

Regular Meeting of the Village of Alix Council, to be held on
Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Call to Order: | |
| 2. Agenda | Amendments and Adoption |
| 3. Adoption of the Minutes: | a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting – September 17, 2025 – 6:00 P.M. |
| 4. Delegation: | None |
| 5. Bylaws: | None |
| 6. Unfinished Business: | None |
| 7. New Business: | a) Facebook Business Page Policy No. 41 – Request for Decision 25-49
b) Online Payments Policy No. 32 - Request for Decision 25-50
c) Cemetery Fence – Request for Decision 25-47
d) Digital Sign - Request for Decision 25-48
e) Parkland Regional Library Budget - Request for Decision 25-51 |
| 8. Financial Reports: | None |
| 9. Committee Reports: | None |
| 10. Administrative Reports: | None |
| 11. Correspondence: | a) Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta – Letter to The Honourable Dan Willims, Minister of Municipal Affairs
b) Wolf Creek Public Schools – Real Property Governance – School Ownership
c) Alberta-NWT Command Legion – Thank you for pledge of support. |
| 12. Closed Meeting: | None |
| 13. Adjournment: | |

Village of Alix

"A Way of Life"

Mission

"We foster an open, cooperative government that encourages public participation and ensures levels of service our citizens expect and deserve"

Vision

"Vibrant Village by the Lake"

Core Values

Community

We will help citizens maintain the Village's unique qualities, foster a strong sense of belonging and strive to meet needs locally

Fiscal Responsibility

As stewards of community resources, we will deliver municipal services in a cost-effective way

Innovation

We will seek innovative solutions for the growth and success of the community.

Respect

We will treat each other with respect and act with integrity.

Safety

We will work in partnership with the community to prevent crime and protect lives, property, and the public realm.

Teamwork

We will build strong relationships with our public, employees, and partners under the shared goal of continuous improvement.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Alix Council, held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. in the Village of Alix Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Tim Besuijen, Councillors Barbara Gilliat, Janice Besuijen, Edwin Cole and Rob Fehr.

Also Present: Tanya Meston, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

Call to Order: Mayor T. Besuijen called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Amendments/Deletions to Agenda: Mayor T. Besuijen called for amendments to the agenda.

Approval of Agenda:

Resolution #171/25: Moved by Councillor Gilliat that the Village of Alix Council approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

Minutes: a) Regular Meeting – September 3, 2025

Resolution #172/25: Moved by Councillor Fehr that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Alix Council held on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Delegation: None

Bylaws: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: a) Water Mutual Aid – Request for Decision 25-46

Resolution #173/25: Moved by Councillor Gilliat that the Village of Alix Council hereby agrees to provide mutual aid services to the Town of Bashaw in accordance with the Water/Wastewater Mutual Aid Operator Agreement.

CARRIED

b) Winterize Your Home Policy No. 49 – Request for Decision 25-45

Resolution #174/25: Moved by Councillor Cole that the Village of Alix Council hereby approves Policy No. 49, Winterize Your Home Program.

CARRIED

Financial Reports: a) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – September 3, 2025

b) Bank Reconciliation – July 31, 2025

c) Tax Trial Balance – September 11, 2025

Resolution #175/25: Moved by Councillor J. Besuijen that the Village of Alix Council hereby accept the Financial Reports as presented.

CARRIED

Committee Reports: a) Parkland Community Planning Services – Councillor J. Besuijen

Resolution #176/25: Moved by Councillor Fehr that the Village of Alix Council accept the Committee Report as presented.

CARRIED

Administrative Reports: a) Chief Administrative Officer's Report

Resolution #177/25: Moved by Councillor Fehr that the Village of Alix Council hereby accept the Chief Administrative Officer's Report as presented.

CARRIED

Correspondence and Information:

a) Alberta Municipalities 2025 Award of Excellence – Councillor Fehr

b) Alix Mirror Wellness Supports Society – 2nd Quarter Update

c) Alberta Municipalities – Submission to Alberta Municipal Affairs Re: Implementation of Bill 50 Changes

d) Stakeholder Consultation Sessions – Real Property Governance K-12 School Ownership Changes

e) Fortis Alberta – 2026 Franchise Fee Calculator

Resolution #178/25: Moved by Councillor J. Besuijen that Correspondence Items (a) through (e) be accepted as information.

CARRIED

Closed Meeting: None

Adjournment:

Resolution #179/25: Moved by Councillor Fehr that this Regular Meeting of the Village of Alix Council be adjourned at 6:25 P.M.

CARRIED

Mayor

Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

ADMINISTRATION REPORT



Date: September 24, 2025
Memo To: Village Council
From: Chelsie Giesbrecht
Subject: Facebook Policy

RFD 25-49

1. **PURPOSE** – To review Policy No. 41 – Facebook Business Page Policy
- 2.
3. **BACKGROUND** – The policy was established in 2020.
3. **OPTIONS** –
 1. To amend the policy and set a review date.
 2. To leave policy as it is and set a review date.
4. **DISCUSSION** – The attached policy was created in 2020 to provide guidelines for our Facebook Business Page.
5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** –
6. **LEGAL** –.
7. **POLITICAL/PUBLIC IMPLICATIONS** –
8. **OTHER COMMENTS** – This page is a heavily utilized resource to push information for our community and over the years as had a great response to those active on social media.
9. **RECOMMENDATIONS** – Option #2

“that Alix Village Council hereby approves Policy No. 41, Facebook Business Page as presented and sets a review date of 2029 for this policy”

Author



Department: **Administration**

Policy No: **41**

Policy Title: **Facebook Business Page Policy**

Resolution No: **/25**

Date: **October 1, 2025**

Review Date: **2029**

Policy Statement:

Commitment to the community

Village of Alix administration will do its best to make sure that postings on our page are in line with our mission to; deliver information, programming, and resource information to the public, from any and all departments, groups or organizations.

We expect that users will not post content that falls into the following categories and reserve the right to remove postings/comments that are:

- Abusive, defamatory or obscene
- Fraudulent, deceptive or misleading
- In violation of another's intellectual property right
- In violation of any law or regulation
- Otherwise offensive

The views, opinions, depicted results and experiences expressed in user-submitted-comments are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Village of Alix page admins and or the representatives or staff of the Village of Alix. User comments are not edited for accuracy or safety; however, to ensure a continually positive experience for the community, we may report or remove content or commentary containing spam, profanity, or otherwise objectionable or prohibited material subject to that listed above.

- If severe concerns or issues comes up in comments, we will address the comment directly, and ask the commenter to call or email us for further conversation to resolve the concern/issue presented.

Mayor

CAO

Date

ADMINISTRATION REPORT



Date: September 24, 2025 RFD 25-50
Memo To: Village Council
From: Chelsie Giesbrecht
Subject: Policy Review: Online Payments

1. **PURPOSE** – To review existing Policy No. 32, Online Payments.
2. **BACKGROUND** – This policy was approved in 2015.
3. **OPTIONS** –
 1. To amend the policy and set a review date.
 2. To leave the policy as it is and set a review date.
4. **DISCUSSION** – The attached policy was created in 2015 to provide guidelines to follow when an online payment is received from a financial institution.
5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** – No financial implications.
6. **LEGAL** –
7. **POLITICAL/PUBLIC IMPLICATIONS** –
8. **OTHER COMMENTS** –
9. **RECOMMENDATIONS** – Option #2, I recommend the following resolution;

“that Alix Village Council hereby approves Policy No. 32, Online Payments as presented and sets a review date of 2029 for this policy.”

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Chelsie Giesbrecht', written over a horizontal line.

Author



Department: **Taxes and Utilities**

Policy No: **32**

Policy Title: **Online Payments**

Resolution No: **/25**

Date: **October 1, 2025**

Review Date: **2029**

Policy Statement:

The Village of Alix recognizes the necessity of setting guidelines for online payments.

Guidelines/ Procedures:

A tax and/or utility payment is deemed to be received by the municipality as per the transaction/payment date recorded on the tracing/payment report received from financial institutions.

Mayor

CAO

Date

ADMINISTRATION REPORT



Date: September 24, 2025 RFD 25-47
Memo To: Village Council
From: Michelle White
Subject: Cemetery Fence

1. **PURPOSE** – To determine what type of fence Council would like at the Cemetery.
2. **BACKGROUND** – Old sections of the fence at the Cemetery were replaced in 2021, but more still needs to be done. Continuing this project was put on the Multi-Year Capital Budget for 2026.
3. **OPTIONS** –
 1. To replace the existing fence with new pagewire fence
 2. To replace the old fence with a 3 pole fence construction
4. **DISCUSSION** – While getting the quote updated for the cost of replacing the next section of fence, the contractor asked if we might prefer a 3 pole fence made of treated wood materials.

NOTE: fencing along the back of the cemetery is regular barbed wire 'farm fence' so using pagewire on 3 sides will not effectively keep out wildlife.
5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** – Cost difference between the two styles of fence is expected to be negligible. Labour costs are higher with the pagewire, but material costs are higher with the pole fence.
6. **LEGAL** – None
7. **POLITICAL/PUBLIC IMPLICATIONS** – The section of fence being replaced is public facing. It will be very visible to all who visit the Cemetery from the road and from the parking area.
8. **OTHER COMMENTS** – There are quite a few 'old growth' trees along this fence line. Public Works was consulted to determine if one type of fence would be better than the other when taking this into consideration. Foreman Mike Carr felt the pole fence would be preferable because if the fence were damaged from a falling tree or tree branch, broken or damaged poles could be replaced by staff. If it were a pagewire fence, a falling tree would cause significantly more damage and repairs would likely have to be outsourced.
9. **RECOMMENDATIONS** – None. Seeking Council direction.



Author

ADMINISTRATION REPORT



Date: September 24, 2025
Memo To: Village Council
From: Michelle White
Subject: Digital Sign

RFD 25-48

1. **PURPOSE** – To determine if Council would like replacement of the digital sign to remain on the 2026 Capital Budget.
2. **BACKGROUND** – The Village purchased and installed a Digital Sign on Main Street in 2012 for the purpose of advertisement within the Village. In fall of 2023, Council decided to have the replacement of the sign added to the Multi-Year Capital budget. At the time, the cost was quoted at \$21,708.
3. **OPTIONS** –
 1. Continue to run the existing digital sign for a few more years or until it stops functioning
 2. Direct staff to increase the budgeted amount for sign replacement in 2026
4. **DISCUSSION** –
5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** – We are currently being given an estimated cost of \$30,000 plus installation fees of \$5,000 to replace the sign. Upgrades to the software were done in 2025, a new sign would be compatible with these upgrades.

This project is to be funded from municipal taxes. Since it is not a core infrastructure project and the dollar value is relatively low, it could be difficult to secure a grant for this purchase.
6. **LEGAL** – There are certain advertising rules/standards that are being met through use of the digital sign such as video surveillance and Public Participation Policy requirements.
7. **POLITICAL/PUBLIC IMPLICATIONS** – The purpose of the digital sign is to help keep the community informed and provide a means of local advertising for community groups and businesses. Due to the age of the current sign, we are losing resolution on the screen – making it harder to read.
8. **OTHER COMMENTS** – We have sourced a company for repairs and/or replacement from Blackfalds. This should help reduce costs from our previous Calgary based company.
9. **RECOMMENDATIONS** – Option #2, I recommend the following resolution:

“that Alix Village Council hereby directs administration to increase the budgeted replacement cost of the digital sign to \$35,000 and further, that the sign replacement remains scheduled for 2026.”

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. White', written over a horizontal line.

Author

ADMINISTRATION REPORT



Date: September 25, 2025
Memo To: Village Council
From: Michelle White
Subject: PRL budget

RFD 25-51

1. **PURPOSE** – To review and approve (or not) the Parkland Regional Library budget.
2. **BACKGROUND** – Parkland Regional Library (PRL) requires a Council resolution regarding their budget proposal each year.
3. **OPTIONS** –
 1. To approve the proposed 2026 Parkland Regional Library budget.
 2. To make the resolution below and defeat it, thereby not approving the proposed budget.
4. **DISCUSSION** – The Parkland Regional Library (PRL) information attached includes Notes that highlight the proposed changes for the 2026 year.
5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** – The proposed PRL budget has an eighteen cent per capita increase to the municipal requisition. This would mean going from \$9.81 to \$9.99 per person.

For 2024, the requisition was \$7,665.30 (Population of 835 x \$9.18)
For 2025, the requisition was \$7,592.94 (Population of 774 x \$9.81)
The 2025 requisition would be \$7,732.26 (Population of 774 x \$9.99)

Overall PRL expenses are expected to increase by 1.84% in 2026.

6. **LEGAL** – Parkland Regional Library requires a Council resolution regarding their budget proposal each year.
7. **POLITICAL/PUBLIC IMPLICATIONS** –
8. **OTHER COMMENTS** –

The Municipal Affairs Population list being used by PRL for the 2026 may be updated to reflect our Municipal Census population of 781 if Municipal Affairs has verified our 2024 census submission. This would result in a 2026 requisition of \$7,802.19.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS** – Option #1. I recommend the following resolution:

“that the Village of Alix Council hereby approves the proposed Parkland Regional Library Board 2026 budget as presented.”

Author



Proposed BUDGET 2026

PARKLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Proposed 2026 Budget

		Present Budget	Proposed Budget
		2025	2026
Income			
1.1	Provincial Operating Grant	1,045,242	1,045,242
1.2	On Reserve, On Settlement Grant	156,647	156,647
1.3	Membership Fees	2,178,075	2,234,174
1.4	Alberta Rural Library Services Grant	452,928	452,928
1.5	Interest Income	67,500	50,000
TOTAL Income		3,900,392	3,938,991
Support Materials & Services Direct to Libraries			
2.1	Alberta Rural Library Services Grant	452,928	452,928
2.2	Allotment Funds Issued to Libraries	251,794	253,392
2.3	Computer Maint. Agree. Software licenses	236,627	242,398
2.4	Cooperative Collection Fund	30,000	25,000
2.5	eContent Platform fees, Subscriptions	66,850	73,000
2.6	On Reserve, On Settlement Grant expenses	84,756	84,756
2.7	Freight	1,200	1,200
2.8	Internet Connection Fees	11,025	9,600
2.9	Library Services Tools	6,700	8,000
2.10	Marketing/Advocacy	20,000	20,000
2.11	Member Library Computers Allotment	66,608	67,092
2.12	Outlets - Contribution to Operating	800	600
2.13	Periodicals	1,000	0
2.14	ILL Postage for libraries	2,300	2,300
2.15	Supplies purchased Cataloguing/Mylar	19,000	26,600
2.16	Vehicle expense	58,000	58,000
2.17	Workshop/Training expense	14,000	16,000
PRLS Circulating Collections			
2.18	Audio Book	5,000	5,000
2.19	eContent	75,000	85,000
2.20	Large Print	12,000	12,000
2.21	Programming Kits	5,000	5,000
2.22	Professional Development Materials (formerly reference)	2,600	3,600
TOTAL Support Materials & Services Direct to Libraries		1,423,188	1,451,466
Cost of Services			
3.1	Audit	25,000	23,500
3.2	Bank expenses	1,500	1,200
3.3	Bank Investment Fees	4,700	4,700
3.4	Building-Repairs/Maintenance	27,250	27,250
3.5	Dues/Fees/Memberships	13,000	13,000
3.6	Insurance	26,500	26,500
3.7	Janitorial/Snow removal/Outdoor maintenance expense	37,600	38,000
3.8	Photocopy	4,000	4,000
3.9	Salaries	1,828,510	1,844,451
3.10	Salaries - Employee Benefits	387,644	391,024
3.11	Staff Development	20,000	18,000
3.12	Supplies/Stationery/Building	29,000	21,400
3.13	Telephone	9,000	11,000
3.14	Travel	3,500	3,500
3.15	Trustee expense	26,000	26,000
3.16	Utilities	34,000	34,000
TOTAL Cost of Services		2,477,204	2,487,625
TOTAL Expenses (library materials & cost of service)		3,900,392	3,938,991
Surplus/Deficit		0	0
AMOUNT PER CAPITA REQUISITION		9.81	9.99

Notes for the Parkland Regional Library System Budget 2026

Parkland's budget is developed according to Board policy and the constraints imposed by the Parkland Regional Library System Agreement. According to clause eight of the agreement

Library System Budget

8.1 The PRLS Board shall prior to November 1 of each year submit a budget to the Parties to this Agreement and an estimate of the money required during the ensuing fiscal year to operate the library system. [Reg. s.25 (1)(f)]

8.2 The budget and estimate of money required referred to in clause 8.1 above, shall be effective upon receipt by the PRLS Board of written notification of approval from two-thirds of the Parties to this Agreement which must represent at least two-thirds of the member population; and thereupon, each Party to this Agreement shall pay to the PRLS Board an amount which is the product of the per capita requisition set out in Schedule "B" and the population of the Parties to the agreement. Payments shall be made on or before the dates set out therein.

8.3 The population of a municipality that is a Party to this Agreement shall be deemed to be the most recent population figure for the municipality as published by Alberta Municipal Affairs.

8.4 Municipalities which join the library system after January 1, 1998 shall pay a signing fee as determined by the PRLS Board.

8.5 The PRLS Board shall apply to the Government of Alberta for all library grants for which it is eligible, in accordance with the Department of Community Development Grants Regulation 57/98.

8.6 Notwithstanding Clause 17.1.c., any increase in the requisition requires written notification of approval from two-thirds of the parties to this agreement which must represent at least two-thirds of the member population.

Generally speaking, PRLS budgets are prepared with conservative estimates. Revenue is estimated at its minimum level and expenditures are estimated at their maximum level. For 2026, there is an eighteen-cent increase to the municipal per capita requisition to \$9.99. This amounts to a \$0.18 or 1.84% increase in the requisition.

The budget was built around the assumption that the Government of Alberta system operating grant will remain at the 2024 rate of \$4.75 per capita and the rural library services grant will remain at \$5.60 per capita, with both being issued based on the 2019 Municipal Affairs Population List.

Points within the budget to note include:

- Overall, expenditures are anticipated to increase by 0.99% in 2026.
- For 2026, seventeen expense lines are projected to remain unchanged from 2025, thirteen will see increases, and eight will decrease.
- The budget for 2026 is based on a new population figure of 223,641.
- Interest income is down because of a sharp decline in interest paid on Parkland's current bank account (line 1.5).
- The Cooperative Collection has been reduced by \$5,000 to pay for additional eContent (line 2.4).
- eContent platform fees have been increased by \$6,150 to cover cost increase for existing products (line 2.5).
- Internet connection fees are also down. Parkland's network infrastructure department had set aside funds for an increase in bandwidth it does not judge as necessary (line 2.8).
- Library Services tools have increased slightly due to an increase in the cost of one of Parkland's frequently used survey tools (line 2.9).
- Outlet contributions have dropped slightly since by 2026. The library in Nordegg will no longer be a Parkland service point (line 2.12).
- Line 2.13 has been eliminated with the funds added to line 2.22.
- The Workshop and Training lines have been increased slightly to cover the increased costs for Parkland's in-person conference which was reinstated in 2024 (line 2.17).
- eContent has been increased by \$10,000 due to requests made by a few libraries for more eContent. (line 2.19).
- Audit fees are down slightly because 2024 had a Local Authorities Pension Plan audit in addition to Parkland's regular audit – LAPP audits only occur every third year (line 3.1).
- The salaries line (3.9) has increased to accommodate eligible employees moving up a step on the salary grid.
- The Supplies/Stationery/Building line (line 3.12) has been reduced by \$7,600 and Supplies Purchased (line 2.15) increased by the same amount to reflect the inventory items purchased for member libraries.
- The Telephone line (line 3.13) has increased due to the number of staff who now require multi-factor authentication as part of their job with Parkland. Staff receive a \$50 per month subsidy towards their phone plan.
- Provincial grants amount to approximately 41% of PRLS' total income (lines 1.1, 1.2, 1.4).

Provincial grants amount to approximately 41% of PRLS' total income (lines 1.1, 1.2, 1.4).

At the end of the budget, is the Budget Supplement. In this section the board pre-approves purchases from reserves for the upcoming year and known transfers between reserves. In 2026, Parkland will be purchasing at least one new vehicle (estimated at \$65,000). By approving the budget, the board is approving these transfers to and from Parkland's reserve fund accounts.

Included is a Return on Municipal Levy document based on the projected budget comparing the amount of requisition/municipal levy to items of direct financial benefit to member libraries. Based on budget amounts, an equivalent of 91% of the 2026 levy is returned in tangible form. This return is before considering services provided by Parkland or taking into account the costs of running the Parkland system headquarters.

Parkland Regional Library System



Return on Municipal Levy

Based on 2026 Budgeted Amounts		2026
Materials Allotment for Libraries	(Books, DVD's, audiobooks, etc.)	\$ 253,392
Cooperative Collection Fund		\$ 25,000
Technology	(Hardware – budget plus reserves)	\$ 161,092
Postage	(Reimbursement for Interlibrary Loan)	\$ 2,300
Software	(For computers, ILS, etc.)	\$ 242,398
Rotating Collections	(Large Print, Audiobooks, Programming Kits, etc.)	\$ 25,600
Internet	(Connectivity provided to member libraries)	\$ 9,600
eContent	(Platforms & Purchases of eBooks, eAudiobooks, etc.)	\$ 158,000
Vehicle Expense		\$ 58,000
Marketing/Advocacy		\$ 20,000
Workshop/Training		\$ 16,000
Cataloguing Supplies		\$ 34,600
Contribution to Outlet Libraries*	(\$200 each for Brownfield, Spruce View and Water Valley)	\$ 600
Materials Discount	(34% in 2024)	\$ 224,997
Additional Services/Funding Available to Parkland Libraries:		
Rural Libraries Services Grant	(Given to PRLS and distributed directly to libraries)	\$ 452,928
SuperNet	(Fiber Optic connection provided by GOA)	\$ 370,022
Sub-Total		\$ 2,054,529
Requisition		\$ 2,234,174
		91%
Difference Between Levy & Direct Return		\$ 179,645



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada

September 22, 2025

The Honourable Dan Williams
Minister of Municipal Affairs

Dear Minister:

Thank you for your continued service to the people of Alberta and for your leadership within our government.

Albertans have entrusted us with a clear mandate: to deliver results, strengthen our communities, and build a future rooted in prosperity, opportunity, and responsible governance. Our government was elected to get the job done – and that is exactly what we will do.

Your ministry has had great success and accomplished several important milestones that reflect your commitment to serving Albertans. Some of these include:

- Strengthening local governance and updating local election rules with amendments to the *Municipal Government Act*, *Local Authorities Election Act* and the Local Political Parties and Slates Regulation.
- Enhancing construction safety and quality standards for newly built homes with changes to *New Home Buyer Protection Act* and the *Safety Codes Act*.

These achievements have laid a strong foundation for the work ahead and demonstrate your team's ability to turn vision into action.

Under your leadership as Minister of Municipal Affairs, I expect you to work closely with your Cabinet and Caucus colleagues and the public service through the Committee, Cabinet, and legislative processes to deliver on the following commitments to support Albertans, including:

- Maintain and build relationships of trust, partnership, and open dialogue with municipal leaders across the province and bring feedback and solutions from these discussions with municipal leaders to Caucus and Cabinet for timely consideration and action.
- Continue working with municipalities and local businesses to benchmark, measure and reduce the time it takes to approve permits to create a more attractive business investment environment.
- Work collaboratively with municipalities to eliminate conflicts between provincial policy and municipal bylaws and policy.
- Review and engage on how the government can support urban development that meets young Albertans' goals of home ownership in safe, affordable, attractive, livable family-friendly communities that reflect Alberta's distinct values and heritage.



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada

- Review and make recommendations to strengthen Alberta's municipalities to ensure all Albertans are served by strong viable communities with the appropriate capacity to efficiently and effectively deliver necessary services.
- In consultation with municipalities and the business community, explore and make recommendations for ways to limit excessive municipal property tax increases for businesses and residents.
- Develop and implement a strategy to protect Albertans from specialized municipal taxes directed at homes that are not a primary residence.
- Complete development of an 'Automatic Yes' permitting program which will set shortened approval timeframes for all permitting overseen by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs coupled with an automatic approval for applications that are not rejected prior to the lapse of the maximum allowable assessment period.
- Streamline approval processes and reduce impediments for all permitting overseen by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to enable the timely development of affordable housing.
- Complete work on a universal code of conduct for elected municipal officials and senior municipal staff that strengthens decorum and protects the freedom of speech of elected members, while ensuring an elected member cannot be impeded from fulfilling their duties as an elected representative by their elected colleagues.
- Review and provide recommendations regarding how to strengthen the role of elected municipal officials as the key policy and decision makers and supervisors of unelected municipal officials in municipal governments.
- Conduct a review of compensation and benefits for municipal officials to ensure taxpayer dollars are being respected and compensation levels are commensurate with time commitment and responsibility, including through the establishment of a municipal salary disclosure.

In addition, I expect you to provide support on further initiatives overseen by your colleagues:

- In coordination with the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, who is lead, and the Associate Minister of Water, accelerate the development of an integrated water program that facilitates increased water treatment and distribution for residential, industrial, and agricultural water use across Alberta.

I direct you to work closely with the public service, including your Deputy Minister and other senior officials in your ministry, to support the priorities outlined in this letter with the highest standard of professionalism, integrity, and creativity.

I also expect you to regularly and proactively reach out to all ministry-related stakeholders in order to take feedback and identify potential solutions on issues of importance to them, including finding ways our government can reduce burdensome and unnecessary red tape and barriers that are hurting their members' ability to grow the economy and improve quality of life for the Albertans



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada

they serve.

Together with you and our Caucus and Cabinet colleagues, I look forward to continuing the important work we have started and to get the job done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Danielle Smith".

Hon. Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta



Luci Henry
Board Chair, Ward A

Lana Thompson
Vice Chair, Ward B

Trudy Bratland
Ward C

Kelly Lowry
Ward D

Brent Buchanan
Ward D

Darryl Stendie
Ward E

Tim De Ruyck
Superintendent of Schools

6000 Highway 2A
Ponoka, Alberta T4J 1P6

Phone: (403) 783-3473
Fax: (403) 783-3483

sent via email

Wolf Creek Public Schools

September 25, 2025

Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides
Minister of Education & Childcare
228 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
education.minister@gov.ab.ca

Honourable Martin Long
Minister of Infrastructure
419 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
infrastructure.minister@gov.ab.ca

Dear Ministers,

RE: Real Property Governance - School Ownership

I am writing on behalf of the Wolf Creek Public Schools Board of Trustees. We wish to express concern regarding the *Real Property Governance Act* and the potential implications for school divisions and municipalities.

Historically, when property was required for future school construction, a school division would make the request to the local municipality, and the land would then be designated. In doing so, it was of the understanding that should the land at any point no longer be required for school construction, it would be returned to the local municipality. The same would be true when a school existed and was no longer required at any point. This is often articulated in Joint Use and Planning Agreements.

Under this new legislation, a school division cannot return property to a municipality without first seeing if the Alberta government wants to retain the property for its own purposes. We know it has been stated that the intended purpose of land and buildings would remain educational should a school division no longer require a property, and there is no intent to impact JUPA agreements, but overall, this new legislation creates an element of uncertainty which was not previously present.

Additionally, Alberta Infrastructure will own the land and buildings for any new and/or replacement schools, and lease back to School Boards. As a result, this could limit the ability of school divisions to partner with communities, given that we do not own the land and buildings.

Further, there are often green spaces which are part of the property where schools exist or where new schools may be constructed. This allows for partnership opportunities between school divisions and municipalities, such as the development of playgrounds, ball diamonds, or outdoor skating facilities, given that school divisions do not receive funding for this. Our concern is that these types of opportunities could now be hindered, given that the ownership of property is no longer an agreement between school divisions and municipalities.

Finally, we believe the *Real Property Governance Act* represents further erosion of the responsibilities of local school divisions and municipalities. We request that the *Real Property Governance Act* be amended to address the concerns noted above. We believe the provincial inventory of land and buildings could be strengthened without the need for ownership to be held provincially.

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Luci Henry
Board Chair

Cc ASBA
PSBAA
All Board Chairs
Local MLAs
Local Municipalities
WCPS Principals & School Council Chairs





DEAR VALUED SUPPORTER:

Thank you for your pledge of support for our **Alberta NWT Command Legion's** annual digital **Military Service Recognition Guide Project**. Each year this guide honours and recognizes the selfless contributions made by Veterans from Alberta and the Northwest Territories who have so honourably served our Country.

Your generous contribution and support is sincerely appreciated. Digital versions of our Annual Military Service Recognition Guides are available online at abnwtlegion.com under the Remembrance Tab for easy access for everyone, especially our younger generation, to better understand the sacrifices that our local Veterans made for our Country. **You may scan the QR Code below for quick access.**

Our annual guide helps identify and recognize our Veterans in Alberta and the Northwest Territories who served our country. As Keepers of Remembrance, The Royal Canadian Legion strives to perpetuate the sacrifices that our Veterans and their families made for our freedom. The Military Service Recognition book will serve as a reminder, for generations to come, of the contributions our Veterans made to the creation of our nation and the continuance of Canada as a protector of freedom.

The Royal Canadian Legion has been active in communities across the country for over 90 years. By supporting our Veterans and their families, the Legion has made a significant difference in the lives of many.

Every day, the Legion makes a difference, whether it is providing emergency funds for food, shelter or clothing to a Veteran, to funding groundbreaking research in mental and physical health. In addition, through the annual Poster and Literary contest, the Legion provides opportunities for our youth to showcase their writing and artistic talents.

The Alberta-NWT Command Service Officers focus on supports to our Veterans by advocating on their behalf and preparing disability and pension claims through Veterans Affairs Canada. Annually, over 900 Veterans in the Alberta-NWT Command, benefit from the expertise provided by our professional Service Officers.

As a stalwart in many communities across Alberta and the Northwest Territories, The Royal Canadian Legion will continue to change lives every day.

Thank you for your support in helping to improve the lives of our Veterans and their families and making our communities greater.

Sincerely,

Dave Velichko
President
Alberta-NWT Command



MSR Guide

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