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Town of Bowden - Regular Council Meeting
AGENDA

A Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Bowden
to be held in Council Chambers, at 2101 – 20 Avenue, Bowden,
on **Monday December 22, 2025, 9:00 am**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
 - 1.a Land Acknowledgement

- 2. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA & ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - 3.a Special Council Meeting (December 3, 2025)
 - 3.b Regular Council Meeting (December 8, 2025)

- 4. PUBLIC HEARING**

None scheduled.

- 5. DELEGATIONS**

None

- 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - 6.a Council Resolutions Follow Up Action
 - 6.b Key Dates

- 7. BYLAWS & POLICIES**
 - 7a None

- 8. NEW BUSINESS**

None submitted

- 9. FINANCIAL**
 - 9.a 2026 Operating Budget

- 10. CORRESPONDENCE**
 - 10.a → 10.g

- 11. REPORTS**
 - 11.a CAO's Report (verbal report for meeting).
 - 11.b Council Committee Reports.
 - 11.c Society & Other Reports.

12. CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL

12.a Staffing (Confidential).

An exception to disclose under Division 2 of Part 1 of the Access to Information Act, Statutes of Alberta 2024, Chapter A-1.4 (as amended over time) therefore applies on the basis of: Section 20 "harmful to personal privacy"

12.b Property Development (Confidential).

An exception to disclose under Division 2 of Part 1 of the Access to Information Act, Statutes of Alberta 2024, Chapter A-1.4 (as amended over time) therefore applies on the basis of: Section 32 "privileged information"

12.c Legal (Confidential).

This is a closed meeting of Council as permitted by section 197 of the MGA.

An exception to disclose under Division 2 of Part 1 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSA2000, Chapter F-25 (as amended over time) therefore applies on the basis of: Section 23 "local public body confidences".

13. MEETING ADJOURNMENT



Town of Bowden
Special Council Meeting

Town of Bowden Council – Special Council Meeting
Held on Friday, December 3, 2025
At Council Chambers, at 2101-20 Avenue, Bowden

MINUTES (unapproved)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Laurie Miller called the meeting to order at 08:46 am

PRESENT	Mayor	Laurie Miller
	Councillor	Randy Brown
	Councillor	Cam Morrison
	Councillor	Amanda Peffers
	Councillor	Carol Pion

1.a Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional territories of the Treaty 7 First Nations — including the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani First Nations), the Tsuut’ina Nation, and the Îyârhe Nakoda Nations — as well as the homeland of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. We honour the Indigenous Peoples who have cared for this land, and we are grateful to live, learn, and build community on this land.

2. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA & ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion 2.a

Moved by Councillor Randy Brown that Council adopts the agenda as amended to include the creation of a CAO Recruitment Committee.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.a Special Council Meeting (November 28, 2025)

Moved by Councillor Carol Pion that Council adopts the minutes of the Special Council Meetings of November 28, 2025 and December 1, 2025, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL (“in camera”)

4.a Staffing (Confidential).

An exception to disclose under Division 2 of Part 1 of the Access to Information Act, Statutes of Alberta 2024, Chapter A-1.4 (as amended over time) therefore applies on the basis of: Section 20 “harmful to personal privacy”

Motion 4.a

Moved by Councillor Cam Morrison at 08:49 am that Council moved to an “in-camera” session.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 4.b

Moved by Councillor Carol Pion at 09:05 am that Council return to an “open meeting” of Council.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 4.c

Moved by Councillor Amanda Peffers at 09:06 am that the Mayor proceed to appoint Jacqui Molyneux as Acting Chief Administrative Officer.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 4.d

Moved by Councillor Amanda Peffers at 09:06 am that a Recruitment Committee, consisting of the Mayor and Councillors Randy Brown and Carol Pion be formed to proceed with CAO hiring process.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion 5.a

Moved by Councillor Carol Pion at 09:07 am to adjourn the meeting

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY




WRITTEN NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
CALLED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SECTION 194.4 OF THE
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT

The Mayor has requested that a special meeting of Town Council be held in Council Chambers, at 2101-20 Avenue, Bowden, Alberta at 0846 AM/PM on Dec 3, 2025.

An exception to disclose under Division 2 of Part 1 of the Access to Information Act, Statutes of Alberta 2024, Chapter A-1.4 (as amended over time) therefore applies on the basis of: Section 20 "harmful to personal privacy"


Signatures:

Mayor, Laurie Miller



Councillors


Randy Brown



Ryan Howlett




Cam Morrison



Amanda Peffers



Carol Pion



Marietta Tuckwell

Town of Bowden - Regular Council Meeting

MINUTES **unapproved**

A Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Bowden
to be held in Council Chambers, at 2101 – 20 Avenue, Bowden,
on **Monday December 8, 2025, 7:00pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Laurie Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1.a Land Acknowledgement

I respectfully acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional territories of the Treaty 7 First Nations — including the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani First Nations), the Tsuut'ina Nation, and the Îyârhe Nakoda Nations — as well as the homeland of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.

We honour the Indigenous Peoples who have cared for this land, and we are grateful to live, learn, and build community on this land.

2. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA & ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion 2.a

Moved by Councillor Randy Brown that Council adopts the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.a Regular Council Meeting (November 24, 2025)

Motion 3.a

Moved by Councillor Carol Pion that Council adopts the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of November 24, 2025, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. PUBLIC HEARING

None scheduled.

5. DELEGATIONS

5.a Trish Proctor -Innisfail Chamber of Commerce (15 mins)

Motion 5.a

Moved by Councillor Randy Brown that Council accepts the Innisfail Chamber of Commerce delegation presentation and direct administration to add the membership to budget for 2026. Also consider appointing a council member to the Innisfail Chamber of Commerce board.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.b Warren Wright – Bylaw Enforcement Officer (15 mins)

Motion 5.b

Moved by Councillor Cam Morrison that Council accepts the Bylaw Enforcement Officer’s delegation presentation as information.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.c Liz Armitage – Vicinia Planning

CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL

Property Development (Confidential).

An exception to disclose under Division 2 of Part 1 of the Access to Information Act, Statutes of Alberta 2024, Chapter A-1.4 (as amended over time) therefore applies on the basis of: Section 32 “privileged information”

Motion 5.c

Moved by Councillor Carol Pion at 7:36 pm that Council moves to an “in-camera” session.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 5.d Moved by Councillor Ryan Howlett at 9:05 pm that Council return to an “open meeting” of Council.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 5.e

Moved by Moved by Councillor Ryan Howlett that Administration schedule the Liz Armitage to present Planning 101 to Council on January 6th at 6pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 5.f

Moved by Moved by Councillor Randy Brown that a committee of the whole be established for review of the Land Use Bylaw (LUB).

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.a Council Resolutions Follow Up Action

Motion 6a

Motion by Councillor Amanda Peffers that Council accepts agenda item 6.a as information.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.b Key Dates

Motion 6b

Motion by Councillor Carol Pion that Council accepts agenda item 6.b, with the addition of January 12, 2026 – RCM, as information.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. BYLAWS & POLICIES**7a** Index of Bylaws & Policies**Motion 7a**

Motion by Councillor Amanda Peffers that Council accept the information provided within agenda item 7.a as information.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. NEW BUSINESS

None submitted

9. FINANCIAL**9.a** 2025 Capital Budget Request**Motion 9.a**

Motion by Councillor Randy Brown that Council approve the increase in capital for purchase the battery-operated ice edger.

MOTION PASSED WITH 6 VOTES IN FAVOUR AND 1 AGAINST

10. CORRESPONDENCE**10.a** → **10.c****Motion 10.a**

Motion by Councillor Carol Pion that Council seeks a delegation in the new year from the Bowden Historical Society regarding agenda item 10.a.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AND

Motion 10.b

Motion by Councillor Ryan Howlett that Council accepts agenda items 10.b / 10.c as information.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. REPORTS**11.a** CAO's Report.**11.b** Council Committee Reports.**11.c** Society & Other Reports.**Motion 11.a**

Motion by Councillor Carol Pion that Council accepts the submitted report as information. Noted that work will continue regarding:

- Developing scent free policy.
- Purchase of items for the emergency room at the Bowden Event Centre in consultation with Jason Sahli
- Annual staff appraisals to be completed with the Interim CAO.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 11.b.i

Moved by Councillor Randy Brown that Council accepts library appropriation as presented for the 2026 calendar year, excluding line 18.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 11.b.ii / 11.c

Motion by Councillor Randy Brown that Council accepts the submitted reports of 1.b and 11.c as information.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion 12 a

Motion by Councillor Amanda Peffers at 9:49 pm to adjourn the meeting

DRAFT

Regular Council Meeting: December 22, 2025.	Agenda Item: 6.a
Prepared by: Laurie Miller	Approved by: Mayor Laurie Miller
Report Type: Information	Attachment(s): 1 Council Resolutions Follow Up Action Report

Matters arising from past minutes.

6.a Council Resolutions Requiring Follow Up Action Report

A summary of past Council resolutions that require follow up action is attached.

Recommended Motions:

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council accepts the Council Resolutions Follow Up Action Report as information.

Town of Bowden COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS & FOLLOW UP ACTION (updated comments in red - updated 17 December 2025)

Meeting Date	Resolution	Action By Whom	Date back to Council
24 Apr 23 7 Nov 25	<p>Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Motion 8.a ICF to be delayed for 2 years pending Provincial Government guidelines Municipal Services Agreement (planning services) with RDC expires 31 December 2025 ICF changes to be introduced into the MGA reference Bill 50. Current ICF expired in December 2022 – the provincial government 2-year moratorium expired in December 2024. Latest MGA is now published dated May 15, 2025. The requirement for an ICF is now a relevant statute.</p> <p>CAO emailed RDC requesting meeting – no response received to date</p>	CAO	progress
23 June 25	<p>Role of the Chief Administrative Officer Motion 8.g Revision of Council Procedural Bylaw This will also include amendments that are now required following the repeal of the FOIP Act. The MAP audit requires an update this bylaw.</p>	CAO	progress
22 Sept 25	<p>Agenda item 6.c Bowden Grandview School Scholarship Awards Criteria Council to review and determine a revised criteria for the award of the scholarship.</p>	Council	progress
27 Oct 25	<p>Agenda item 10.a Golf Sponsorship Request by Bowden Hi-Way Golf</p>	CAO	RCM Feb 8, 2026
10 Nov 25	<p>Agenda item 5.a Council to consider request made by Expanding Horizons re financial assistance for parking lot project</p>	Council	progress
24 Nov 25	<p>Agenda item 8.a Administration to adopt a scent free environment policy.</p>	CAO	Progress
08 Dec 25	<p>Agenda item 5 Administration to schedule Planning 101 with Vicinia Planning for January 6, 2026 at 6pm.</p>	CAO	Complete
08 Dec 25	<p>Agenda item 5 Establish Committee as a Whole for review of Land Use Bylaw.</p>	CAO	Progress
08 Dec 25	<p>Agenda item 9.a Council approved the increased cost for purchase of a battery operated ice edger.</p>	CAO	Complete

08 Dec 25	Agenda item 10.a Council asked Administration to seek a delegation in the new year from Bowden Historical Society	CAO	Progress
08 Dec 25	Agenda Item 11.a Administration will complete the purchases for the emergency room at the Bowden Event Centre.	CAO	Progress
08 Dec 26	Agenda Item 11.a Annual staff appraisals to be completed with the interim CAO	CAO	Pending

Regular Council Meeting: December 22, 2025.	Agenda Item: 6.b
Prepared by: Laurie Miller	Approved by: Mayor Laurie Miller
Report Type: Information	Attachment(s):

6.b Key Dates (for information)
DECEMBER 2025

December 22 **Regular Council Meeting 9:00am Council Chambers
Budget Review Meeting**

JANUARY 2026

January 6 **Planning 101, 6:00pm Council Chambers**

January 12 **Meeting with Minister Dreeshen 6:30pm Council Chambers**

January 12 **Regular Council Meeting 7:00pm Council Chambers**

January 21 **Alberta Emergency Management Agency Training
Mandatory training for all elected officials
Innisfail Library 9:00am to 3:00pm**

January 26 **Regular Council Meeting 7:00pm Council Chambers**

FEBRUARY 2026

February 9 **Regular Council Meeting 7:00pm Council Chambers**

February 12 **Council Open House (Bowden Event Centre)**

February 23 **Regular Council Meeting 7:00pm Council Chambers**

TBC Strategic Planning Meeting

Recommended Motion:

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council accepts agenda item 6.b as information.

Regular Council Meeting: December 22, 2025.	Agenda Item: 9.a
Prepared by: Laurie Miller	Approved by: Mayor Laurie Miller
Report Type: RFD	Attachment(s):

9.a 2026 Interim Operation Budget

Legislative Responsibility:

Section 242 of The Municipal Government Act states:

- (1) Each council must adopt an operating budget for each calendar year.
- (2) A council may adopt an interim operating budget for part of a calendar year.
- (3) An interim operating budget for a part of a calendar year ceases to have any effect when the operating budget for that calendar year is adopted.

In order to satisfy the requirements of the MGA, Administration therefore informs Council that an Interim 2022 Operating Budget will be based on the 2021 Operating Budget until such time that the 2022 Operating Budget is passed by Council.

Operating Budget for 2026:

Administration will present a draft 2026 Budget to Council during a Special Council Meeting – date to be determined.

Recommended Actions:

- i. That Council adopts a 2026 Interim Operating Budget based on the 2025 Operating Budget until such time as the full 2026 Operating Budget is passed by Council.
- ii. That Council propose an alternative course of action.

Financial Implications:

An Interim Budget will allow the municipality to satisfy the MGA and therefore legally continue receiving revenues and paying expenditures.

Recommended Motions

Moved by Councillor _____ that Council adopts a 2026 Interim Operating Budget based on the 2025 Operating Budget until such time as the full 2026 Operating Budget is passed by Council.

Moved by Councillor _____ that Council that a Special Council Meeting be schedule for _____, 2026 to review the draft 2026 Operating Budget.

Regular Council Meeting: December 22, 2025.	Agenda Item: 10.a to 10.g
Prepared by: Laurie Miller	Approved by: Mayor Laurie Miller
Report Type: Information	Attachment(s): As per content listing

Agenda item 10

Content:

- 10.a Mayor, Red Deer
- 10.b Red Deer County – November Enforcement Contract
- 10.c Parkland Regional Library System
- 10.d Alberta Emergency Management Agency Newsletter
- 10.e Municipal Information Network
- 10.f Alberta Counsel report on Alberta 31st Legislature Session 2 Summary, December 1 to 5
- 10.g Alberta Railway

Suggested Motion(s)

AND

Motion:

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council accepts agenda items 10.a to 10.g as information.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

December 2, 2025

Mayor Laurie Miller
Town of Bowden
PO Box 338
Bowden AB T0M 0K0

Dear Mayor Miller,

I am honoured to offer greetings and congratulations to you and your council, on behalf of Red Deer City Council, following our recent municipal elections. By way of introduction, my name is Cindy Jefferies, and I am delighted to have been elected Mayor of The City of Red Deer.

It has been a busy period of orientation since the election, and our new council is eager to get to work to strengthen and enhance our community. I am excited to serve as Mayor, drawing on all I have learned throughout my career, including four terms on City Council, nine years as a public school board trustee with the Red Deer Public School District, and a wide range of volunteer experiences.

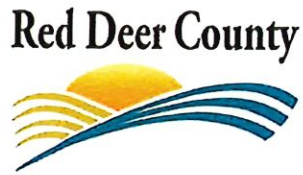
I was pleased to meet many of you at the recent Alberta Municipalities convention, and I look forward to continuing those conversations and building stronger relationships in the months ahead. I am confident there will be meaningful opportunities where the Town of Bowden and The City of Red Deer can work together for the betterment of our citizens and communities, including through continued collaboration within the Central Alberta Regional Mayors and Reeves Caucus.

Congratulations again to you and the members of your Council. I look forward to seeing you in person at events in our region that bring us together.

If there are opportunities where we can work together in areas of mutual interest, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Yours truly,

Mayor Cindy Jefferies
City of Red Deer



PROTECTIVE SERVICES
38106 Range Road 275
Red Deer County, AB T4S 2L9
Phone: 403.343.6301
Fax: 403.347.0572

December 5, 2025

Town of Bowden
2101 – 20 Avenue,
Box 388
Bowden, AB T0M 0K0

Sent Via Email to: cfo@bowden.ca

Attention: Chief Administrative Officer

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: November Enforcement Contract

Please be advised for the month of November, Red Deer County Patrol Officers spent 11 hours and 26 minutes in the Town of Bowden.

The following tickets were issued during patrols conducted between 0600-2100:

- November 15, 2025 @ 09:24 hrs - Speeding (83 km/h in 50 km/h zone)
- November 14, 2025 @ 11:29 hrs - Unregistered

There were no occurrences generated in the Town of Bowden during the month of November.

I trust you will find the foregoing satisfactory, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Irv Heide', written over a white background.

Irv Heide
Patrol Manager,
Red Deer County, Protective Services



4565 – 46 Street
Lacombe, AB T4L 0K2
Ph. 403-782-3850

Congratulations on your election to municipal council!

Did you know your municipality benefits from membership in the Parkland Regional Library System?

In Alberta, public library service is determined at the municipal level and regulated under the *Libraries Act* (Chapter L-11) and *Libraries Regulation* (AR 141/1998). Councils choose to provide service at the local level by forming a library board and/or by joining a regional library system.

What is a regional library system?

Parkland Regional Library System (PRLS) is a cooperative of 63 member municipalities in central Alberta. The system was formed to enable small and rural communities to provide sustainable and affordable public library service to their residents. Each member municipality is a signatory to the *Parkland Regional Library Agreement* and appoints a representative to our Board, the system's governing body. The Board meets four times each year.

You, the member municipalities, **are** the system.

Thank You for Your Support on the Resolution to Increase Library Funding at AB Municipalities Convention

The resolution presented at the AB Munis Conference to increase provincial funding for Alberta libraries passed by a landslide with a vote of 549 to 52. Thank you for your support!

Want to learn more?

- Read the enclosed brochure to find out more about how PRLS supports your municipality and residents.
- Review the 2024 return on investment for your municipality to see how we put your levy to work.
- Visit our website at prl.ab.ca and learn more under About Us. The Board page includes the list of Board and Executive Committee members, strategic plan, and more.
- Invite us for a visit - we'd love to meet you. We can give your council a brief orientation to the PRLS and get you up to speed on this essential municipal service.
- Visit your local library to see how the system supports your local public library service.

We look forward to working with you to bring exceptional library service to your residents! If you have any questions, please contact Ron Sheppard, Director at admin@prl.ab.ca.

Barb Gilliat, Board Chair
chair@prl.ab.ca

Strong Libraries, Strong Communities



Town of Bowden

2024 Return on Investment

Benefits to your Library

Total Financial Benefits

\$175,471.92

Return on Investment

\$1.00 = \$15.04

Based on a population of **1,271**, the cost of membership to the Parkland Regional Library System for the Town of Bowden was **\$11,667.78** in 2024.

Cost benefits of PRLS services

The **direct financial return** as a result of membership to Parkland Regional Library System to Bowden Public Library:

2024 materials allotment	\$	1,436.23
Rural Library Services Grant	\$	15,321.60
Allotment from Red Deer County 1	\$	3,518.82
Computers for library use	\$	2,136.64
Software & Licensing	\$	2,766.46
SuperNet Connection	\$	6,483.60
Items borrowed from other libraries 2	\$	106,543.25
Digital items borrowed from PRLS 3	\$	37,265.32
Combined Savings		\$ 175,471.92

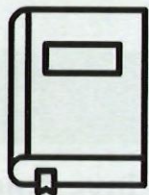
1 Red Deer County assigned a rural population of 3,114 to the Town of Bowden

2 Average price of an item \$46.75

3 Average price of an eBook \$40.06, average price of an eAudiobook \$84.26



2024 Quick Facts



664,784 items
in the collection



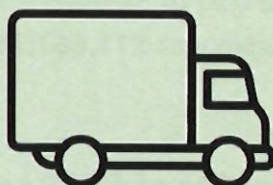
1,310,828 physical items
circulated



44,398 items added
to the catalog



26,029
cardholders



925,450 items
sent on van runs



1,514 consulting
sessions



Over **170**
attendees at the
2024 PRLS
Conference



1,269,757 Wifi
usages



156,839 digital items
circulated



58,104 eLibrary
sessions

Other Parkland Facts:

- Provides access to virtual materials across the province through TRAC.
- Provides training for libraries, boards, friends' groups and more.
- Provides centralized IT support on hardware, software, internet, SuperNet.
- Provides access to shared regional collections of books, tech, program kits, and much more.



Recruiting and Selecting Library Board Members

A Guide for Municipal Councils

One of the many important things a municipal council can do is make appointments to its local library board. In Alberta, council appoints and unappoints library board members to municipal and intermunicipal library boards under the terms set out in the *Libraries Act* (sections 4, 5, 12.3, and 31), and the *Libraries Regulation* (section 17.1).

A municipal library board must have a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 board members. Intermunicipal library boards must have a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 10 board members.

Upon appointment, a board member becomes part of a legal entity (the library board) responsible for governing the delivery of public library service in the community and receiving local and provincial tax dollars to provide quality library service. Board members have a fiduciary responsibility to employ the duty of care – acting with competence and diligence – as well as the duty of loyalty – acting in the best interest of library service in the community.

Only the council of the municipality that established the board or signed the intermunicipal agreement can appoint to a library board. The council of a neighboring municipality cannot appoint board members to a board that they did not have a role in establishing.

However, the council of the establishing municipality(ies) can appoint individuals from neighboring municipalities to the library board, as there are no residency requirements imposed by the legislation. Having individuals from neighboring municipalities can help to strengthen relationships and bring a broader perspective to the table.

For municipal library boards, council may appoint up to two board members who are also councillors on their council (i.e., councillors of the municipality that established the library board). For intermunicipal boards, each municipality that is party to the agreement may appoint one board member who is also a councillor on their council.

- If a councillor is appointed to the library board, they have the same role and responsibilities as the other board members and should not be referred to as a “Council Rep” or something similar. There is no designated role for a municipal councillor on a municipal or intermunicipal library board.



- Councillors from neighboring municipalities may be appointed to the library board and do not count against the limit of councillors as they are not from the establishing municipality(ies).
- Council may also choose to not appoint any councillors to the library board.

An employee of the library board cannot be appointed to the library board.

There is no provision for alternates to be appointed to a municipal or intermunicipal library board.

All appointments to the municipal or intermunicipal library board shall be for a term of up to three years.

A library board member is eligible to be reappointed for up to two additional consecutive terms. If council wishes to appoint a board member for more than three terms, at least 2/3 of the whole council must pass a resolution stating that the member may be reappointed as a member for more than 3 consecutive terms. This must be done each time the member is reappointed beyond three consecutive terms.

Libraries are corporations established under the *Alberta libraries Act*. Like all corporations, boards are responsible for operating within not only the *Libraries Act and Regulation*, but other legislation including *Employment Standards, Occupational Health and Safety, FOIP*, and the *Copyright Act*. In addition to knowing and conforming to legislation, effective boards;

- develop a Plan of Service to establish goals and objectives for the library
- support ongoing professional development opportunities for its staff and its board members
- ensure delivery of significant programs and services that reflect the diversity of the community
- provide leadership through supporting the identification and development of emerging local programs
- measure the impact of existing community programs and provide library resources and services that will enhance community results
- present a budget to the municipal council that reflects the library's Plan of Service and identified community needs
- evaluate the performance of the library within the community and adjust its goals and objectives where needs are not being met
- ensure excellent management of the library on behalf of the community within the budget approved by the municipality



- hire the library's Chief Executive Officer and evaluate their performance within the management goals set by the Board
- ensure adherence to the *Libraries Act*, its *Regulation*, and any other legislation affecting the operation of the library within the community
- support the core value of intellectual freedom
- be able to set aside personal biases in the interests of what best serves the community in the areas of library collections, programs, and services.

Given the significant responsibilities and demands placed on library board members, potential trustees should exhibit the following characteristics. They should be:

- interested in making a difference in the future success of their community
- available to attend board and committee meetings and to come prepared to contribute to discussions and decisions
- willing to become more aware of the bigger picture by learning about public library issues and concerns at both the provincial and the national levels
- prepared to represent the interests, concerns, and attitudes of your community
- open to learning about library programs and services that give their community the level of access to information and enrichment that it needs.
- enthusiastic about working with other board members and the Chief Executive Officer in a team process designed to provide programs and services that meet the greatest number of needs in their community
- committed to being an active participant in board leadership activities in their community

When soliciting for board members, some simple steps will assist with finding suitable candidates. These include:

- Advertising vacancies
- Requiring all candidates to attend a mandatory information session
- Developing criteria for selection of candidates

Your council may also choose to establish a selection committee and develop a structured interview process.

You may also choose to consult with the exiting library Board Chair and the library manager to determine the current needs of your community and gaps which may exist in the current board composition.



The appointments to the library board shall be made on the date fixed by council. Any vacancy arising from any cause must be filled by council as soon as reasonably possible for council to do so.

When appointing board members, make sure the motion lists the name(s) of the individual(s) and includes the length of term (one, two, or three years).

Council should also send the library board a list of appointments, including the length of terms, and send a letter to each appointee with their term length and expiry date.

Effective boards provide effective library service. Good recruitment and selection now will prevent a host of troubles later.

References:

"Choosing an Effective Public Library Board" Ontario Library Association, © Copyright 2014, Revised 2018 [2018-Choosing-an-Effective-PL-Board-Resource.pdf \(accessola.com\)](https://accessola.com/2018-Choosing-an-Effective-PL-Board-Resource.pdf) Accessed 1 March 2024.

"Municipal Councils and Library Boards – Roles and Responsibilities" Government of Alberta January 11, 2022, Municipal Affairs [Municipal Councils and Library Boards: Roles and Responsibilities \(alberta.ca\)](https://www.alberta.ca/municipal-councils-and-library-boards-roles-and-responsibilities.aspx) Accessed 1 March 2024.

Information Technology (IT)

Software

- An assortment of software is provided to members at no cost for both staff and public computers.

Hardware

- Equipment is provided by and managed by PRLS every year and includes desktop and laptop computers, networking hardware, wireless access points, printers, scanners and more.

PAC & Polaris

- The patron (PAC) and staff-accessible (Polaris) catalogues are used to circulate items throughout the system and get books into the hands of patrons.

Network Infrastructure

- Management of the Alberta SuperNet for each member library in addition to supplying member libraries with no cost Internet access.

Support & Maintenance

- IT provides ongoing maintenance for software and hardware during regular hours and for emergency after-hours support. They also do plenty of proactive support on tech items.

About Parkland

The Parkland Regional Library System was formed in 1959 to bring cost-effective service to libraries across rural Alberta. Headquartered in Lacombe, today Parkland is a cooperative network that shares physical material, resources, and expertise. We support 49 public libraries, serving residents of 64 municipalities, as well as supporting on-reserve indigenous residents in Central Alberta.

Contact Us



403-782-3850



4565 46th Street Lacombe



prl.ab.ca



Parkland Regional Library System

Parkland Regional Library System

25

Catalogue of Services



Library Services Consulting & Marketing

Programming Support

- Access over 100 different program kits, book club kits, technological equipment, promotional materials and reduced rates on public performance rights for video screenings.

Collection Management

- Get help with weeding old or outdated books, counting inventory, collection analysis and selection for new purchases.

Communications & Marketing

- Assistance with social media, marketing and promotional campaigns, attraction/signage audits, advocacy efforts and more.

Training

- Training for staff, managers and board members on topics including best practices, technology, responsibilities, human resources, marketing, programming and more.

Support

- Help with Plans of Service, PLSB submissions, policy development, space planning, statistics gathering and more.

Library Services Collections & Cataloguing

eResources

- Free access to 15 digital resources for patrons in all member libraries.
- Training and promotional materials for all library staff are available on the Support Site. This includes social media templates for each of the 15 resources.

Interlibrary Loans

- Processing of items borrowed from outside of the Parkland system, including books from across the province and beyond.

Shared & Special Collections

- Access to several special collections including:
 - A library professional development collection.
 - Large print and audiobook rotating collections.
 - Victor Readers for patrons with print disabilities and access to CELA and NIELS for accessible books.

Cataloguing Services

- PRLS uses worldwide library standards and will catalogue new items purchased from discounted vendors, donations, physical equipment and kits, magazine subscriptions, and more.

Finance & Operations

Ordering

- Review carts, import the information to Polaris and place your orders. Liaise with the vendors regarding any item status updates, and communicate with libraries when necessary for ordering accuracy and efficiency.

Receiving

- Process weekly shipments of invoices from multiple vendors, checking all physical materials for damage or irregularities before adding your library code, barcode, price, spine labels, and protectors.

Processing

- Create allotment, bill direct and process only packing slips for daily van runs. Check incoming kits and equipment for damage and missing items. Split multi-sets for DVD/Blu-ray combo packs, cover donations in mylar, and more.

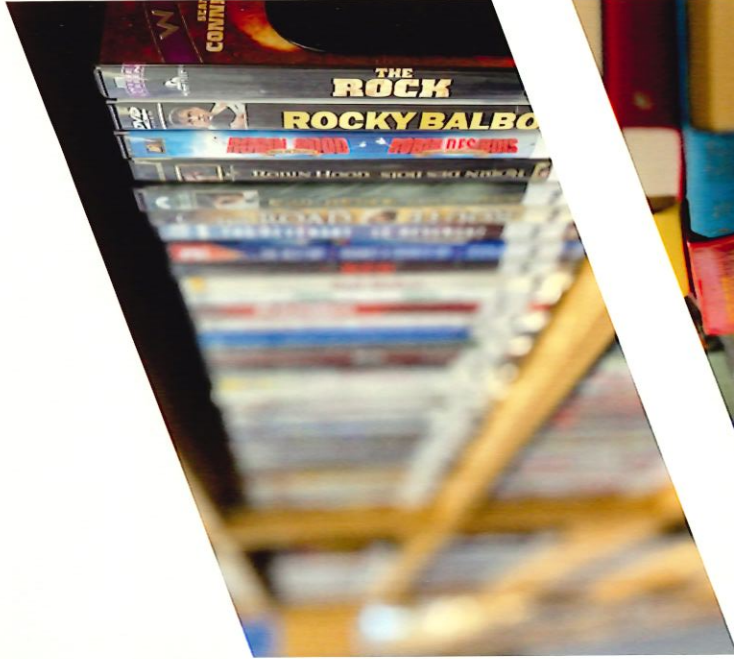
Shipping

- Manage nine van delivery runs per week where items are sent to libraries.
- Prepare and send out rotating collection requests.
- Daily sorting of all incoming materials to get them where they need to go next.
- Prepare all outgoing ILLs for shipping and sort all incoming ILLs for processing.

A proud member of Parkland Regional Library System

- | | |
|------------|----------------------|
| Alix | Elnora |
| Alliance | Forestburg |
| Amisk | Hardisty |
| Bashaw | Hay Lakes |
| Bawlf | Heisler |
| Bentley | Hughenden |
| Big Valley | Innisfail |
| Blackfalds | Killam |
| Bowden | Lacombe |
| Brownfield | Lougheed |
| Cadogan | Nordegg |
| Camrose | Maskwacis |
| Caroline | Olds |
| Carstairs | Penhold |
| Castor | Ponoka |
| Clive | Provost |
| Coronation | Rimbey |
| Cremona | Rocky Mountain House |
| Czar | Sedgewick |
| Daysland | Spruce View |
| Delburne | Stettler |
| Didsbury | Sundre |
| Donalda | Sylvan Lake |
| Eckville | Water Valley |
| Edberg | |

Your library has
a lot to offer!



Come in to get a
library card today!



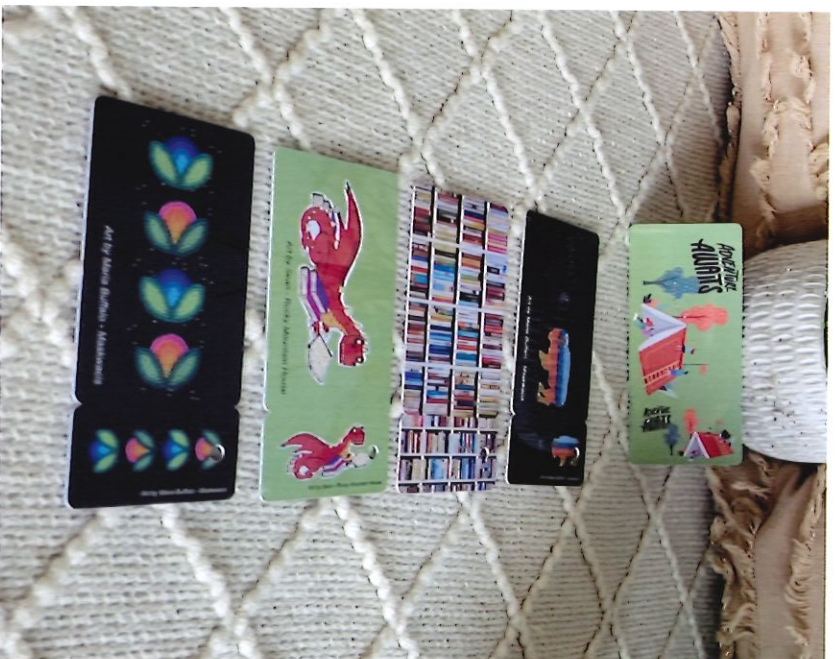
27
Parkland Regional Library System
Libraries - Value Beyond Words

We have books... and so much more!

Visit the library to sign up for a membership today!

What we need from you:

- First and last name
- Proof of address



Physical Collections

Books

Browse our collection and if we don't have what you're looking for, you can borrow from any PRLS library or any library in Alberta. The books will be delivered right to your local library.

Audiobooks & Large Print Books

Browse our selection of physical audio and large print books or have your favourite ordered in.

Music, Movies & TV Shows

A collection of CD, DVD, and Blu-Ray discs are available to all our patrons.

Services

Programs

We offer different programs for all ages.

Printing Services

Ask library staff for cost of printing services in black and white or colour.

Online Resources

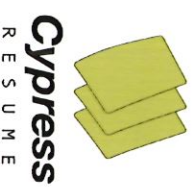
Computers

Stop in to use our public computers with high speed internet access.

eBooks & eAudiobooks

Using Libby (Overdrive) and cloudLibrary, you can access thousands of digital items ready to download to your phone, tablet or computer.

More Online Resources



Visit prl.ab.ca/elibrary for even more!

Alberta Emergency Management Agency

Central Region Newsletter

DEC 2025 JAN/FEB 2026

Whether we like it or not, looks like winter has settled into the Central Region. With that just a reminder to that Alberta winters can bring unique hazards that can impact your household, community, and property. For some tips on how to be prepared please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/blizzards-freezing-rain-ice-storms-and-extreme-cold> Feel free to 'borrow' information from AEMA's website to share with your community's.

In addition there is information about safety and winter activities available at myhealth.alberta.ca <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Alberta/Pages/safety-and-winter-activities.aspx>

Several municipalities in Central Region have hosted the Local Authorities Elected Officials course for their councillors with a few more sessions booked for January of 2026. Just a reminder elected officials requiring the LAEO course are required to take it within 90 days of Oath of Office. The on-line version of the Local Elected Officials Course is now available through AEMA. If this is an option you would like for your councillors, or to help those elected officials that missed an in-class session, please reach out to me directly at lorne.f.thompson@gov.ab.ca and I can send you instructions on how you can make arrangements. For further details pertaining to legislated training requirements please refer to the 'Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation' <https://www.alberta.ca/emergency-management-legislation>.

Having an Emergency Management Agency and Committee meetings and would like us to attend? Please feel free to reach out your earliest opportunity with an invite.

We are always looking for ways to make this newsletter relevant to your EM needs, if you have any suggestions on materials/information we could add please let us know.

Training

Our in-person training offerings include ICS 100, 200, 300, 400, as well as the LAEO, Planning P, Scribe, DEM, BEM, ICP-ECC, and Strike Team/Task Force Leader courses amongst others. If you are interested in scheduling or hosting a course, or if you have any other training inquiries, please reach out via the contact information provided below.

Just a reminder that Instructor to student ratio cannot exceed 1/12, maximum number of students is 24 requiring two instructors, minimum number of students is 6.

Additionally, half-day workshops for Command & General Staff roles are available and intended to refresh and enhance the knowledge and skills of those with ICS 200 or higher.

As always, if you have training you would like AEMA staff to attend please let us know as we are happy to participate in the preparation, facilitation, or observation of all types of tabletops, exercises, and courses.

Feel free to call or text at any time as AEMA is here to support you. Central Region Field Officer contact information is:

Lorne Thompson  lorne.f.thompson@gov.ab.ca  587-591-1874

If you are unable to get a hold of either myself, and it's an emergency, please contact the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre Duty Officer at;

PECC 24 hr  1-866-618-2362  pses.pecc@gov.ab.ca
(new PECC email – please update in your plans and contact lists)

Central Region Emergency Management & Emergency Social Services Courses 2025 October - November

Course Name (Pre-requisites *)	Course Date	Contact/Registration Information Location
ICS 300 (ICS 200) City of Lacombe	Fri – Sun Jan 16, 17 & 18, 2025 Fri 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm Sat & Sun 8:00 am – 6:00 pm	Heath Johannson 403-396-0123 hjohannson@lacombe.ca
ICS 300 (ICS 200) Town of Didsbury	Tue Feb 10 – Thu Feb 12, 2026 8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Curtis Mousseau, DEM/Fire Chief 403-335-7741 cmousseau@didsbury.ca
Instructor Standardization Training (AEMA Instructor Application) Calgary – Deerfoot Atria	Wed Jan 21 & Thu Jan 22, 2026 8:30 am – 4:30 pm	AEMA Training Aema.training@gov.ab.ca
ICS 200 Train the Trainer (IST-Basic, AEMA/ICS Instructor Application, ICS 100, 200 (not online) & 300) Calgary – Deerfoot Atria	Wed & Thu Jan 28 & 29, 2026 8:30 am – 4:30 pm	AEMA Training Aema.training@gov.ab.ca
ICS 300 Train the Trainer (AEMA/ICS Instructor Application, ICS 100, 200 (not online), 300 & 400 and ICS 200 TtT) Calgary – Deerfoot Atria	Mon Jan 26 & Tue Jan 27, 2026 8:30 am – 4:30 pm	AEMA Training Aema.training@gov.ab.ca
Director of Emergency Management (BEM) City of Lacombe	Mon Dec 15, 2026 9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Jennifer Peterson 403-782-6666 jpeterson@lacombe.ca
Planning P (ICS 300) Town of Rocky Mountain House	Thu Feb 5 & Fri Feb 6, 2026 8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Tracy Breese, Legislative & Protective Services Manager 403-845-2866 tbreese@trmh.ca
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to ESS • ESS Basics • ESS Facility Management • Donations Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration & Reception Centre Program/MyAlberta Emergency Registration System • ESS Coordinator 	Emergency Social Services Online Courses	<p><i>To register for training send the dates and session requested and include the persons: name, email and telephone number of those who wish to be added to an AEMA PESS training session to:</i> MA.AEMA-ESSTraining@gov.ab.ca</p> <p><i>To register for training send the dates and session requested and include the persons: name, email and telephone number of those who wish to be added to an AEMA PESS training session to:</i> MA.AEMA-ESSTraining@gov.ab.ca</p>

Central Region Emergency Management & Emergency Social Services Courses 2025 October - November

ICS Canada Courses	Anytime/Book to Host	For ICS Courses not available online contact your Field Officer for more information or to book.
The Planning P: A Practical Intensive for Emergency Managers	Anytime/Book to Host	Not Available Online. Contact your Field Officer for more information or to book.
Basic Emergency Management (BEM) Online	Anytime/Book to Host	Available online at <u>Basic Emergency Management (BEM)</u>
For on-line Incident Command System 100 or 200	Aema.training@gov.ab.ca	Available online at AEMA https://www.alberta.ca/incident-command-system-courses
Director of Emergency Management (DEM)	Anytime/Book to Host	Not Available Online. Contact your Field Officer for more information or to book.
Local Authority's Elected Officials (LAEO) Course - Online	Anytime/Book to Host	Available online at <u>Municipal Elected Officials Course</u>
Scribing for Emergency Management	Anytime/Book to Host	Available online at <u>Scribing for Emergency Management</u>
Central Region Regional AHIMT (CRAHIMT) Training		For information regarding CRAHIMT, please contact; Drayton Bussiere, dbussiere@rdcounty.ca ,or Clint Sime csime@stettlercounty.ca

To find the most up-to-date listing of courses please visit the [AEMA Training Calendar](#).

Courses are being added to the training calendar on a regular basis, check regularly.

All AEMA instructor led courses are free of charge to Alberta municipalities.

*ICS Course Completion Certificate from an approved Provider.

PLEASE NOTE: Online ICS-200 is not recognized by ICS Canada/AEMA as a pre-requisite for many courses. You should confirm if your ICS 200 training as a pre-requisite for ICS-300 prior to registering. The following link will take you to a listing of course administration and approved ICS providers <https://www.alberta.ca/aema-course-administration>

TIME BETWEEN ICS COURSES: AEMA requires 5 months minimum between I-200, I-300, and I-400. The intention is that participants in I-200, I-300, and I-400 have some time between courses to integrate the information, prevent information overload, and to apply the information during an exercise, pre-planned event, or an Incident. It is the intention of ICS Canada that a period of time should pass between courses to allow the candidate to apply training and gain experience before moving to the next level. (ICS Canada Curriculum and Training Standards document 2019, page 9).

Booking AEMA Instructor Led Emergency Management Training

If you are considering hosting an AEMA emergency management course in 2026 please contact your Central Region Field Officer by email or phone.

Mayor

From: Janice Picard <janice@jaguar-media.com>
Sent: December 3, 2025 12:29 PM
To: Mayor; Ryan Howlett; Randy Brown
Subject: The Municipal Information Network - We met at the ABMunis trade show
Attachments: MN-WhySubscribe_Municipalities_2025.pdf; MiN_JobPostingOptions-en_2025.pdf

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Day Mayor & Councillors,

It was a pleasure meeting you at the ABMunis trade show a few weeks ago. Allow me to share with you, information towards a corporate membership for **the Town of Bowden** for access to municipal news, free job posting and more.

The [Municipal Information Network](#) (MIN) is Canada's only paid subscription daily dedicated to municipal affairs. Every morning, we deliver timely updates and insights on the latest developments impacting municipalities across the country.

Our Job Board attracts over **60,000 page views monthly**, and our weekly job e-newsletter reaches **9,500+ active subscribers** seeking municipal employment opportunities. Additionally, we engage with **8,900+ followers** across Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

A corporate membership for **the Town of Bowden** is **\$315 per year** and includes:

- ✓ Unlimited access to our daily e-newsletter and website for all staff and council members
- ✓ FREE unlimited regular job postings on our Municipal Job Board
- ✓ FREE posting of municipal-related events (e.g., trainings, seminars, webinars)
- ✓ Full access to over 14 years of archived articles
- ✓ Complimentary press release postings — simply email us at news@municipalinfonet.com
- ✓ Subscribe **NOW** and we will add 3 months to your first-year membership at no extra cost.

If you have any questions or wish to proceed with this opportunity, let me know. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Janice



Janice Picard
Account Executive
 475, montée Masson, suite 102
 Mascouche (Québec)
 Canada, J7K 2L6
 Toll Free: 1-888-504-0072 x235



For over 25 years, The Municipal Information Network has been delivering the most complete and comprehensive daily municipal news review in Canada.

In the last few years, the MIN Job Board has become the platform of choice for municipal job postings.

News SECTION

Our daily newsletter delivers the most complete coverage of municipal news in Canada:

- ▶ 30 to 75 news items every day
- ▶ Articles sorted into 18 topics for quick and easy review
- ▶ A Private Member Zone allows you to transfer and archive articles

Jobs SECTION



MIN Jobs is the only platform that maximizes your job postings

- ▶ Over 60 000 page views per month in the Jobs section
- ▶ Over 9 500 subscribers receive our weekly jobs newsletter (Every Tuesday)
- ▶ Over 9 700 social media subscribers

Annual Membership Includes:

- ▶ Unlimited amount of accounts for staff and elected officials
- ▶ A Private Member Zone for every user
- ▶ Free regular job postings
- ▶ Reduced rates on Premium & Featured Job Postings

2025 RATE CARD

Population of 0 to 500	\$160
Population of 501 to 1000	\$185
Population of 1001 to 2500	\$315
Population of 2501 to 5000	\$575
Population of 5001 to 10000	\$695
Population of 10 001 to 25 000	\$945
Population of 25 001 to 100 000	\$1275
Population of 100 001 +	\$1625





Maximize your job posting exposure!

- ▶ Employment section generates over 60 000 page views per month
- ▶ The MIN Jobs Enewsletter is sent to over 9 500 subscribers every Tuesday
- ▶ Over 9 700 social media subscribers   

ONLY **8** PER WEEK

PREMIUM Job Postings

For one week during your broadcast, your job posting will benefit from:

- ▶ Exposure on every page of the Jobs section
- ▶ Exposure on the weekly Jobs Enewsletter
- ▶ Exposure on the daily MIN Enewsletter
- ▶ A dedicated post on the **MIN Jobs Facebook** page
- ▶ A dedicated post on the **MIN LinkedIn** page
- ▶ 1 post on the **@MINjobs X account**

The job posting then stays online in the regular jobs section until the 30 day expiry date

MEMBERS **\$350**

NON-MEMBERS **\$700**

FEATURED Job Postings

For the first week of broadcast, your job posting will be:

- ▶ Listed with yellow star ★ on the Home page of the jobs section
- ▶ Listed with its logo on the weekly Jobs Enewsletter
- ▶ 1 post on the **@MINjobs X account**

The job posting then stays online in the regular jobs section until the 30 day expiry date

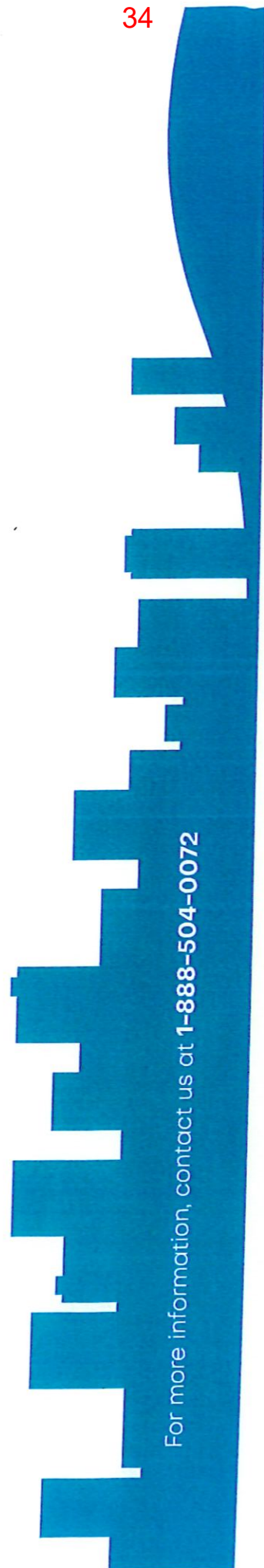
MEMBERS **\$200**

NON-MEMBERS **\$550**

Regular Job Postings

- ▶ Posted in the regular jobs section until the 30 day expiry date
- ▶ Listed on the weekly Jobs Enewsletter for the first week

FREE
OPTION OFFERED TO MEMBERS ONLY



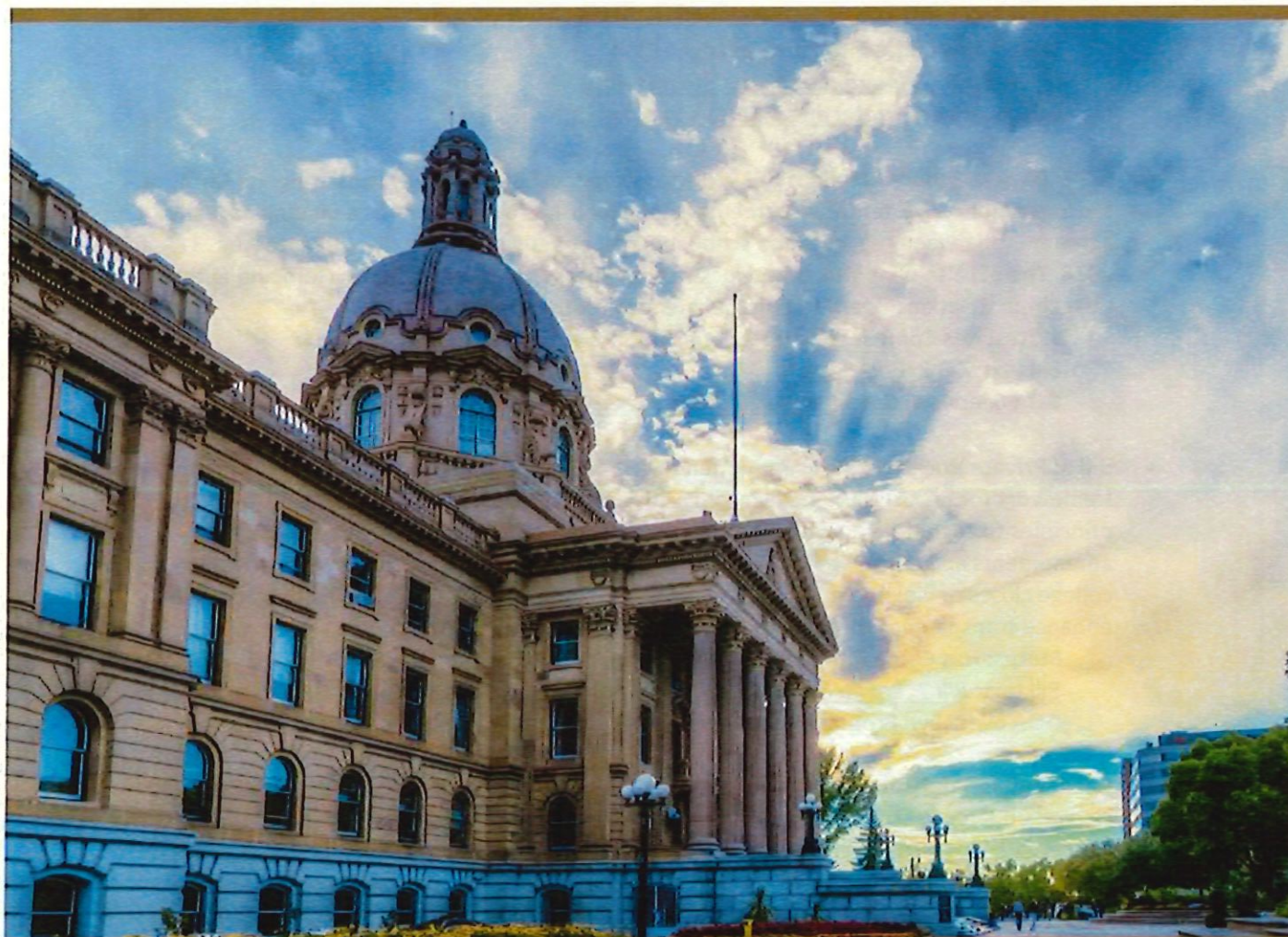
For more information, contact us at 1-888-504-0072



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Legal and Lobby Professionals

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Alberta 31st Legislature, Session 2 Summary
December 1st to 5th

Alberta 31st Legislature, Session 2 Summary: December 1st to 5th

Bill Updates

Government Bills

- Bill 1: International Agreements Act:** Declares that any international agreement entered into by the Government of Canada that involves areas of provincial jurisdiction will not bind the Government of Alberta unless that agreement is debated and passed into law by the Alberta Legislature. The bill also repeals the former *International Trade and Investment Agreements Act*, broadening its reach to all areas within provincial jurisdiction.

Status: Has Come into Force as Legislation
 Bill text: [Bill 1: International Agreements Act](#)
 GOA overview: [Protecting Alberta's Jurisdiction](#)
- Bill 2: Back to School Act:** Ends the province-wide teachers' strike by legislating the terms of the September 2025 tentative agreement. It establishes those terms as a binding collective agreement between teachers and school boards, effective from Sept. 1, 2024, to Aug. 31, 2028. The bill also bans strikes and lockouts in Alberta's K-12 education system and authorizes the Labour Relations Board to enforce and resolve disputes.

Status: Has Come into Force as Legislation
 Bill text: [Bill 2: Back to School Act](#)
 GOA overview: [Getting Alberta's Kids Back to School](#)
- Bill 3: Private Vocational Training Amendment Act, 2025:** Modernizes Alberta's regulatory framework for private career colleges. The bill introduces clearer definitions and guiding principles to align training with labour market needs and student protections. The amendments add a new Student Tuition Protection Fund to help students recover tuition if a college closes or violates rules, extend the cooling-off period for enrolment contracts and enhance transparency through new reporting and recruitment standards.

Status: Has Come into Force as Legislation
 Bill text: [Bill 3: Private Vocational Training Amendment Act, 2025](#)
 GOA overview: [Protecting Students, Building Confidence](#)
- Bill 4: Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (No. 2):** Makes several updates to strengthen public safety in Alberta. It formalizes the labour-relations framework for the new Alberta Sheriffs Police Service, allowing its officers to engage in collective bargaining. The bill also enhances the *Disclosure to Protect Against Domestic Violence (Clare's Law) Act* by expanding definitions and improving how threat assessment is used, enabling police and partners to share information more effectively. Finally, it modernizes the *Corrections Act* by streamlining agreements that allow inmate transfers between Alberta, the federal government, and other provinces or territories.

Status: Has Come into Force as Legislation
 Bill text: [Bill 4: Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 \(No. 2\)](#)
 GOA overview: [Building a Safer Alberta](#)

Government Bills (Continued)

- **Bill 5: Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2025:** Proposes minor amendments or revisions to various existing statutes. Impacted laws include the *Access to Information Act*, the *Alberta Heritage Scholarship Act*, the *Automobile Insurance Act*, the *Bee Act*, and the *Labour Relations Code*.

 - **Status: Passed Third Reading**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 5: Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2025](#)

- **Bill 6: Education (Prioritizing Literacy and Numeracy) Amendment Act, 2025 (No. 2):** Amends the *Education Act* to require that all school authorities administer standardized literacy and numeracy screening assessments for children in kindergarten through Grade 3. The bill mandates that results be reported both to parents and to the Minister, who must publish an annual report. The regulations will specify assessment timing, frequency, exemptions, and reporting protocols.

Status: Passed Third Reading
 Bill text: [Bill 6: Education \(Prioritizing Literacy and Numeracy\) Amendment Act, 2025 \(No. 2\)](#)
 GOA overview: [Prioritizing Math and Reading Skills](#)

- **Bill 7: Water Amendment Act, 2025:** Amends the *Water Act* to modernize how water is allocated and licensed in Alberta by improving decision-making efficiency, enhancing data on water use, enabling access to alternative water sources (such as rain, storm or wastewater), and permitting certain lower-risk transfers of water between basins. It retains the existing priority ranking system and ensures current license holders will not have their allocations reduced.

Status: Passed Third Reading
 Bill text: [Bill 7: Water Amendment Act, 2025](#)
 GOA overview: [Meeting Alberta's Rising Demand for Water](#)

- **Bill 8: Utilities Statutes Amendment Act, 2025:** Amends the *Utilities Statutes Amendment Act* to create alternative options for meeting the power needs of data centers in Alberta. The bill proposes connecting data centers directly to Alberta's power grid without compromising the affordability or reliability of power for Albertans. The Bill aims to implement the Restructured Energy Market and update the electricity transmission policy to create incentives for hydrogen-blending in Alberta's natural gas system.

Status: Passed Third Reading
 Bill text: [Bill 8: Utilities Statutes Amendment Act, 2025](#)
 GOA overview: [Powering New Pathways for Data Centers](#)

- **Bill 9: Protecting Alberta's Children Statutes Amendment Act, 2025:** Adds *notwithstanding clauses* to the *Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2024*, the *Education Amendment Act, 2024*, and the *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act*. The amendments are intended to ensure that existing statutes remain in effect without interruption from constitutional challenges. These regulations include requirements for parental involvement in minors' decisions related to sexual education or use of pronouns; restrictions on gender-transition-related medical treatments for children under 18; and standards related to fairness and safety in sport.

 - **Status: Adjourned during Second Reading**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 9: Protecting Alberta's Children and Statutes Amendment Act, 2025](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Laws Protecting Kids, Families and Fair Play Will Stand](#)

Government Bills (Continued)

- **Bill 10: Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (No. 2):** Aims to streamline regulations for Albertans and businesses. It updates provincial identification by adding health care numbers and citizenship status to driver's licenses and ID cards. The Bill also amends the *Fair Registration Practices Act* to prohibit requiring Canadian work experience unless it is necessary for public health or safety. It broadens the definition of all-season resorts to include private land and gives the regulator clearer authority to issue environmental and project approvals. In addition, it lifts the ban on hunting farmed cervids, allowing regulated "harvest preserves" for deer and elk.

 - **Status: Passed Committee of the Whole**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 10: Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 \(No. 2\)](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Less Red Tape, More Opportunity for Alberta](#)

- **Bill 11: Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (No. 2):** Proposes to allow physicians to practice in both private and public settings, especially in respect to elective surgeries. Additionally, amendments to the *Health Care Insurance Act* would allow employers to offer employees access to private health care, with a focus on protecting health coverage for individuals aged 65 or older. The Bill also reforms the coordination of drug coverage between public and private plans, making the government the payer of last resort, and adding safeguards against improper billing. It would also seek to improve health information sharing and modernize Alberta's health-card system.

 - **Status: Adjourned during Second Reading**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 11: Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 \(No.2\)](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Enhancing Access Through Dual Practice; Modernizing Alberta's Health Care System](#)

- **Bill 12: Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (No. 2):** Aims to protect taxpayers and investors from prejudiced litigation. This Bill protects companies from unfair lawsuits over climate-related financial disclosures, while introducing penalties for misleading information. It expands the Alberta Securities Commission's authority to halt trading for up to 15 days when misinformation is circulating. Additionally, the Bill amends liability rules for the Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AIMCo), shielding it from lawsuits related to investment decisions. It will also impose new penalties regarding illegal tobacco product purchases and introduce a levy on data centers in the province.

 - **Status: Adjourned during Committee of the Whole**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 12: Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 \(No 2\)](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Updated Laws for a Stronger Alberta](#)

- **Bill 13: Regulated Professions Neutrality Act:** Aims to protect the freedom of expression of all regulated professionals in the province. This bill would prohibit regulatory bodies from disciplining licensed professionals for off-duty expressive conduct, except in cases of violence or property damage. It would also limit mandated training to content directly tied to minimum ethical standards or professional competence. Regulators will no longer be able to require training related to cultural sensitivity, anti-bias training and Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI).

 - **Status: Adjourned during Committee of the Whole**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 13: Regulated Professionals Neutrality Act](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Protecting Freedom of Expression for Regulated Professionals](#)

Government Bills (Continued)

- **Bill 14: Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2025:** Updates several Alberta laws to strengthen democratic processes, improve justice system efficiency, and modernize professional oversight. It raises the signature requirement for election candidates, tightens rules around political party names, and streamlines privacy and procedural elements of citizen initiatives and referendums. The Act also clarifies regulatory responsibilities under the *Legal Profession Act*, amends oversight of legal-aid related funding, and extends justice-of-the-peace terms to help support court capacity.
 - **Status: Passed First Reading**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 14: Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2025](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Restoring Confidence in Democratic Processes](#)

Private Member Bills

- **Bill 201: Employment Standards (Protecting Workers' Pay) Amendment Act, 2025:** Amends the Employment Standards Code in Alberta to strengthen worker protections. It defines “tips or other gratuities” as the property of the employee and prohibits employers from withholding or treating them as wages. The bill also introduces a schedule for minimum wage increases, starting at \$16.00/hour in December 2025 and rising to \$18.00/hour by October 2027. Additionally, it bans the setting of a lower minimum wage for younger workers.
 - **Status: Defeated during Second Reading**
 - Bill text: [Bill 201: Employment Standards \(Protecting Workers' Pay\) Amendment Act, 2025](#)
- **Bill 202: Conflicts of Interest (Ethical Governance) Amendment Act, 2025:** Updates Alberta's *Conflict of Interest Act* to promote greater transparency and accountability. The Bill expands the definition of a conflict to include situations where there is a “reasonable perception” that a member's decision-making is influenced by a private interest. It also tightens rules around gifts and benefits by requiring disclosure of gifts over \$100, prohibits gifts from lobbyists or those with business before the Crown, and introduces a formal code of conduct for political staffers.
 - **Status: Defeated during Second Reading**
 - Bill text: [Bill 202: Conflicts of Interest \(Ethical Governance\) Amendment Act, 2025](#)
- **Bill 203: Energy Storage Planning for Investment Act:** Requires the Government of Alberta to engage in coordinated planning to modernize the energy grid and expand energy-storage technology across the province. By setting out a clear strategy for integrating advanced storage technologies, the Bill is intended to attract new investment, create jobs, and ensure Alberta's energy system is more reliable, affordable, and prepared for future demand.
 - **Status: Defeated during Second Reading**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 203: Energy Storage Planning for Investment Act](#)
- **Bill 204: Public Interest Disclosure (Publicly Funded Health Entity Whistleblower Protection) Act:** Aims to protect employees who disclose wrongdoing within public entities and facilitate resultant investigations. This Bill defines the duties of the Public Interest Commissioner, establishes safeguards for employees who reveal wrongdoings, and prohibits reprisals against these employees. It applies to various public offices, including prescribed service providers, departments, and numerous public services.
 - **Status: Adjourned during Second Reading**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 204: Public Interest Disclosure \(Publicly Funded Health Entity Whistleblower Protection\) Act](#)

Session Transcripts

Monday, December 1, Afternoon: [Transcript](#)

Monday, December 1, Evening: [Transcript](#)

Tuesday, December 2, Afternoon: [Transcript](#)

Tuesday, December 2, Evening: [Transcript](#)

Wednesday, December 3, Afternoon: [Transcript](#)

Wednesday, December 3, Evening: [Transcript](#)

Thursday, December 4, Afternoon: [Transcript](#)

Bringing Responsible Rail to Alberta

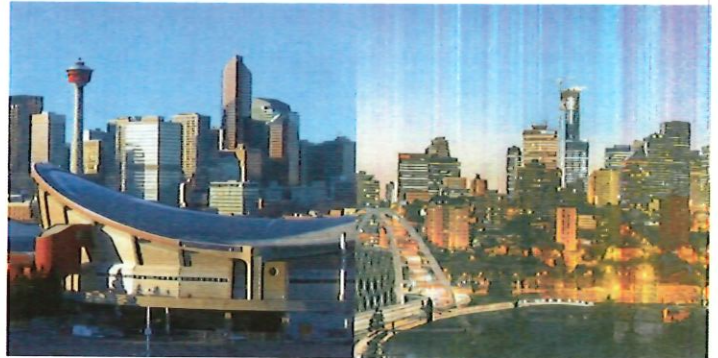
We are Alberta Regional Rail

We are a group under the corporate name of Alberta Regional Rail Inc. (ARR) who are passionate about bringing Responsible Rail passenger train connecting Edmonton to Calgary, with further interest in connecting Montana with Alberta.

Our vision: We envision a future where regional rail is a cornerstone of our transportation system, providing affordable and sustainable options for travel between Edmonton and Calgary, from Alberta, and to Montana.

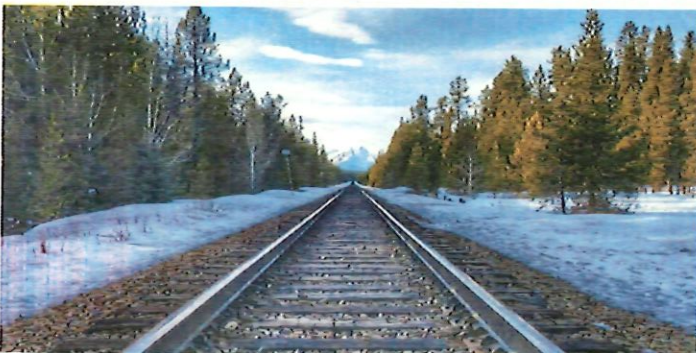
Our mission: To develop and run a world class responsible regional rail transportation system that is reliable, efficient, and environmentally sustainable for Alberta and for the benefit of all Albertans.

Our approach: While high-speed rail like they have in other parts of the world sounds exciting, the realities are that this kind of approach is very expensive to build and maintain. We think there is a much more effective and practical way to bring passenger rail back using new technologies on the same rails we have now. This approach will benefit the communities and corridor, not just the big cities. We call it **"Responsible Rail"**.



RR benefits to the Calgary-Edmonton corridor.

- Reduced congestion on roads and highways, improved access to employment and education opportunities, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- Drive economic growth and sustainability in smaller Alberta communities and enhances the quality of life for communities along the corridor.
- Connect two major international airports for capacity sharing and building for airlines and help smaller communities to choose departure airport gateways.
- 30% lower emissions: Travel by rail results in significantly lower CO2 emissions compared to travel by air between the same city pairs using existing airline and passenger rail infrastructure. Savings are higher for cities connected by electrified rail.

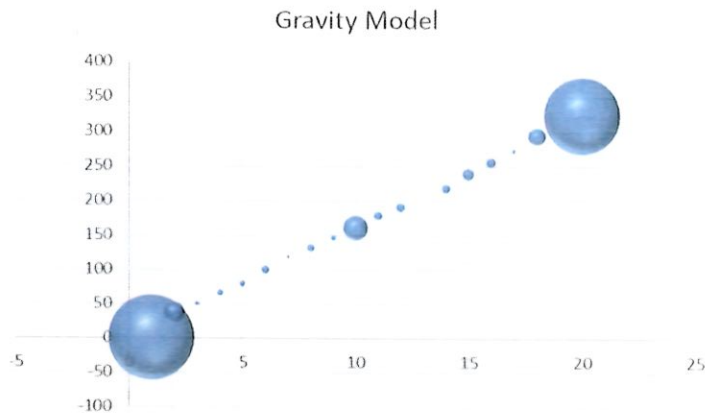


Responsible Rail (RR) approach Here the 5 pillars of Responsible Rail

1. **Safety:** Implementing safety measures such as redundant signaling systems, automatic train control, and collision avoidance systems to prevent accidents.
2. **Sustainability:** Utilizing sustainable technologies and practices such as electric or hydrogen-powered trains, and incorporating energy-efficient design elements into infrastructure and stations.
3. **Practical:** Utilizing existing technologies CFR, AAR, FRA compliant freight compatible rolling stock.
4. **Accessibility:** Accessible and convenient for all. Ensuring that rail systems are accessible and convenient for all users, including providing ramps and elevators at stations, and offering special accommodations for passengers with disabilities or mobility limitations.
5. **Equality:** Working all communities including indigenous communities to ensure that rail projects are developed in a way that respects the rights and interests of these communities.

Gravity Model Analysis of Regional Rail in the Calgary – Edmonton Corridor

This analysis uses data provided in the 2021 Alberta Census, and using Gravity Model equations to calculate what a Regional Rail System market level could reach.



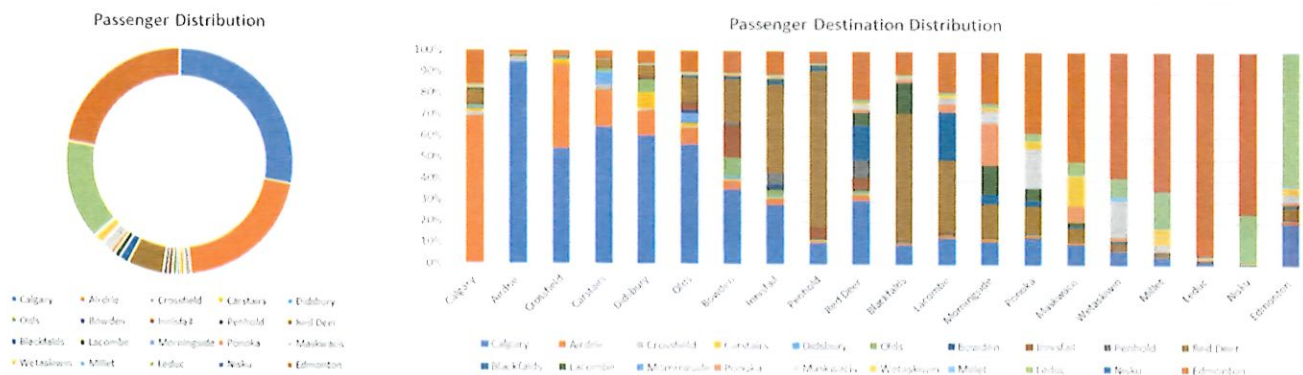
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Using the theoretical assumptions, we obtained the percentage for Regional Rail System market share on each relation.

Using the Gravity Model calculations, we estimate regional rail ridership to be in the region of 5.2 million passengers per year.



Due to the nature of Calgary being the financial and business hub, Edmonton being the Government Centre with the Provincial Legislature, and the corridor being an established Industrial Corridor, the overall ridership can be estimated to be significantly larger than what is calculated through this Gravity Model.



This Gravity Model does not take into account the potential ridership draw of the Calgary International Airport, nor the Edmonton International Airport and the nearby Premium Outlet Collection mall, both of which could be easily connected to the regional rail system by means of an automated people mover.

Also not taken into account is the status of the Calgary – Edmonton corridor being an established Industrial Corridor, with travel from within the corridor to the business hub of Calgary and the Government Centre of Edmonton.

Bringing Responsible Rail to Alberta

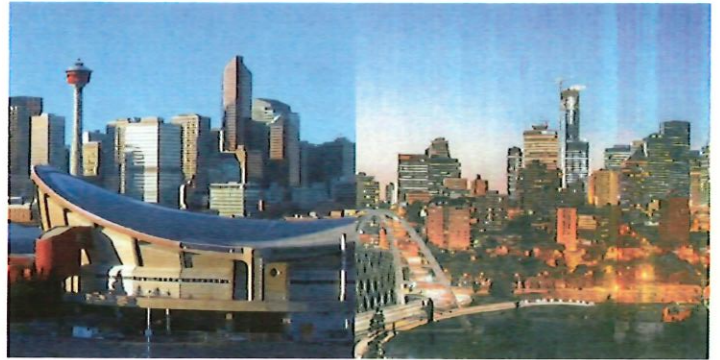
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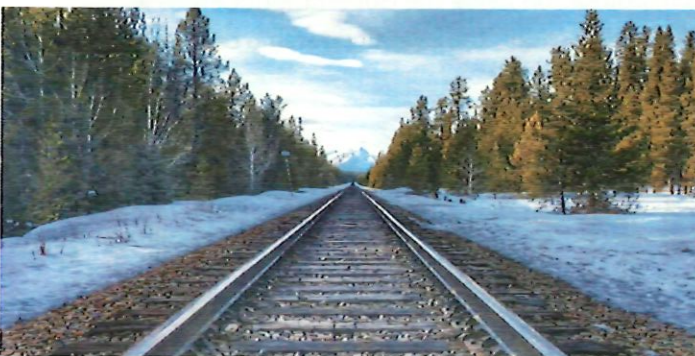
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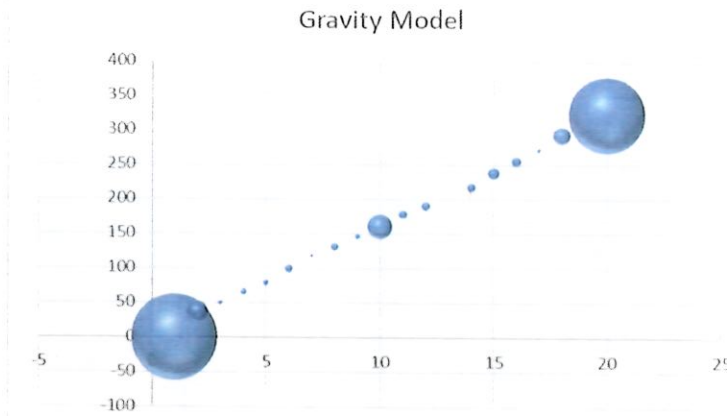


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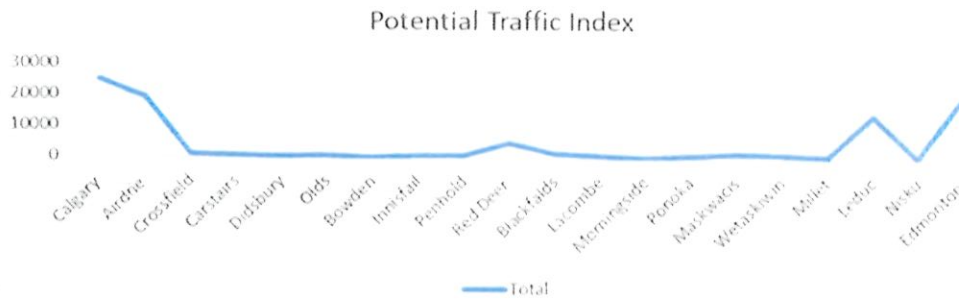
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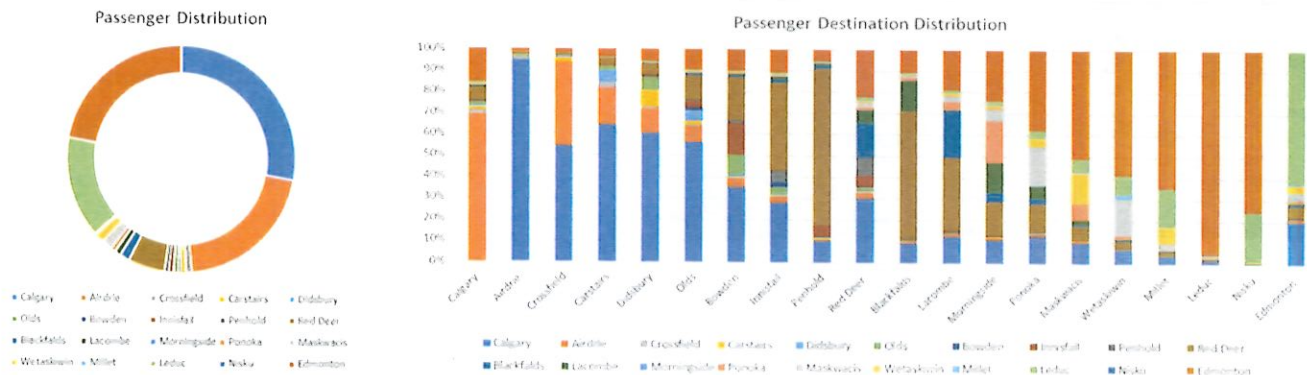
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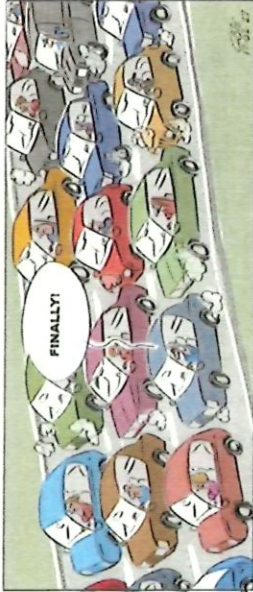
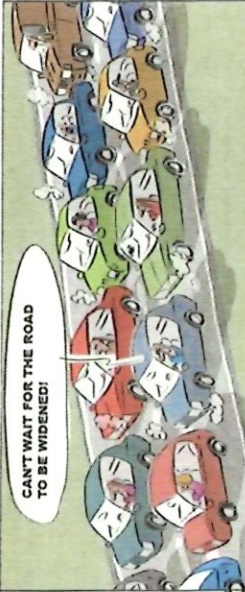
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Also not taken into account is the status of the Calgary – Edmonton corridor being an established Industrial Corridor, with travel from within the corridor to the business hub of Calgary and the Government Centre of Edmonton.

The alternative to developing rail transit systems would be to build more roads, expand existing roads, and/or create High-Occupancy Vehicle lanes.

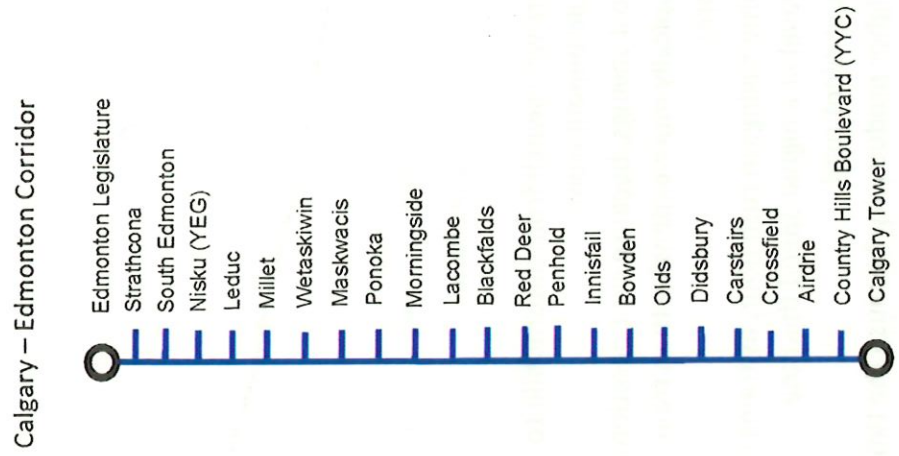


How large do we want QE2/Highway 2 to be in the future?



Adding more lanes may seem like a reasonable suggestion, but if that was a solution to congestion then Highway 401 in Toronto would be the least congested road in North America, instead of the most congested.

Alberta Regional Rail



The Calgary – Edmonton corridor is a center of economic and cultural dynamism, and strong communities. The region is a preferred place to live for newcomers to Canada, a beacon to young people seeking to launch their careers, and a safe, stable, enjoyable place for parents to raise their children.

www.albertaregionalrail.com

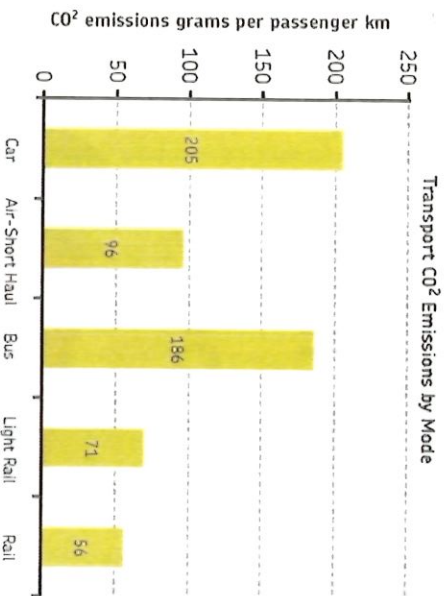
Passenger Rail for Alberta



Commuter rail into Calgary and Edmonton, regional rail in the Calgary – Edmonton corridor, as well as passenger rail from Calgary to Banff, and other important areas.

www.abrailway.com

Rail is by far the safest and most efficient form of mass public transportation.

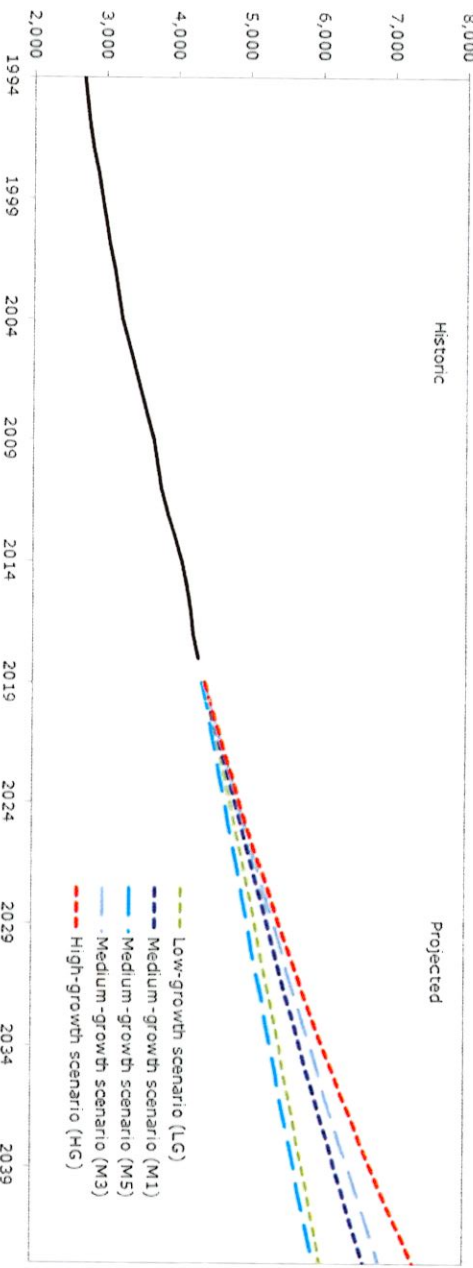


The transportation sector is one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases in the world. Sustainable public transportation helps reduce our carbon footprint and improve the quality of life by building more active communities for walking, cycling and rail.

A regional rail line can be used to provide transit access to our outer suburbs allowing for fast travel into the city.

Regional rail helps us build more compact, walkable and sustainable cities through better land use development. Communities can once again flourish around a central local downtown having a train station bring travellers from all over the region.

Figure 3.11
Population, historic (1994 to 2018) and projected (2019 to 2043) according to selected scenarios, Alberta
in thousands



Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Customers who switch from automobile to train would benefit from:

- Cost savings, because car operation is typically more expensive than train fares.
- Time savings in rush hour, as trains can travel at a higher speed than the equivalent road.
- Higher productivity, because the time spent on a train can be used to carry out other tasks.
- Lower stress levels, which can also improve productivity.

Road users would benefit from:

- Congestion relief. Experience indicates the development of passenger rail slows the growth of road traffic and congestion, with a larger share of trips being shifted off the roads.

Residents of the Calgary – Edmonton corridor would benefit from:

- New transportation options
- Air quality benefits
- Access to affordable transit that covers the region

Workers would have access to a wider range of jobs, and employers would be able to draw employees from a wider pool. Better matching workers and jobs means more productivity and more competitive businesses.

We know how to design and build our cities better, the mistakes of the past should stay there and not be repeated. We owe it to our future generations to construct cities that are livable and affordable. Building bigger roads aren't going to drive us away from congestion, only smart transit decisions will help alleviate our traffic woes.



CAO's Report

Regular Council Meeting: December 22, 2025	Agenda Item: 11.a
Prepared by: Laurie Miller	Approved by: Mayor Laurie Miller
Report Type: Information	Attachment(s):

CAO's Report

During this transition period, the CAO report will be provided verbally at the December 22, 2025 meeting.

Recommended Motion

Moved by Councillor _____ that Council _____

Regular Council Meeting: December 22, 2025.	Agenda Item: 11.b / 11.c
Prepared by: Laurie Miller	Approved by: Mayor Laurie Miller
Report Type: Information	Attachment(s): As per content

Agenda Item 11.b / 11.c

Content:

11.b Council Committee Reports

None submitted

11.c Other Bodies and Organizations

Bowden & District Agricultural Society

- Minutes – 2025-11-19

Expanding Horizons Society

- Minutes - 2025-11-25

Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission (MVRWSC)

- Director's Information Bulletin - November 2025

The News – Alberta Counsel

- Issue 237, December 2025

Note:

All meeting minutes where submitted should be assumed to be “unapproved”.

Recommended Motion:

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council accepts the submitted reports as information.

Bowden Ag Society

Meeting on November 19th, 2025 @ 7pm

Olde Library

Att: Melissa, Keith, Laurie Miller (guest/Mayor of Bowden), Robb, Ab, Dan Garnett, Ian, Len, Ky, Rick, Kyle, Jesse, Megan, Ryan Howlet (guest/town councilor)

1. Call meeting to order: 7 pm
2. Approval of October Minutes
 - 1st Garnet, 2nd Ian, All in favor
3. Delegates:
 - New Mayor of Bowden – Laurie Miller
 - She is happy to be here, Ryan will be her alternate
 - Has been busy over the past month and have begun the budget discussions
 - Laurie will be coming to every meeting
 - She has some insurance options she is going to pass along for us to review, specific for not-for-profits
4. 4-H representatives – from Bow-Inn Beef Club
 - Here to ask for windbreaker sponsorships
 - Can have our logo embroidered on the jacket
 - \$72.00, \$14-20 for logos per jacket
 - There are 25 members, \$1,800 in total – a copy of the proposal was provided
 - We will discuss in the meeting and Megan will let them know
5. Financials
 - General Account: \$75,016
 - Casino: \$797
 - Audit will be approx.. \$6,000
 - Paid \$1,00 ad bill for radio advertisement
 - Ember Resources paid their sponsorship, received \$1,200 from the concession share (we get 10% of total sales)
 - About \$3,450 received in NFR night ticket sales so far
 - We will need to do some maintenance in the spring – Hot Water Tanks, toilets, etc.

New Business

1. 4-H donations for windbreakers:
 - This would be eligible for the leadership expenses grant (we would get 60-70% back)

- One of the reasons we do what we do, giving back to the ag community and the future of that community
 - Discussed not having our name on them, as that isn't really the reason that we do it, decided not to
 - Discussed having a sign at their events instead
 - It was awesome to see them come and do the presentation, they did an awesome job and their public speaking was great, very well done
 - Might ask them to help out in the future if needed
 - This is part of what we do what we do, giving back, western way of life, why we fundraise, it is a good way to give back
 - Rick made a motion for the \$1,800 sponsorship with no name, 2nd by Kyle, all in favor
 - Keith will call and let them know
2. Lions Club Christmas donation - \$500 last year
- Goes to the Xmas Hampers – 1st Garnet, 2nd Dan, all in favor
 - Will also stock the shelves at the Olde Library, Len can purchase
 - Dan made a motion to spend \$300 for these food donations, 2nd Dan, all in favor
3. Christmas Party – December 6th – who would like to go
- We have gone for the last 4 years
 - Ag Society will purchase a table or two
 - Garnet, Megan, Blake, Ian, Ky, Dani, Dan, Len, Robb, and Keith will go
 - Will purchase the liquor tickets prior, this is good 'community building' and we get some back in the grant
 - Len will get the tickets out to people
4. Convention – February 6th-8th
- Looks good for us to go and support
 - Builds connections
 - Keith, Len and Jesse (on the board) will go
5. Alberta Festival Grant – has been sent in
- We will find out if we get it on January 30th
 - Travel AB messaged and it shows out application is being reviewed/processed
 - This is a fundraiser for updates to the bleachers
 - Festival grant, we put in 25% and they match 75% for a concert
 - Applied for \$75,000 grant (including our current costs)
 - This would help bring in a bigger name for a concert in the arena
 - Possible acts in the \$40,000 range for the act
 - Rest would go towards production costs (stage, lighting, security, etc.)

- Could make up to \$90,000 at the concert, which would help building up to the bleachers
 - Once we are in the system for the grant, it makes it much easier for future years moving forward
 - Keith spoke with the promotor and got a master list of acts to choose from
6. NFR Night
- 200 tickets have been sold, technically sold out
 - Have a few extras
 - Ordered back numbers, will run everything very similar to last year
 - Bob Ronnie booked for meal
 - Dan wil MC
 - Will order pizza from the local pizza place
 - Will get the round prizes
 - Will be a fun night
 - Social media has been good, Jesse has been doing a great job on that
7. AGM – December 17th
- At the Friendship Center
 - There will be pizza for supper from the local pizza place
 - Supper @ 6 pm and meeting will start a 7 pm
8. Queen Program
- Jesse brought us a copy of the Sundre contract to review and reference
 - Put off for another year?
 - We need to have someone run it and this is a very big commitment
 - Can review another year from now
 - Len made a motion to push another year, Kyle 2nd
 - Megan and Jesse abstained
 - Motion passed

Round Table Discussion

- Keith – is going to conference in Calgary for fairs and exhibitions
 - Going to see what it is all about and what is there
 - Will have a report at the next meeting
- Len – everything is at the accountants, will hopefully have everything back for the AGM
- Jesse – will put on website, video, social medias for the convention

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:43 PM

Dates to Remember:

- AGM – December 17th, 2025
- Convention – February 6th-8th, 2026

Expanding Horizons Society
 Date: Tuesday, November 25, 2025
 Location: Paterson Community Centre
 Time: 7:00pm

In Attendance: Ryan Howlett, Laurie Miller, Sena Urichuk, Brad Dallas, Patrick Filipenko, Debbie Bailey, Sandy Gamble, Karen Fagan, Tara Rankin, Kim Urichuk, Sheila Church, Sandy Wilcox

1. Call to order at 6:58pm
2. Approval of Agenda – as presented; Sena moves, Sandy G seconds. Carried
3. Welcome to Laurie Miller, our Town Council Rep, and Marietta Tuckwell, alternate rep
4. Welcome to Ryan Howlett – presentation from McElhanney. McElhanney has offered to donate the cost of the LiDar mapping of the proposed area (approx. cost of \$10,000) Ryan addressed if we have the necessary permits and surveys have been completed prior to project approval. There are concerns of drainage to west alley and RV parking. Collected data will be provided for a cost of approx. \$525 (actual cost approx. \$10,000). Suggests we need a more specific quote from Border Paving to ensure area is properly prepped for drainage prior to committing to the project.
5. Minutes from September meeting – approved with amendment; Dinner Theatre dates are May 1 & 2, not May 5 & 6 as previously reported. Pat moves, Tara seconds. Carried.
6. Correspondence – no correspondence
7. Financials – Beef Supper (get all from sena) Sena moves, Debbie seconds. Carried.
8. Old Business
 - a) Sidewalk concrete repair – Stan – postpone until spring, ask Rob for reference, calcimite
 - b) Address on building – Kim – for emergency services need to have address posted inside the building as well as at the approach to parking lot. Ryan Howlett offered to have a blue address sign made up to put at the entrance. Sign donated by McEllaney.
 - c) Fundraising events – Christmas party volunteers. Tara, Debbie, Sena, Sheila, Sandy, Tara & Karen decorating 3:00pm Thursday, December 4, Rob & Sandy W will pick up and return liquor, Kim & Sandy W coordinate liquor inventory and order. Jade & Dawn will bartend, Terri will work the door for ticket check in, Pam Sahli will sell liquor tickets.
 - d) Dinner theatre – for silent auction we will do a minimum of 2 large raffle prizes and sell tickets during both nights, making the official draws on Saturday, May 2 after performance. Discussion around a “camping extravaganza” package and a grocery/meat gift certificate package. Sandy Gamble has offered to donate a blackstone bbq grill to the package. Dinner Theatre ticket price still needs to be determined dependent on menu costs/caterer. Raffle ticket price still needs to be determined.
9. New Business
 - a) Update on CFEP Grant application (Pat / Sheila) – there have been some glitches with online system, there has been a delay processing in application. We are still on track for the January grant submission. There has been no correspondence back from Paterson in regards to supporting the initiative.
 - b) Ice in parking lot – signs/liability. Spearhead/Signs by Jan in Olds are quoting on some different options, will have information for December 15th meeting.



MOUNTAIN VIEW REGIONAL WATER SERVICES COMMISSION

Directors Information Bulletin – November 2025

The Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission (the Commission) has been providing potable water to its member municipalities of Innisfail, Bowden, Olds, Didsbury, Carstairs, and Crossfield for over 48 years. Throughout this time, the Commission has remained focused on supplying high-quality, reliable water at affordable rates to support municipal growth and the health and well-being of the region.

System Renewal and Expansion

As our infrastructure ages, timely upgrades are essential to ensure system reliability and to meet future demand. Water is a critical service, and the Commission is committed to strengthening and modernizing its infrastructure to support long-term community resilience.

Recent projects, completed in partnership with the Province of Alberta, include twinning of the transmission line from the Anthony Henday Water Treatment Plant (the Plant) to Olds, and from Didsbury to Crossfield. These improvements have enhanced reliability and increased delivery capacity.

Future twinning projects are scheduled between:

- the Plant and Innisfail, and
 - Olds and Didsbury.
-

Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

The Plant serves as the central production and pumping facility for all Commission members. Several major upgrades have been completed over the past five years, including:

- installation of a microfiltration system, and
- addition of ultraviolet (UV) disinfection technology to ensure consistently safe water quality.

Upcoming improvements include:



MOUNTAIN VIEW REGIONAL WATER SERVICES COMMISSION

- installation of enhanced microfilter cassettes to increase production capacity and improve operational safety
- upgrading of the electrical system to support increased power demands and future modernization

Raw Water Supply and Resilience

The Commission continues to address raw water challenges associated with the Red Deer River, including flooding, turbidity that impacts intake operations, and drought conditions that limit available draw.

To strengthen water security, the Commission has applied to the Government of Alberta for approval of a four-phase program to construct raw water storage ponds. These ponds will allow the Plant to store and draw water during periods of high turbidity, flooding, or drought, ensuring uninterrupted, reliable system operation.

Rationale for the Rate Increase

The Commission Board has approved a water rate increase to **\$2.53 per cubic metre** (a 15% adjustment) effective **April 1, 2026**. This decision was made after careful analysis and is based on several key factors:

1. Record Number of Line Leaks

This year saw an unprecedented number of leaks in the transmission system. Emergency repairs, excavation, and mitigation efforts significantly increased operating and maintenance expenses.

2. Rising Costs Across All Sectors

Costs for materials, equipment, chemicals, power, and specialized services have risen sharply. These increases directly affect the Commission's ability to operate and maintain the system responsibly.

3. Preparation for Critical Infrastructure Upgrades



MOUNTAIN VIEW REGIONAL WATER SERVICES COMMISSION

Given the Commission's limited borrowing capacity, a portion of funding for major upcoming projects—including line twinning, plant enhancements, and raw water storage—must be sourced from the capital account supported by water rates.

4. Provincial Guidance on Rate Competitiveness

With our proposal for provincial grants, it's imperative the commission maintain a rate that aligns with industry standards, strengthening our ability for future funding assistance.

5. Ensuring Long-Term, Sustainable Service

This rate adjustment ensures the Commission can continue providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective water service while planning responsibly for future infrastructure needs. To strengthen long-term financial resilience, the Commission will be looking to implementing **a minimum 10% rate increase annually for the following three years (2027–2029)**.

These increases will:

- Rebuild and stabilize the Commission's capital reserves, which are essential for emergency repairs and major capital projects
- Reduce reliance on borrowed funds and help lower the Commission's overall debt limit
- Improve financial standing for future provincial grant applications by demonstrating strong fiscal responsibility

Transmission System Map

(A map or schematic of the Commission's transmission system, including existing and planned twinning sections, may be inserted here.)

Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission Board, I affirm our continuing commitment to delivering high-quality water and dependable service to all member municipalities. As our communities grow and our infrastructure ages, it is essential that we invest proactively and responsibly in our system.



MOUNTAIN VIEW REGIONAL WATER SERVICES COMMISSION

The decisions made this year—including the rate adjustment—reflect our responsibility to plan for the future, maintain system reliability, and protect the long-term sustainability of the region's water supply. We remain dedicated to transparency, collaboration, and prudent stewardship of this critical resource.

We thank our member communities for their continued trust and partnership.

— **Mike Knight, Chair**

Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission

Water Rates in Comparable Regional Water Commissions

- Aqua 7(Knee Hill Rockyview): **\$4.62** per cubic metre
- Wild Commission(West Inter Lake District): **\$5.58** per cubic metre
- Highway 21(Lacombe County): **\$5.28** per cubic metre
- Highway 14(Beaver County): **\$5.68** per cubic metre

Municipal Water Rate Context

Major cities produce significantly larger volumes of treated water, which lowers their unit cost:

City of Calgary

- Rate: **\$1.45/m³**
- Fixed surcharge: **\$12.50**
- Annual production: ~200 million m³
- Typical residential bill for 20 m³: **~\$42/month**

City of Red Deer

- Rate: **\$1.95/m³**
- Fixed surcharge: **\$18.70**
- Annual production: ~18 million m³



MOUNTAIN VIEW REGIONAL WATER SERVICES COMMISSION

- Typical residential bill for 20 m³: ~\$60/month

Commission Comparison

The Commission's rate of **\$2.53/m³** results in a cost of **\$50.60** for 20 m³—still highly economical given our smaller scale, rural transmission distances, and the need to fund our own infrastructure.

If a member municipality sold water to residents at **\$3.00/m³**, the cost for 20 m³ would be **\$60**, comparable to Red Deer.

In contrast, purchasing water from the lowest-priced comparable commission (Aqua 7 at \$4.62/m³) would cost an additional **\$32** per 20 m³.

For perspective, bulk bottled water is approximately **\$1.50 per litre**, equivalent to **\$1,500 per cubic metre**—illustrating the exceptional value of treated municipal water.

For Further Information

Please contact the Commission office at **403-227-5828**.

THE NEWS

from ALBERTA COUNSEL

Alberta's Premier Review of
Politics and Government Vitality



ALBERTA COUNSEL

Senior Editor: Aaron Singleton
Publisher: Alberta Counsel

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The News from Alberta Counsel is Alberta's premier review of provincial politics and government vitality. As an original source of political news and commentary, The News will provide a fresh look at legislation, policy, committee debates, the civil service, along with party updates and events.

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T'WAS THE DAY BEFORE FALL SITTINGS END

Aaron Singleton

Looking back at the past six weeks or so, one could easily make the argument that the start of the second session of the thirty-first Legislature may be one of the most controversial in recent memory. In our last issue of The NEWS for 2025, we will take a closer look at the top five Alberta political stories of the year, but we will go a different direction in this issue.

In today's issue, we want to take a deep dive specifically into the ongoing story about the state of the debate on separatism in our province. With recent legislative amendments and legal decisions released, the next chapter of this battle has begun.

The Pro-Confederation Petition Was Successful

On December 1st, Elections Alberta issued a statement authenticating the success of the Forever Canadian petition organized by former deputy premier Thomas Lukaszuk. According to the data provided by Elections Alberta, the petition collected a total of 438,568 valid signatures.

For reference, the required number of signatures for this petition to be successful was 293,976 (10% of eligible voters on the post-election day List of Electors from the 2023 provincial election).

So, what's next? According to the act:

1. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly shall lay the proposal before the Legislative Assembly if it is then sitting, or if it is not then sitting, within 15 days after the commencement of the next sitting.
2. Within 10 sitting days, the Government shall bring forward a motion to have the proposal referred to a committee of the Legislative Assembly.
3. Within 90 days if the Assembly is sitting, or within 15 days after the commencement of the next sitting, the committee may either table a report with respect to the policy proposal at the earliest practicable opportunity or table a report recommending the policy proposal be referred to the Lieutenant Governor in Council for the purpose of a referendum.
4. If a report is tabled recommending a referendum, a referendum must be held on or before the fixed date of the next provincial general election (October 18, 2027).

Given the timelines highlighted above with an understanding that the current sitting period will end this week, we would expect this will not be introduced to the Legislature until MLAs return for the spring sittings in 2026.

While Lukaszuk's team was organizing and collecting signatures province-wide, a group representing the separatist side of the debate was in court debating the constitutionality of their proposed referendum question. Lead by an organization called the Alberta Prosperity Project, a pro-separation question was referred to the courts by the Chief Electoral Officer pursuant to the Citizen Initiative Act to determine if they had proposed a legal question.

That is where Bill 14 comes in.

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EMAIL S.BARTON@ALBERTACOUNSEL.COM



AARON SINGLETON
Associate - Digital Campaigns

Aaron brings years of political experience to our already strong government relations team. He leads Alberta Counsel's digital campaign portfolio which has quickly grown to include public relations support on issues ranging from the grassroots level to national reach. Having been trained by a leading digital organizer in the United States, he is well-equipped to take your digital campaigns to the next level by supporting clients' existing government relations objectives.

He earned a BA in Political Science from the University of Alberta and brings additional experience supporting progressive campaigns at both the provincial and federal level since 2011.

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The Impacts of Bill 14

The Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, introduced by Justice Minister Mickey Amery, is an omnibus bill that introduces a number of changes including immunity for the Attorney General from proceedings from the Law Society of Alberta, limiting the names of prospective political parties, further oversight on the Alberta Law Foundation, and increasing the number of signatures required for prospective provincial election candidates to deter "longest ballot" protest replicators.

For the purposes of this article, we are going to focus in on the key changes to the *Citizen Initiative Act* that are introduced in this bill which have the potential to significantly impact the citizen referendum process.

According to the Government of Alberta's fact sheet on Bill 14, the changes proposed include the removal of the following stipulations:

- Proposals cannot contravene sections 1 to 35.1 of the Constitution Act, 1982;
- Proposals cannot exceed the jurisdiction of the Legislature;
- Proposals cannot have the same subject/create conflict with the outcome of another petition;
- Proposals cannot be the same or similar as unsuccessful referendum or vote within the past five years;
- Proposals must have unambiguous statement and must meet the requirements of the Act;
- A constitutional question must be factually accurate and stated in the form of a "yes" or "no" question;
- Allows the Chief Electoral Officer to provide advice, assistance, and recommendations to applicants; and
- Allows the Chief Electoral Officer to refer questions to the court.

The legislation does a number of other things we simply don't have the space to include here, but some of the key new powers in this bill are:

- Discontinuing any court proceedings brought by the Chief Electoral Officer;
- Allow applicants to make new applications within 30 days of amendments coming into force at no cost;
- Require petitioners to file a notice of intent with the Chief Electoral Officer; and
- Shifting many of the removed powers from the Chief Electoral Officer to the Minister of Justice.

Effectively (if this bill passes), the reference of the Alberta Prosperity Project pro-separation question to the court will be discontinued. They will also be empowered to reapply and collect signatures for their proposal notwithstanding the similarity of issue to the Forever Canadian petition which has already received approval.

The Courts Opine on the Proposed Legislative Amendments

On December 5th (the day following the tabling of Bill 14), Justice Colin Feasby of the Court of King's Bench, released his reasons for decision on *Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta v. Sylvestre*, 2025 ABKB 712. The decision finds that "the Referendum Proponent's constitutional referendum proposal contravenes *Constitution Act, 1982* ss 1-35.1 because independence would require the replacement of the Canadian constitution, including the identified sections, with a new Alberta constitution. *Constitution Act, 1982* guarantees the rights in the *Charter*."

Additionally, Justice Feasby included an epilogue to his decision discussing the province's decision to introduce Bill 14 at the time it did. He offered heavy criticism of the province's actions, saying "changing legislation to circumvent a valid legal process commenced by the independent officer of the Legislative Assembly responsible for administering democratic processes is the antithesis of the stable, predictable, and ordered society that the rule of law contemplates, and democracy demands."

On Premier Danielle Smith's radio show on Saturday, December 6th, she offered her reasons for the changes introduced in Bill 14. It was her argument that the courts should not act as "gatekeepers" to citizen-initiated referendums. She also challenged the actions of both the Chief Electoral Officer and the courts, suggesting "whether it's the chief electoral officer or the court, they seem to want to approve the ones they like and hold up the ones they don't like, and that's not democracy."

Justice Feasby seemingly pre-empted these comments from the Premier in the final paragraph of his decision.

"Contrary to the pending JSAA 2025 s 71.1(3), this case cannot be discontinued, and the Court cannot be silenced because the case has been decided. These reasons are delivered despite the anticipated change to the law because reason giving is democratic. This case concerned a matter of importance to the public and these reasons are the product of the significant investment of the diverse group of stakeholders who participated in this proceeding. The public is entitled to the fruits of this process that has been conducted largely at their expense so that if they are asked to vote on Alberta independence, they have a tool that may help them make sense of the legal dimensions of the secession of Alberta from Canada."



SCOTT RATCH
Grant Writing Associate

Scott has recently completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science at the University of Alberta. While at university, he completed a co-op term as a Student Policy Analyst with the Government of Canada and served as an editor for the Political Science Undergraduate Review (PSUR).

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Photo Credit: Brendan Brown

POLITICAL EVENTS

NDP – An Evening with Nathan Ip and Naheed Nenshi

Tuesday, December 9th @ 6:30PM

Location: Edmonton

- Join Naheed Nenshi and Nathan Ip for a private fundraiser event.
- Tix: Free (albertandp.ca/events)

UCP – Capital Region Christmas Party

Saturday, December 13th, 2025 @ 6:00PM

Location: Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre

- Join the United Conservative Party for a Christmas party with a buffet and networking.
- Tix: \$75 (unitedconservative.ca/events)

UCP – Calgary Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 17th, 2025 @ 5:30PM

Location: Bank & Baron Pub, Calgary

- Join the United Conservative Party for a Christmas party with appetizers and networking.
- Tix: \$40 (unitedconservative.ca/events)



Source: Alberta Professional Planners Institute

KEY INFLUENCER PROFILE

ERIN O'NEILL

INTERIM CEO OF ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES

Scott Ratch

Erin O'Neill has been appointed the new interim Chief Executive Officer of Alberta Health Services (AHS), taking on the role during a period of significant organizational transition. She replaces Andre Tremblay, who is currently on leave. O'Neill most recently served as senior vice-president of finance and shared services at AHS.

O'Neill brings extensive experience in emergency management, government administration, and health system operations. She previously served as the Assistant

Deputy Minister of Primary Care and as AHS's executive director of research and innovation. In the latter role, she oversaw the project management office for the Alberta Surgical Initiative, which aims to increase surgical capacity and reduce wait times across the province.

Her appointment follows a period of leadership turnover at AHS, including the departure of former CEO Athana Mentzelopoulos and the dissolution of the previous board. O'Neill assumes leadership as the province continues to shift major responsibilities from AHS to new Crown agencies, including Acute Care Alberta and Primary Care Alberta. As interim CEO, O'Neill will guide AHS through the province's evolving health care restructuring.



JACK DERBICH
Associate

While serving as Legislative Coordinator from 2022 to 2023, he supported elected officials on key files such as rural health and EMS reform. In addition, Jack has served as a commissioned officer in the Canadian Army Reserve since 2020, bringing with him a planning based results-oriented approach. In 2025 he graduated with distinction from the University of Alberta, earning a double major in Political Science and History, with an additional Certificate in Civil-Military Leadership.

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DISCUSSING ALBERTA'S DEFENCE PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITY

Jack Derbich

On December 1st, Alberta Counsel supported a full day of discussion and engagement with stakeholders active in, or seeking entry into, the defence sector. The event was the result of two months of coordinated planning with partners including Alberta Aviation, Aerospace, and Defence (AAD). Programming featured an in-person morning roundtable, an afternoon webinar, and an evening mixer.

Each component was designed to encourage informed dialogue on current defence opportunities for Albertan companies in the province and in the North, the compliance and accreditation requirements that firms must meet when entering the sector, and the steps the province can take to support broader participation.

The presence of senior figures such as former Minister of National Defence Peter MacKay and former United States Secretary of Defense Christopher C. Miller contributed to a high level of engagement and helped ground the discussion in practical experience and strategic insight.

The day's events began with a keynote address delivered by Peter MacKay at the Edmonton Unlimited event space. Reflecting on the current state of defence in Canada, MacKay's speech highlighted the imperative that exists for Canada to engage across sectors and provinces to ensure that the nation's defence forces are equipped to confront contemporary threats to security and sovereignty.

This theme was aptly continued into the next session, a fireside discussion on the current requirements and opportunities that exist in both military specific and dual infrastructure projects in Northern Alberta and the Arctic. Panellists highlighted the strategic weight that Northern and Arctic infrastructure currently carry for Canada in addition to the role that Alberta plays in supporting such projects. Also highlighted throughout this discussion was the tangible economic benefits for companies, communities, and the wider province if these projects are pursued.

Transitioning into the second fireside discussion, the topic of economic opportunities for Albertan companies was discussed within the realm of certification and compliance for companies seeking to engage in defence contracting. Key takeaways for this discussion included the importance of optimizing process and documentation for any company seeking to participate in parts manufacturing for defence production.

Morning activities concluded with facilitated breakout groups. Stakeholders from across government, private, academic, and non-profit sectors engaged with Alberta Counsel facilitators to discuss three questions:

1. How can the government best support the growth of the defence sector and SMEs, both provincially and federally?
2. How can industry collaborate to strengthen sector growth?
3. What feedback would you give on the Ministry of Jobs, Economy, Trade, and Immigration Mandate Letter?

In the course of discussing these questions, groups highlighted how they felt that both the federal government and province had to do better collectively at engaging in and supporting the defence economic ecosystem. The results of the breakout group discussion are currently being processed for production to into a whitepaper by the Alberta Counsel team.

Following the in-person events of the morning, Alberta Counsel hosted a webinar with both Peter MacKay and Christopher Miller to recap and further explore the results of the morning ([Watch Here](#)). Over the course of this discussion, both speakers highlighted the importance of recognizing how in light of a changing global landscape, evolution in warfare, and a growing need to decentralize defence production, Alberta stands uniquely positioned to do so.

The day concluded with AAD's mixer event hosted in the Alberta Counsel lounge. With its expansion into the defence sector in August 2025, Alberta AAD now represents more than 150 defence specific or adjacent companies in addition to those already in aerospace and aviation. AAD's facilitation of the networking opportunity during the evening effectively represents the wider role that the organization plays in coordinating and developing the defence community within the province.

Overall, the December 1st defence investment day demonstrated that there is a clear and growing interest among Alberta based stakeholders to engage in defence-based initiatives. The strong turnout, active engagement throughout the various sessions of the day, and general feedback indicate that companies, communities, and stakeholders across the province recognize the economic and strategic values of aligning Alberta within Canada's larger defence requirements.

Alberta Counsel and its partners in the space will continue to support the defence sector in the province through a variety of engagement, advocacy, and research in the near future.

THE NEWS

Alberta's Premier Review of
Politics and Government Vitality

from ALBERTA COUNSEL



PASCAL RYFFEL
VP of Corporate
Development and
Government Relations

After completing his MA in Media and International Development, Pascal spent four years with the Alberta NDP Caucus. Pascal has been directly involved in Alberta politics for almost two decades, including as a candidate in 2008, and has a deep and current knowledge of Alberta politics. Pascal has been with Alberta Counsel since 2015.

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AT A GLANCE

In the Media

Justice System and Election Reforms Announced

The Government of Alberta has introduced the Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, aimed at strengthening election integrity and modernizing the provincial justice system. The legislation increases candidate signature requirements, tightens rules around political party name registration, and reinforces safeguards in citizen-initiative and referendum processes. Additional updates affect the Law Society of Alberta, and expanded justice of the peace appointments are intended to improve court capacity and support timely proceedings.

Alberta Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Mickey Amery, stated: "Albertans expect their government to ensure that democratic processes remain fair, transparent, and produce timely outcomes. These changes will strengthen public confidence in the ways that Albertans participate in democracy."

Alberta Launches Police Review Commission

The Alberta government has established the new Policy Review Commission (PRC), creating a single, independent agency to oversee all police complaints in the province. Replacing the previous patchwork system in which police services often investigated their own members, the PRC will now handle serious incidents, statutory offences, and misconduct under one transparent framework.

"The Police Review Commission represents a new era in how Alberta addresses policing complaints. These changes are part of a broader paradigm shift where police are no longer seen as an arm of the state, but rather an extension and a reflection of the community they serve. As an independent agency, it is committed to fairness, accountability and public trust, ensuring every complaint is investigated impartially and resolved openly," commented Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services, Mike Ellis.

Province Moves to Oppose Federal Firearms Buy-Back

The provincial government has introduced a motion under the Alberta Sovereignty Within a United Canada Act that, if passed, would direct all provincial entities, including police and other enforcement agencies, not to enforce the federal gun buy-back program. The motion asserts that law-abiding Albertans have the right to defend themselves, their homes, and their families, and emphasizes that provincial legislation such as the Alberta Firearms Act provides a framework for lawful firearm ownership.

"When someone breaks into your home, the law recognizes that you have enhanced rights to protect yourself and your family. Alberta is making that principle unmistakably clear: lawful, reasonable self-defense will be respected, not criminalized," commented Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Mickey Amery.

New Funding to Address Classroom Complexity

The Government of Alberta is investing \$69 million over three years in a new Mental Health and Well-Being Grant to help schools better manage increasingly complex classrooms, especially as student mental health needs rise. The funding will help school boards expand support such as training for educators in trauma-informed practices, social-emotional learning, in-school counsellors and wellness coaches.

Minister of Education and Childcare, Demetrios Nicolaidis, stated: "When students' mental health needs aren't met, classrooms become more complex. This money will give schools the tools they need to support student mental health, helping to reduce complexity and create a better learning environment for everyone."



COLE HOGAN
Strategic Communications
Advisor

Through his digital advertising campaign and communications work Cole played a key role in electing Doug Ford Premier of Ontario and Jason Kenney Premier of Alberta.

Cole has led and advised on digital advertising and communications strategy for federal and provincial conservative leadership campaigns, in addition to having advised elected federal and provincial conservatives across the country.

Cole is also a regularly featured national media pundit.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF ADVERTISING IN PUBLIC RELATIONS

Cole Hogan

A good digital advocacy campaign uses social media platforms to create awareness, persuade online users of a particular argument, then motivates those users to take an online action. There's a lot that businesses and other organizations can learn about converting customer and supporters by looking at the political context.

If you want to get in front of your target audience, chances are the organic reach (the number of online users you can access without paid advertising) of your existing Facebook page is not going to advance your organization's advocacy goals.

Organic reach is dead. The current average organic reach is an estimated 2.2 per cent. If you've only got 500 followers, you're reaching 11 online users. It's a road to nowhere.

To grow your organization's following and achieve your advocacy goals, you will need an advertising budget. To use that advertising budget properly you'll need to identify and then strategically target the online audiences that are most likely to respond to your campaign's messaging.

Here's the biggest challenge: getting your audience's attention – and fast.

The average attention span of a user on a desktop computer user is 2.5 seconds, no matter what the online content may be. For mobile users, it's 1.7 seconds.

81 per cent of Facebook's 2.3 billion monthly users access Facebook only through a mobile phone.

Your advertising content needs to immediately explain your campaign's message, but it also needs to be designed for the platform it's displayed on.

In 2018, I was creating the digital campaign that helped propel Doug Ford to become Premier of Ontario. Our strategy included using video footage where a large, enthusiastic crowd of supporters chanted his name repeatedly.

This video footage was edited down to speedy, five-second clips with the name 'Doug' flashing on the screen in unison with the chanting crowd. The footage was scaled to fit the vertical aspect ratio of a mobile phone, 9:16 instead of 16:9, the default widescreen aspect ratio for television screens. The 'Doug' text animated vertically on the screen, instead of left to right. By scaling the footage to a vertical aspect ratio and animating the text vertically we created content that would perform best on the device where it was being watched and matched the flow of a user's mobile phone scrolling, helping to break through that 1.7 second attention span barrier. Simple, but effective.

The platform-specific ads got our message across for the 2018 Ontario election: Doug Ford is for the people. Because these ads immediately communicated Ford's message and were custom built for the platform, they delivered great results and were seen by millions of Ontarians.

In 2022 the Democratic Party in the U.S. took a similar approach when it came to online fundraising. While their Facebook ads were not digestible within 1.7 to 2.5 seconds, they had an interesting, familiar visual prompt.

As part of a fundraising effort for the 2022 midterm elections, the Democratic National Committee created slick ads that mimicked the AirDrop message prompt on an iPhone. The post text of each ad offered a free sticker for new monthly donors and mentioned what activities are funded by existing monthly donors. The text of the image within the AirDrop message prompt featured a gradient font, which has become increasingly popular in political design. These ads will convert online users into monthly donors.

The Republican Party took an entirely different approach to fundraising for the 2022 midterm elections. While the Democrats used colourful design and familiar visual prompts, the GOP content was wrapped in the American flag, red, white, less blue, and mostly featured Donald Trump. This is likely because Trump's political action committee, Save America, raised \$124 million from 2020 to 2022.

Ads need to be custom built for their audience. American political strategist, Brett Feinstein, puts it bluntly, "You're not designing for yourself and you're not even designing to please the clients. You're designing for an audience that has a high barrier to cut through."

Whatever the goal of your advocacy campaign is, whether it's generating letters to an elected official, creating awareness around an issue, persuading the general public of your organization's message, shifting public opinion or fundraising, the right content on the right platforms for the right audience will ensure you meet your goals.