* ensures Albertans have the strongest privacy protections, with the strictest penalties for privacy violations, in Canada.
- The *Access to Information Act* brings Alberta's access to information legislation into alignment with today's digital landscape, modernizing language and streamlining processes to provide Albertans with faster, concrete response times for access to information requests.
- The *All-Season Resorts Act* incentivizes responsible, sustainable tourism development so that generations of Albertans and visitors alike can enjoy Alberta's natural beauty.

New regulations for renewable energy will ensure Alberta's environment, agricultural land, and iconic views are conserved for generations to come.

Key messages:

- Alberta's government is committed to ensuring that Albertans have an electricity grid that is affordable, reliable and sustainable for generations to come.
- Alberta's government has set a clear and responsible path forward for new renewable energy projects in our province and new regulations will provide clear and consistent rules for responsible renewable energy development.
- These new rules will provide clarity and ensure responsible land use for years to come, protecting the environment, Albertans' use and enjoyment of property, our province's iconic views, and the best agricultural industry in the world.
 - By taking an "agriculture first" approach that ensures co-existence, Alberta's agricultural industry can continue producing the high-quality products it's known for.
 - Preventing imposing vertical imprints from impacting our pristine views will help Alberta's tourism sector continue to thrive and attract millions of visitors each year.
 - Albertans expect our government to have a plan to ensure renewable power projects are responsibly decommissioned and reclaimed, and we are ensuring landowners and taxpayers are not burdened with reclamation costs
- Alberta is a leader in responsible energy development and a destination of choice for investors, and these changes ensure the province's reputation will continue for generations to come.

Statistics Canada has released their Labour Market Survey for November 2024 and Alberta's labour market is rounding off year-end with some incredible accomplishments.

Key Messages:

- Alberta's economy continues to grow and diversify, creating jobs across industries throughout our province.
- Alberta is leading jobs growth across Canada.
 - As the economic engine of Canada, Alberta's jobs growth rate is 5 times higher than the national average.
- Alberta had a record-breaking month in November – surpassing 2.1 million full time jobs for the first time in history.
- We continue working to provide the training and opportunities Albertans need to fill labour shortages and continue building Alberta.
- With affordable housing, low taxes and limitless opportunities, Alberta continues to be the best place in Canada to live, work, invest and raise a family.

On Dec. 10, 2024, the Agri-Processing Investment Tax Credit regulatory amendments were enacted, allowing registered partnerships to apply to the tax credit program.

Key Messages:

- Alberta is signalling to investors that our province is a competitive place to do business and create new jobs in our food manufacturing and bioprocessing industries.
- We've updated the Agri-Processing Investment Tax Credit program to cut red tape and make it easier for registered partnerships to apply.
- Alberta is inviting registered partnerships and corporations in the agri-processing industry to apply to this tax credit program—there's no application cap, meaning there's no limit to the number of registered partnerships or individual corporations that can apply.
 - The program is open to any food manufacturers and bioprocessors that add value to commodities like grains or meat; or turn agricultural by-products into new consumer or industrial goods.

Highlights from Transportation and Economic Corridors' 2024 construction season.

Key messages:

- Our government continues to invest in road and bridge projects to help ease congestion, enhance safety, and promote economic growth.
- During the 2024 construction season, we invested \$818 million in over 200 projects, supporting thousands of jobs across the province.
- This investment in Alberta's roads and bridges ensures people, goods and services can move safely and efficiently, supporting the growth of communities and industry.

- The 2024 construction season included new and ongoing capital projects, repaving, bridge rehabilitation and replacement, slide repairs, road expansion and water management infrastructure projects.
 - Ongoing general maintenance work included pothole repairs, crack sealing, line painting, grading of gravel roads and guardrail installation.

Key facts:

- Alberta has a vast provincial highway network including more than 31,400 kilometres of highways (equivalent to nearly 64,000 lane kilometres), and nearly 4,600 bridge structures, including bridges, overpasses, and large culverts:
 - almost 28,000 kilometres are paved roads
 - almost 2,500 kilometres are four- and six-lane divided highways
- Budget 2024 invested \$8.1 billion over three years in Transportation and Economic Corridors' Capital Plan, including:
 - \$1.9 billion in Capital Investment for planning, design and construction of roads and bridges;
 - \$1.7 billion in Capital Maintenance and Renewal for highway and bridge rehabilitation projects;
 - \$311.8 million for Water Management and flood mitigation; and,
 - \$4.2 billion for Capital Grants to Municipalities.

Alberta's government is announcing the creation of a new specialized unit under the Alberta Sheriffs to help patrol the Alberta-U.S. border.

Key Messages:

- Alberta's government will not stand for illegal activities that threaten the well-being of Albertans, including their livelihoods, and the overall Alberta economy.
- We have committed \$29 million in funding to create the Sheriff Interdiction Patrol Team, which will help us ramp up security along the Alberta-U.S. border and crack down on illegal cross-border activity.
 - Public safety concerns – including border security and the flow of illegal drugs, people, and firearms – have been a priority for our government and so we are doing our part by stepping up enforcement in under-patrolled areas.
 - We look forward to collaborating closely with our law enforcement partners as we work toward securing Alberta's international border from illegal drugs, people and firearms.
 - Through the new Alberta Sheriffs Interdiction Patrol Team, we're addressing the issue of cross-border criminal activity head-on and putting a swift halt to the illegal movement of drugs, people and firearms in both directions.
 - Alberta's government will not sit idly by and allow criminals to transport illegal drugs and firearms, and we will not permit the trafficking of human beings back and forth over the borders.

- President-elect Donald Trump has cited border security as a reason to implement a 25% tariff on Canadian products and we encourage the federal government to take our lead and take border security as a serious issue that requires swift action.

Key Facts:

- The Interdiction Patrol Team (IPT) is being created to help identify and interdict illegal drugs, firearms and unlawful attempts at international border crossing between Alberta and Montana.
- While the IPT's primary focus will be on Alberta's 298-kilometre international boundary with the United States and the State of Montana, coverage will also be provided to major provincial highways leading to and from the border areas, along with known interprovincial routes.
- Teams from within the unit will be assigned to areas along the Alberta-U.S. border and in other strategic locations in the province, where they will patrol to help detect and interdict illicit drugs, illegal firearms and unlawful attempts at international border crossing.
- The government will invest approximately \$29 million in 2025-26 in startup costs, including salaries, training, travel, leases, non-capital equipment, tactical equipment, vehicle and fuel supplies, plus office and IT supplies.

Through the Active Communities Initiative, Alberta's government has committed \$4.2 million to increasing access to sport and recreation activities across the province.

Key messages:

- Sport and recreation facilities are the heart of communities across the province.
- Alberta's communities need effective, up-to-date sport and recreation infrastructure to remain healthy, vibrant, and actively engaged in the sports they love.
- Through the first round of Active Communities Initiative funding, Alberta's government is increasing Albertans' access to sport by supporting 12 projects across the province.
- These investments are more than just building facilities...they're building healthier families and more resilient communities by creating opportunities for more Albertans to be active more often.

Recent data shows the number of people losing their lives to opioid addiction has dropped 38 per cent in 2024.

Key Messages:

- Alberta marks a dramatic decline in Opioid fatalities, shrinking the number of fatalities to sixty nine for the month of September.
- Alberta's opioid overdose fatalities are now the lowest on record since 2020, marking a significant shift in the crisis.
- Alberta's government has been working hard and leading North America by building the groundbreaking Alberta Recovery Model.

- From September 2023 to September 2024, opioid related deaths are down 53%. The first 9 months of 2024 show a shocking 38% decrease over the same time last year.
- This year over year decrease is 3-4 times that of comparable jurisdictions, and is thanks to the tireless work of countless healthcare and law enforcement professionals who go to work everyday as part of the Alberta Recovery Model.
- We will not rest until we have safe streets, free from illicit drug use and trafficking, where criminals who sell deadly drugs are in jail and people with addiction who use these drugs are able to get treatment.
- Through strong partnerships between law enforcement and the healthcare system, Alberta is an international leader in disrupting the trade of illicit drugs while also providing access to treatment and recovery for those who need it.

Background information:

- In September 2024 there were 69 opioid-related fatalities, this is 53 per cent lower than September 2023.
- The first nine months of 2024 had 38 per cent less opioid-related fatalities than the first nine months of 2023.
- B.C.'s most recent data shows their year over year decrease is 9 per cent.
- Alberta's per capita rate of opioid-related fatalities is 38 per cent lower than B.C. in 2024.

Alberta's government has hired an Indigenous Patient Safety Investigator and Advocate to improve health care delivery and outcomes for First Nations, Métis and Inuit patients.

KEY MESSAGES:

- Unfair treatment due to incidents of racism during the delivery of health care and lack of cultural safety can have immeasurable impact on the health outcomes of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit patients, who have unique and diverse health needs.
- Alberta's government remains committed to removing barriers faced by Indigenous Peoples when accessing health services, and ensuring they receive high-quality, timely, and culturally appropriate care.
- Alberta's government, in partnership with the Office of the Alberta Health Advocates, has hired Tony Cardinal as the province's first Indigenous Patient Safety Investigator and Advocate to ensure there is an understanding of Indigenous culture and concerns within the health system.
- The Indigenous Patient Safety Investigator and Advocate will lead investigations, make recommendations to improve experiences, and help First Nations, Métis and Inuit patients address concerns by providing culturally safe support, navigation, education, and information throughout the patient complaint process.
- Through education and public awareness this role will advance understanding of the Alberta Health Charter, and the delivery of culturally safe and appropriate health services.

Community organizations and eligible groups working to combat human trafficking in Alberta can now apply for the new Combatting Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Grant.

Key Messages:

- Human trafficking violates fundamental human rights, exploits vulnerable individuals, and perpetuates cycles of poverty and abuse.
- To better protect people from human trafficking, Alberta's government is providing \$5.5 million through the Combatting Trafficking in Persons grant program to community-based organizations across Alberta to support prevention, protection and empowerment initiatives.
- Combatting human trafficking requires collaboration and strong community partnerships and so we're working with non-profits, law enforcement and Indigenous communities to provide the right support where it's needed most.
- As we have been since we were first elected into government, we remain committed to fighting human trafficking and ensuring that victims and survivors are supported on their path to recovery.

Key Facts:

- Grants can be for up to two years. Applications are open December 13, 2024, to January 20, 2025, with funding available for eligible projects beginning April 2025.
 - Initiatives that are designed, informed and/or led by survivors of human trafficking will be prioritized.
 - Priority will also be given to Indigenous-led organizations and projects that engage Indigenous communities and Elders, recognizing that Indigenous people are disproportionately affected by trafficking.
- Up to \$5.5 million is available for projects focused on prevention, protection and empowerment of victims and survivors.
- To be eligible, projects must directly address human trafficking through service delivery, collaboration, prevention or empowerment programs.

To meet inclusion requirements under the Canada-Alberta Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CACWELCC) Agreement, Alberta has created the Inclusive Spaces Program Grant.

Key Messages:

- Alberta's government is committed to inclusive child care that meets the diverse needs of families across Alberta.
- We are launching the Inclusive Spaces Program Grant to ensure families have access to high-quality, inclusive child care options, when and where they need them.
 - The grant offers funding for infrastructure improvements and resources to support inclusion in the province's child care settings.

- Funded through the Canada-Alberta Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, the Inclusive Spaces Program is investing \$15 million over two years to remove barriers in existing child care spaces, programming and facilities.
- With this significant investment, Alberta is taking a major step forward in addressing equity gaps in the child care system, ensuring every child can learn and grow in an environment that values their unique needs.

Key Facts:

- The program will provide grants to licensed private and non-profit child care providers to promote the inclusion of special needs, diverse and underserved communities.
- Private and non-profit licensed child care providers can now apply for the funding.
- Funding is available for two types of projects:
 - Infrastructure improvements: Renovations to existing facilities to enhance accessibility and inclusivity, such as wheelchair ramps, elevators or adaptive washrooms.
 - Equipment and resources: Purchasing items that promote inclusion, such as assistive technology, sensory equipment, culturally relevant materials or adaptive play structures.
- The grant funding will be dispersed over two years, with \$5 million allocated for 2024-25 and \$10 million allocated for 2025-26.
- There will be one applications intake in December 2024-25, followed by two intakes in 2025-26 or until funding is exhausted.
 - The first intake period is closing on January 31, 2025.

Alberta housing starts rise to 42,954 so far in 2024, a 35 per cent increase from last year.

Key Messages:

- Alberta's plan to build more homes is delivering results: we are leading the country in per capita housing starts.
- As the province grows, Albertans need more diverse housing options to meet their unique needs and budgets and Alberta is committed to providing a range of housing options.
- Year to date in 2024, Alberta has seen 42,954 new homes under construction, a 35 per cent increase from the same period last year.
- Our government will continue to support our housing partners to make sure we go from permits issued to shovels in the ground, and finally to new homes ready for Albertans.

Key Facts:

- Housing starts for January – November 2024 compared with January – November 2023:
 - Provincewide: 42,954 compared with 31,733 (up 35 per cent)
 - Edmonton: 16,939 compared with 11,427 (up 48 per cent)
 - Calgary: 22,652 compared with 18,086 (up 25 per cent)

- Lethbridge: 689 compared with 216 (up 219 per cent)
- Red Deer: 342 compared with 180 (up 90 per cent)

Alberta's government is expanding access to continuous glucose monitors (CGMs), making it easier for Albertans to monitor and manage their diabetes.

Key messages:

- Alberta's government is committed to improving diabetes management for Albertans living with this chronic condition.
- With approximately 1.3 million Albertans currently living with diabetes or prediabetes, and that number projected to rise to 1.7 million by 2034, expanding access to innovative health technologies is essential.
- More Albertans will now have access to wearable technology that supports managing their diabetes, simplifying the process of tracking and managing blood sugar levels.
- Coverage for continuous glucose monitors is now extended to adults over 18 with diabetes who are enrolled in an Alberta government sponsored health plan and require specific insulin therapies.
- Our government will continue to explore innovative technologies to ensure Albertans can access the care they need, when and where they need it.

Key Facts:

- Continuous glucose monitor coverage will continue for children and youth under 18 with diabetes who are enrolled in an Alberta government-sponsored health plan and require insulin or insulin pump therapy.
- This expansion builds on the success of CGM coverage for children and youth under 18, introduced in February 2022.
- Approximately 23,500 additional Albertans will now benefit from expanded access to this life-changing technology.

Alberta's government is investing \$2.7 million through its industry-funded Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) program to support new technologies that will help oil and gas companies reduce water use while creating jobs and powering the world.

Key messages:

- Alberta's oil and gas operators are known worldwide as environmental leaders, especially when it comes to water.
- Alberta companies recycle about 80 per cent of the water used in their operations, reducing the need for freshwater, and use advanced filtration systems to treat wastewater.
 - To date, they have reduced their water use by 25 per cent.
- Through Emissions Reduction Alberta, Alberta's government is investing \$1.47 million for two new water filtration technologies, led by Aqua Pure Technologies and Eximius Environmental Solutions, and \$1.2 million to help Canadian Natural Resources Limited test a new chemical that makes heavy oil and bitumen flow faster and more easily toward the production well.

- Alberta's government is helping industry create jobs and share our responsibly produced energy with the world while reducing costs and making operations and processes more efficient.

Key Facts:

- The three projects were selected through Emissions Reduction Alberta's Continuous Intake Programs.
- Drilling and fracturing operations in Alberta require less 0.17% of all allocated water in the province.

Advanced Education Minister Rajan Sawhney has appointed five eminent Albertans with significant post-secondary experience to join chair Dr. Jack Mintz on a panel to assess the competitiveness of Alberta's higher education system.

Key messages:

- Alberta's publicly funded post-secondary education system is critical to the province's ongoing prosperity, and our government is committed to exploring ways of maintaining and improving the strength of Alberta's post-secondary system.
- To maintain and build upon Alberta's reputation for excellence in post-secondary education, Dr. Jack Mintz will chair a new expert panel alongside Charlene Butler, Dr. Ray Block, Joan Hertz, and Peter MacKinnon.
- We're grateful to each panel member for taking on this role and we are confident their extensive experience in high-level executive and administrative roles Alberta post-secondary institutions, in addition to membership on public boards, advisory councils and community organizations will position them to submit a thoughtful and comprehensive report.
- The panel will examine funding allocations, federal policy impacts on Alberta's post-secondary institutions, administrative and regulatory burdens, and the overall competitiveness of Alberta's post-secondary system.
- The panel will begin its work, including engagement with the post-secondary institutions, in early 2025, with a report expected later that year.

Key facts:

- Biographies of the panel's members are available at [\[link\]](#).
- The Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs 10-year strategy was launched in 2021 as an essential part of building a prosperous and globally competitive province.
- Alberta 2030 is composed of six goals: improve access and student experience; develop skills for jobs; support innovation and commercialization; strengthen internationalization; improve sustainability and affordability; and strengthen system governance.
- The 2019 MacKinnon Report spoke to Alberta's future prosperity being dependent on having a highly skilled and well-educated population, and it found that the province's post-secondary system lacked an overall direction.

Alberta's government is introducing a new primary care physician compensation model to improve access to family physicians and stabilize hospital services across Alberta.

Key Messages:

- Alberta's government values physicians and the invaluable contributions they make to improving the health and well-being of Albertans through the primary care system.
- To improve primary care, expand access to family physicians, and help alleviate pressures on the health care system, Alberta's government is implementing a new physician compensation model.
- As a market and evidence-based model, it recognizes and pays for the critically important work of physicians, including the number of patients seen and the patients' complexity, as well as time spent providing direct and indirect care.
- Compensation under the new model includes:
 - Increases for maintaining high panel numbers, improving technology, enhancing team-based care and adding efficiencies in clinical operations.
 - An after-hours premium to incentivize family physicians to provide after-hours care in their clinics, which is expected to relieve pressure on emergency departments and urgent care centres.
 - An additional 10 per cent is being provided for time that physicians spend on administrative duties.
- The new model is for primary care physicians with a panel size of 500 or more patients to provide an incentive for them to care for more patients and to encourage full-time practice.
- Alberta physicians will be able to enrol in the new compensation model in January, with full implementation in spring 2025.

Key Facts:

- The new model comes as a result of extensive discussions and collaboration with the Alberta Medical Association.
- The new compensation model is a blend between what is paid through fee for service and elements of other non-fee-for-service models, making it the first family physician-focused compensation model of its kind in Alberta.
- There are about 3,000 family physicians who are providing care that is aligned with the new primary care physician compensation model.
- Physicians under the new primary care physician compensation model practising in eligible communities will receive additional Rural Remote and Northern Program payments.
- Compensation under the new model includes:
 - Increases for maintaining high panel numbers, improving technology, enhancing team-based care and adding efficiencies in clinical operations.
 - An after-hours premium to incentivize family physicians to provide after-hours care in their clinics, which is expected to relieve pressure on emergency departments and urgent care centres.
 - An additional 10 per cent is being provided for time that physicians spend on administrative duties.

- The new model is for primary care physicians with a panel size of 500 or more patients to provide an incentive for them to care for more patients and to encourage full-time practice.

Alberta's government is following through on its commitment to update the province's approach to combatting homelessness.

Key Messages:

- To improve community responses to homelessness and achieve better outcomes for those seeking help, Alberta's government is updating its approach to combatting homelessness.
 - We are making changes so we can better provide the supports needed to combat homelessness both today and into the future.
 - These efforts build on the work of the Coordinated Community Response to Homelessness Task Force in 2021 and Alberta's Action Plan on Homelessness from 2022, which included a commitment to testing and developing new approaches to address homelessness.
- Our government is focussed on better coordinating and strengthening wrap-around supports across the province for Albertans experiencing homelessness.
 - We have seen success with our Navigation and Support Centres, emergency and transitional shelters, and housing supports which is why we are working to replicate that success.
- To provide better outcomes for those seeking help, we need to have more accurate data collection on a provincial scale so we can better coordinate wrap-around services and provide help where it's needed in communities all around the province.
- To improve community responses to homelessness, our government will directly provide provincial funding to Alberta's service providers for supportive housing, which will also relieve the administrative burdens carried by other agencies and ensure they can better focus their efforts on providing frontline services.
 - Funding service providers directly will help streamline processes, strengthen wrap around supports for Albertans experiencing homelessness, and provide greater support in communities across the province.
 - We will continue to work closely with shelter operators, municipalities and community partners to ensure minimal disruption in services as this improved delivery model is implemented.
- As our government continues to look towards the future, we are establishing an expert panel to help shape the province's long-term approach to combatting homelessness, with an increased focus on Indigenous people and rural communities.

Key Facts:

- The advisory panel will be co-chaired by Justin Wright, the MLA for Cypress-Medicine Hat, and Robin James, the Chief Administrative Officer of the Lethbridge Housing Authority.

- Additional members of the panel will be announced at a later date.

Background:

- This funding supports people experiencing homelessness to move into stable housing with wrap-around supports, such as addiction treatment, mental health services, employment skills training and rent support to address the unique and complex issues that contributed to their homelessness.
- Under the current system, the provincially funded CBOs in Alberta's seven largest cities distribute grants to organizations in their respective regions.
 - The seven CBOs are the City of Grande Prairie, the City of Red Deer, the Lethbridge Housing Authority, Medicine Hat Community Housing, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, the Calgary Homeless Foundation and Homeward Trust Edmonton.
- In 2024/25, \$101.5 million was split between the seven CBOs to distribute to service providers.
- Alberta's [Action Plan on Homelessness](#) was released in October of 2022.
- The [Coordinated Community Response to Homelessness Task Force Report](#) was released in September 2022.

Alberta's government is highlighting Alberta's economic achievements in 2024, focusing on job growth, major investments, business-friendly policies and initiatives to attract skilled workers and foster long-term economic success.

Key Messages:

- Over the course of the year, Alberta has continued to cement its position as the economic engine of Canada due to our highly skilled workforce, business-friendly environment, low taxes and diversified economy.
 - It is clear, our government has set the foundation for Alberta's economic success for many years to come.
- Alberta remains a national leader in job growth, with significant contributions from the private sector, fueling Canada's overall employment expansion.
- Alberta's proactive investment strategies, through programs like the Investment and Growth Fund, are bringing high-quality projects to Alberta, contributing to local economic development and job opportunities across the province.
- Alberta is increasing its international trade partnerships, with successful trade missions across key international markets, expanding Alberta's presence in sectors like agri-food, energy and technology.
- As we wrap up 2024, Alberta's economy is finishing the year strong, setting the stage for even bigger opportunities in 2025.

Key Facts:

- Alberta's private sector added 69,600 jobs in the last 12 months, accounting for 40 per cent of Canada's total private sector employment growth.
- Alberta secured significant projects, including Linde's \$2 billion clean hydrogen facility, which will supply Dow's \$11.6 billion net-zero petrochemical project.
- In 2024, the province closed deals on three major investments through the Investment Growth Fund, generating 176 full-time jobs and 330 temporary jobs, including:
 - Fortinet's cybersecurity facility in Calgary
 - Logistik Unicorp's hemp processing facility in Elk Point
 - NewCold's food storage facility in Coaldale
- The Film and Television Tax Credit supported 34 productions in 2024.
 - These productions are estimated to spend \$129.1 million in Alberta that will generate \$72.32 million in GDP and support 1,124 jobs.

Alberta's government is highlighting how Alberta's arts, heritage and cultural industries sectors greatly contribute to Alberta's economy.

Key Messages:

- As Alberta's economy continues to grow and diversify, arts, heritage and cultural industries have stepped into the spotlight on both the domestic and international stage.
- The government's 21 museum and heritage sites across the province contributed almost \$115 million to our province's GDP.
- Alberta's cultural sectors have been a key player in Alberta's economic success, with investment in Alberta's cultural industries is paying off, with one dollar of government investment seeing a return of four dollars back into the provincial economy.
- Alberta's government is also investing into the province's arts sector by increasing funding to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts to nearly \$40 million by 2026, and by investing into large cultural infrastructure projects across the province which is projected to create 4,000 jobs for Albertans.
- The province's film and TV sector is also booming, and to help continue this boom Alberta's government is investing \$5.4 million into the Alberta Made Productions Grants, which help train production crews, support pre and post-production services, and help train writers for scripts development.

Key Facts:

- According to the most recent data from Statistics Canada (2019), the heritage sector in Alberta contributed almost \$115 million to our province's GDP.
 - Provincially owned museums, historic sites and archives attract about 900,000 visitors annually.
- According to the most recent data available from Statistics Canada (2021), the book publishing industry employed over 100 Albertans and contributed about \$16.6 million to the provincial GDP

and the periodical publishing sector provided almost 400 jobs and contributed \$55.5 million to Alberta's GDP.

- The music sector in Alberta contributed \$1.7 billion to our province's GDP in 2021 and provided employment for more than 20,000 Albertans (*West Anthem Music City Strategies Phase One Report*, June 2023).
- The visual and applied arts sector and live performance industries provided \$1.2 billion to Alberta's GDP, and sustained over 17,000 jobs for hard-working Albertans (Statistics Canada, Provincial and Territorial Cultural Indicators, 2022).
- As of September 2024, 195 productions have been approved to participate in the Film and Television Tax Credit (FTTC) program, these productions are expected to spend more than \$1.37 billion and support over 13,500 jobs while filming here in Alberta.

Alberta is building homes faster than ever, with the province setting historic records for housing construction in 2024.

Key Messages:

- Alberta is getting shovels in the ground faster and building the homes Albertans need.
- We are clearing the way for more homes to be built faster to help Albertans find housing that meets their needs and budgets.
 - Alberta's government continues to support builders and encourage new residential housing construction by reducing red tape, incentivizing housing construction and supporting innovative strategies that speed up the homebuilding process.
- Our plan to build more homes is working – 2024 was a record-breaking year for housing starts and Calgary saw the biggest drop in rental prices in the country for 2024.
- Alberta's government will continue to support our housing partners to make sure we go from permits issued to shovels in the ground, and finally to new homes ready for Albertans.

Key Facts:

- In 2024, Alberta saw 46,632 new homes under construction, breaking historic records.
 - Alberta led the country in housing starts per capita for 2024.
 - The first half of 2024 saw 9,903 apartment unit starts – the highest in any half-year in Alberta's history, breaking the record set previously in 1977.
- Housing starts for 2024 compared with 2023:
 - Provincewide: 46,632 compared with 35,223 (up 32 per cent)
 - Edmonton: 18,384 compared with 13,184 (up 39 per cent)
 - Calgary: 24,396 compared with 19,579 (up 24 per cent)
 - Lethbridge: 715 compared with 243 (up 194 per cent)
 - Red Deer: 354 compared with 189 (up 84 per cent)
- Increasing housing supply drives down costs and helps address the shortage of housing units as more people call Alberta home.
- According to a recent report by Rentals.ca, Alberta experienced the largest year over year decline in asking rents in 2024.
 - Calgary saw the biggest drop in rental prices in the entire country, with Calgary's apartment rents decreasing by 7.2 per cent.
 - Alberta communities made up six out of Canada's top ten most affordable small and mid-size rental markets.

Alberta's government is delivering on its promise to introduce a 25 per cent camping fee discount for seniors starting May 1, 2025, at select campgrounds across the province.

Key Messages:

- Alberta's government is making it easier than ever for seniors to explore and enjoy the stunning landscapes and hidden gems our parks have to offer.

- Starting May 1, 2024, Alberta seniors aged 65 and older will enjoy a 25 per cent discount on camping fees at select campgrounds, opening the door to more high-quality and low-cost outdoor adventures and opportunities to foster a deeper connection with nature.
- Seniors will have access to these sites at select campgrounds that offer stunning, quieter experiences in less-crowded settings, allowing them to explore new areas without the pressure of fully booked campsites.
- A list of campgrounds offering the discount is available at albertaparks.ca.
- Seniors can take advantage of this discount by booking through shop.albertaparks.ca, by phone, or at first-come, first-served campgrounds.
- Bookings for May 1 arrivals will open on January 31, 2025.

Alberta is tackling the root causes of family violence by investing \$2 million in community prevention initiatives.

Key messages:

- Every year, thousands of Albertans are faced with the devastating trauma of family violence, which affects survivors' overall well-being, ability to trust, form healthy relationships, and feel safe.
- Family violence takes many forms, including intimate partner and gender-based violence, sexual assault, coercion, child abuse and neglect – but no matter what form it takes, it is preventable.
- To help stop violence before it starts, prevent more Albertans from becoming victims, and ease pressure on our women's shelter and sexual assault centre partners, \$2 million is now available through the Family Violence Prevention Grant Program.
- These grants build on more than \$100 million in prevention strategies and critical programs across government that support survivors, and engage men and boys to foster a culture of consent, as well as support the development of a 10-year, made-in-Alberta strategy to end gender-based violence.

The latest released results from the 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) shows that Alberta students ranked first in financial literacy.

Key Messages:

- The latest PISA results from 2022 are clear, Alberta is a leader in education in Canada and around the world.
- Thanks to the hard-work and dedication of our province's students, parents, teachers and education support staff, Alberta students ranked first in financial literacy among Canadian provinces and on the world stage they ranked first ahead of the top country Denmark.
- These results build off our provinces national and international success in reading, science, creative thinking, and mathematics from the previously released 2022 PISA results.
- Our governments continued participation in international assessments such as PISA reflects our government's commitment to benchmark Alberta's education system against the rest of the country and the world.

According to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA), Alberta has added 474 physicians over 2024.

Key messages:

- According to the CPSA, Alberta has registered 474 more physicians to practice across Alberta which is the largest yearly increase in registered physicians in over a decade. This includes a net year over year gain of 318 registered family physicians.
- Primary health care is the foundation of Alberta's health care system, and family medicine and rural generalist physicians are fundamental to Albertans getting the care they need when and where they need it.
- Alberta's combination of a low-tax environment, incredible support systems, and the highest physician compensation out of any province in Canada means more physicians are choosing Alberta than ever before.

Alberta's government, through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, is providing 726 artist and art organizations with over \$20 million in funding.

Key messages:

- Alberta's government put in place a responsible plan to increase funding for the arts which will bring provincial funding for the arts to a record-level investment of \$40 million by 2026, including increased funding to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA).
- This investment ensures art is accessible to all Albertans, as a creator, as a career and as an audience.
- With the increased investment, the AFA has increased support to individual artists and continued support for arts organizations. The 2024-25 funding increase is already helping arts organizations and artists in all corners of the province bring the arts to more Albertans.
- As of December 31, 2024, the AFA has provided 726 grants totalling over \$21 million—nearly a 40 per cent increase in the number of grants provided at this time in 2023.
- The arts play a significant role in enhancing the quality of life for Albertans, fostering positive health and well-being, supporting economic development and preserving and sharing our unique culture and history.

To combat growing antisemitism around the world and ensure students are educated about the realities of antisemitism, the new draft social studies curriculum for grades 7 to 9 will include appropriate content.

Key Messages:

- There is no place for hate, discrimination and racism in Alberta and the classroom is no exception.
- To make sure students feel safe, welcomed, and cared for in the classroom, we will ensure that the new draft grades 7 to 9 social studies curriculum will teach students about the prejudice that groups face.

- As part of our junior high social studies curriculum development, we will continue to engage with our education partners and Jewish organizations to ensure students are educated about antisemitism and the results of it.
- The inclusion of antisemitism in the new draft grades 7 to 9 social studies curriculum builds upon the Alberta government's commitment to have students learn about injustices faced by those who historically were, and continue to be, marginalized, or who have experienced discrimination.
- Together with our education partners and Jewish organizations, we will make a curriculum that strengthens our communities, sets students up for success, and encourages them to take a stand against antisemitism.

Alberta's government is providing a nearly \$4 million dollar grant to the Alberta Geological Survey to complete a three-year study mapping the quality and location of groundwater across southern Alberta.

Key Messages:

- Alberta's government is investing nearly \$4 million to help study and map groundwater in Southern Alberta as demand for water grows.
 - With groundwater as a critical source of water in the region, there is a need to fill in gaps and better understand the availability of groundwater to support communities and businesses in the years ahead.
 - Better understanding groundwater resources in Southern Alberta will help the province maximize and utilize every drop to support families, business, farmers and ranchers and the environment.
 - The study will provide important details on southern Alberta aquifers and improve access to groundwater information for water users, regulatory decision makers and those who use groundwater and may want increased access in the future, such as agricultural producers and rural communities.
 - This will result in better and faster regulatory decisions, and improved clarity and certainty for those applying to access groundwater.
 - Highlights of the study include new hydrogeological mapping and 3-dimensional modelling of aquifers to visualize the province's groundwater resources in the South Saskatchewan River and Milk River basins.
 - The Southern Alberta Groundwater Evaluation study will also better quantify the effects that additional groundwater use may have on surface water availability and connected ecosystems.
 - When complete, interactive data and groundwater maps will be published online.

As part of the ongoing work to reduce red tape, Alberta has introduced a new policy toolkit for permit approvals.

Key Messages:

- As part of the ongoing work of reducing red tape, we are continuing to address opportunities to reduce costs and improve government service delivery by adopting an “Automatic Yes Toolkit” for permit decisions.
 - We have heard that permitting delays and excessive red tape are interfering with growth and job creation across several industries, forcing businesses to spend valuable time navigating unnecessary bureaucracy instead.
 - With our Automatic Yes toolkit in place, Alberta’s government has a tool to evaluate removing low-risk, routine permits by setting clear operating rules and enforcing mandatory decision timelines for other permits.
 - By enabling government to process simple permit applications quickly, we’re freeing up time for government staff to review more complex permit applications and focus on monitoring and enforcement activities.
 - Alberta’s government will not compromise important health, safety, and environmental protections, including the ability to deny permits when necessary and appropriate and this new toolkit keeps that balance.
 - This is all part of our work to ensure that Alberta remains a top jurisdiction for business investment and growth.

Key Facts:

- The Canadian Federation of Independent Business continues to rank Alberta as Canada’s top performing jurisdiction on red tape reduction.
- Since the work to improve wait times for permit decisions across all Ministries began in 2023, nearly 20 per cent of government permits have demonstrated an improvement in average wait times, with several permits seeing improvements by 30 days or more.

More than \$12 million in matching funding with the Canadian Red Cross has been provided to support Jasper’s recovery, part of over \$170 million in total wildfire assistance.

Key Messages:

- We are committed to ensuring Jasper residents, businesses and not-for-profits are supported as the community recovers from last summer’s wildfire.
- To support Jasper’s recovery, we are providing more than \$12 million through a donation-matching initiative with the Canadian Red Cross into the Canadian Red Cross’s 2024 Alberta Wildfires Appeal, which raised over \$40 million to support the families and residents most impacted by the wildfires.
- The donation matching initiative with the Canadian Red Cross is just one part of the Alberta government’s commitment to help Jasper and its residents recover.
 - Since the beginning of the wildfire, more than \$170 million in assistance has been provided from across the provincial government to support Jasper residents and businesses as the community recovers and rebuilds.
 - We will continue to work with partners to ensure that Jasper families and residents continue to have access to the supports and services they need during the community’s recovery.

- We remain ready to build \$112 million worth of homes for displaced Jasperites, but the province cannot do that without land. If the federal government decides to step up and make land available, the province is ready to build the homes.

Alberta's government has announced plans to grow the Heritage Fund to \$250 billion by 2050.

Key Messages:

- The Alberta government is taking action to grow the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund to more than \$250 billion by 2050.
- With a focus on long-term growth and reinvestment, the bold plan outlined in our roadmap, will achieve financial stability for our province and the generations to come.
 - Our goal is to reduce Alberta's reliance on volatile non-renewable resource revenues.
- A world class board and corporation will focus solely on building the Heritage Fund and will have access to growth strategies only available to similar sovereign wealth funds.
 - Strong governance of the fund will support investment decisions independent from government to deliver high returns for Albertans.
- The Heritage Fund Opportunities Corporation will help elevate the Heritage Fund's profile and strengthen partnerships with global sovereign wealth funds, unlocking access to top-tier investment opportunities.
- We are building on the Heritage Fund's existing mandate and intended vision, saving some of our prosperity today and creating a strong financial legacy for the benefit of all Albertans.
 - Our commitment to grow and secure the Heritage Fund is important to Alberta's continued success in the future.

As part of the health refocusing, the government is announcing the new continuing care provincial health agency – Assisted Living Alberta – the launch of an online survey for feedback, and the new committee supporting the transition to ALA.

Key Messages:

- Assisted Living Alberta – will be Alberta's new provincial continuing care agency.
 - This new agency is part of the overall refocusing of Alberta's health care system.
- Assisted Living Alberta will provide Albertans access to a comprehensive, holistic system of continuing care with a full range of wrap-around services, including medical and non-medical supports, home care, community care and social services.
 - This transition will allow us to place a holistic social service lens on assisted living services to deliver care more effectively and consistently throughout the province.
- By taking this approach, individuals and families will have more options when they need care and as their needs evolve, helping older adults, Albertans with disabilities, and vulnerable populations maintain their quality of life and independence.
- This change is aimed to enhance services and will not interrupt the important services people rely on.
 - Assisted Living Alberta is on track to become a legal entity by spring of 2025.

- We are taking the time needed to make sure we get things right by consulting with assisted living service providers, staff, and Albertans.

Assisted Living Alberta Transitional Committee

- A transition committee will provide the Minister with advice to support this transformation.
- The committee will be led by Dr. Sayeh Zielke, cardiologist author and medical director of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program, as Chair along with leaders from the health, continuing care and the social services sector.

All front-line paramedics in Alberta will be able to view Connect Care patient files to enhance patient care.

Key Messages:

- Alberta's government is committed to ensuring that Albertans receive timely access to critical health care.
- Alberta's government is providing Connect Care view-only access to all front-line paramedics, giving them immediate access to critical patient information, and improving clinical decision-making.
- This initiative aims to enhance patient safety, optimize emergency care and support paramedics in delivering timely, informed interventions through real-time access to patient records.
- Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services will work together to provide dedicated support to paramedics, ensuring a smooth transition and effective use of the new system.
- Our government will continue to implement initiatives that enhance efficiency and ensure Albertans receive the care they need, when and where they need it.

On April 1, 2025, Alberta is bringing in flat monthly parent fees for licensed childcare, which will apply to children kindergarten-age and younger attending daycare and family day home programs.

Key Messages:

- As we continue transitioning to a primarily government-funded system, we are improving the way licensed childcare is funded to provide transparent and flexible reimbursement for quality childcare delivery.
- Alberta's new childcare funding approach, effective April 1, introduces a transformative framework that brings consistency, transparency and fairness to both families and providers.
- Starting April 1, parents with children zero to kindergarten age attending full-time licensed daycare facilities and family day home programs across the province will be eligible for a flat parent fee of \$326.25 per month, or roughly \$15 per day. Parents requiring part-time care will pay \$230 per month.
- This means that Alberta's government, on behalf of families, will cover about 80 per cent of child-care fees through grants to daycare facilities and family day homes.

- This means a family using full-time daycare could save, on average, \$11,000 per child per year.
- As we have achieved an 80 per cent reduction in childcare fees through the flat \$15 a day, or \$326.25 per month, the Childcare Subsidy Program will be phased out with those funds redirected to supporting the affordability grants and system broadly.
- To support these changes and high-quality childcare, approximately 85 per cent of licensed daycare providers will receive a funding increase once the new fee structure is in place on April 1.
- By tailoring funding to meet the unique needs of daycares, preschools, and family day homes, we are fostering a more equitable environment that supports operators, reduces administrative burdens, and strengthens the overall childcare system for years to come.
- We will be providing more details to our valued childcare partners in the days to come.

Key Facts:

- These changes cover the following:
 - a) create a flat monthly parent fee of \$326.25 – approximately \$15 per day for full-time childcare,
 - b) introduce new tailored funding approaches for childcare providers that make responsible use of public dollars, while recognizing variability across different childcare types.
 - c) replace the Childcare Subsidy Program for children up to kindergarten age with a flat monthly parent fee so that all families pay the same amount for high-quality care.
 - d) introduce the Childcare Accountability Program to improve financial accountability and support government's legislative responsibility to ensure that childcare programs are safe and support the well-being and development of children.
- The flat monthly parent fee comes into effect on April 1, 2025, and applies only to children kindergarten-age and younger, with full-time care costing \$326.25 per month (for 100 + hours) and part-time care at \$230 per month (for 50-99 hours).
- The flat fee covers licensed daycares and family day homes, but not preschools, which will receive an increased per-child grant of \$25 up to \$100 per enrolled child.
- Out-of-school care fees and subsidies remain unchanged as they fall outside the Canada-Alberta Canada-Wide Early Learning and Childcare agreement.
- Since the signing of the CACWELCC agreement, childcare fees have been reduced by 80 per cent through affordability grants to licensed daycares and family day homes.
- As we have achieved an 80 per cent reduction in childcare fees through the flat \$15 a day, or \$326.25 per month, the Childcare Subsidy Program will be phased out with those funds redirected to supporting the affordability grants and system broadly.
- With these transitions, Alberta's government is still on-track to reach \$10-a-day childcare by March 2026, as mandated by the federal government's childcare agreement.

Alberta's Government is working to protect and promote the Canada-U.S. trade relationship.

Canada-U.S.

Key Messages:

- Canada and the U.S. have the world's largest and most reliable trade relationship.
- Protecting and promoting the Canada- U.S. trade relationship ensures continued economic growth, job creation, and long-term prosperity for both countries.
- Tariffs on any products threaten this stability.
- The Canada-U.S. trading relationship extends well beyond the energy sector and encompasses multiple sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, and critical minerals.
- Canada-U.S. trade makes U.S. industry stronger and more globally competitive.

Quick Facts:

- Canada is the U.S.'s largest trading partner with a USD\$773 billion trade relationship in 2023.
- Nearly USD\$2.5 billion worth of goods and services crosses the Canada-U.S. border each day.
- In 2023, the U.S.'s \$64.3 billion trade deficit with Canada was driven by U.S. demand for energy-related products.
- Excluding energy, the U.S. had a trade surplus with Canada, standing at USD\$28.6 billion in 2023.

Alberta-U.S.

Key Messages:

- Alberta plays an important role as a responsible and reliable energy supplier to the U.S.
- Alberta-U.S. energy trade drives job creation and prosperity on both sides of the border and supports North American energy security and affordability.
- Refineries in the U.S. that process Alberta crude oil turn it into value-added products, contributing to local economies and employing over 25,000 Americans.
- The U.S. relies on oil imports to meet its energy demand, and Alberta plays an important role in providing reliable and secure oil supply.
- The U.S. consumes 19 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil but only produces 13 million bpd. Without Alberta's oil exports, the U.S.'s alternative is to source oil from nations such as Venezuela, Iran, or Iraq – and we believe we are a far better friend and ally.

Quick Facts:

- The Alberta-U.S. trade relationship reached USD\$134.7 billion in 2023, with Alberta's energy exports representing most of it.
- Alberta accounts for 56% of all oil exports into the U.S. – twice as much as Mexico, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq combined.
- Alberta's oil directly supports more than 50 U.S.-based refineries, with direct investment in more than 20 U.S. states.
 - These refineries employ over 25,000 Americans.
- Alberta's approximately USD\$100 billion in energy exports to the U.S. is upgraded into USD\$300 billion in value-added products by American workers at refineries across Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and other states.
 - American companies sell these products globally, creating significant economic value.
- Alberta and the Pacific Northwest had USD\$16.8 billion in bilateral trade in 2023.
- 904,000 American jobs are supported by trade with Alberta.

Energy

Key Messages:

- Energy trade between Canada and the U.S. is one of the cornerstones of their economic relationship. Canada is the largest energy supplier to the U.S., contributing to the security and stability of U.S. energy needs.
- Alberta's energy exports, particularly oil, account for a significant portion of U.S. energy imports, helping to fill the gap between U.S. domestic production and consumption. Alberta's crude oil is vital for meeting U.S. energy demand, supporting both local economies and national energy security.
- The U.S. depends on Canada for a significant portion of its oil and gas imports, and Canada relies on the U.S. for refining and distributing its energy products. This mutual dependence strengthens the economic bonds between the two countries.
- The United States gets about 62 per cent of foreign oil imports from Canada, and 99 per cent of foreign natural gas imports.
- The extensive network of pipelines between Canada and the U.S. (450,000+ km) forms the backbone of energy trade, allowing for the efficient and reliable transport of oil and gas across borders, supporting economic growth in both countries.

Quick Facts:

- Canada is the single largest foreign supplier of energy to the U.S.
- More than 450,000 kilometres of pipelines already link Canada and the U.S. – enough to circle the Earth 11 times.
- In 2023, there were more than USD\$ 125 billion in energy exports from Canada to the U.S.
- In 2023, 4.4 million barrels per day of crude oil and products were exported from Canada to the U.S.