



**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, March 09, 2026, 7:00 pm**

**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 Regular Council Meeting (February 23, 2026)

3.b Special Council Meeting (February 26, 2026)

**4. PUBLIC HEARING**

None scheduled.

**5. DELEGATIONS**

5.a FCSS – Jade Scott

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

6.a Council Resolutions Follow-Up Action

6.b Key Dates

**7. BYLAWS & POLICIES**

7a Borrowing Bylaw 01/2026

7b Rates, Fees, Charges and Penalties Bylaw 02/2026

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

None submitted

**9. FINANCIAL**

9.a. Capital Budget preview

**10. CORRESPONDENCE**

10.a → 10.c

**11. REPORTS**

11.a CAO's Report

11.b Council Committee Reports.

11.c Society & Other Reports.

**12. CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL**

12.a Local Public Body Confidences – MVRWSC Activities

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 28 "local public body confidences".

**13. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

<b>Special Council Meeting:</b> 2026-03-09	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 3.a / 3.b
<b>Prepared by:</b> Greg Skotheim	<b>Approved By:</b> Mayor
<b>Report Type:</b> RFD	<b>Attachment(s):</b> As per content

**Content:****3.a**

Administration submits to Council the minutes of the previous Regular Council Meeting held on:

- Monday, February 23, 2026

**3.b**

Administration submits to Council the minutes of the previous Special Council Meeting held on:

- Monday, Thursda, February 26, 2026

**3****Adoption of Minutes of Previous Minutes:**

Council is requested to pass a motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meetings (as attached).

**Recommended Motions:****Motion 3.a**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council adopts the minutes, as presented, for the Regular Council Meeting of February 23, 2026.

**Motion 3.a**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council adopts the minutes, as presented, for the Special Council Meeting of February 26, 2026.

## 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, February 23, 2026, 7:00 pm**

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Laurie Miller called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

<b>PRESENT</b>	Mayor	Laurie Miller
	Councillor	Randy Brown
	Councillor	Ryan Howlett
	Councillor	Cam Morrison
	Councillor	Amanda Peffers
	Councillor	Carol Pion
	Councillor	Marietta Tuckwell
	A/CAO	Greg Skotheim
	Delegate	Sandra Gamble and Angela Wilson, Bowden Historical Society
	Delegate	Riley Kloss, AMAA – Wild Rose Assessment Services Inc.

#### 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

Moved by Councillor Randy Brown that Council adopt the agenda as amended; adding 9.b – Donation.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

##### 3.a Regular Council Meeting (February 9, 2026)

##### Motion 3.a

Motion by Councillor Ryan Howlette that Council adopts the minutes, as presented, for the Regular Council Meeting of February 9, 2026.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### 4. PUBLIC HEARING

None scheduled.

#### 5. DELEGATIONS

##### 5.a Bowden Historical Society – Sandra Gamble

Council received an overview of the vision for the museum to become a multi-purpose cultural, educational, and community hub that preserves local heritage, supports sustainable tourism, enhances quality of life and strengthens community identity. Council has appointed a representative and alternate to the board. Administration will update the by-law as required.

##### Motion 5.a

Moved by Moved by Councillor Amanda Peffers that Council accept the presentation as information.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

##### Motion 5.a.i

Moved by Moved by Councillor Cam Morrison that Council appoint Ryan Howlett, Primary and Amanda Peffers, Alternative as representatives to the Bowden Historical Society and instruction Administration to update the by-law and develop terms of reference.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

##### 5.b Wild Rose Assessment Services Inc. – Riley Kloss, AMAA

Council reviewed the presentation regarding assessment services and contract renewal information provided by Wild Rose Assessment Services.

##### Motion 5.b

Moved by Councillor Randy Brown at 8:11 pm that Council moves to an "in-camera" session.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion 5.b.i** Moved by Councillor Carol Pion at 8:24 pm that Council return to an "open meeting" of Council.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**No motions were made with respect to the in-camera discussion.**

##### Motion 5.b.ii

Moved by Moved by Councillor Ryan Howlett that Council accept the presentation as information and direct Administration to enter into the 5 year contract as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

##### 6.a Council Resolutions Follow-Up Action

##### Motion 6.a

Motion by Councillor Marietta Tuckwell that Council accepts the amended Council Resolutions Follow Up Action Report as information.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

##### 6.b Key Dates

##### Motion 6.b

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. BYLAWS & POLICIES**

7a None

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

8.a Volunteer Application

**Motion 8.a**

Moved by Councillor Randy Brown that the application by Anaya Lea be accepted as information and to direct Administration to contact the applicant.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****9. FINANCIAL**

9.a. Capital Budget preview

Council had a brief discussion regarding the Capital Budget draft that was presented.

**Motion 9.a**

Motion by Councillor Carol Pion that Council instructs Administration to present the 2026 Capital Budget as an agenda item at the Regular Council Meeting on March 9, 2026 for the purpose of discussion and review.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

9.b. Memorial donation.

Council discussed a memorial donation in honor of former councillor Deb Coombes.

**Motion 9.a**

Motion by Councillor Randy Brown that Council instructs Administration forward a donation in the amount of \$100.00 to the Olds Hospital – Acute Care fund in memory of Deb Coombes.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****10. CORRESPONDENCE**

10.a Government of Alberta  
- New Plan for Parks

10.b Rural Municipalities of Alberta  
- Monthly Resolution Update – January 2026

10.c Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ)  
- letter: invitation to become a member of their organization

10.d CAEP Spark  
- email: Team Central Alberta – focus for 2026 and 2027.

10.e CAEP  
- email: registration for courses:  
i. Establishing the Foundation (overview of economic development), March 24 (9 to 3);  
G.H. Dawe Community Centre, 6175 – 67 St., Red Deer, Alberta  
ii. Fundamentals of Rural Economic Development (refine strategies), March 30 (9 to 3);  
Nexsource Centre, 4823 – 49 Ave., Sylvan Lake, Alberta

10.f Canadian History Ehx – Craig Baird  
- email: with attached proposal for feature video on Bowden's history

10.g National Police Federation  
- email: announcing the government's commitment to RCMP contract policing beyond 2032

**- Media Statement: Government commitment to RCMP contract**

**Suggested Motion(s)**

**Motion 10**

Motion by Councillor Amanda Peffers that Council accepts agenda items 10a. to 10.d & 10.f & 10.g as information.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion 10.e**

Motion by Councillor Ryan Howlett that Council have Administration reply to CAEP that up to two members will attend the Establishing the Foundation on March 24 and the Fundamentals of Rural Economic Development on March 30.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**11. REPORTS**

**11.a CAO's Report**

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**Motion 11. A**

Motion by Councillor Cam Morrison that Council accepts the CAO's report as information.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**11.b Council Committee Reports**  
None Submitted.

**11.c Society & Other Reports.**

- i. Expanding Horizons
  - Minutes – 2026-01-07
  - Mayor's Report – 2026-02-10
- ii. Alberta Counsel
  - The News, Issue 241 February 2026
- iii. Bowden Friendship Club
  - Minutes – 2025-11-20

**Motion 11.c**

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**12. CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL**

**12.a Local Public Body Confidences – Arena Activities**

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 28 "local public body confidences".

**Motion 12.a**

Moved by Councillor Carol Pion at 9:39 pm that Council moves to an "in-camera" session.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion 12.b**

Moved by Councillor Ryan Howlett at 9:52 pm that Council return to an "open meeting" of Council.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**No motions were made with respect to the in-camera discussions.**

**13. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion 12**

Motion by Councillor Cam Morrison at 9:54 pm to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Meeting adjourned.**

**Minutes signed by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor  
Laurie Miller**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A/CAO  
Greg Skotheim**



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

The Mayor has requested that a special meeting of Town Council be held at Council Chambers,
2101-20 Avenue, Bowden, Alberta at 7:32 am/pm on Feb. 26, 2026

CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL ("in camera")

12.a Local Public Body Confidences of February 23, 2026.

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 28 "local public body confidences"

Signatures:

Mayor, Laurie Miller

[Handwritten signature of Laurie Miller]

Councillors

Randy Brown

[Handwritten signature of Randy Brown]

Ryan Howlett

Cam Morrison

Amanda Peffers

Carol Pion

Marietta Tuckwell

[Handwritten signatures of Amanda Peffers, Carol Pion, and Marietta Tuckwell]

# BOWDEN

## Town of Bowden Special Council Meeting

### MINUTES (Unapproved)

**A Special Meeting of the Town of Bowden Council – Elected Officials Only to be held in Council Chambers at 2101-20 Avenue, Bowden, on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, purpose of discussing and acting upon the following matters of business.**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Laurie Miller called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

<b>PRESENT</b>	Mayor	Laurie Miller
	Councillor	Randy Brown
	Councillor	Ryan Howlett
	Councillor	Cam Morrison
	Councillor	Amanda Peffers
	Councillor	Carol Pion
	Councillor	Marietta Tuckwell
	I/CAO	Greg Skotheim

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

No agenda was prepared in advance of this unscheduled meeting.

#### **3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

None submitted.

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

##### **Motion 4**

Moved by Councillor Cam Morrison at 7:34 pm that Council moves to an “in-camera” session.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**This Special Council Meeting was called to update Agenda Item 12.a heard at Regular Council Meeting on February 23, 2026, namely:**

**12.a Local Public Body Confidences – Arena Activities**

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 28 "local public body confidences".

**Motion 4.i**

Moved by Councillor Ryan Howlett at 7:38 pm that Council return to an "open meeting" of Council.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion 4.ii**

Moved by Councillor Randy Brown at 7:38 pm that Council and Administration fully support Bowden Minor Hockey's application to the Kraft Hockeyville 2026 contest.

**5. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion 5**

Motion by Councillor Amanda Peffers at 7:39 pm to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Meeting adjourned.**

**Minutes signed by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor  
 Laurie Miller**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A/CAO  
 Greg Skotheim**



Delegations

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> 2026-03-09	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 5.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> Greg Skotheim	<b>Approved By:</b>
<b>Report Type:</b> RFD / Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FCSS Report Feb. 2026</li> </ul>

Delegations

5.a FCSS – Jade Scott

**Motion 5.a**  
Moved by Moved by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council accept the presentation as information.

## FCSS Community Navigator Report February 2026

### Community:

- **Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)** – There are 3 dates scheduled at Park Place for the CVITP, March 20 and April 11 & 25. Poster ads will be distributed next week when its not -30+ outside. Our volunteers have completed their screening and Criminal Records Checks and will be ready for the first session in March.
- **FCSS Regional Project – “Small Acts Matter 2.0”** has been fully approved by the FCSS Board. Bowden has been in contact with the Bowden Historical Society and the Bowden Lions Club in the beginning stages of planning for our community “Small Acts” FCSS attended the Historical Society meeting at the end of January and was given support for a partnership program “History Walks”. I am waiting to hear back from the Lions Club to see if they will be able to partner with FCSS as well under the Regional funding.
- **Volunteer Appreciation Supper** – The 2026 VAS planning is underway. FCSS & its practicum student has secured the theme and basics of the event. We have also applied for the Volunteer Alberta Grant funding. We hope to get the Feature site funding of \$1200, however we may only qualify for the Host Site amount of \$600. Fingers crossed. Look for posters and ads in the coming weeks.
- **RETRO BINGO** – Partnership event with Expanding Horizons will take place on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Paterson Community Centre. This event will have Easter Baskets for its Blackout prizes. We have planned it on a “no school Friday” evening to encourage youth participation.

### Food Security Support (ongoing):

- **The Good Food Box** program is going strong. The February order had 22 boxes, including 3 sponsored families, 2 donation boxes and 3 deliveries.

### Seniors Programs:

- **Tech Time** – continues to be popular at Park Place. Henday Association has renewed its dates for the spring from March through to June.
- **Golden Circle Outreach Bowden** – Hosted by Gemma from the Golden Circle at Park Place. We have also renewed its program dates for spring March to June. It's important to note that the Golden Circle and its Outreach & Social Prescriber are often in town with direct Client visits many times throughout the month, not just program dates.

### Youth Programs:

- **YES & FCSS** – We completed the “Insta IRL” session in February. We had 8 of 10 possible youth sign up. It was great! In March, we are planning “Crafts + Snack” for the 5 weeks in the month. Each Monday will feature a different craft & snack that accompanies the craft. For instance, the first Monday we will make “Staircase” friendship bracelets and eat chips. The following Monday we will use the empty chip bags to make Shrinky-dink key chains (and so on).
- **Innisfail FRN** – FCSS met with the new coordinator for Bowden to discuss potential programs for our area. After a brief poll to the community, it was noted that the residents would like to see adult focus and evening events. Considering the info, the FRN has booked Park Place for the evening of March 5<sup>th</sup> for a “ZEN Garden” craft for caregivers. FRN will be the host and take registration.
- **Red Deer BGC** – Keystone Youth had a short month with February holding winter break. The Keystone crew are re-visiting a few of the January activities that were postponed due to the water main break impacting the space use at Park Place.

### Other:

- FCSS Completed the Annual Report to Red Deer & District for 2025
- FCSS attended the Council Open House with its display & handouts on Feb. 12 at the Event Centre.
- I have been continually working on the Inspiris training on-line.

### February Park Place users & activities included the following organizations:

- Keystone Youth BGC – Red Deer Youth HQ
- SRDRWC Meeting
- Bowden & District Ag Society Meeting
- Bowden Lions Club –Regular Meeting location
- Bowden AA Sunday Night Group
- Golden Circle – Bowden Outreach Senior Supports
- Henday Association for Lifelong Learning – Tech Time
- AHS Mental Health Group
- Homeschool Group meeting space.

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> 2026-03-09	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 6.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> Greg Skotheim	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor Laurie Miller
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council Resolutions Follow-Up Action Report</li> <li>- Town of Bowden Scholarship Criteria</li> <li>- Revised (BGS) Scholarship Criteria</li> </ul>

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 6.a**

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

##### **Motion 6.a.i**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council \_\_\_\_\_

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with respect to the Town of Bowden Municipal Scholarship Criteria (reference Agenda Item 6.c of September 22, 2025).



**Town of Bowden**  
**COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS & FOLLOW UP ACTION**  
 (updated comments in red - updated 2026-02-26)

Meeting Date	Resolution	Action By Whom	Date back to Council
24 Apr 23	<p><b>Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework</b>            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. The current ICF expired in December 2022 – the provincial government's 2-year moratorium expired in December 2024. The latest MGA is now published, dated May 15, 2025. The requirement for an ICF is now a relevant statute.</p>	CAO	progress
7 Nov 25	<p><b>Following the 2025-12-31 Mayor's meeting, the ICF committee is working on convening a meeting before 2026-01-31 to start negotiations for the ICF, the IDP and the MSA.</b>            The ICF Committee met on 2026-01-23 and reached an agreement for the continuation of the existing MSA during CAO recruitment. Work on the ICF and IDP will be scheduled. The county advised it is still awaiting clarity from the provincial government regarding the ICF. Council will attend ICF forum on March 11.</p>		
23 June 25	<p><b>Role of the Chief Administrative Officer</b>            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 to this bylaw.</p>	CAO	progress
22 Sept 25	<p><b>Agenda item 6.c</b>            Bowden Grandview School Scholarship Awards Criteria            Council to review and determine a revised criteria for the award of the scholarship. <i>To be reviewed at 2026-03-09 RCM. Contact has been made with school representative.</i></p>	Council	progress
24 Nov 25	<p><b>Agenda item 8.a</b>            Administration to adopt a scent-free environment policy.</p>	CAO	Progress
08 Dec 25	<p><b>Agenda Item 11.a Annual Staff Appraisals</b>            Annual staff appraisals to be completed with the interim CAO.  <i>Staff submitting employee worksheets by February 5.</i></p>	CAO	Pending

12 Jan 26	<p><b>Agenda Item 12.a – Recruitment</b>          Motion 12.a Recruitment Committee to engage Richardson Executive Search to conduct CAO recruitment. Confirmed contract with the consultant, and the CAO has signed the letter of engagement. The recruitment committee submitted the Statement of Qualification to Council on January 19. The mayor is working on convening initial meetings with the consultant and recruitment committee to move forward.  <i>Recruitment underway, initial interviews being scheduled mid-March.</i></p>	Cttee	Progress
26 Jan 26	<p><b>Agenda Item 10.h – Brownlee – Emerging Trends in Municipal Law</b>          Follow-up for offering later in the year.</p>	CAO	Pending
26 Jan 26	<p><b>Agenda Item 11.c – Enhance Volunteerism</b>          Council requested that Administration forward the mayor's report and JustServe PowerPoint to FCSS for research about the program and report back. FCSS report for</p>	CAO	Pending
26 Jan 26	<p><b>Agenda Item 12.a – Strategic Planning</b>          Administration to engage McCarroll Consulting to provide ½ day workshop to the council. Determine availability for either February 20 or 21. <i>Strategic planning session set for February 20<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. Bowden Event Centre booked. Ongoing updates required.</i></p>	CAO	Pending
09 Feb 26	<p><b>Agenda Item 10.f Abmunis Call for Resolutions</b>  <i>Bring forward item for April 13 RCM following the spring caucus update on resolutions.</i></p>	CAO	Pending
23 Feb 26	<p><b>Agenda Item 5.a Bowden Historical Society</b>          Terms of reference to be developed</p>	CAO	Pending
23 Feb 26	<p><b>Agenda Item 9.a – Capital budget</b>  <i>Capital budget to be reviewed at March 9 RCM.</i></p>	CAO/CFO	Pending
23 Feb 26	<p><b>Agenda Item 11.a – ATCO Renewal</b>  <i>To be reviewed at March 9 RCM.</i></p>	CAO	Pending

# DRAFT Town of Bowden Municipal Scholarship

The **Town of Bowden Municipal Scholarship** supports graduates of Bowden Grandview School who are pursuing education or training related to municipal careers.

## Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be a graduating student from Bowden Grandview School
- Be accepted into or registered in post-secondary education, certification, or training related to municipal operations in the upcoming academic year.
- Demonstrate an interest in a future career that supports municipal services
- Complete a scholarship application through the Bowden Grandview School Awards Committee to be considered for the award.

## Eligible Fields of Study

Programs may include (but are not limited to):

### Operations & Technical Services

- Public works
- Water & wastewater operations
- Arena or recreation facility operations
- Parks, landscaping, or horticulture
- Commercial driver training

### Administration & Planning

- Business or accounting
- Office administration
- Local government administration
- Land use planning or municipal management

### Note:

- *Other related programs may be considered with approval from the Town of Bowden.*
- *The award will be given at the annual Bowden Grandview School Awards Night.*
- *Proof of registration/acceptance into related programming must be provided by the student.*

## Award Value

One scholarship of **\$500** will be awarded annually.

## **TOWN OF BOWDEN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Recognising that the path towards obtaining suitable training in municipal fields can be a financial challenge to many students, the Town of Bowden has established a municipal scholarship fund. Qualified students who are working towards a career specifically relating to any area in municipal operations can apply for this scholarship.

Available only to graduates of Bowden Grandview School, this scholarship is broken down into two areas of study. Qualified applicants entering studies in either administrative or non-administrative areas of municipal careers can obtain \$250.00 towards education course fees.

- A. Approved non-administrative fields of study are open to students who hold a General High School Diploma from Bowden Grandview School in the following areas of municipal operations: Public Works, Arena Operations and Parks/Sports field maintenance.

Applicants providing proof of registration in one of the following study areas will qualify to apply for the Town of Bowden Municipal Scholarship: Class 3 Driver training, Municipal Water & Wastewater Certification training, Alberta Arena Operator Level I or Level II training, Horticultural Certification or any other courses related to municipal operations as approved by the Town of Bowden Chief Administrative Officer.

- B. Approved administrative fields of study are open to students who hold an Advanced High School Diploma from Bowden Grandview School in the area of municipal Administration & Management.

Applicants providing proof of registration in one of the following study areas will qualify to apply for the Town of Bowden Municipal Scholarship: Business Accounting, Office Administration, Applied Land Use Planning, Local Government Administration or any other courses related to municipal operations as approved by the Town of Bowden Chief Administrative Officer.

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> 2026-03-09	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 6.b
<b>Prepared by:</b> Greg Skotheim	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b>

**6.b Key Dates** *(for information)*
**MARCH 2026**

<b>March 9</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting 7:00pm Council Chambers</b>
<b>March 11</b>	<b>Red Deer County Regional Forum – ICF – Red Deer County Office</b>
<b>March 23</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting 7:00pm Council Chambers</b>
<b>March 26</b>	<b>Special Evens Committee Meeting 6:30pm Council Chambers</b>
<b>March 26/27</b>	<b>ABmunis 2026 Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus, Edmonton Event Centre 9797 Jasper Ave., Edmonton</b>

**Recommended Motion:**
**Motion 6.b**

**Motion by Councillor** \_\_\_\_\_ **that Council accepts agenda item 6.b as information.**

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> March 9, 2026.	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 7.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> Jacqui Molyneux	<b>Approved by:</b> Greg Skotheim
<b>Report Type:</b> RFD	<b>Attachment(s):</b> 1. Borrowing Bylaw 01 / 2026

## **Borrowing Bylaw 01/2026**

### **7.a.i Background:**

The attached draft Borrowing Bylaw is submitted to Council as a Request for Decision.

This bylaw repeals Borrowing Bylaw 03/2025.

The Borrowing Bylaw satisfies section 251(1) and section 256(1) of the MGA covering the operating loan facility (line of credit) provided by ATB Financial.

Sections 251 & 256 of the MGA are reproduced (for information) below:

### ***Borrowing bylaw***

#### **251**

*(1) A municipality may only make a borrowing if the borrowing is authorized by a borrowing bylaw.*

*(2) A borrowing bylaw must set out*

*(a) the amount of money to be borrowed and, in general terms, the purpose for which the money is borrowed;*

*(b) the maximum rate of interest, expressed as a percentage, the term and the terms of repayment of the borrowing;*

*(c) the source or sources of money to be used to pay the principal and interest owing under the borrowing.*

*(3) A borrowing bylaw must be advertised.*

### ***Operating expenditures***

#### **256**

*(1) This section applies to a borrowing made for the purpose of financing operating expenditures.*

*(2) The amount to be borrowed, together with the unpaid principal of other borrowings made for the purpose of financing operating expenditures, must not exceed the amount the municipality estimates will be raised in taxes in the year the borrowing is made.*

*(3) A borrowing bylaw that authorizes the borrowing does not have to be advertised if the term of the borrowing does not exceed 3 years.*

### **7.a.ii Amendments**

i  
The amount of taxes estimated to be levied for the current year reflects the tax revenue amount as stated in the 2026 Operating Budget as approved in the SCM of January 21, 2026.

ii  
All dates have been changed from 2025 to 2026.

Note: The amount of the facility has changed from \$200,000.00 to \$400,000.00 and the interest rate remains unchanged at prime rate plus 1.00%.

### **7.a.iii Recommended Action:**

### Agenda Item 7.a Borrowing Bylaw 01/2026 (continued)

That Council:

- i. grants first reading to Borrowing Bylaw 01/2026 as presented,
- ii. grants second reading to Borrowing Bylaw 01/2026,
- iii. after second reading unanimously vote in favour of allowing a third reading,
- iv. adopt Borrowing Bylaw 01/2026.

#### 7.a.iv Proposed Motions:

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council give first reading to Borrowing Bylaw 01/2026.

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council give second reading to Borrowing Bylaw 01/2026.

Moved by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council unanimously give consideration to a third reading of Borrowing Bylaw 01/2026.

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council give third and final reading to Borrowing Bylaw 01/2026 and is adopted accordingly and made effective once duly signed.

#### 7.a.v Future Actions:

Upon adoption of the bylaw, Administration is to:

- publish a copy of the bylaw on the Towns' website,
- provide a copy of the bylaw to ATB Financial.



Town of Bowden  
 Box 338, 2101 20<sup>th</sup> Ave  
 Bowden, Alberta, T0M 0K0

---

## Town of Bowden – Province of Alberta BORROWING BYLAW 01 /2026

---

**Whereas** the Municipal Government Act, RSA2000, Chapter M-26 section 251 provides that a Municipality may only make a borrowing if the borrowing is authorized by a Borrowing Bylaw,

**And whereas**, the Municipal Government Act, RSA2000, Chapter M-26 sections 256(1), (2) & (3) provides that a Municipality may make a borrowing for the purpose of financing operating expenditures,

**And whereas**, the amount of taxes estimated to be levied for the year 2026 by the Town of Bowden for all purposes is estimated to be the sum of One Million, One Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty Three dollars, (\$1,125,753),

**And whereas**, the Municipal Council of the Town of Bowden deems it necessary to authorize the short-term borrowing for the sum of up to Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) to finance budgeted operating expenditures,

**And whereas**, the amount of borrowings made for the purpose of financing operating expenditures will not exceed the amount of taxes estimated to be levied for the year 2026 by the Town of Bowden,

**Now therefore**, the Municipal Council of the Town of Bowden hereby enacts as follows:

---

### 1 SHORT TITLE

This bylaw may be known as and cited as the "Borrowing Bylaw".

---

### 2 AGREEMENT

2.1 That the Municipal Council of the Town of Bowden borrow from ATB Financial up to the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) an "operating loan facility" to meet the operating expenditures and obligations of the Town of Bowden for the year 2026, and further agree to pay interest on the daily outstanding principal at "prime" lending rate plus 1.00% per annum, payable on the last day of each month.

2.2 That the Chief Elected Official and the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Bowden are authorized to:

- i. arrange with ATB Financial for the amount of a loan of \$400,000, and for the terms and conditions of the loan to be entered into agreement with ATB Financial,
- ii. as security for the loan, provide ATB Financial all such promissory notes as may be required to provide evidence of the debt,

- iii. as security for the loan, provide ATB Financial all such securities as may be required to provide to secure repayment of the loan and interest thereon,

2.3 The source of money to be used to repay the principal and interest owing under this borrowing agreement are reserves, and revenues received from the collection of property taxes.

2.4 The facility is payable in full, on demand, by the Lender.

2.5 The amount to be borrowed and the term of the loan will not exceed the requirements set out within the Municipal Government Act.

---

### 3 BYLAW PRECEDENCE

This Bylaw supersedes and takes precedence over all previously passed bylaws that are referred to as the Borrowing Bylaw.

Bylaw **02 / 2025** and all amendments thereto are hereby repealed.

This bylaw will come into effect on the final day of passing and signature thereof.

---

**Notes:**

1 All references in this bylaw to an act, statute, regulation, or other bylaw refer to the current version of that enactment, as amended or replaced from time to time including all successor legislation.

2 This bylaw does not have to be advertised as per section 256(3) of the MGA.

**Read a first time in open council this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026,**

**Read a second time in open council this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026,**

**and finally passed by unanimous consent of the Councillor's present.**

**Read a third time in open council this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.**

---

Laurie Miller  
Mayor

---

Greg Skotheim  
Chief Administrative Officer

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> March 9, 2026.	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 7.b
<b>Prepared by:</b> Jacqui Molyneux	<b>Approved by:</b> Greg Skotheim
<b>Report Type:</b> RFD	<b>Attachment(s):</b> 1 Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 02/2026

## 1 Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 02/2026

### 7.b Background:

The attached draft Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw is submitted to Council as a Request for Decision.

This bylaw repeals Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 03/2025.

The bylaw has been updated to reflect the decision of Council during passing of the 2026 Operating Budgeting in the Special Council Meeting of January 21, 2026.

### 7.b. ii Amendments

Revisions within this draft 2026 bylaw (highlighted in yellow) are as follows:

#### Schedule D – Utilities

The water consumption rate (per m<sup>3</sup>) has increased from \$3.33 to \$3.40.

The sanitary sewer usage fee has increased from \$3.42 to \$3.50.

## 1 Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 02/ 2026

### 7.a.v Alternative Motions:

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council give first reading to Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 02/2026.

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council give second reading to Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 02/ 2026.

Moved by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council unanimously give consideration to a third reading of Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 02/ 2026.

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council give third and final reading to Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 02/2026 and is adopted accordingly and made effective once duly signed.

or,

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council give first reading to Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 02/2026.

Moved by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council direct Administration to make amendments to Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 02/2026 as follows, \_\_\_\_\_

**7.a.vi Future Actions:**

1

Upon adoption of the bylaw, Administration to publish a copy of the bylaw on the Towns' website.

2

The revised utility rates will be applied to the utility billings (invoiced in April) if the bylaw receives three readings during this RCM.



Town of Bowden  
 Box 338, 2101 20<sup>th</sup> Ave  
 Bowden, Alberta, T0M 0K0

---

**Town of Bowden – Province of Alberta**  
**RATES, FEES, CHARGES, & PENALTIES BYLAW**  
**02 / 2026**

---

A Bylaw of the Town of Bowden, in the Province of Alberta, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, being Chapter M-26 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta,

**Whereas** the Municipal Government Act, RSA2000, Chapter M-26 Part 2 Bylaws, Section 7 provides that Council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting:

- i. the services provided by or on behalf of the municipality,
- ii. the enforcement of bylaws including fines & penalties.

**And whereas** the Municipal Government Act, RSA2000, Chapter M-26 Part 2 Bylaws, Section 8 provides that Council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting, including but not limited to:

- i. the provision of a system of licences, permits or approvals,
- ii. the establishment of taxes for the purpose of raising revenue,
- iii. the establishment of fees for persons or businesses who do not reside or maintain a place of business within the municipality,
- iv. intermunicipal licensing programs.

**And whereas** the Council of the Town of Bowden wishes to incorporate in one bylaw rates, fees, charges, levy's, fines, and penalties so as to facilitate a regular review, appraisal and public transparency of such rates, fees, charges, levy's fines, and penalties.

**Now therefore**, the Council of the Town of Bowden hereby enacts as follows:

---

**1 SHORT TITLE**

This bylaw may be known as and cited as the "Rates & Fees Bylaw".

---

**2 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this bylaw is to set rates, fees, charges, levies, fines, and penalties that will be charged for the services provided by the Town.

---

### 3 DEFINITIONS

In this bylaw (and the attached Schedules) the following definitions apply:

#### **Bylaw**

Means this bylaw and all other Town bylaws made pursuant to the authority of the MGA, and includes any regulation, enactment or policy made pursuant to the authority of this or any other Town bylaw.

#### **CAO (Chief Administrative Officer)**

Is the person appointed by the Council into the position of Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Bowden in accordance with the MGA and is the administrative head of the Municipality (and includes any person given designated responsibilities by the CAO).

#### **Council**

Means the duly elected Municipal Council of the Town of Bowden.

#### **Municipality**

Means the Town of Bowden, a municipal corporation within the Province of Alberta.

#### **MGA**

Means the Municipal Government Act, RSA2000, Chapter M-26, and any regulations made thereunder.

#### **Occupant**

A person (other than an owner) occupying or exercising control over, or having right to occupy or exercise control over, land or property or buildings (not owned by the Municipality) either as a tenant or lessee for the purpose of residential or commercial activity under agreement with the owner of the land or property or buildings.

#### **Owner**

Means a person who is one or more of the following:

- a) the registered / legal owner of the property,
- b) recorded as the owner of the property on the assessment roll of the Town,
- c) an authorized occupier of a property or premise,
- d) the person who has lawful possession of a property or premise,
- e) the person who has the right to exercise control over a property or premise,
- f) in control or development of a property or premises under construction.
- g) a person who is in control of an animal or vehicle or equipment

#### **Person**

Means any of the following:

- a) an individual (resident / non-resident or visitor),
- b) a legal entity or business entity, including a firm, developer, contractor, association, partnership, society, or corporation,
- c) a trustee, executor, administrator, agent, or employee of either a) or b),
- d) unless the context otherwise requires, this does not include the Town.

#### **Premise**

Means any of the following:

- a) private land
- b) any building or a structure (either occupied or unoccupied)
- c) both or part of a) & b)

In addition, any building or structure or any part of portion of a building or structure, including any land used in connection with that building or structure for the purposes of:

- a) providing parking for vehicles,
- b) displaying or storing vehicles, equipment or other articles or things,
- c) enhancing the appearance or use of the building or structure,
- d) carrying out activities that are ancillary to the activities carried in or on that building or structure.

### **Property**

Means any of the following:

- a) any public or private land,
- b) any building or structure (either residential or non-residential / occupied or unoccupied),
- c) a parcel of land as registered with Alberta Land Titles.
- d) both or part of a) & b),

situated within the Municipality.

### **Pursuant to**

Means to execute, carry out or investigate an activity in accordance with the requirements of a statute, ruling, policy, order, or request.

### **Reasonably Practicable**

Means fulfilling a legislative or practical obligation in a way that:

- a) is feasible given the circumstances and,
- b) would be considered appropriate by a reasonable person in similar circumstances.

### **Red Deer County**

Means the municipal corporation of Red Deer County in the Province of Alberta.

### **Remedial Order**

An order to remedy contraventions issued in accordance with section 545 of the MGA.

### **Resident**

Means a person who resides within a Town of Bowden address (postal code T0M 0K0), or an organization that is based within the Municipality, or any person, group or team as determined by the CAO as being a "resident" at the sole discretion of the CAO (on a case-by-case basis, without setting of any precedent).

### **Residential**

Means a premise where no commercial activity or business is carried out (unless authorized by permit through a Business Licence).

### **Specific Penalty**

Means an amount payable in respect of offences in accordance with this bylaw.

### **Town**

Means the municipal corporation of the Town of Bowden.

### **Words (interpretation)**

- i. "may" is to be interpreted as permissive (allowed but not obligatory, optional).
- ii. "must" is to be interpreted as imperative (obligatory, mandatory, required, unavoidable).
- iii. "shall" is to be interpreted as "must".
- iv. "should" is to be interpreted as a recommended (desirable, not required to conform).
- v. "including but not limited to" means when listing a number of items, does not limit the bylaw term to only those words or those items listed.

## **4 DESIGNATION OF AUTHORITY**

### **4.1 Authority of Council**

Council will set rates, fees, charges, levies, penalties, and fines as set out within this bylaw.

### **4.2 Authority of the CAO**

#### **4.2.1**

Council authorizes the CAO to conduct all actions necessary in order to fulfill the responsibilities and duties legislated under any statutory enactment, regulation, order, this bylaw, or any other Town bylaw.

#### **4.2.2**

Without limitation, the CAO is empowered to provide for:

- i. administering or enforcing the provisions of this bylaw,
- ii. facilitating the billing and collecting of fees & penalties,
- iii. granting licences, approvals and permissions as set out in this bylaw,
- iv. approving exemptions to this bylaw or waiving penalties where appropriate or necessary,
- v. imposing additional costs or penalties associated with the collection of unpaid rates, fees, charges, and fines,
- vi. the recovery of any unforeseen costs associated with the provision of Town services,
- vii. any action or decision deemed as being reasonably practicable.

#### **4.2.3**

The provisions within any section of this bylaw where relevant do not apply in cases where there is a temporary relaxation of any provision made by the CAO due to special circumstances or other special arrangements.

#### **4.2.4**

The CAO has the authority to make an exception to any rates, fees, or charges contained within this bylaw without precedent in response to abnormal circumstances or needs or situation at the time (eg: an emergency action).

#### **4.2.5**

The CAO has the authority to impose unspecified fines, or penalties without precedent, dependent upon the context, nature, and severity of a matter or the specific nature of a bylaw offence.

#### **4.2.6**

Where rates have not been established for a specific service within this bylaw, the CAO may establish and levy charges for services for other administrative / operational services provided by the Town.

#### **4.2.7**

##### **(i)**

The CAO may issue a written warning that:

- i. directs a person to take action to remedy any contravention of this bylaw,
- ii. states the action the Town will take to remedy the contravention.

##### **(ii)**

This may lead to the issue of:

- i. a written warning,
- ii. a specific penalty for contravention of a provision or for an offence as identified within this or any other Town bylaw,
- iii. an unspecified penalty of not less than \$50.00 up to a maximum of \$10,000.00 for any offence,
- iv. the issue of a remedial order to remedy the infraction (in accordance with Part 13, Division 4, Enforcement of Municipal Law of the MGA),
- v. civil proceedings through the courts,
- vi. any or all of i) to v) above.

**4.2.8**

The CAO may delegate powers to Designated Officers as deemed appropriate or necessary.

---

**5 LIABILITY & APPEAL****5.1**

No action for damages shall be taken against the Town or any Designated Officer acting under the authority of this bylaw or the enforcement of the provisions of this bylaw or any other statutory enactment or order.

**5.2**

Any penalty or order issued under this bylaw shall not affect or remove in full or part any liability for claims or damages that may arise under a civil action brought to a Court in relation to an offence committed under this bylaw or any other enactment.

**5.3 Right of Appeal**

Any person who considers themselves to be aggrieved by a decision of the CAO (or a Designated Officer of the Town) made under this bylaw may appeal the decision in accordance with the appeal procedures stated within Bylaw Enforcement Policy 05 / 2023.

---

**5 APPLICABILITY****5.1**

This bylaw applies to all persons, owners, occupants, residents, customers, and businesses within the Town of Bowden municipal boundaries.

**5.2**

General Sales Tax (GST) will be applied in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CRA) where applicable.

**5.3**

Nothing in this bylaw (either by inclusion or omission) exempts or relieves any person from:

- i. complying with the provision of any federal, provincial, enactment, code, or regulation,
- ii. any requirement of any lawful permit, order, or licence,
- iii. any fine, charge, fee or rate charge made by any other federal or provincial legislation or regulatory body.

**5.4**

The rates, fees, charges, levy's, fines and penalties stated within this bylaw may be enforced by the provisions contained within the Municipal Government Act (Part 13, Division, 4 Enforcement of Municipal Law), the Provincial Offences Procedures Act, R.S.A. 2000 C. P-24, or any other Provincial or Federal regulation where valid and enforceable.

**5.5**

Exceptions (either permanent or temporary) to any provision within this bylaw:

- i. can be made by the CAO, due to special circumstances, arrangements or need,
- ii. are as stated in this bylaw,
- iii. may apply to any Designated Officer or person acting under authority, or agreement or in the normal course of their official duties, for example: Peace Officers, RCMP, Fire Department.

**5.6**

All references in this bylaw to an act, statute, regulation, or other bylaw refer to the current version of that enactment, as amended or replaced from time to time including all successor legislation.

## 6 SEVERABILITY

Every provision of this bylaw is independent of all other provisions. If any provision of this bylaw is declared invalid for any reason by a Court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions of this bylaw shall remain valid and enforceable.

The addition or amendment of a rate, fee, charge, levy, order, fine or penalty in any section of this bylaw shall only affect that particular section of this bylaw and all other sections shall remain in full force and effect.

## 7 SCHEDULES

7.1 Schedules attached to this bylaw:

Schedule A	Business Licence
Schedule B	Recreation (Arena)
Schedule C	Planning / Development & Property Tax
Schedule D	Utilities
Schedule E	Cemetery
Schedule F	Animal Licensing
Schedule G	Bylaw Control & Enforcement Penalties

### 7.2

All schedules attached to this bylaw form part of this bylaw.

## 8 BYLAW PRECEDENCE

This bylaw (and the attached schedules) supersedes and takes precedence over all previously passed bylaws that make reference to, or include specific fees, charges, rates, levies, fines or penalties.

Bylaw **03/2025** and all amendments thereto are hereby repealed.

This bylaw will come into effect on the final day of passing and signature thereof.

**Read a first time in open council this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026,**

**Read a second time in open council this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026,**

**and finally passed by majority consent of the Councillor's present.**

**Read a third time in open council this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laurie Miller  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Skotheim  
Chief Administrative Officer

## SCHEDULE A Business Licence

Service Description	Unit of Measure	\$ (GST included)
<b>Licence Fee</b>		
Business Licence - resident	Per calendar year	\$25.00
Business Licence - non-resident	Per calendar year	\$100.00
Business Licence - resident (after Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> )	Per month pro rata	\$5.00
Business Licence - non-resident (after Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> )	Per month pro rata	\$10.00
Business Licence - resident (temporary) ❶	Per licence	\$25.00
Business Licence - non-resident (temporary) ❶	Per licence	\$50.00
<b>Penalties</b>		
		(no GST)
Breach of Business Licence Bylaw	Per occurrence	\$250
Breach of Business Licence Bylaw	Repeat offence(s)	\$500

### Notes

❶ A temporary Business Licence is valid for a period of two weeks only.

## SCHEDULE B Recreation (Arena)

Service Description	Unit of Measure	\$ (plus GST)
<b>Winter Ice Rental Rates</b> ❶	<i>Minimum time charged 1 hour</i>	
<b>Prime time (4:00pm until closing &amp; weekends)</b>	<i>Additional time charged per ½ hour</i>	
Resident (youth team or group)	Per hour	\$99.00
Non-Resident (youth team or group)	Per hour	\$150.00
Resident (adult)	Per hour	\$154.00
Non-Resident (adult)	Per hour	\$185.00
<b>Non-Prime time</b>	<i>additional time charged per ½ hour</i>	
Youth	Per hour	\$93.50
Adult	Per hour	\$121.00
Bowden School	Per student per rental time slot	\$1.16
Upstairs lobby	Per event / booking	\$27.50
<b>Arena – Summer Rental Rates</b>		
Youth	Per hour	\$71.50
Adult	Per hour	\$93.50
Resident "non profit"	Per day	\$419.27
Resident "commercial event"	Per day	\$489.10
Non-Resident "commercial event"	Per day	\$628.90

### Notes

- ❶ An interest penalty of 2% per month will be levied on all outstanding balances.

## SCHEDULE C Planning / Development & Property Tax

Service Description	Unit of Measure	\$ (GST not included)
<b>Property Tax</b>		
Tax Certificate	Per roll number	\$25.00
Assessment Appeal Submission Fee	Per appeal	\$50.00
<b>Tax Penalties (section 344 MGA applies)</b>		
Current Year (as per Taxation & Property Assessment Notice)	Payment in full by June 30 <sup>th</sup> (or by Tax "TIPPS" program)	No penalty
Current Year (as per Taxation & Property Assessment Notice)	Later than June 30 <sup>th</sup> deadline	12% ❶
Tax Arrears	All outstanding balances	15% ❷
<b>Appeal of Property Assessment</b>		
	Residential	\$50.00
	Commercial	\$300.00
General Administration Fee	Per hour	\$25.00
Landowner Assessment Record / Tax Searches		\$20.00
<b>Land Use Bylaw</b>		
Off Site Levy	Residential (per Hectare)	\$15000
	Commercial (per Hectare)	\$15000
	Industrial (per Hectare)	\$15000
<b>Land Use Planning &amp; Development</b>		
Planning & Development Service Fees	<i>rates determined by Red Deer County ❸</i>	
Real Property Report Compliance	Per Roll number	\$100.00
<b>Land Use Bylaw</b>		
Penalties for specified offences under the Land Use Bylaw	First Offence	Written Warning
	Second Offence	\$250.00
	Third Offence	\$500.00
	Fourth Offence	\$1000.00
Penalties for unspecified offences under the Land Use Bylaw	Not less than	\$250.00
	Not more than	\$10000.00

### Notes

- ❶ Tax payment must be made in full by June 30<sup>th</sup>. A penalty of 12% will be levied on the amount of any remaining balance.
- ❷ Current year taxes and penalties (combined) that remain unpaid by December 31<sup>st</sup> within any tax year become "tax arrears" and are subject to a further tax penalty of 15% effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. Property Owners who default on payments under the monthly Tax Payment Program (TIPPS) will incur tax penalties as set out in ❶ above and ❷.
- ❸ Red Deer County is the approved Development Authority under a Municipal Services Agreement between the Town of Bowden and Red Deer County. Please refer to the Planning & Development page of the Red Deer County web site.

<http://www.rdcountry.ca/170/Planning-Development>

## SCHEDULE D Utilities

Specific Services & Penalties	Unit of Measure	\$ (GST Included)
<b>Water Supply &amp; Services</b>		
Water meters & radio readers	Per meter / radio reader	Cost (plus 10%)
Meter inspection & testing (refunded only if meter is faulty)	Deposit	\$400.00
Utility connection fee (new account set up)	Per occurrence	\$50.00
Utility reconnection fee	Per occurrence (plus cost)	\$55.00
Tampering with or operating utility shut-off valve	Per occurrence	\$300.00
Penalty for utility account arrears	all outstanding balances	Monthly 2%
Service charge per account per month	Monthly	\$15.00
Water consumption	Actual per cubic meter (1m <sup>3</sup> )	\$3.40
Bulk Water	Actual per cubic meter (1m <sup>3</sup> )	\$7.00
<b>Sanitary Sewer (wastewater)</b>		
Service charge per account per month	Monthly	\$15.00
Usage fee (calculated pro rata on metered water)	Per cubic meter (1m <sup>3</sup> )	\$3.50
Flat rate fee per business <sup>①</sup> (where applicable)	Monthly	\$50.00
<b>Garbage &amp; Recycling</b>		
Solid Waste Cart Collection <sup>②</sup> (max 3 carts per property)	Monthly per cart	\$11.00
Recycling Cart Collection <sup>②</sup> (max 3 carts per property)	Monthly per cart	\$11.00
Cart replacement	Per cart	Cost (plus 10%)

### Notes

- ① A Flat rate fee will be levied on commercial businesses, to cover wastewater charges, where no water meter is connected but sanitary sewer service is provided.
- ② Residential participation is mandatory – commercial participation is optional.

## SCHEDULE E Cemetery

Service Description	Unit of Measure	\$
<b>Sale of Plots</b>		(plus GST)
Resident		
Grave Plot	Per plot	\$330.00
Field of Honour	Per plot	\$165.00
Non-Resident <sup>①</sup>		
Grave Plot	Per plot	\$1100.00
Field of Honour	Per plot	\$165.00
<b>Preparation of Plots</b>		
Monday to Friday 8.00am to 3.30pm		
Open & Closure of burial plot (casket)	Per plot	\$660.00
Open & Closure of burial plot (cremains)	Per plot	\$275.00
After 3.30pm on weekdays, weekends, Stat Holiday <sup>②</sup>		
Open & Closure of burial plot (casket)	Per plot	\$825.00
Open & Closure of burial plot (cremains)	Per plot	\$385.00
<b>Vaults (for cremains)</b>	Per unit	\$165.00 (no GST)
<b>Columbarium</b>		(plus GST)
Niche (Resident) <span style="color: red;">(includes first opening &amp; plaque installation)</span>	Per unit	\$990.00
Niche (Non Resident) <span style="color: red;">(includes first opening &amp; plaque installation)</span>	Per unit	\$1540.00
Niche (Veteran or Veteran's spouse) <span style="color: red;">(includes first opening &amp; plaque installation)</span>	Per unit	\$495.00
Second & subsequent opening <span style="color: red;">(Mon to Fri 8.00am to 3.30pm)</span>	Per opening	\$110.00
Second & subsequent opening <span style="color: red;">(after normal working hours)</span>	Per opening	\$165.00
Memory Wall or Niche Plaques <span style="color: red;">(rates as per Nelson Granite)</span>	Per plaque	variable
Installation of Memory Wall Plaques	Per installation	\$57.75
<b>Disinterment</b> <span style="color: red;">(by agreement with CAO)</span>		variable

### Notes

① Non-Resident is defined as an individual who has never resided in either the Town of Bowden or Red Deer County.

② Where a lot is either opened or closed (in part) after 3.30pm or at a weekend or on a statutory holiday or when hard frost conditions persist then the higher rate applies.

## SCHEDULE F Animal Licencing

Specific Fees	Unit of Measure	\$ (GST included)
<b>Licence Fee</b>		
<b>Licence purchased after Jan 1 prior to Jul 31, 2025</b>		
Spayed or neutered dog	7 months / or part of	\$30.00
Unaltered dog	7 months / or part of	\$40.00
Vicious or dangerous dog ❶ (subject to Court Order)	7 months / or part of	\$300.00
<b>Licence purchased Aug 1 to Nov 30, 2025</b>		
Spayed or neutered dog	4 months / or part of	\$15.00
Unaltered dog	4 months / or part of	\$20.00
Vicious or dangerous dog ❶ (subject to Court Order)	4 months / or part of	\$300.00
<b>Licence purchased during month December 2025</b>		
Spayed or neutered dog	Annually per calendar year	No Fee
Unaltered dog	Annually per calendar year	No Fee
Vicious or dangerous dog ❶ (subject to Court Order)	Annually per calendar year	\$300.00
<b>Licence purchased January 1, 2026 and thereafter</b>		
Spayed or neutered dog	Annually per calendar year	\$30.00
Unaltered dog	Annually per calendar year	\$40.00
Vicious or dangerous dog ❶ (subject to Court Order)	Annually per calendar year	\$300.00
<b>Other Fees</b>		
Hobby Licence (purchased anytime)		\$100.00
Service or guide dog (Owner has Service Dog Identification Card)		No Fee
Replacement tag	Per request	\$5.00
Impoundment and capture fees	Cost recovery basis	variable
Veterinary fees	As incurred	cost

### Notes

- ❶ As defined and subject to the provisions contained within the Town of Bowden Animal Control Bylaw.

## **SCHEDULE G Bylaw Control & Enforcement Penalties**

### **G1**

Reference should be made to all Town of Bowden bylaws for any other applicable rates, fees, and charges that are not specifically contained within this bylaw.

### **G2**

Reference should be made to all Town of Bowden bylaws for any other fines or penalties that are not specifically contained within this bylaw, but which are associated specifically with the contravention of a provision within that bylaw.

### **G3**

Reference should be made to the provisions set out in this bylaw specifically in terms 4.2.4, 4.2.5, and 4.2.6 with regard to ad-hoc, exceptional or additional rates, fees, charges, levies, fines, or bylaw control or enforcement penalties.

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> 2026-03-09	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 9.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> Greg Skotheim	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor
<b>Report Type:</b> RFD	<b>Attachment(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft 2 – 2026 Capital Budget</li> <li>- Capital Budget Overview</li> </ul>

Administration provides Council with the second draft (overview) of the 2026 Capital Budget for review.

### Suggested Motion

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council instructs Administration to amend the draft 2026 Capital Budget and include this update as an agenda item at the Regular Council Meeting on \_\_\_\_\_ for the purpose of discussion and review.

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council approves the 2026 Capital budget as presented / as amended.

Carried Unanimously

<b>2026 CAPITAL BUDGET</b>			
<b>Capital Revenue</b>	<b>CCBF</b>	<b>MSI</b>	<b>LGFF</b>
2025 FUNDING CARRIED FORWARD	548,077.00	228,809.00	253,384.00
2026 ALLOCATIONS	127,743 EST	0	400,010.00
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>675,820.00</b>	<b>228,809.00</b>	<b>653,394.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ALL GRANTS</b>	<b>1,558,023.00</b>		
<b>Capital Projects</b>			
		<b>Expenditure</b>	
FCSS ROOF REPAIR		10,000.00	MSI
FIRE HALL UPGRADES		50,000.00	MSI
PUBLIC WORKS GATE		20,000.00	MSI
ADMIN ROOF REPAIRS		5,000.00	MSI
CONCRETE SWALES (18,360.00 + 10% CONTIGENCY)		78,000.00	MSI
WESTVIEW DRIVE OVERLAY (ASHPAULT REPAIRS)		69,700.00	LGFF
ARENA WATER PIPE ISSUE		20,000.00	MSI
TRAILER REPLACEMENT (LESS \$3,000.00 INS)		21,000.00	MSI
STREET LIGHT PLUGINS FOR XMAS DECORATIONS		6,500.00	MSI
ARENA ROOF STRUCTURE (2025 ONGOING)		17,598.00	MSI ALREADY APPROVED
SEWER LINING		150,000.00	MSI/LGFF
EQUIPMENT UPGRADES FOR ALL BUILDINGS SEE NOTES BELOW FOR EXPLANATION		13,000.00	MSI/LGFF
<b>Totals</b>		<b>460,798.00</b>	

SEWER LINING WE SHOULD CARRY ON WITH THIS PROPOSING WE USE AT LEAST \$150,000.00 LGFF MSI FUND THEN WOULD BE EXHAUSTED AND NO CARRY FORWARD FROM THIS.  
 ARENA BILLING IN JANUARY JUST CAME IN WITH THE AMOUNT OF \$17,598.00  
 SEWER LINING WOULD BE \$7,211.00 ON MSI THE REST ON LGFF.

EQUIPMENT UPGRADES ARE TO REPLACE OUTDATED SWITCHES/SECURITY EQUIPMENT IN THE OFFICE AND ADD THESE TO PUBLIC WORKS/ARENA/FCSS OFFICE TO MAKE SECURE INTERNET ACCESS. THIS WILL ALSO HELP WITH THE WIFI IN THE BUILDINGS THAT ARE HAVING ISSUES WITH SIGNAL AS WELL. QUOTE IS FOR \$11,768.40 BUT I HAVE ADDED EXTRA IN CASE MORE EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED OR ISSUES ARE FOUND. THE EQUIPMENT WE CURRENTLY HAVE AT THE OFFICE IS MORE THAN 20 YEARS OLD AND NEEDS UPDATING TO CURRENT EQUIPMENT.

## Capital budget overview

### FCSS Roof Repairs

This is what was removed from the operating budget to help get to a balanced budget. The roof soffit is showing significant signs of deterioration, and the wood is now starting to rot and the roof needs some repairs and replace the soffit. We would also install eavestrough to stop this damage from happening. We will be getting Cooper roofing in when the snow is gone to give an estimate as well as a eavestrough quote.

### Fire Hall Upgrades

With the help of Red Deer County Fire we will be finishing up the repairs from the ceiling collapse as the meeting room needs to be repaired. There is a sheet with the breakdown of what Red Deer Fire will be paying for an our cost for the upgrades and repairs. Red Deer County has passed the work that they will be responsible for.

### Public Works Gate

Q&Q fencing installed the fence and gate, and Public Works got a quote from them as they are aware of the gate size etc. Adding an automatic gate will make opening a closing the gate in the winter much easier as this is a large drive through gate and in winter it becomes hard to open and close and takes two people to do so. This will also add more security to the fenced compound and stop thieves from entering the premises. We also have contractors throughout the season that store equipment at the yard, and this would allow us to give a temporary code so they could enter on their own and not have our on call person come out to give access to the compound.

### Admin Roof Repairs

We have had a quote from Cooper roofing to replace the roof at our admin building which is coming to the end of its life cycle. This quote came in at 57,750.00 which we do not have the funds to do this right now so he has suggested that we do some repairs to extend the use for another 3-5 years which would be more feasible to do a complete repair in 3 years and this was suggested at around 5000.00. I have included the original quote for full roof repairs. They will come in the spring to give an exact quote on the patching instead of a full repair.

### Concrete Swales

This is a continuation of work that needs to be continued to have water draining off streets, so it does not go into our sewer system and stops more of the infiltration that

has been happening to get our sewer cost down. Quotes have been received from Olds Concrete for the cement work and asphalt repairs as well.

#### Westview Drive Overlay

This is the portion of road coming off of Westview Crescent down the hill the asphalt is spider webbing badly enough that patching will no longer fix the problem areas.

#### Arena water freezing issue

This was removed from the operating budget and needs to be addressed as every year we get a cold snap and the water pipes in the dressing rooms freeze. We are waiting on a quote from Bloomer's plumbing and heating.

#### Trailer Replacement

We need to replace our trailer that was stolen earlier this year. The trailer that was stolen was not big enough to haul our bobcat which needs to be walked out to the cemetery with 587 getting busier this can be a hazard as we have had one incident with our grader. The trailer quote that is in the capital package is what is needed to haul the bobcat and the lawnmowers to the cemetery and does not have ramps as this is a tilt deck which is much more safer for loading and unloading.

#### Street light plugins

Adding plugins to the street light further up the road towards QEII so we can have more Christmas decorations hung and will be seen when entering the town from the highway. Makes our town look more inviting and show our Christmas spirit.

#### Arena Roof

This is a carry over from 2025 and billing on this was not done as of December 31, 2025 and we still have money in what was allocated under the MSI program.

#### Sewer Lining

This project is a continuation from previous years and will continue until we have all our sewer pipes relined as needed from the camera that was done previously. Cao has contacted ISL to see what the next priority of this should be done. I have allocated 150,000.00 for the 2026 capital budget. With every meter of relining that is done this helps reduce our sewer costs going out and also helps reduce our operating budget for sanitary sewer.

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> 2026-03-09	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 10.a to 10.c
<b>Prepared by:</b> Laurie Miller	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor Laurie Miller
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b> As per content listing

### Agenda item 10

#### Content:

- 10.a** Red Deer County  
- February 2026 Enforcement Contract
- 10.b** Red Deer Environmental 360 Solutions  
- Community Engagement opportunities and school curriculum
- 10.c** Blain Calkins, MP – Ponoka/Disbury  
- email: request for letter to Save Our Research Station (Lacombe)

#### Suggested Motion(s)

##### **Motion 10**

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

**AND/OR**

##### **Motion 10**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council accepts agenda items 10a. to 10.\_\_\_\_ & 10.\_\_\_\_ as information.

##### **Motion 10.b**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ with respect to the Environmental 360 Solutions Ltd. community engagement email.

##### **Motion 10.c**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ with respect to MP Calkins request for a letter to committee regarding the Lacombe Research Station.



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

March 2, 2026

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

Sent Via Email to: [cfo@bowden.ca](mailto:cfo@bowden.ca)

Attention: Chief Administrative Officer

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Re: February 2026 Enforcement Contract**

Please be advised for the month of January, Red Deer County Patrol Officers spent 10 hours and 15 minutes in the Town of Bowden, along with an additional 1 hour and 30 minutes related to a Bowden violation set for trial, for a total time of 11 hours and 45 minutes.

Two tickets were issued during patrols conducted between 0600-2100:

- Unregistered Motor Vehicle x 2

There were no occurrences generated during the month of February.

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 light blue horizontal line.

Irv Heide  
Patrol Manager  
Red Deer County, Protective Services

**Mayor**

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**From:** Jacqui Molyneux  
**Sent:** March 3, 2026 9:12 AM  
**To:** Mayor  
**Subject:** FW: Community Engagement

Laurie

Just going through emails and thought this maybe of interest for council for the parade and pancake breakfast to get them involved in our community.

*Jacqui Molyneux*  
*CFO*  
*Phone 403-224-3395*  
*Fax 403-224-2244*

**B&W DEN**

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**From:** Hailey Parkin <hparkin@e360s.ca>  
**Sent:** February 13, 2026 10:24 AM  
**Subject:** Community Engagement

Good morning,

My name is Hailey Parkin, and I serve as the Community Engagement Coordinator for Red Deer Environmental 360 Solutions. I am reaching out to introduce myself and to explore opportunities for increased community involvement.

We are eager to participate more actively in local initiatives, including parades, trade shows, school presentations, and other community events. If your community has any upcoming events where representation from our organization would be welcomed, I would appreciate the opportunity to review the details as we begin planning our 2026 engagement schedule.

Additionally, I have developed a presentation designed to complement the Grade 4 *Waste in Our World* curriculum. This program focuses on responsible waste management practices and highlights the role Environmental 360 Solutions plays in maintaining a cleaner environment. I hold a Bachelor of Education degree and have thoughtfully designed this lesson to align with curriculum outcomes while providing students with practical, real-world insights. I have also toured recycling and waste

management facilities to further strengthen my knowledge and enhance the accuracy and depth of my instruction. I would be pleased to bring this presentation to schools should there be interest.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to connecting and exploring ways we can support your community initiatives.

[Hailey Parkin](#) | Municipal and EPR Coordinator

**Environmental 360 Solutions Ltd.**

8339 Chiles Ind, Avenue, Red Deer, AB T4P 1H2

T. 1.403.341.9300 | C.1.587.217.1975 | [hparkin@e360s.ca](mailto:hparkin@e360s.ca) | [www.e360s.ca](http://www.e360s.ca)

**Mayor**

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**From:** Calkins, Blaine - M.P. <blaine.calkins@parl.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** February 26, 2026 12:18 PM  
**To:** Mayor  
**Subject:** MP Calkins Request: S.O.S. - Save Our Research Station

Good Day,

Our fight to keep the Lacombe Research Station, as well as others across the country, is in **full swing**. We are requesting from our Municipal partners, a letter directed to the committee, with your concerns about the closure. This letter would be entered into 'evidence'.

Please send your letter to the following:

Members of the Committee  
 Attn: Wassim Bouanani  
 Clerk of the committee  
 Tel.: 613-947-6732  
 E-mail: [AGRI@parl.gc.ca](mailto:AGRI@parl.gc.ca)  
 Website: [ourcommons.ca/AGRI-e](http://ourcommons.ca/AGRI-e)

You can find MP Calkins testimony from February 24, 2026 here:

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DVOhwdjYh2/?igsh=YW5qODhvcW9vNnM3>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1CGmJi7mM2/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

X: <https://x.com/blainefcalkins/status/2027051779494424632?s=46>

Kindest Regards,



**Angie Stroud**  
*Constituency Assistant*  
 Office of Blaine Calkins, MP | Ponoka - Didsbury  
 Shadow Cabinet Minister for Hunting, Fishing and  
 Conservation  
 Office: (587) 621-0020  
 E-mail: [Blaine.calkins.o1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Blaine.calkins.o1@parl.gc.ca)



<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> 2026-03-09	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 11.b / 11.c
<b>Prepared by:</b> Laurie Miller	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b> As per content

### Agenda Item 11.b / 11.c

#### Content:

#### 11.b Council Committee Reports

None submitted

#### 11.c Other Bodies and Organizations

- i. Bowden Friendship Club
  - Minutes – 2025-11-20
  - Mayor's Report – 2026-02-19
  - Minutes – 2026-02-19
- ii. Alberta Counsel
  - The News, Issue 242 February 2026
- iii. Bowden Historical Society
  - Counsellor Report – 2026-02-24
- iv. Library Board
  - Counsellor Report – 2026-02-26
- v. ABmunis Webinar – Policing Costs
  - Counsellor Report – 2026-02-06
- vi. Chinook's Edge
  - Board Highlights – 2026-02-24
  - Board Update – 2026-02-25
- vii. Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission (MVRWSC)
  - Minutes – 2026-02-1

#### 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.

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> March 09 2026	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 11.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> Greg Skotheim	<b>Approved by:</b>
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b>

## CAO's Report

### 1 Snow Removal

Our PW team and contracted services did snow removal on February 23 – 25 and then again on March 2 -4 completing most of the Town. We did have some complaints about vehicles not moving but generally things went smooth.

### 2 Public Works

Public Works noticed higher water volumes the first week of March which may indicate a water break. We have not located the problem at this time and are going through our regular procedures to locate the leak.

### 3 Capital Budget

Working with the CFO, Public Works and other staff regarding the 2026 Capital Budget. We do have funds available through the MSI and LGFF to complete some asphalt repairs, sidewalks, facility repairs and sewer lining projects. Staff have brought forward recommendations regarding facilities and improvements.

### 4 ATCO Franchise Renewal

Jacqui and I met with Kyla Belich, Senior Manager with ATCO Gas and Pipelines on February 24<sup>th</sup> 2026. Our 10-year agreement expires at the end of April 2026, but according to her we have plenty of time to complete the renewal process. The renewal process involves 18 steps but most of the work involves ATCO Gas. Kyla has some options for generating extra revenue and setting franchise fees. Administration will bring information forward at our March 23<sup>rd</sup> RCM.

### 5 Solar Energy

I am in the process of getting information for Council on Solar Panels for the Town of Bowden. I have contacted two companies that have experience with Municipalities. We have provided access for them to work with Fortis including our power bills. There may be limited grant funding also.

### 6 Real Property Reports

The Town of Bowden is now doing RPR Compliance letters for residents. This planning work is generally straight forward, and this was one concern Red Deer County had as it involves a planner coming to Bowden. RDC will assist us with difficult letters if they arise. The Town will charge \$100.00 for each letter.

### Ongoing Tasks

An update on the ongoing task is provided below:

- i. ARO (Asset Retirement Obligation) through ISL Eng. and BDO Canada Liability issues with AC water pipe and hazardous materials in buildings. **WIP Document to be finalized.**
- ii. CAO Executive search
- iii. Auditors on site March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Recommended Motion:

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council accepts the CAO's report as information.

## BOWDEN FRIENDSHIP CENTER

### Thursday Nov. 20, 2025

Attendance: Laurie Miller, Charlie Brittain, Grant Johnson, Pauline Parlee, Carol Christianson, Ashley Willert, Sandra Wilcox, Dan Northcott, Karilynn Marshall, Glen Fox, Katie Imler, Cam Morrison, Paul Webb

**Call the Meeting to Order:** Karilynn Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:00

**Approval of the Agenda:** Ashley and seconded by Glen

- a) Items to add: Charlie has a few items to add in his report
- b) Laurie has some discussions about the town using the hall and some insurance

**Minutes from the Last Meeting:**

- a) Read by: Katie
- b) Any Errors or Omissions:
- c) Minutes approved by: Glen
- d) Seconded by: Ashley

**Treasurer's Report** by: Carol Christenson

Current Bank Balance:

- a) General Account \$ 42338.57
- b) Casino Account \$14460.49
- c) GIC Investments: \$42924.00
- d) Refunds on Damage Deposits - \$100
- e) Treasurer's Report
  - a. Approved by Charlie
  - b. Seconded by Glen
  - c. All in favor. Carried

Old Business:

1. By-Laws:
  - a. By-law changes brought back in June so that a group would not be able to come in and vote on an issue without being a long-term member in good standing.
  - b. We need to define a member is active by attending a minimum of 3 meetings/events/activities per year. Laurie is going to work on this and have a meeting with her sub-committee before the next meeting.
2. Ukrainian Supper Results:
  - a. Expenses \$1,066.39

- b. Income \$3290.00
  - c. Profit \$2,223.61
  - d. Thank You to everyone who volunteered and helped with the supper.
3. Basement door update from Grant:
- a. Grant had the fire guy come out from Red Deer and we do not need to do anything to the door. We need to replace the exit signs and they are \$70 each. Fix the door on the west side because it is sticking a bit. Unless we are getting 100+ people in the basement then we don't need to change it. But we would like accessibility from the outside so that if someone wants to rent the basement, they can have access? Maybe we just need to change the handle if we don't have a key for it.
4. Garbage Bin – Update from Paul Webb
- a. Garbage bin was replaced
5. Jam Sessions – Charlie
- a. First jam was \$95 and the second was \$85. The first one was \$40 and the second was \$130 were the 50/50 winnings. It would be nice if a couple board members could come help. Nov 30 and Dec 7
6. Newsletter- Thankful for the space and going well. There is a page on the town of Bowden website for the friendship center as well
7. Town Rep: Laurie is first and Cam is second

#### New Business:

1. Committee Reports
- a. Kitchen & Supplies: Sandy Wilcox
    - i. Everything is topped up
  - b. Building & Maintenance: Grant Johnson
    - i. Covered above
  - c. Rental Agent: Charlie
    - i. Rentals. A Christmas Market on December 12. Rental Rate would have been \$250 but we gave her a discount to \$125 + damage deposit. Donna Nickerson is putting it on. Have a food bank table and it will be donated to the town.
    - ii. Does the firehall get a discount on their Christmas Party? Dec 19. No discount and move ahead with the regular rental rate but maybe throw the kitchen in for free.

- d. Promotions: Karilynn
  - i. November newsletter has been posted on the web page and on the Town of Bowden website. Keeping the newsletter up to date. Planning to do a paint night here
- e. Alberta Gaming: Ashley
  - i. They need nothing until Feb. Casino is April 5 and 6. We will need 18 shifts covered.
- f. Phone Committee: Laurie
  - i. Laurie is stepping down from the phone committee. Called everyone on Sept 15. Charlie will ask Sam if she is available
- g. Town of Bowden Rep.: Laurie
  - i. Nothing to report
- h. Emergency Room Rep: Don
  - i. Don and Richard (Parkland) no report

## 2. Members Turkey Supper

- a. Cater: Complete Catering – Joleen \$25.00/person
- b. Tickets: Karilynn has printed and they are available. Numbers need to be decided by December 2.
- c. Bingo will be played after supper.

## Additions to the Agenda:

1. Does the town have to pay for hall rentals? The \$3000 from the town is a grant. It is not tied to the emergency center and is just a grant for the expenses.
  - a. Discussion: The town does quite a bit for the hall as far as mowing the lawn, etc.
  - b. The Bowden town reps (Cam and Laurie) declared a conflict and were not present for the discussion and the vote.
- c. The group had further discussion and it was decided that the town will have six free rentals a year. Thank you to the Town of Bowden for your partnership. The group was 100% all in favor.
2. Insurance- Laurie brought some information about insurance for non-profits and see if it is cheaper than what we are paying. It was decided to leave our insurance as is.
3. Richard Sybblis is going to be the new rep from Parkland.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Feb . 19 7:00

Motion to Adjourn by: Karilynn at 8:24      Seconded by: Ashley

**Meeting**  
**Bowden Friendship Club**  
**Thursday, February 19, 2026**

**Discussions:**

**By-law amendment:** Laurie presented the information (draft resolution and notification) for by-law amendment at the AGM regarding member voting eligibility. Notification must go to the membership by Feb. 21.

**Maintenance:** Exit signs replaced, west exit door requires repair as per fire inspection; faucet in kitchen and ladies bathroom requires repair, replacement. Door lock on south door to be changed.

**50/50 draws:** Karilynn to review policies and requirements for raffles.

**Rentals:** A review of rentals was given. Discussion regarding confirmation of bookings.

**Grants:** an application for a Community Initiatives Grant was declined.

**Casino:** casino confirmed for April 5/6 (Easter Sunday/Monday). Paperwork to be filed this week to secure the dates. Volunteers required to work three shifts:

- Afternoon: 1-8pm (4 volunteers per day)
- Evening: 7:30pm – 2am (4 volunteers per day)
- Closing: 11pm – 2am (2 volunteers per day).

**Emergency Room:** update given on the supplies purchased for the room as per DEM recommendations. Laurie to confirm with town what keys are in their possession and where they are located. Keys will be updated to provide access via the south basement door when the door lock is changed.

**Activities:** The paint night was enjoyed by participants. Music jams have been successful and will continue at least through March (1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>).

**BBQ/AGM:** Sunoco will sponsor the meal again this year. Board members to bring desserts and be at the hall by 5:30 for set up.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Prepared by:  
Laurie Miller, Mayor

## BOWDEN FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

### Feb. 19. 2026 Minutes

**Attendance:** Ashley Willert, Charlie Brittain, Mayor Laurie Miller, Carol Christenson, Katie Imler, Grant Johnston, Don Peterson, Pauline Parlee, Brad Urichuk, Sandra Wilcox, Karilynn Marshall.

**Call the Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Karilynn Marshall

**Approval of the Agenda:** Add the approval of the Co-op Invoices.

- a. The agenda was approved by Laurie

**Minutes from the Last Meeting:**

- b. Katie read the minutes from the last meeting with the amended minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- a. General Account: \$45,980.90
- b. Casino Account: \$9,794.44
- c. GIC Investments: \$43,897.28
- d. The motion to approve Carol's report by Don
- e. Second by Charlie

**Correspondence:**

- a. Popovich theater brochure
- b. Letter regarding the grant covered in item 3 of Old Business

**Old Business:**

1. Following the Christmas Dinner
  - a. Attendance: 47 people
  - b. Income: \$1,175
  - c. Expenses: \$1,283
  - d. Karilynn mentioned that this is an event for the members and was a great evening which included bingo games and door prizes.
  
2. By-Laws Revision: Laurie has helped edit the membership voting privileges which will be brought to the AGM and voted on by the members.
  - a. Bylaw discussion for voting privileges to proceed with a resolution at the AGM
    - i. Discussion: Review of the handout regarding the motion
    - ii. Karilynn will send the by-laws recommendations of change to all of the 2026 members, and they are included at the end of these minutes

3. Grant Application: Community Initiatives Program Grant application:
  - a. Karilynn had Filed out the 20+ page application for the Community Initiatives Program Grant last September 2025 and we received the email Feb. 16 declining our application.

#### **New Business:**

1. Committee Reports
  - a. Kitchen & Supplies:
    - i. Sandy submitted a supplies checklist
    - ii. She mentioned that all garbage cans should have Garbage bags in the garbage cans
    - iii. She also continues to take the garbage bins to the curb every week, and keeps the kitchen stocked with coffee and necessary items.
  - b. Building & Maintenance:
    - i. Grant has replaced all the emergency exit lights in the building.
    - ii. Basement Door Update: A Motion was made for the approval for Grant to purchase the necessary items for the basement door in "additions to the agenda".
    - iii. Sandy mentioned that the lady's bathroom need to be fixed as they spray randomly when the water is used.
    - iv. Charlie mentioned the North kitchen sink taps need attention as well.
  - c. Rental Agent:
    - i. Charlie reported on the upcoming rentals
    - ii. The next music jams are March 1, 15, 29
    - iii. The AGM is booked for March 19
    - iv. A mention about keeping a log of the rentals for the entire year, so that we have a list already recorded for the year end.
  - d. Alberta Gaming:
    - i. Ashley had the forms that need to be submitted for the upcoming casino for the members to fill out.
    - ii. The upcoming casino is Sunday April 5 and Monday April 6 at the 67<sup>th</sup> Street location.
    - iii. There are 18 positions to work at the Casino, and we need our members to help out if they can.
  - e. Phone Committee:
    - i. Charlie checked with BFC member Michele Johnson, and she will take on this position. Thank you, Michele.

- f. Town of Bowden Rep.:
  - i. Laurie reported that there are now mats and blankets in the emergency supply room in the basement.
  - ii. The town needs an access key to the basement door when it has been installed.
  - iii. Brad (Sunoco) will also need a key to the basement door. He is checking with Dan Northcott to see if he still has a key to the main door of the hall and will report back to Karilynn.

2. Paint Night update & Music Jam Update:

- a. Paint night – Karilynn had 6 people attend the paint night and it was a lot of fun. There are requests for another painting night.
- b. Music jams – Charlie is getting a great attendance at each Music Jam.
  - i. Discussion of the music jams and the selling of 50/50 tickets.
  - ii. On the AGLC website it states that a raffle license is not needed for raffles under \$1000 but in our discussion, we decided to acquire a license regardless of the amount of the raffle. The Music jams bring in approx. \$20-50 each session and a great asset for the BFC.
  - iii. Karilynn said that she will download the AGLC Raffle ticket license for the upcoming music jam 50/50 raffles

3. March AGM – Elections

- a. If you would like to be nominated for one of the elected positions, please let Karilynn know before March 2, 2026

4. BBQ prior to the AGM

- a. Each Board Member is to bring a dessert
- b. Burgers, Buns, Potato Salad & Condiments: Brad will check with Sunoco to supply these items again this year.
- c. We will be at the hall at 5:00 to prepare the tables and to start cooking the burgers.
- d. Supper will be about 6:15- 6:30 and the AGM starts at 7:00

**Additions to the Agenda:**

- a. Approval of Emergency exit signs:
  - a. Motion made by Don for Grant to purchase the Emergency exit signs from the Innisfail Co-op for a total of \$1,289.31
  - b. Seconded by Ashley.
  - c. Carried.
- b. Basement Door Locks:

- a. Motion made by Ashley for Grant to purchase the basement door lock, necessary items and extra keys for an amount up to \$500.
- b. Second by Sandy
- c. Carried.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by Ashley to Adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm  
 Next Meeting: Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 7:00 pm at the Bowden Event Center.

Attachemnt: Regarding the upcoming Motion for AGM  
 BFC By-law Review  
 Voting and By-law revisions

---

That Section 20 be changed *FROM*: Any member who has not withdrawn from membership nor been suspended nor expelled as herein provided shall have the right to vote at any meeting of the society. Such votes must be made in person and not by proxy or otherwise.

*TO*: 20. a) Only Members in Good Standing who have held continuous membership in the Society for at least six (6) months prior to the date of the meeting are entitled to vote. Such votes must be made in person and not by proxy or otherwise. b) new members who have not yet reached six (6) months of continuous membership may attend meetings but do not have voting privileges until the six-month period has passed. c) The Secretary shall maintain a record of members' join dates for the purposes of confirming voting eligibility.

*Also*, in reviewing the by-law, I believe that Section 29 about the bylaws be amended to reinforce the process of changes.

*FROM*: The Bylaws may be rescinded, altered or added to by a "Special Resolution".

*TO*: Bylaws may be rescinded, altered, or added to by Special Resolution at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. The Special Resolution if passed only if not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the eligible voting Members present vote in favour of the resolution. Notice of the proposed amendments must be provided to all members at least 21 days prior to the meeting. Bylaw amendments do not come into effect until the Society files a certified copy of the Special Resolution and the amended bylaws with Alberta Corporate Registry and the Registrar accepts the filing.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF THE MEMBERS OF  
 BOWDEN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Corporate Access Number: 500091400

Registration Date: 1976-03-19

Date: Annual General Meeting - March 19, 2026  
 Meeting Type:  Annual General Meeting  Special General Meeting  
 Location: Bowden Event Centre, 2133-18 Avenue, Bowden, Alberta T0M 0K0

WHEREAS the Members of the Society wish to amend the Bylaws of the Society in accordance with the *Societies Act*,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following bylaw(s) be rescinded, altered, or added as follows:

Section 20 of the bylaw be changed *FROM*: Any member who has not withdrawn from membership nor been suspended nor expelled as herein provided shall have the right to vote at any meeting of the society. Such votes must be made in person and not by proxy or otherwise.

*TO*: a) Only Active Members in Good Standing are entitled to vote at any meeting of the Society. Votes must be made in person and not by proxy or otherwise.

b) For the purposes of this bylaw, an Active Member is defined as a Member in Good Standing who has attended a minimum of three (3) Society meetings, events, or activities within the preceding twelve (12) months.

c) Members who do not meet the definition of Active Member may attend meetings but shall not have voting privileges.

d) The Secretary shall maintain records of member attendance for the purpose of confirming voting eligibility.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following bylaw(s) be rescinded, altered, or added as follows:

Section 29 of the bylaw be changed *FROM*: The Bylaws may be rescinded, altered or added to by a "Special Resolution".

*TO*: Bylaws may be rescinded, altered, or added to by Special Resolution at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. The Special Resolution if passed only if not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the eligible voting Members present vote in favour of the resolution. Notice of the proposed amendments must be provided to all members at least 21 days prior to the meeting. Bylaw amendments do not come into effect until the Society files a certified copy of the Special Resolution and the amended bylaws with Alberta Corporate Registry and the Registrar accepts the filing.

This Special Resolution requires a three-quarters (75%) majority vote of the Members present and entitled to vote.

#### NOTICE OF SPECIAL RESOLUTION for Bowden Friendship Centre

Date of Meeting: Annual General Meeting - March 19, 2026  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Location: 2133-18 Avenue, Bowden, AB TOM 0K0

In accordance with the *Alberta Societies Act*, notice is hereby given that the following Special Resolution will be presented to the Members for consideration at the above-noted meeting.

The purpose of the Special Resolution is to amend the Bylaws of the Society. As required by the Act, members are being provided with at least 21 days' notice and the full text of the proposed bylaw changes.



ALBERTA COUNSEL

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## SMITH'S REFERENDUM GAMBLE: IMMIGRATION, SOVEREIGNTY, AND THE POLITICS OF THE DEFICIT

Mackenzie Blyth

Last week, Danielle Smith took to the airwaves with a primetime Address to the Province where she announced a provincial referendum focused on immigration and constitutional reform. While the subtext was a focus on growing fiscal pressures and their impact on delivering services, the political reaction was fierce and indicative of the tenor to be expected in the legislative session beginning this week.

The October 19, 2026, referendum will ask Albertans to vote on a sweeping series of questions pertaining to jurisdiction over immigration, eligibility for provincial services like health care and education, proof-of-citizenship requirements for voting, and structural constitutional reforms aimed squarely at strengthening Alberta's autonomy within Confederation.

In a single address, Smith tied oil prices, deficits, immigration levels, and federal overreach into a narrative that Alberta is carrying disproportionate costs, Ottawa is making unilateral decisions, and structural change is needed.

The next day, Smith went further with this argument.

The immigration system, she said, used to work and was once "one of the single biggest drivers of our success". Now, however, she claims Ottawa has "upended 40 years of policy" by placing less emphasis on individuals who can "immediately contribute to our economy" and have "increased the volume of newcomers to an unprecedented level". This argument builds on the Premier's criticism of the former Prime Minister in her address, where she called out "Justin Trudeau's disastrous open border immigration policies, which have caused an unprecedented strain on our health care, education, and other social programs."

Smith emphasized that every province is running a deficit this year. Alberta's red ink, in her telling, is not an outlier but rather part of a national pattern exacerbated by federal decisions. Every \$1 drop in the price of oil means \$750 million less in oil royalties for the province. Oil prices have fallen sharply since 2023, turning a \$12 billion surplus at \$90 oil into a large deficit at \$60 oil.

The fiscal story is not simply that Alberta is running deficits. It is that those deficits are being driven by factors beyond the control of the provincial government.

The Premier is not calling for zero immigration. Rather, she emphasized wanting greater authority to offer permanent residency to skilled workers, or a model "similar to what Quebec has had since 1991". That comparison is deliberate. Quebec has long exercised unique powers over immigrant selection and United Conservatives have consistently cited their desire to have the same privileges as Quebec. By invoking that model, Smith is reframing aspects of her proposal as parity, not provocation.

The proposed referendum questions are crafted to focus on prioritizing economic migrants, imposing waiting periods for non-permanent residents to access social supports, potentially charging "reasonable" premiums for health and education, and requiring proof-of-citizenship to vote. When pressed by journalists comparing a health premium to a head tax, the Premier pointed to Ontario's health premium for non-permanent residents as not violating the Canada Health Act or necessitating federal intervention.

As expected, the NDP is having none of it.

The official NDP response from Deputy Leader Rakhi Panchol was blunt: "Cut the bullshit. Call the election." She accused the Premier of trying to distract Albertans from a "UCP budget that will contain billions of dollars in deficits" and "from separatism" while rejecting any attempt to shift blame onto oil prices and immigration. She highlighted that the UCP did not campaign on nine new referendum questions and pointed to Smith's previous calls for higher immigration levels and population growth under the 'Alberta is Calling' campaign.

This response defines what the next eight months will look like. The NDP strategy will be to undermine the UCP framing of immigration as a central fiscal challenge, tie constitutional reform arguments to separatism, and demand a general election as the legitimate forum for direct democracy. But the polling complicates that challenge.

With the UCP maintaining a polling advantage, demanding an election is less threatening than it might appear. It even risks reinforcing the perception that the government is acting from a position of strength. The referendum allows Smith to define the political question before the scheduled 2027 election. It's no longer a question of budgetary management, but whether Alberta should assert greater control over immigration and federal-provincial relations. The constitutional component is central to that framing.



**MACKENZIE  
BLYTH**  
Associate

Mackenzie Blyth is an Associate, External Relations at Alberta Counsel, where he supports clients through strategic communications, stakeholder engagement, and government relations initiatives. Mackenzie brings extensive experience working within Alberta politics, having worked in communications roles with the United Conservative Government Caucus and as Press Secretary in multiple ministries.

Prior to joining Alberta Counsel, Mackenzie worked as Manager of Strategic Communications for the UCP Government Caucus, overseeing media monitoring, message development, and communications coordination with elected officials. His background includes drafting speeches and communications products, cabinet ministers and at events and announcements, and collaborating closely with policy advisors and department staff to deliver accurate messaging on complex and time-sensitive issues.

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Abolishing the Senate, allowing provinces to opt out of federal programs without losing funding, prioritizing provincial laws in shared jurisdiction, and shifting judicial appointment authority are not completely new ideas. They represent a long-standing current in Western Canadian populist politics that hasn't always fallen on the right of the political spectrum. Abolition of the unelected Senate has been a basic tenet of NDP policy since the party was first established.

While advocating for constitutional reform, Smith continues to reject outright separatism, positioning the UCP's approach to sovereignty "within a united Canada." The distinction is deliberate. Separatism remains a minority position among the broader electorate, even if it resonates within segments of the UCP base. By emphasizing Quebec-style powers rather than separating, the Premier seeks to consolidate a majority without alienating too many moderates. The language is assertive without crossing the line.

The NDP is aware of the vulnerability in that tension. Pancholi's remarks deliberately linked the referendum to separatism, CPP withdrawal, and charter breaches. This strategy attempts to raise the perceived stakes and force moderates to consider whether this referendum is just another step towards something more disruptive. The NDP's call to "denounce separatism and proudly stand on Team Canada" signals they top-line messaging they intend to use.

Opposing the referendum is not without political risk. Public frustration with federal policy, particularly around immigration, is not imaginary. Nor is service strain. If the opposition fails to acknowledge those concerns, it risks appearing disconnected from lived experiences and beholden to its own base.

Outside the Legislature, the implications for businesses and non-profits are significant. Changes to eligibility for provincially funded programs will alter labour market dynamics. Waiting periods and premiums for non-permanent residents affect employers reliant on temporary foreign workers and international talent. Conflict with Ottawa introduces regulatory uncertainty, especially in sectors dependent on federal approvals and funding. The referendum campaign itself may influence investor sentiment if it signals prolonged federal-provincial confrontations.

The risk for the UCP is overreach. Referendums can only simplify complex issues so much. They elevate emotion and polarize the electorate. If turnout is low or margins narrow, the mandate of the government to implement its desired changes may be weakened.

The risk for the NDP is miscalculation. If voters perceive the referendum as an effective means to manage growth pressures and protect Alberta's interests, dismissing it as a distraction could backfire.

One thing is certain. A legislative session that was expected to revolve around oil prices and spending restraint has expanded dramatically.



## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

### CHAMPIONING ALBERTA'S STORIES AND ELEVATING LOCAL VOICES

The Book Publishers Association of Alberta (BPAA) has been at the heart of Alberta's publishing landscape since 1975, fostering a dynamic and resilient book publishing industry that elevates local voices and shares Alberta's stories with readers at home and around the world. With over 30 member companies spanning small independent presses to established publishers, the BPAA strengthens the province's cultural fabric by supporting the creation, production, and promotion of high-quality books.

Founded to grow a vibrant publishing sector beyond Canada's traditional hubs, the BPAA provides advocacy, professional development, marketing initiatives, and essential industry resources that empower Alberta publishers to thrive in a competitive marketplace. Their work helps publishers connect with authors, illustrators, editors, booksellers, libraries, and readers, creating pathways for local stories to reach global audiences.

Central to the BPAA's mission are initiatives like Alberta Books for Schools, which connects educators and students with curriculum-mapped local titles, supporting literacy and a deeper connection to our province's culture. Their annual Alberta Book Publishing Awards celebrate excellence in publishing and spotlight exceptional achievements in storytelling, design, and innovation. Their weekly Bestseller Lists, the Read Alberta eBook Collection, and curated marketing campaigns increase visibility for Alberta-published works across platforms and communities.

A cornerstone of this work is Alberta Book Day, an annual initiative that brings BPAA member-publishers together with MLAs and government staff to showcase the depth and diversity of Alberta's publishing sector.

Beyond events and promotion, the BPAA is a vital source of professional development and industry insight. Workshops, seminars, and networking opportunities help members stay ahead of publishing trends, strengthen their businesses, and adapt to the evolving needs of authors and readers alike.

The BPAA's ongoing commitment to accessibility and creative expression ensures a wide range of voices are nurtured and amplified throughout Alberta's cultural scene. By championing the province's storytellers and connecting communities through books, the Association plays a foundational role in shaping not just the publishing industry, but Alberta's cultural identity itself.

# POLITICAL EVENTS

## An Evening with Naheed Nenshi

Tues, March 10 – 7-9:30pm

Location: Private Residence, Edmonton (location for this event will be shared once your registration is confirmed)

- Alberta NDP Leader Naheed Nenshi will host an evening fundraiser featuring discussion on the upcoming provincial election and the party's path to government.
- Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with Nenshi and NDP MLAs; proceeds will support the Alberta NDP's next election campaign.

## Politics & Prosecco in Calgary

Tues, March 3 – 6-8pm

Location: The Ranchmen's Club, Calgary

- UCP Leader Danielle Smith, along with MLAs Rebecca Schulz and Tanya Fir, will host the party's annual Politics & Prosecco event celebrating women in politics.
- The evening will focus on networking and engagement with party leadership; proceeds support the United Conservative Party of Alberta.

## What the Budget Means for Business: Post-Budget Conversation with Minister Nate Horner

Mon, March 2 – 1-2:30pm

Location: Sandman Signature Lethbridge Lodge

- The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce will host Finance Minister Nate Horner for a members-only discussion on Alberta's 2026 provincial budget and fiscal outlook.
- The session will feature keynote remarks followed by a moderated Q&A focused on impacts to Southern Alberta businesses, workforce development, and regional economic growth.

## Ask Me Anything – The Alberta Office of the Ethics Commission

Wed, March 18 – 12-1pm

Location: Virtual

- The Public Affairs Association of Canada (PAAC) Alberta will host Alberta's Lobbyist Registrar and General Counsel, Josh de Groot, for an interactive discussion on lobbying rules and ethics oversight.
- Session will explore Alberta's lobbying framework, transparency requirements, and the role of the Office of the Ethics Commissioner, with opportunity for attendee Q&A.

## Southern Alberta Economic & Tourism Summit 2026

Wed, March 25 – 8:30am-3:30pm

Location: Lethbridge Trade and Convention Centre

- SouthGrow Regional Initiative will convene municipal and business leaders for a regional summit focused on economic growth, trade, workforce development, and tourism.
- Agenda highlights include sessions on Alberta's manufacturing outlook, export tariffs, CUSMA dynamics, rural creative industries, and strategies to strengthen Southern Alberta's long-term competitiveness.

## Post-Budget Conversation with Minister Nate Horner

Tues, March 3 – 1-2:30pm

Location: Westerner Park – Harvest Centre

- The Red Deer & District Chamber will host Finance Minister Nate Horner for a post-budget discussion on Alberta's fiscal priorities and economic outlook.
- The event will include keynote remarks and a moderated Q&A focused on impacts to Alberta businesses, workforce development, and regional economic growth.



Source: LinkedIn

### KEY INFLUENCER PROFILE

## SAM BLACKETT

PRESS SECRETARY TO THE PREMIER

Mackenzie Blyth

Sam Blackett has served as Press Secretary to the Premier of Alberta since June 2023, immediately after the most recent provincial election. In this role, he's responsible for managing media relations, shaping executive messaging, and supporting strategic communications at the most senior level of the provincial government. As a top communications advisor in the Premier's Office, Blackett plays a central role in turning government priorities into clear, consistent public narratives.

Prior to his current role, Blackett served as Press Secretary to then Minister of Advanced Education Demetrios Nicolaidis, where he managed announcements, media engagements, and messaging within a complex government portfolio. His promotion into the Premier's Office reflects both his growing influence within government communications and the trust placed in him to manage high-stakes messaging at the centre of executive decision-making.

In addition to these roles in government, Blackett was Campaign Manager for Nicolaidis in the battleground Calgary-Bow constituency during the 2023 provincial election. The campaign was a success with Nicolaidis defeating NDP candidate and longtime Calgary Councillor, Druh Farrell, by 385 votes.

Earlier in his career, Blackett served as a Communications Officer with the United Conservative Government Caucus, supporting local and constituency communications for UCP MLAs and Ministers.

Blackett holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing from the University of Alberta. His professional strengths include media relations, strategic communications, team leadership, and digital media management.

THE NEWS  
from ALBERTA COUNSEL



**STEPHEN BLANCHETTE**  
Associate

Stephen Blanchette brings a results-driven background in real estate, public policy, and strategic communications to his role as an Associate Lobbyist with AB Counsel. He spent five years in the real estate sector as a valuation and property tax consultant, progressing from appraisal work to senior consulting roles. In 2025, Stephen transitioned into politics full-time, first managing a federal election campaign and later supporting an Indigenous self-government in the Northwest Territories, where he contributed to executive operations and communications strategy.

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# 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

#### **\$400M Deal for New Wildfire Waterbombers**

The Government of Alberta has secured a \$400-million contract with De Havilland Canada to purchase five new DHC-515 waterbombers, strengthening the province's ability to respond to wildfires and protect communities. The locally built aircraft will boost Alberta's firefighting capacity and are expected to arrive by spring 2031.

Premier Danielle Smith stated: "Albertans expect their government to be ready when wildfire season hits, and that is exactly what we are doing. Our first responsibility is to keep Albertans safe. These Alberta-built waterbombers will strengthen our wildfire response, protect our communities and create hundreds of skilled jobs right here at home."

#### **Alberta Fast-Tracks Four School Construction Projects**

The province is accelerating four previously announced school construction projects as part of the School Construction Accelerator Program. Launched in 2024 with an \$8.6-billion investment to build and renovate more than 130 schools, this initiative aims to reduce delays and deliver new classrooms for students.

Minister of Education and Childcare, Demetrios Nicolaidis, commented: "Fast-tracking school projects cuts months off the timelines and moves them that much closer to opening their doors for students. Families in Calgary and St. Albert will see new classrooms sooner because we're speeding up the work."

#### **New Drug Preparation Center in Calgary**

Alberta is investing \$61 million in a new drug preparation center in Calgary to improve Albertans' access to essential medications by preparing and distributing pharmaceuticals from a single, centralized location. Operated by Alberta Health Services, the new facility will replace an ageing site that can no longer meet modern medical needs. Construction is expected to begin later this year.

"Investing in a new pharmaceutical production and distribution centre in Calgary will strengthen how vital medicines are developed and delivered across the province. This project will enhance pharmaceutical services in hospitals and health care facilities, creating hundreds of construction-related jobs, while supporting more efficient and cost-effective health care for Albertans," commented Minister of Infrastructure, Martin Long.

#### **Enhancing Policing on Tsuut'ina Nation**

The provincial government is allocating \$1.5 million to support a new satellite police detachment for the Tsuut'ina Nation police service. The funding will help build a modern facility that enhances response times and police presence across key areas of the Nation.

"We would like to thank the Government of Alberta for their funding and support of our inherent right to keep our Peoples and lands secure and protected. The Tsuut'ina Nation's ongoing growth, in close proximity to a rapidly expanding major city and neighbouring rural projects, increases the demand on Nation police services. Having resources in place assists our law enforcement efforts and enhances the overall security of the Tsuut'ina Nation," stated Chief Ellery Starlight, Tsuut'ina First Nation.



**SARA BOULET**  
Associate

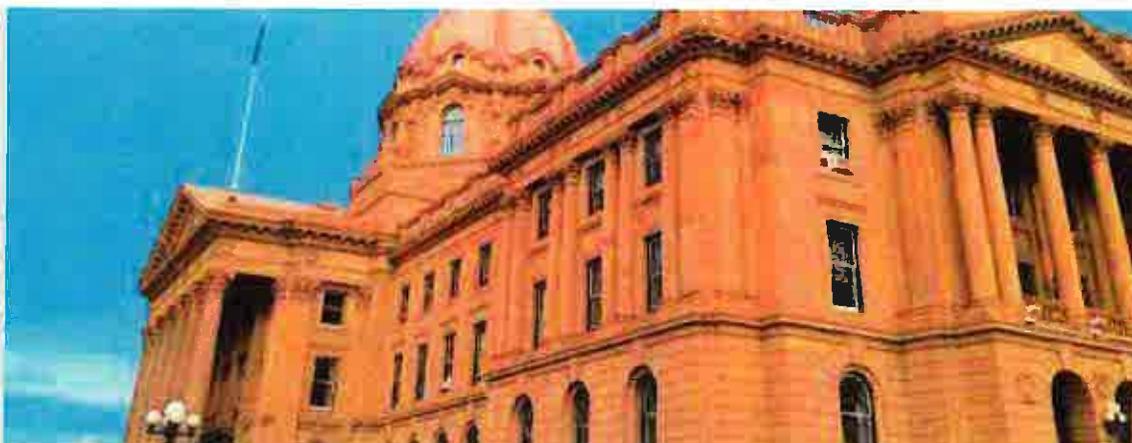
Sara M. Boulet was born in Edmonton, Alberta. After completing her Bachelor of Social Science with Honours at the University of Ottawa, she returned to her hometown to study law at the University of Alberta, from which she graduated with a Juris Doctor in 2018, and was called to the Alberta Bar in 2019.

Sara has a variety of experience as both a solicitor and litigator and can assist clients with residence and commercial real estate matters, employment matters, wills and estates, various litigation matters, corporate/commercial matters, including incorporations, reorganizations, shareholder agreements, partnerships, joint ventures, services/sale agreements, and leases.

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## THE REGULATORY QUESTIONS BEHIND ALBERTA'S HEALTH REFORM

By Alberta Counsel Staff

The debate surrounding public and private health care in Alberta has resurfaced following the passage of Bill 11: Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025. The government introduced the bill with the stated goal of increasing access to health services by permitting physicians to establish dual practices—working within the publicly funded system while also offering fee-based services outside it.

The government argues that this flexibility will expand patient choice and improve system performance. Anticipated benefits include longer physician working hours, more efficient use of health care infrastructure, and improved physician recruitment and retention. However, evidence supporting these anticipated outcomes has not yet been clearly articulated. Government members note that dual practice models exist in many Western countries with high-performing health systems, while critics caution that the policy could lead to a two-tiered system similar to that of the United States.

The precise structure of Alberta's model remains uncertain, as regulations governing private practice under the legislation have not yet been released. While several comparable countries—including Norway, Germany, and Australia—permit forms of dual practice, they also implement significant safeguards. In many European systems, physicians are salaried employees rather than independent practitioners, and their public/private balance is governed by contractual requirements. These often include minimum public service obligations, revenue-sharing arrangements for use of public facilities, scheduling controls, disclosure requirements, and meaningful penalties for non-compliance. Additionally, most European countries finance a greater share of healthcare costs than Alberta, and include a wider range of services such as dental care and prescription drugs, which affect overall health.

Bill 11 includes relatively few of these guardrails. The primary requirement is that physicians offering private services must provide written information regarding costs, payment requirements, and the availability of services within the publicly funded system. It remains unclear whether additional oversight mechanisms will be introduced through regulation.

Evidence from other jurisdictions offers mixed conclusions. Some studies suggest that physicians engaged in dual practice may increase their total working hours. However, additional private hours can correspond with reduced public system availability. While overall procedure volumes may increase, this may result in shorter waits for privately paying patients without improving wait times in the public system. Australia's experience with increased privatization did not result in reduced wait times, and current wait times for procedures such as cataract surgery, coronary bypass surgery, and hip and knee replacement exceed those in Canada.

In Saskatchewan, wait times were successfully reduced, but research indicates that improvements were largely attributable to system-level reforms rather than expanded fee-based practice. These initiatives included the development of an online specialist directory, pooled referral systems, increased funding for operating room staffing, falls prevention programs, and the implementation of a streamlined single-entry referral pathway.

As implementation of the Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 proceeds, the details of its regulatory framework will be critical. Key questions remain:

- Will minimum public service requirements be established?
- Will private services be delivered in currently underutilized facilities, or will new competing surgical centres be developed?
- Will physicians using public facilities for private services be subject to revenue-sharing arrangements?
- Will the government introduce pooled referrals and a single-entry system?
- Will additional operating room time and staffing be funded to optimize existing infrastructure?

The long-term impact of Bill 11 will depend less on its stated intentions and more on how these details are addressed.

If you would like to discuss your perspectives and concerns about the future of Alberta's health care system, our team would welcome the opportunity to meet with you.

## BGS School Council Meeting Report to Council Feb 24 2026

**Present: Deen, Karen, Lindsay, Jade, Linda (late arrival), Carol**

<b>Executive Report</b>	
<b>BGS School Report</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Organizational Day &amp; Semester Change</li> <li>2. Spellathon - over \$5000 raised</li> <li>3. PTP K-4 Digital Report Cards</li> <li>4. MP Blaine Calkins visit - calendar competition</li> <li>5. Career Connections</li> <li>6. Assurance Survey - Parents, Teachers, Students</li> <li>7. Lockdown Drill</li> <li>8. PL Day - Child Advocacy Centre</li> </ol>
<b>CESD Trustee Report</b>  <b>By DL for Linda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Just as a reminder CESD's Annual Education Results Report (AERR) for 2024-25 year) can be found on the website, but some highlights of the division are certainly positive when compared to the provincial results overall.</i></li> <li>2. <b>Jumpstart</b> Nothing new to report on this at the current time.</li> <li>3. <i>As a heads-up, surveys will be coming out soon. Please plan to fill out these surveys for us as it becomes a very important tool in order to get proper input from parents on a number of topics for the operations of the schools and school division.</i></li> <li>4. Next <b>Parents Matter</b> meetings were decided by a survey out to the parents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 6:30PM online</b></li> <li>b. <b>Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 6:30PM online</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Our Board has identified the following priorities for 2026-2028: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Address Classroom Complexity and Inclusion: Redefine inclusion practices to balance equity with sustainability, align resources to reduce teacher pressure, and explore innovative support models for students with complex needs.</li> <li>2. Strengthen Workplace Culture and Staff Engagement: Take a bold and comprehensive approach to enhance staff wellness, recognition, and professional growth to ensure CESD remains an employer of choice and sustains organizational stability.</li> <li>3. Expand Flexible Learning Opportunities and Choice in Public Education: Retain students in an environment of expanding school choice by broadening program offerings (virtual, blended, and alternative pathways) and exploring specialized programs.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>6. Complexities in the classrooms, the government asked for schools across the province to complete a survey. Results have been collected and have been put into categories:</p> <p><b>Complexity Factors are being categorized into the following areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Academic Factors</li> <li>● Behavioural Factors</li> <li>● Socio Emotional factors</li> <li>● Linguistic factors</li> <li>● Social economic factors</li> </ul> <p>7. Curriculum Implementation in Junior High:</p> <p>a. For math: Schools will be transitioning into the new math curriculum with focus is to be properly prepared for the move into high school. For instance, next year Grade 7 will be the new curriculum, but hybrid for Grade 8, then Grade 9 will continue with the current studies</p> <p>b. For Social Studies, Physical Education/Wellness and Science curriculum, there will be flexibility for administration as to how schools will transition and utilize the movement into the new curriculum; this provides the opportunity for Principals to best provide for the needs specific to their school and students.</p> <p>8. The Alberta Rural Education Symposium is March 1-3 where again, we trustees will have the opportunity to speak with more MLAs, as well as continuing to address the concerns about Complexities within the school communities, ie. Complex Needs and Challenges through Community Partnerships is one of the sessions that I will be attending.</p>
<p><b>Town of Bowden Report</b></p>	<p>1. Capital Budget - Council will be reviewing Capital Budget next RCM if there any school needs that could be added to this list ie road work, signs etc if there is any road work, signs etc let me or CAO know and it can be added to wish list.</p> <p>- discussion from this was a large pot hole at the BGS parking lot/town road and big wish is side walk addition on the south side *big wish but good to know</p> <p>-other discussion was parking issues at pick up and drop off in front of school and if TOB bylaw could help. Although bylaw does not have this authority maybe* his presence on his day in town may help lol Jade gave Principal Lockhat to contact Staff SGT Day info but would like TOB CAO to also contact SS Day to let him know of the concern</p> <p>2. Town School Scholarships - we are working on criteria school contact Val Dye email vdye@cesd with any award questions or help</p>
<p><b>Parents Matter Report</b></p>	
<p><b>FCSS Report</b></p>	<p>1. <b>Volunteer Appreciation Supper</b> – Save the date: Thursday, April 23! The Caterer has been booked, and the theme has been chosen. We invite ALL Bowden &amp; Area Volunteers and their friends/family to join us in an evening of celebration with food, prizes and thanks. Deen – would you be willing to be a speaker at the event on behalf of BGS? Doors open at 5:30, Opening Remarks at 6:00 and Supper at 6:30pm.</p> <p>2. <b>RETRO BINGO!</b> - Partnership event with Expanding Horizons will take place on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Paterson Community Centre. This event will have Easter</p>

	<p>Baskets for its Blackout prizes. We have planned it on a “no school Friday” evening to encourage youth participation.</p> <p>3. <b>Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)</b> – There are 3 dates scheduled at Park Place for the CVITP. March 20 and April 11 &amp; 25. Poster ads will be distributed next week when its not -30+ outside. Our volunteers have completed their screening and Criminal Records Checks and will be ready for the first session in March.</p> <p>4. <b>YES &amp; FCSS</b> – We completed the “Insta IRL” session in February. We had 8 of 10 possible youth sign up. It was great! In March, we are planning “Crafts + Snack” for the 5 weeks in the month. Each Monday will feature a different craft &amp; snack that accompanies the craft. For instance, the first Monday we will make “Staircase” friendship bracelets and eat chips. The following Monday we will use the empty chip bags to make Shrinky-dink key chains (and so on).</p> <p>5. <b>FCSS Regional Project – “Small Acts Matter 2.0”</b> has been fully approved by the FCSS Board. Bowden has been in contact with the Bowden Historical Society and the Bowden Lions Club in the beginning stages of planning for our community “Small Acts” FCSS attended the Historical Society meeting at the end of January and was given support for a partnership program “History Walks”. The Bowden Lions Club have also agreed to partner for a re-vamp of the “Community Clean Up” that was held in 2014-2015</p>
<b>FOG Report</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Flower fundraiser coming out in March.</li> <li>2. Fundraisers so far have been successful</li> <li>3. Grand reopening of outdoor courts and volunteer lunch April 16</li> </ol>
<b>New Business</b>	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	March 24
<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>	

Bowden Museum- Board meeting

Tuesday, Feb 24 2026 – 7:00 pm

Meeting was called to order

Reading of previous minutes

Minutes approved

### **Museum and tourism/visitor information**

Angela shared what she had provided to Mayor and Council the previous evening

Additional brochures for the town (Sandy's brother had printed for free in past) it would be beneficial to provide surrounding museums with our brochure through networking (Angela & Sandy)

Map/guide for the town showing key points for people to access

### **Signature Exhibit – Bowden Penitentiary History**

Angela shared that Mayor Miller has submitted an inquiry and will get back to the board using artifacts, pictures from the Penitentiary

### **Multi use museum space and kitchen development**

Angela shared that she would like to see a stove brought back in, there is a plug where the fridge currently is, this is possible with the current space but things may need to be shifted.

### **Public research station**

Discussion on subscription to ancestry.com. Angela would like to have a long continuous desk to house 4-5 computers. It was discussed that whatever computers are purchased or donated should all have the same operating system, a basic one is fine as they will only be used for one purpose.

### **Living heritage and community engagement**

Dale has provided walking tours in past, the updated map would be helpful.

Angela would like a calendar of events for the museum.

The board would like to invite Mayor, CAO, Town Council, Town staff including office staff and public works to a wine and cheese mingling/get to know the Museum Board on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Sandy Discussed purchasing from both liquor stores as well as the new grocery store to support the local businesses in Bowden. An email invite will be sent.

### **Mentorship and Education programs**

Youth mentorship in art -Potential for high school credits, Angela is willing to continue this

### **Digital innovation and interactive storytelling**

QR codes, videos, virtual tours. Develop and maintain a museum website. Erik will provide pricing to the board through a contact for a website for the Museum

The board will reach out to the town to discuss the possibility of updating and improving the link, would it be possible to expand the section on the town website? The board will reach out to the Town administration to inquire if possible and if there is a cost associated.

### **Volunteer work and donation management**

Angela will look at a used bin with a possible lock for outside of thrift store. Camera is becoming more necessary with the amount of garbage being dumped at the door of the thrift store.

Health and Social Economic Benefits,

Angela will reach out to Jade at FCSS to work with her on getting the seniors to do the Wed drop in for coffee 1-3 pm

Amanda will bring up the museum visit and tours at her next parkland meeting for the neighboring towns to suggest a day trip for seniors (Innisfail)

### **Air Quality and Facility repairs**

Angela brought up the information provided by Cam from town council which was spoke on by Marietta from town council about her concern with mold and air quality in the building. There are small black patches on one portion of the ceiling and Sandy mentioned it could be spider webs. Angela spoke about the Town and would it be possible for air quality test as

it could be a liability? Sandy, Amanda and other board members said they did not smell mold. The board may reach out to the town to discuss further.

### **Cattle and Horse Brand display**

Heritage plaques – 6 sheets of Birch to be purchased, Erik has offered to have the wood cut and brought in to hang the plaques on. The plaques will be hung in the museum.

The board will ask the town if they can use the Scissor lift to hang the plaques.

### **Newsletter and seasonal calendar – discussion**

#### **Other- New**

Phone- Stan has had issues with Rogers sending a digital bill. Suggestions for a TELUS quote were discussed where Angela could have the calls from the museum line forwarded to her personal cell phone. This would need to be maintained in the same way (during business hours only) If Angela does not physically check the machine line then people do not get a call back and it is hard for her to go to the museum often during off peak days.

Erik and Stan will work on this offline.

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Library Board meeting.

## Current Special Collections

Shared regional specialty collections include large print books, audio books, program kits, technology equipment, and promotional items.

12,846

eBooks

6,576

eAudiobooks

9,402

Large Print  
Books (Items  
in HQ)

3,386

Physical  
Audiobooks  
(Items in HQ)

141

Programming  
Kits (boxes)

6,492

eMagazines  
(subscriptions)

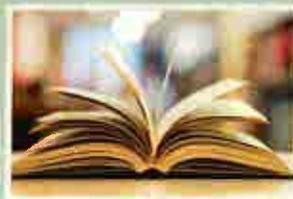
Overdrive and CloudLibrary resource sharing with The Regional Automation Consortium (TRAC), made up of the Yellowhead, Peace, Marigold and Northern Lights library systems

## Collections & Cataloguing



### Special collections

Members have access to special collections including a library professional development collection, large print and audiobook rotating collections, and Victor Readers for patrons with print disabilities.



### Cataloguing Services

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

Subscriptions for NELLIS – physical materials for people who are site impaired (replaced old Brail book program) and CEILA (audio materials)

## Finance & Operations



### Ordering

When ordering, Parkland reviews carts, imports the information to Polaris, places your orders, and communicates with libraries when necessary for ordering accuracy and efficiency.



### Receiving

The finance department processes 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.

## Finance & Operations



### Processing

The finance department creates allotment, bill direct and process only packing slips for daily van runs, covers donations in Mylar, and more. In addition, incoming kits and equipment are checked for damage and missing items.



### Shipping

Parkland manages nine van delivery runs per week, prepares rotating collection requests, sorts all incoming materials, and prepares all ILL materials for shipping, sorting, and processing.

Parkland moves 1 million items per year

## Finance & Operations



### Cooperative Collection Fund

The CCD funds allow Parkland staff to purchase physical materials for placement in member libraries with the intent of reducing Interlibrary loans and improving the system-wide collection. In 2025, participating libraries received an average of 47 free books.



### Bulk Discount

Ordering through Parkland gives member libraries access to a roughly 30% bulk discount on library materials.

## Finance & Operations



### Materials Allotment

The \$1.13 per capita library materials allotments are funds set aside in Parkland's budget against which libraries can spend to purchase books, DVDs, and other materials for their library collections.



### Rural Library Services Grant

The Rural Library Services Grant is \$5.60 per capita distributed to libraries within a member rural municipality that does not operate a library board. This is passed directly from the province to libraries in the area according to the direction of the municipality, as per Parkland's membership agreement.

## Marketing & Advocacy



### Promotional Materials

Parkland provides member libraries with discounted access to professional printing through VistaPrint Pro, as well as assistance with design and ordering of personalized promotional materials. Parkland will provide marketing materials such as brochures and bookmarks to libraries free of cost.



### Advocacy

Parkland is directly involved in provincial advocacy initiatives on behalf of all public libraries and will also provide advocacy training to a variety of stakeholders. Many customizable advocacy resources and documents are also made available to all members.

## Mayor

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**Subject:** Policing Costs Report (ABMunis call)

On Feb 6, 2026, at 1:15 PM, Marietta Tuckwell <[mariettatuckwell@bowden.ca](mailto:mariettatuckwell@bowden.ca)> wrote:

February 19, 2026  
ABmunis Conference call – Police Funding Model – provincial Policing Costs

### Background

Since 2021, Alberta municipalities—particularly those under 5,000 population—have been required to contribute to provincial policing costs under the PFM. The model was updated in late 2023, with new cost projections released for 2025–2030. Municipalities report that the updated model significantly increases financial pressure at a time of rising operational costs and limited revenue tools.

### Key Issues Identified by Municipalities

#### 1. Significant Cost Increases

- Many municipalities are experiencing **annual increases of 1%–1.5%** on their tax base solely due to policing.
- Some communities report increases of **200%–700%+** between 2021 and 2030.
- Examples include jumps from **\$14,000 to \$128,000**, **\$22,000 to \$164,000**, and similar escalations across the province.
- These increases are particularly difficult for small municipalities with limited reserves and staffing.

#### 2. Lack of Transparency and Accountability

- Municipalities have not received:
  - A clear explanation of the cost formula.
  - Definitions of “occurrences” or how they are counted.
  - Detailed breakdowns of what municipal contributions fund.
- Requests for data have been denied or delayed, with the province citing “preliminary” information.

#### 3. No Corresponding Improvement in Service Levels

Despite rising costs, municipalities report:

- **Long response times** (often 1–2 hours).
- **Minimal patrol presence**, sometimes only twice daily.
- **No 24-hour policing** in many communities.
- Increasing rural crime with slow RCMP response due to large detachment areas.

#### 4. Disproportionate Impact on Small Municipalities

- Smaller towns often serve as **regional service hubs**, yet the model shifts costs *onto* them from surrounding counties and MDs.
- Municipalities under 5,000 do **not** receive the 60% fine revenue share available to larger municipalities or CPO programs, despite now paying for policing.

#### 5. Budgeting and Timing Challenges

- Municipalities typically finalize budgets in the fall.
- PFM cost updates often arrive in **February**, creating mid-cycle financial pressures.
- Combined with rising education property taxes and other provincial downloads, the cumulative impact is significant.

#### Additional Observations

- Some municipalities report strong relationships with local detachment commanders, but systemic issues remain.
- Concerns were raised about the lack of **residency requirements** for RCMP members, which reduces community familiarity and informal intelligence gathering.
- The cost of a fully equipped RCMP member is estimated at **\$205,000–\$225,000**, raising questions about proportionality for small communities.

#### Advocacy Actions Underway

- Several municipalities plan to submit **new resolutions** to Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) calling for:
  - Greater transparency in cost calculations.
  - More frequent reviews of the PFM.
  - Fair distribution of fine revenue to communities under 5,000.
  - Consideration of regional service realities.
- ABmunis has confirmed policing remains a **priority advocacy issue** and will host sessions on the PFM and resolution development at upcoming events.

#### Next Steps for Council

- Council may wish to consider whether to:
  - Support or co-sponsor upcoming resolutions related to the PFM.
  - Engage with local MLAs regarding transparency and cost impacts.
  - Review long-term financial planning assumptions to account for projected increases.
  - Participate in ABmunis' policing sessions to stay informed on advocacy progress.

Marietta Tuckwell  
Bowden Town Counsellor



*Trustees front row L to R: Linda Wagers, Kelly Anne Jobs, Kathy Kemmere, De Anne Hutchison - Vice Chair. Middle / back rows L to R: Janine Waldo, Kathy Williams, Terry Leslie, Holly Bilton - Chair, Melissa Copley*

# Board Highlights

February 24, 2026

## **Chinook's Edge Health & Wellness**

A presentation from People Services updated the board on the measures Chinook's Edge is taking to improve overall staff health and wellness. A Staff Health and Wellness Coordinator (part-time), Steering Committee, and Health and Wellness champions from each school ensure staff are being empowered to reach their self-directed health and wellness goals using the resources provided by Chinook's Edge.

## **Celebrations**

On March 5th, valued staff members will walk the stage at the Chinook's Edge Celebrations banquet. The board is looking forward to celebrating Chinook's Edge staff who are being inducted into the Alberta Teachers' Association, have achieved milestone years of service, are being awarded special recognition, or are retiring from Chinook's Edge. All staff who have sent an RSVP will enjoy a dinner and recognition program.

## **Complexity**

Under Phase One of the changes implemented by the Class Size and Complexity Cabinet Committee, \$143 million will be allocated to 476 complexity teams in school authorities across the province to address highest priority classrooms. During this initial phase, Alberta Education assigned Chinook's Edge two complexity teams, identifying schools based on data from the November complexity survey. Positions have been posted and the division is working to get these teams in place as soon as possible. As identified in key board priorities, addressing complexity remains a focus for our Administration.

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**The next meeting of the Board of the Chinook's Edge School Division will be:**

March 24, 2026

**MEDIA - For more information, please contact:**

Shanna Doupe, Communications | 403-227-7085

Ryan Sawula, Superintendent | 403-227-7070



# Chinook's Edge Board Update

February 25th, 2026

## News for Communities

The board met in a strategic retreat and revisited their priorities as part of their ongoing strategic plan. They have identified the following priorities for 2026-2028. First, address classroom complexity and Inclusion by redefining inclusion practices to balance equity with sustainability, aligning resources to reduce teacher pressure, and exploring innovative support models for students with complex needs. Second, strengthen workplace culture and staff engagement by taking a bold and comprehensive approach to enhancing staff wellness, recognition, and professional growth to ensure CESD remains an employer of choice and sustains organizational stability. Third, expand flexible learning opportunities and choice in public education by broadening program offerings and exploring specialized programs.

The Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada have finalized the Year 2 and Year 3 action plan. Under the agreement, 100 per cent of funding for the 2024/25 fiscal year has been rolled into the 2025/26 fiscal year, resulting in more than \$25 million in federal funding being added to Alberta's annual contribution to support school nutrition for the 2025/26 school year. This funding will flow through Alberta's existing School Nutrition Grant funding processes. The nutrition grant for the 25/26 school year consists of a base allocation of \$306,325.80 (allocated at \$25,527.16 per month), plus an additional \$215,260.06 in one-time funding received on January 15.

At a January 27th meeting, the Board was presented with plans for introducing new curricula to Chinook's Edge classrooms. Anticipated next steps for the new math curriculum are mindful of students transitioning into high school. To begin, Grade 7 students will be taught the new curriculum, Grade 8 students will be taught a hybrid of old and new curriculum, and grade 9 students will be taught the old curriculum, setting kids up for success in high school. The plan empowers administrators to make choices about implementation of changes in social studies, physical education/wellness, and Career Education and Financial Literacy curricula, with the goal of providing better outcomes for students.

In February, the board was pleased to receive news of the Government of Alberta's measures to place Complexity Teams in Alberta schools, including two at Chinook's Edge schools (announced in a government [news release](#)). Resources will be directed on the basis of need as identified by Alberta Education through a classroom complexity survey. According to the government release, the highest need schools will be assigned Complexity Teams comprising one teacher and two educational assistants.

The Board congratulates teacher Alex Hutcheon, who has been recognized for his work directing Cremona School's music program. [Mr. Hutcheon is one of five nominees nation-wide for the 2026 MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award](#), honouring exceptional music educators who make innovative strides to sustain music education in their schools and communities. The winner will be announced at the 2026 JUNO Awards on March 29th. Learn more about MusiCounts grants for schools in your community at [musiccounts.ca](https://musiccounts.ca).

Minutes

Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission  
Regular Meeting – Anthony Henday Water Treatment

Plant/Zoom

Feb 10, 2026

9:00 A.M.

**Members Present:**

Vice Chairwoman – Wanda Blatz  
Janice Wing – Town of Innisfail  
Norm Quantz – Town of Didsbury  
Randy Brown – Town of Bowden

**Members Present on Zoom:**

Jerry Roberts – Town of Carstairs  
Logan Cosh – Town of Crossfield Alternate  
Ben Chrusch – Town of Olds Alternate

**Staff Present:**

John Van Doesburg – CAO  
Tim Ainscough – Director of Operations  
Wes Olstad – Technical Manager  
Samantha Lafontaine – Finance Manager

**Others Present:**

Stephen Ohene-Adjei – Pivotal LLP

**1. Call to Order**

Vice Chairwoman Wanda Blatz called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

Randy Brown moved to accept the February 2026 agenda as presented.

Carried

**3. Approval of the January 2026 Meeting Minutes**

Norm Quantz moved to accept the January 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented.

Carried

**4. Auditor Preliminary Meeting**

Stephen Ohene-Adjei presented a brief update on the 2025 Audit.

Stephen Ohene-Adjei left the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

## **5. Reports**

Vice Chairwoman Wanda Blatz deferred the Chairman's Report for when Chairman Michael Knight returns.

Tim Ainscough presented the Director of Operations Report.

Wes Olstad presented the Technical Manager Report.

John Van Doesburg presented the Administrator's Report.

Samantha Lafontaine presented the Financial Report.

Norm Quantz moved to accept the reports presented as information.

**Carried**

## **6. Business Arising from Minutes**

### **a) Drought Committee – Flow Updates**

Tim Ainscough reviewed the latest snowpack/Red Deer River data.

## **7. New Business**

### **a) Website Upgrade**

John Van Doesburg presented an overview of the upcoming website changes. A draft overview will be presented to the board.

Janice Wing moved to accept the presentation for information.

**Carried**

### **b) Annual General Meeting Date & Location**

Randy Brown moved that the Annual General Meeting will be held at the Innisfail Legion on April 8, 2026, at 9:00 a.m..

**Carried**

### **c) Capital Updates – Construction – Budget Motions**

Randy Brown moved to approve the transfer of \$2,929,493.85 to the 2026 Capital Budget, \$260,000 to the 2026 Operating Budget and \$3,784,654.08 for the 2026 Lateral Line Budget.

**Carried**

**d) Board Orientation – Brownlee Law**

March 11, 2026, has been set as a tentative date for the Board Orientation Presentation by Brownlee Law.

**e) Dinner with past Board Members – Date/Location**

Administration will investigate a couple of suggested restaurants in the Town of Olds and available dates and contact the members/past members for availability.

**f) In Camera – Personnel**

Not needed.

**8. Information**

Vice Chairwoman Wanda Blatz shared some information on the Synapse Data Centre proposed in the Town of Olds.

**9. Next Regular Meeting – March 11, 2026**

**10. Adjournment**

Vice Chairwoman Wanda Blatz adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

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**Chairman**

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**CAO**

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> 2026-03-09	<b>Agenda Items:</b> 12.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> Laurie Miller	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor

**Agenda item 12**  
**CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL (“in camera”)**

**Motion 12.a**

Moved by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_pm that Council moves to an “in-camera” session.

**12.a Local Public Body Confidences – MVRWSC Activities**

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 28 “local public body confidences”.

**Motion 12.b**

Moved by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_pm that Council return to an “open meeting” of Council.

**Motion 12.c**

Motion(s) (if applicable)