

Regular Meeting of the Village of Alix Council, to be held on  
Wednesday, March 4, 2026 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 – February 18, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
4. Delegation: a) Riley Kloss, AMAA – Wild Rose Assessment Services
5. Bylaws: None
6. Unfinished Business: None
7. New Business: a) In Memoriam Street Naming – Request for Decision 26-11  
b) Resident Request for Road Closure – Request for Decision 26-12  
c) Resident Request for Road Closure – Request for Decision 26-13
8. Financial Reports: None
9. Committee Reports: a) Parkland Community Planning Services – Councillor Besuijen  
b) Alix Arena Meeting – Councillor Fehr
10. Administrative Reports: a) CAO Report
11. Correspondence: a) Alberta Municipalities – Property Taxes Reimagined  
b) Lacombe County – Fire Permit media release  
c) Municipal Affairs – 2026 Federal Census  
d) Municipal Affairs – Minister’s Awards for Municipal and Public Library Excellence
12. Closed Meeting: a) Access to Information Act s. 30(1) Disclosure harmful to economic and other interests of a public body RE: Administrative Support Services  
  
b) Access to Information Act s. 28(1) Local public body confidences RE: Parkland Community Planning Services
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, February 18, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. in the Village of Alix Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Barbara Gilliat, Councillors Edwin Cole, Rob Fehr and Frank Laneuville

Regrets: Councillor Janice Besuijen

Also Present: Tanya Meston, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

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

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

Approval of Agenda:

Resolution #033/26: Moved by Councillor Cole that the Village of Alix Council approve the agenda with the following addition:

Add: New Business: d) Director of Emergency Management

CARRIED

Minutes: a) Regular Meeting – February 4, 2026

Resolution #034/26: Moved by Councillor Laneuville that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Alix Council held on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Delegation: None

Bylaws: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: a) Bashaw and District Regional Health and Wellness Foundation – Request for Decision 26-07

Resolution #035/26: Moved by Councillor Fehr that the Village of Alix Council hereby accepts Request for Decision 26-07, Bashaw and District Regional Health and Wellness Foundation as information.

CARRIED

b) Policy Review: Sale of Municipal Lands - Request for Decision 26-08

Resolution #036/26: Moved by Councillor Laneuville that the Village of Alix Council hereby approves Policy No. 44, Sale of Municipal Lands, as presented and sets a review date of 2031 for this policy.

CARRIED

c) Infrastructure Master Plan – Request for Decision 26-09

Resolution #037/26: Moved by Councillor Fehr that the Village of Alix Council hereby adopts the 2026 Infrastructure Master Plan as presented and repeals any previous Infrastructure Plans at this time.

CARRIED

d) Director of Emergency Management

Resolution #038/26: Moved by Councillor Cole that the Village of Alix Council hereby appoints Michelle White as the Director of Emergency Management for the Village of Alix.

CARRIED

- Financial Reports:      a) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – January 16 – February 11, 2026  
                                 b) Bank Reconciliation – January 31, 2026  
                                 c) Tax Trial Balance – February 12, 2026
- Resolution #039/26:      Moved by Councillor Fehr that the Village of Alix Council hereby accept the Financial Reports as presented.  

CARRIED
- Committee Reports:      None
- Administrative Reports:      None
- Correspondence and Information:      a) Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Bashaw Detachment – Community Priorities Plan Leadership Invitation  
                                 b) Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Bashaw Detachment – 2025 Fourth Quarter Policing Statistics  
                                 c) Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Alberta – Update on What is Being Done to Support Safe, Resilient Communities Across the Province  
                                 d) Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta – Advocacy Bulletin  
                                 e) Town of Penhold – Penhold Cares Blood Drive  
                                 f) Provincial Security and Intelligence Office – Safety Bulletin Re: Economic Development Security Risks
- Resolution #040/26:      Moved by Councillor Fehr that Correspondence Items (a) through (f) be accepted as information.  

CARRIED
- Closed Meeting:      None
- Adjournment:
- Resolution #041/26:      Moved by Councillor Fehr that this Regular Meeting of the Village of Alix Council be adjourned at 6:25 P.M.  

CARRIED

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Mayor

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Assistant Chief Administrative Officer



# 2026 ALIX COUNCIL PRESENTATION

# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- Wild Rose Assessment-Founded in 1995 following government privatization
- WRA has been Alix's assessment services provider since 2001
- Riley: Appointed assessor since 2014
- Riley: Assessing for 17 years, accredited for 13 years
- WRA: 5 Accredited assessors plus administrative staff

# OUTLINE

- Introduction and Background
- What is an Assessor
- What is an Assessment
- What is Assessed
- Tax Exemptions
- How Assessments are Prepared
- Assessment Audit – ASSET
- Assessment Cycle
- 2025 Preliminary Assessment Data
- Emerging Topics
- Questions

# WHAT IS AN ASSESSOR

Person employed by the Municipality to prepare and defend the assessment roll in accordance with the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and the Regulations.

The “Designated Assessor” is appointed by the Municipality and **MUST** have qualifications pursuant to Provincial Statutes.

# PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

**Property assessments are the basis to distribute the municipality's budgeted tax amount in a fair and equitable manner.**

# WHAT AN ASSESSMENT IS



Process of assigning dollar value to each property for the purpose of property taxation.



Based on Legislation, “dollar value” is either:

- 1) Market Value
- 2) Regulated Value

# MARKET VALUE

- Section 1(n) of the MGA defines market value as:  
“the amount that a property, as defined in section 284(1)(r), might be expected to realize if it is sold on the open market by a willing seller to a willing buyer”
- Section 284(1)(r) defines property as:
  - a parcel of land,
  - an improvement,
  - a parcel of land and the improvements to it;

# REGULATED VALUE

Regulated rate set by **Province**.

Property assessed with **regulated rates**:

## 1) By the assessor

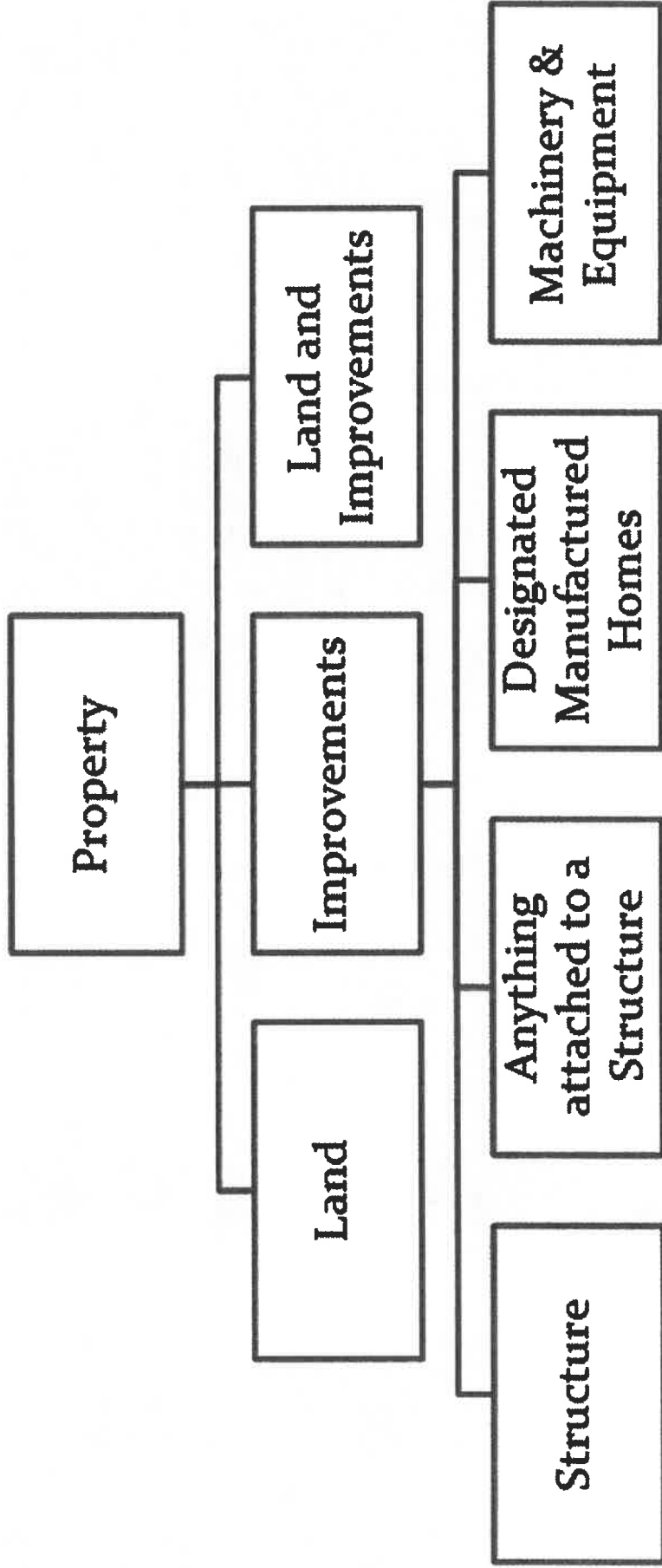
- Farmland – as agricultural use value
- Machinery & Equipment – as cost

## 2) By the Province

- Railway
- Designated Industrial Property (DIP)(Solar Farm)
- Major Plants



# WHAT IS ASSESSED





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# RESIDENTIAL

**Assessed at market value.**

- Detached** single family dwelling
- Semi-detached** dwelling
- Individual **condominium** units in apartment or townhouse
- Lot** suitable for single dwelling
- Multi-family** – multiple units on one land title

# NON-RESIDENTIAL

## Assessed at market value.

Land, single or multiple user buildings, condominiums:

- Commercial** – land, owner user, multiple tenant
- Industrial** – land, owner user, multiple tenant
- Land** – suitable for non-residential buildings, or redevelopment
- Purpose-Built** – church, school, campground, manufactured home park

# NON-ASSESSABLE

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Municipal Infrastructure

Water, sewer systems

Farm Buildings

Airport Improvements

Roads, runways



# TAX EXEMPTIONS

# TAXABLE OR EXEMPT



By default, all property is **TAXABLE**.



Tax **EXEMPTION** achieved by:



1) **MGA** exempts property from taxation.

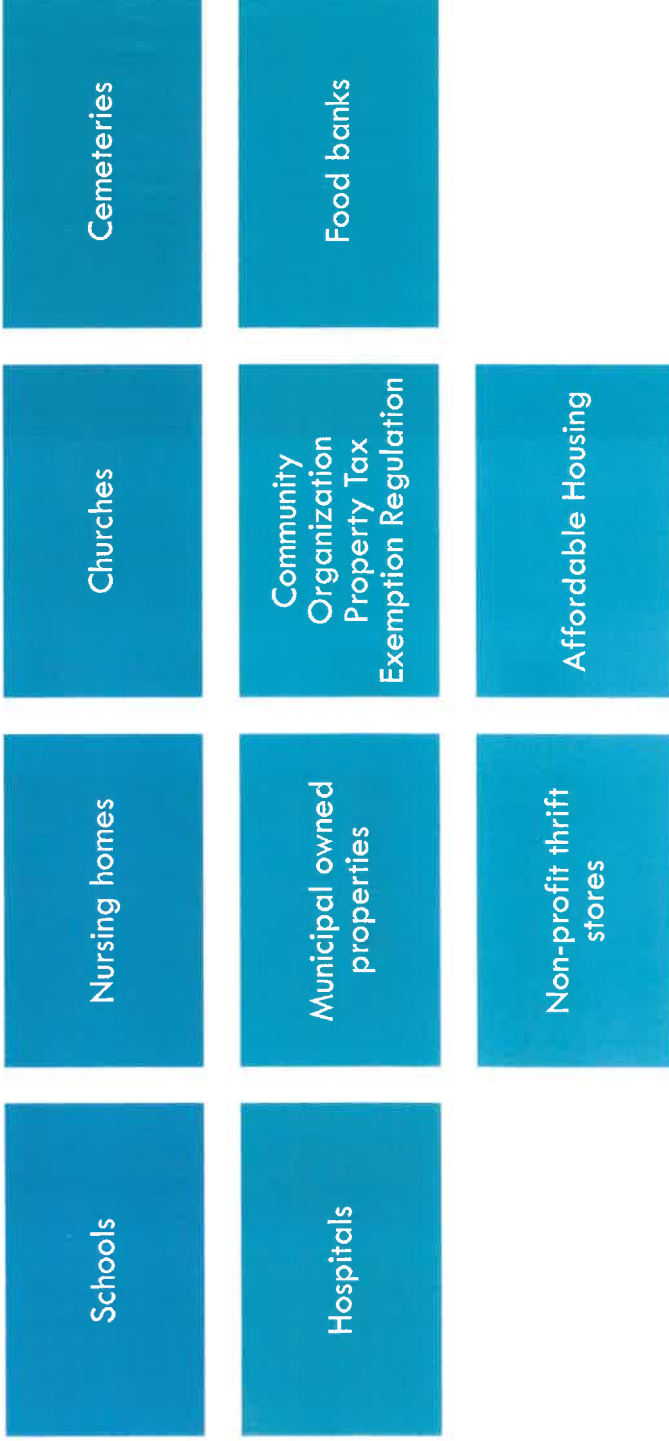


2) **COPTER**



\* Community Organization Property Tax  
Exemption Regulation

# MGA: EXEMPT FROM TAXATION



# AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Province published 'Affordable Housing' taxation exemption list in 2024.

- List created and maintained by the Province
- Issued annually by September 30
- Sent to municipality directly via email, with the assessor being included
- Province expressed intent of the 'list' to exempt property operated as a on-profit through reduced rents.
- Current threshold is a municipal agreement in place, rents 10% less than CMHC average
- MGA s 363(3) allows municipalities may annually pass a tax bylaw to collect the municipal portion of property tax. Requisitions are not collected.

- **Alix does not have any properties identified for affordable housing**

# HOW ASSESSMENTS ARE PREPARED

# ASSESSMENT STANDARDS

The **MGA** and **MRAT** (*Matters Relating to Assessment and Taxation*) define the methods and standards to prepare assessments.

A property **assessment is based on market value** and must:

- 1) Be prepared using mass appraisal
- 2) Be an estimate of the value of the fee simple estate in the property, and
- 3) Reflect typical market conditions for similar properties, whether sold or not

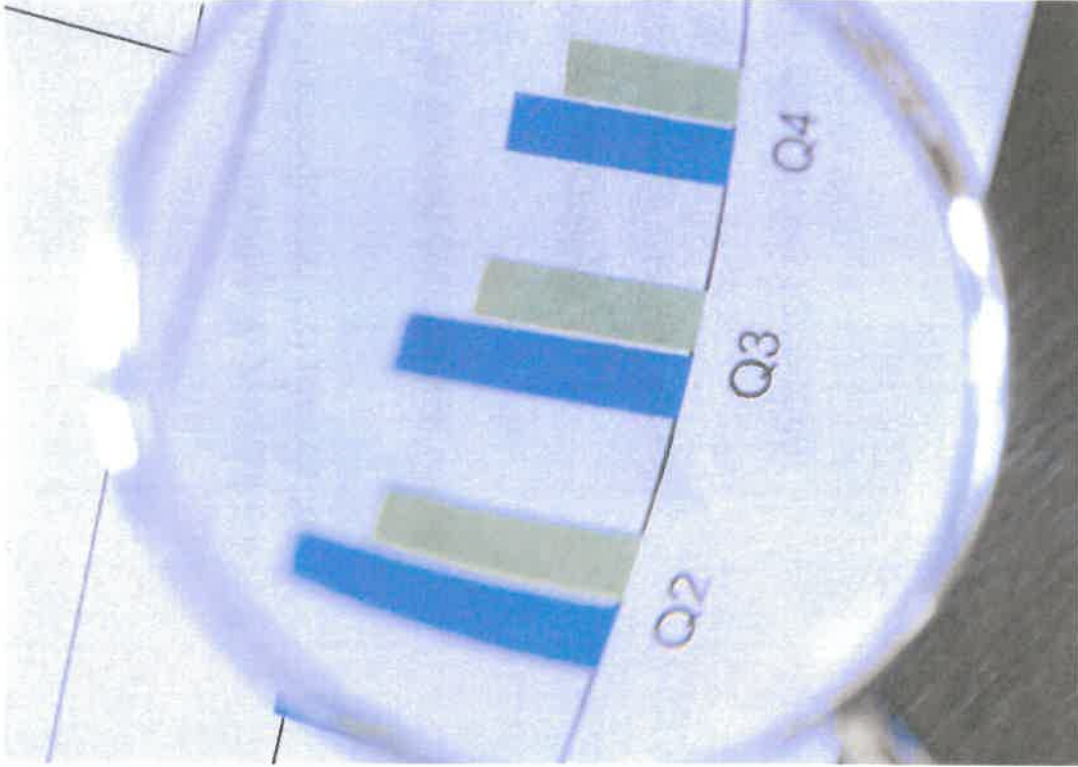
# MASS APPRAISAL

Section 1 (g) of MRAT defines mass appraisal as:

*“The process of preparing assessments for a group of properties using standard methods and common data and allowing for statistical testing”*

Allows annual valuation of large number of properties.

- Not every property sells every year.
- Property sales analyzed to achieve market value assessment on sold properties.
- Mass appraisal is applied to achieve equity as market value assessments to all other properties that have not sold in the past three years.



# APPROACHES TO MARKET VALUE

## COST - MARKET MODIFIED

- Depreciated cost new + land, adjusted to market based on Assessment: Sales ratio study

## INCOME

- Revenue less expenses converted to value by capitalization (cap) rate

## SALES COMPARISON

- Similar property compared on per unit basis

Assessors utilize the three traditional

approaches to value: **Cost, Income, Sales**

**Comparison.**

**Defining factors that create market value for a property dictate which valuation approach is most suitable.**

# ASSESSMENT AUDIT & COMPLIANCE

## Assessment Shared Systems EnvironmentI – ASSET

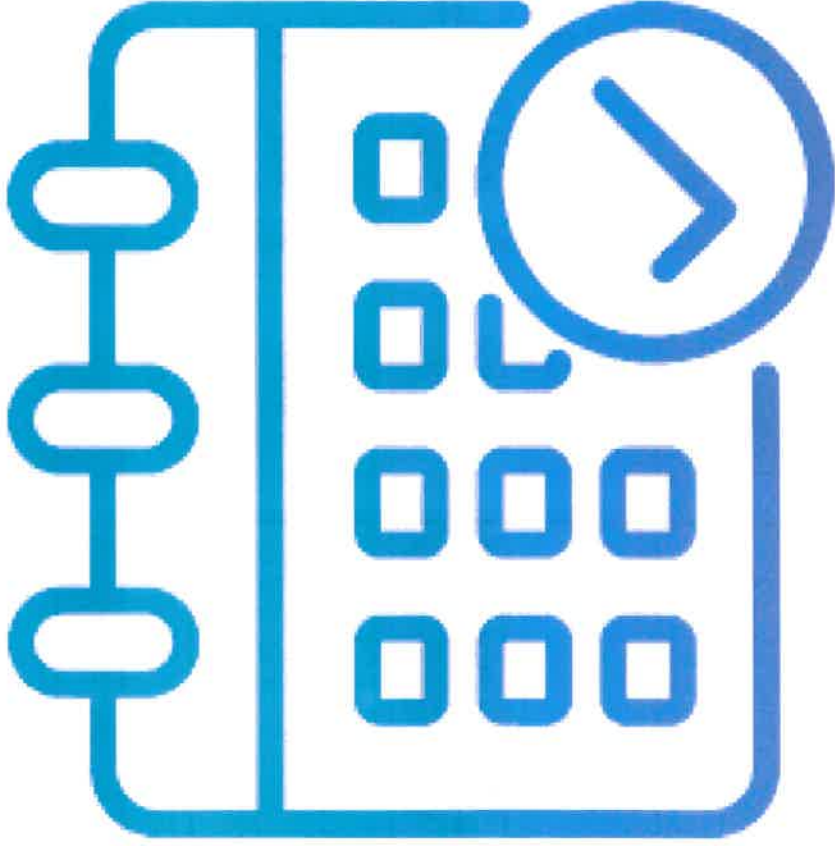
- Annually, by Feb 28, municipal assessment database loaded into ASSET.
- Changes after this date made as MGA Section 305
  - reloaded to ASSET throughout the year.
- Assessment and sales information are analyzed within ASSET.
  - to be audited for quality and compliance by the Province, Dept of Municipal Affairs.
- MRAT requires the Median ASR, for each property group or subgroup, be between 95% to 105% as an Assessment:Sales Ratio (ASR)

# ASSESSMENT TO SALES RATIO

**MRAT** median assessment standard of 95% to 105% ASR.

$$\text{Assessment / Sale Price} = \text{Assessment to Sales Ratio (ASR)}$$

Assessment	Sale	ASR	Comments
\$460,000	\$550,000	84%	
\$460,000	\$515,000	89%	
\$460,000	\$510,000	90%	
\$460,000	\$490,000	94%	
\$460,000	\$465,000	99%	Assmnt below Sale
\$460,000	\$445,000	103%	Assmnt above Sale
\$460,000	\$435,000	106%	
\$460,000	\$415,000	111%	
\$460,000	\$425,000	108%	
\$460,000	\$395,000	116%	
<b>\$460,000</b>	<b>\$445,000</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>Median</b>



# IMPORTANT DATES

Two legislated dates govern assessment valuation.

- December 31 as **Condition Date**
  - Assessed physical condition as at this date
  
- July 1 as annual **Valuation Date**
  - Assessed market value as at this date
  - Precedes **Condition Date**



# ASSESSMENT COMPLAINTS

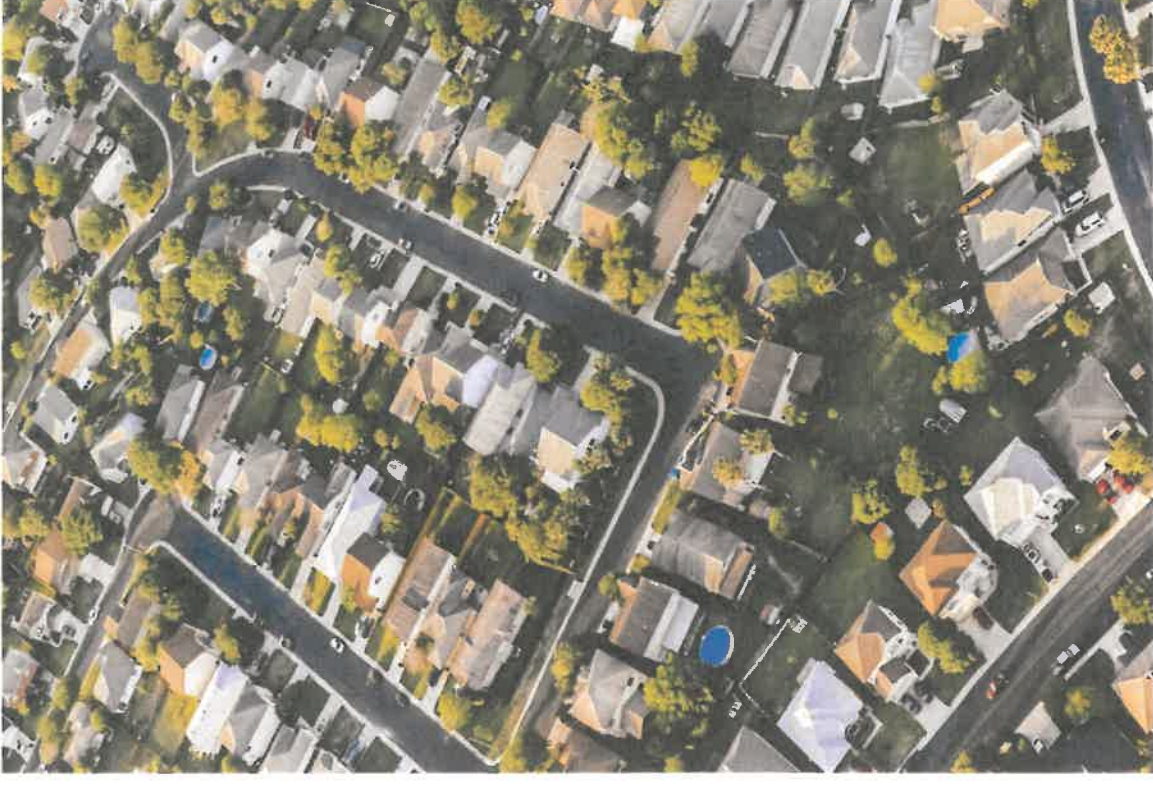
## Three types of assessment review boards:

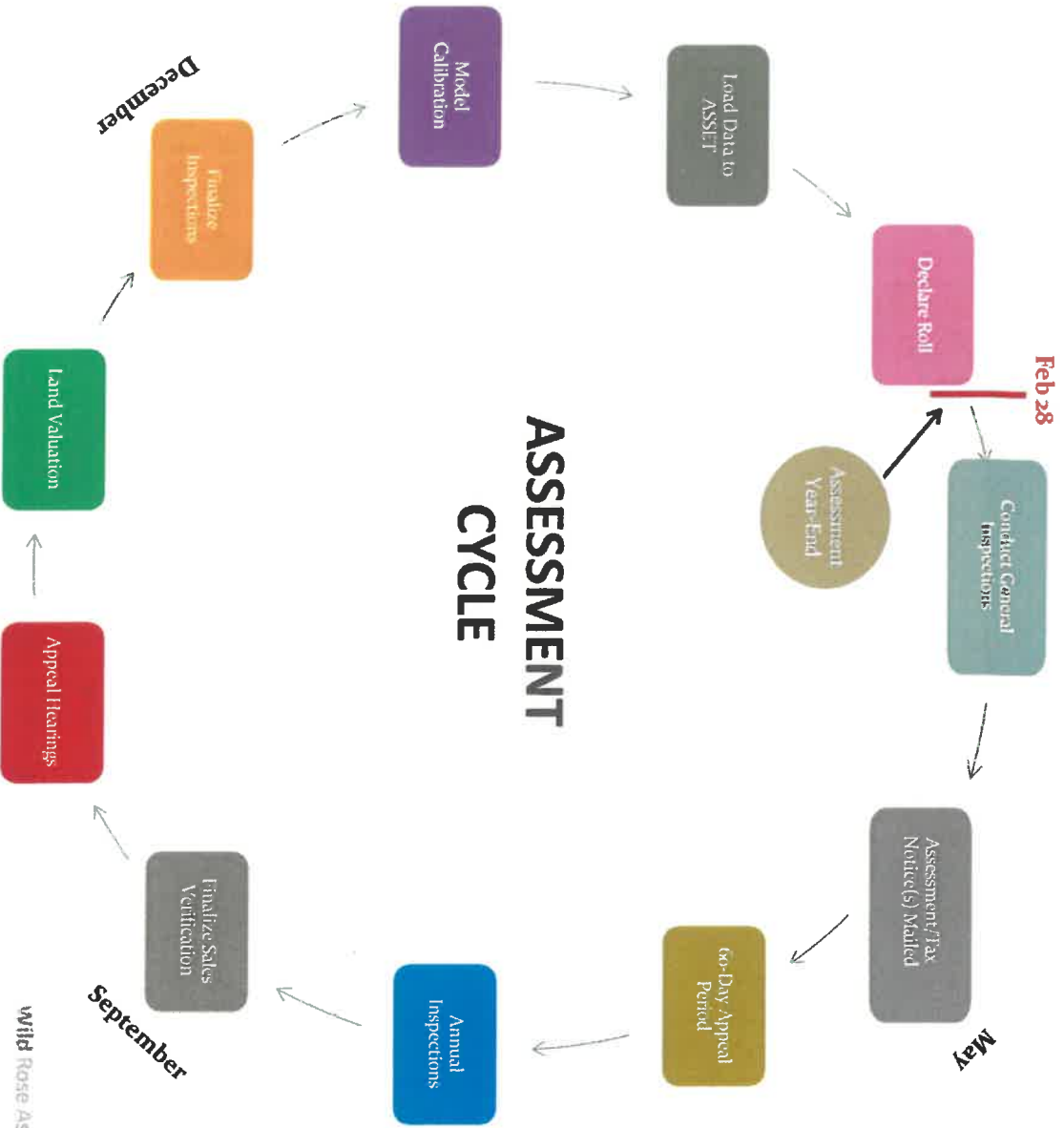
- ❑ Local Assessment Review Board (LARB)
  - Residential (3 dwellings or less) and farmland
- ❑ Composite Assessment Review Board (CARB)
  - Non-residential, multi-residential
- ❑ Land and Property Rights Tribunal
  - DIP and equalization

# COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

**Legislated procedure to file complaint.**

- Annual assessment notice mailed.
  - 67 days to file complaint with the municipality
- Municipality must then convene ARB hearing.
  - Regional Assessment Review Board handles this process
- ARB issues decision and are binding.
  - Municipality has 60 days to file for Judicial Review at Court of King's Bench.

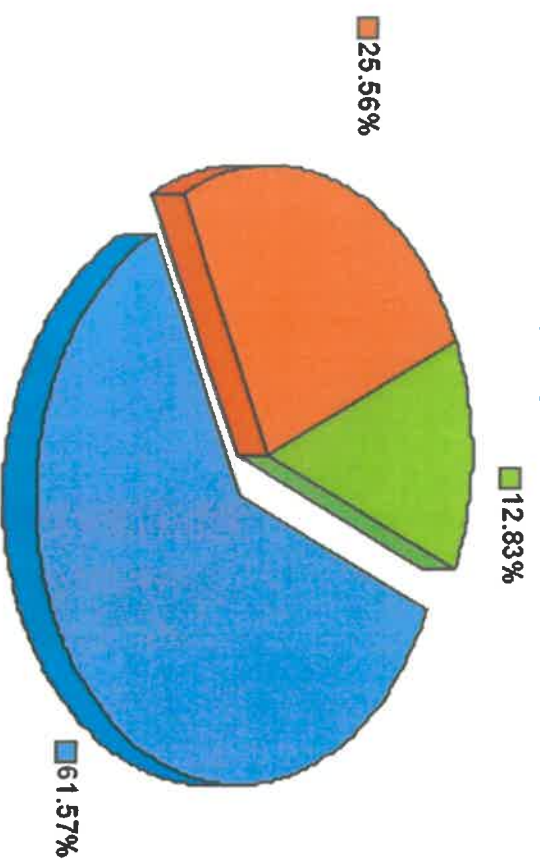




# 2025 PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT DATA

# RESIDENTIAL VS. NON-RESIDENTIAL

Assessment Breakdown by Property Description  
 Total: 127,848,900

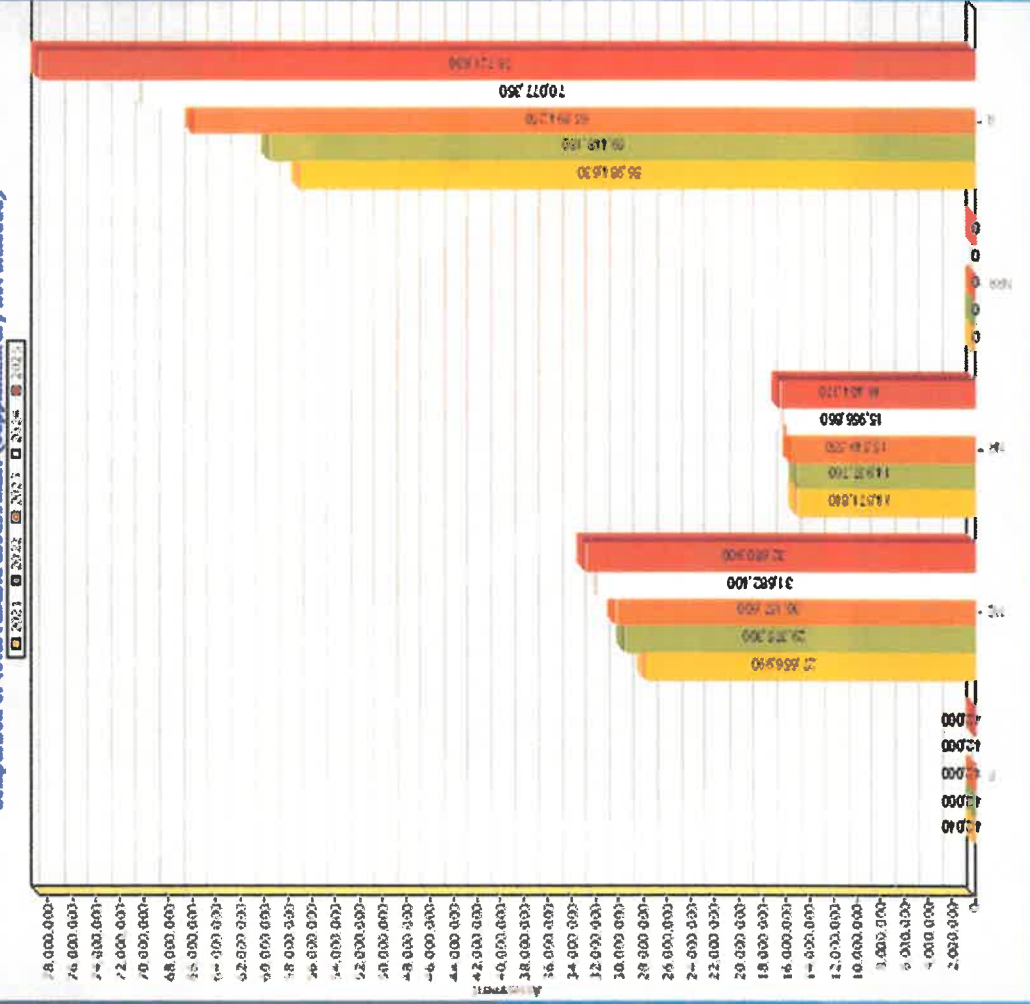


Taxable & Grant-in-Lieu	
0.03% Farmland	42,000
25.56% Machinery and equipment	32,680,900
12.83% Non-residential	16,404,370
0.00% Non-residential - Railway	0
61.57% Residential	78,721,630

\*Doesn't Include D.I.P (linear)

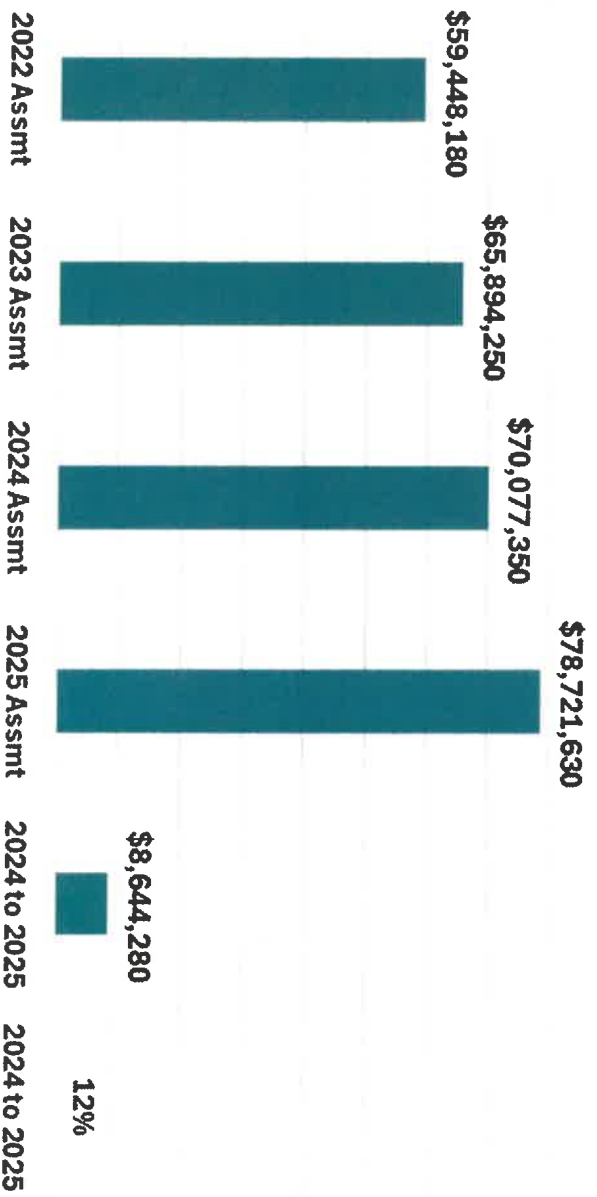
# 5 Year Trend- All Property Types

Comparison of total taxable assessment (Supplemental levy not included)



# 2022 - 2025 ASSESSMENT: TOTAL TAXABLE

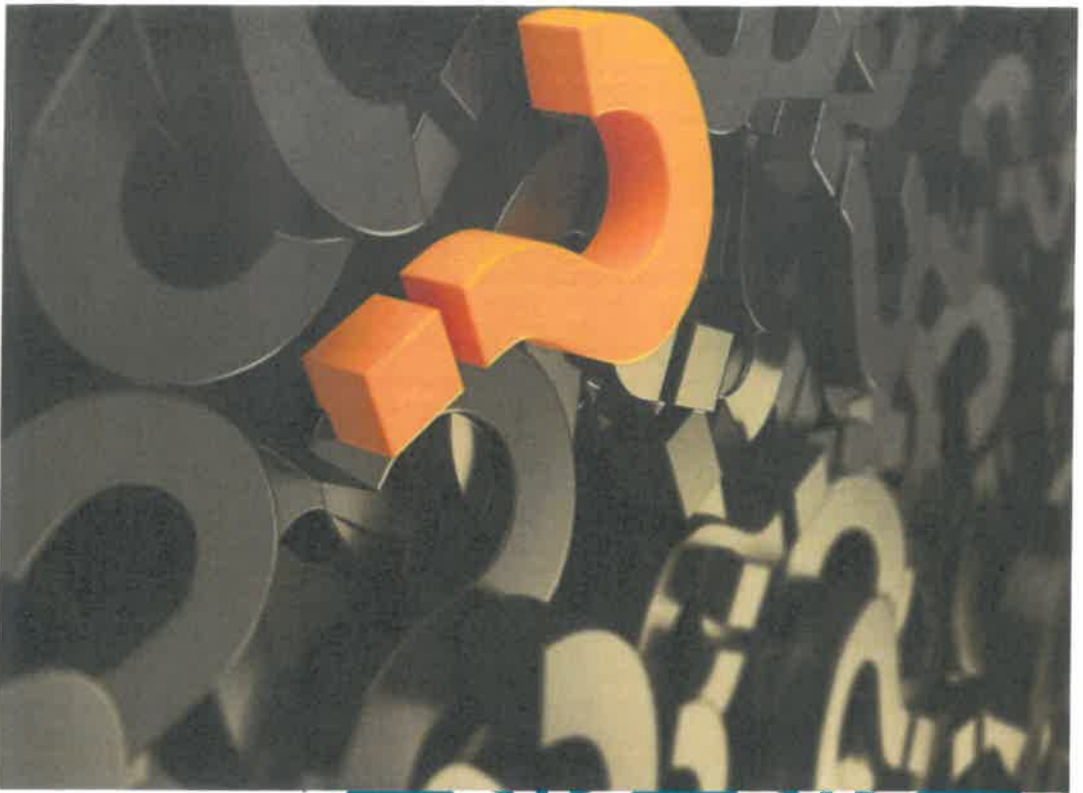
## Total Residential Assessments



# EMERGING TOPICS

- Data Centres





# QUESTIONS



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# ADMINISTRATION REPORT

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**Date:** February 25, 2026 RFD 26-11  
**Memo To:** Village Council  
**From:** Michelle White  
**Subject:** Memorial Street Naming

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1. **PURPOSE** – To discuss naming a road within the Village after Curt Peterson.
2. **BACKGROUND** – Curt Peterson was sworn in to municipal Council on October 23, 2007 as Mayor. He did not run for re-election in 2017, meaning he provided 10 years of service to the Village in his role as a member of Council. Curt and his wife Donna were long time business owners in the community and also did countless volunteer hours with various community organizations.
3. **OPTIONS** –
  1. To provide direction to administration on how Council would like to proceed
  2. To accept this report as information
4. **DISCUSSION** –
5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** – Between \$500 - \$1,000 depending on the number of signs needing to be replaced if a street/avenue is chosen. The signs would be a specialty order.
6. **LEGAL** – MGA s. 58(1) “A municipality may name roads or areas within its boundaries and may assign a number or other means of identification to buildings or parcels of land.”

Several external agencies would need to be notified if a street name were changed; NG-911, Fire services, Medical First Response and Ambulance services, our GIS service provider.

Every property located on the chosen road would need to notify their power and gas companies of the change to their civic address. They would also need to update all delivery services. (couriers, online shopping platforms etc.)
7. **POLITICAL/PUBLIC IMPLICATIONS** – It's possible Council may get similar requests to this in the future.
8. **OTHER COMMENTS** –
9. **RECOMMENDATIONS** – None. Requesting guidance from Council.

  
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Author



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# ADMINISTRATION REPORT

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**Date:** February 26, 2026  
**Memo To:** Village Council  
**From:** Tanya Meston, Development Officer  
**Subject:** Resident Request for Road Closure and Sale of Land (Portion of 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue)

RFD 26-12



1. **PURPOSE** – To provide background and supporting information regarding Kelly Mercer's letter to Council and her request that the Village close a portion of 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue and to then sell the closed portion of road to her.
2. **BACKGROUND** – Ms. Mercer contacted the Village Office and has submitted a letter on February 26, 2026 regarding the undeveloped portion of 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue that divides two pieces of her properties. The undeveloped portion of 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue is approximately 18.57m wide and extends from 45<sup>th</sup> Street west to 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

Ms. Mercer is requesting that the Village close the undeveloped portion of 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue so that the closed area can then be sold to her and added to her property.

The road closure process involves several steps and will take many months to complete. The following broad steps are required:

1. Preparation of a road closure bylaw identifying the portion of road to be closed and giving first reading of the road closure bylaw by Council;
2. Circulation, advertising and referral of the road closure bylaw and indication of the future use/disposal of the closed portion of road (i.e. to sell to abutting landowner);
3. Hosting a public meeting or hearing regarding the road closure bylaw at a regular Council meeting followed by a decision by Council to proceed or not proceed further;
4. If proceeding further, sending the road closure bylaw and required submission package to Alberta Transportation to obtain the Minister's approval of the road closure bylaw;
5. Giving second and third reading of the road closure bylaw by Council if approved by the Minister;
6. Registration of the road closure bylaw at Land Titles to create new certificate of title.

The process to sell the closed portion of road can overlap with the processing of the road closure bylaw. The need to advertise the sale depends on whether or not Council is selling the land at market value.

3. **OPTIONS** –
  1. To accept this report as information.
  2. Village of Alix Council direct administration to do further research into a road closure bylaw.
4. **DISCUSSION** – There are a number of items to consider in the decision to close and then sell a portion of road allowance.
  - a) Future need for the portion of road to be closed
  - b) Sale price and conditions of sale
  - c) Cost to respond to request
5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** – see above.

6. **LEGAL – MGA** s. 22(1) “No road in a municipality that is subject to the direction, control and management of the municipality may be closed except by bylaw.”

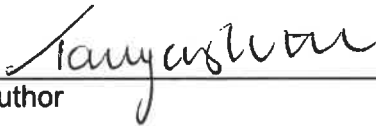
**MGA** s.70 (1) “If a municipality proposes to transfer or grant an estate or interest in (a) land for less than its market value, or (b) a public park or recreation or exhibition grounds, the proposal must be advertised.”

7. **POLITICAL/PUBLIC IMPLICATIONS** – If Council decides to do a road closure bylaw, Lacombe County should be consulted according to the terms of the IDP. Public notification of the closure, and if necessary the sale price, and a public meeting/hearing are required.

8. **OTHER COMMENTS** –

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS** – Option #2 is recommended

“The Village of Alix Council hereby directs administration to do further research into a road closure bylaw.”

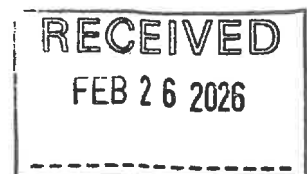
  
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Author

To: Village of Alix

I am inquiring about closing the future road 54St which goes through the wet land and separates my property from my barn land which is Lot 1 Block 1

I live at 5221 50 St I own Lot 1 Block 1  
I would like to make apart of 5221 50St  
I am requesting that the future road be closed to combine this property with my home property at 5221 50St to keep this as a wet land

Thank you  
Kelly Mercer

















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# ADMINISTRATION REPORT

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**Date:** February 26, 2026  
**Memo To:** Village Council  
**From:** Tanya Meston, Development Officer  
**Subject:** Resident Request for Right of Way Closure and Sale of Land

RFD 26-13



1. **PURPOSE** – To provide background and supporting information regarding Kelly Mercer's letter to Council and her request that the Village close a portion of a right of way and to then sell the closed portion of the right of way to her.
2. **BACKGROUND** – Ms. Mercer contacted the Village Office and has submitted a letter on February 26, 2026 regarding the portion of undeveloped right of way that divides two pieces of her properties. The undeveloped portion between her properties is approximately 6.07m wide and 28.33m in length.

Ms. Mercer is requesting that the Village close the undeveloped portion of the right of way so that the closed area can then be sold to her and added to her property.

The road closure process involves several steps and will take many months to complete. The following broad steps are required:

1. Preparation of a road closure bylaw identifying the portion of road to be closed and giving first reading of the road closure bylaw by Council;
2. Circulation, advertising and referral of the road closure bylaw and indication of the future use/disposal of the closed portion of road (i.e. to sell to abutting landowner);
3. Hosting a public meeting or hearing regarding the road closure bylaw at a regular Council meeting followed by a decision by Council to proceed or not proceed further;
4. If proceeding further, sending the road closure bylaw and required submission package to Alberta Transportation to obtain the Minister's approval of the road closure bylaw;
5. Giving second and third reading of the road closure bylaw by Council if approved by the Minister;
6. Registration of the road closure bylaw at Land Titles to create new certificate of title.

The process to sell the closed portion of road can overlap with the processing of the road closure bylaw. The need to advertise the sale depends on whether or not Council is selling the land at market value.

3. **OPTIONS** –
  1. To accept this report as information.
  2. Village of Alix Council direct administration to do further research into a road closure bylaw.
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  - a) Future need for the portion of road to be closed
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5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** – see above.

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**MGA** s.70 (1) “If a municipality proposes to transfer or grant an estate or interest in (a) land for less than its market value, or (b) a public park or recreation or exhibition grounds, the proposal must be advertised.”

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8. **OTHER COMMENTS** –

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS** – Option #2 is recommended

“The Village of Alix Council hereby directs administration to do further research into a road closure bylaw.”

  
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Author

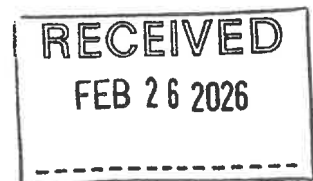
To: Village of Alix

I am inquiring about closing the right of way that seperates my property from my others to combine to make as one property

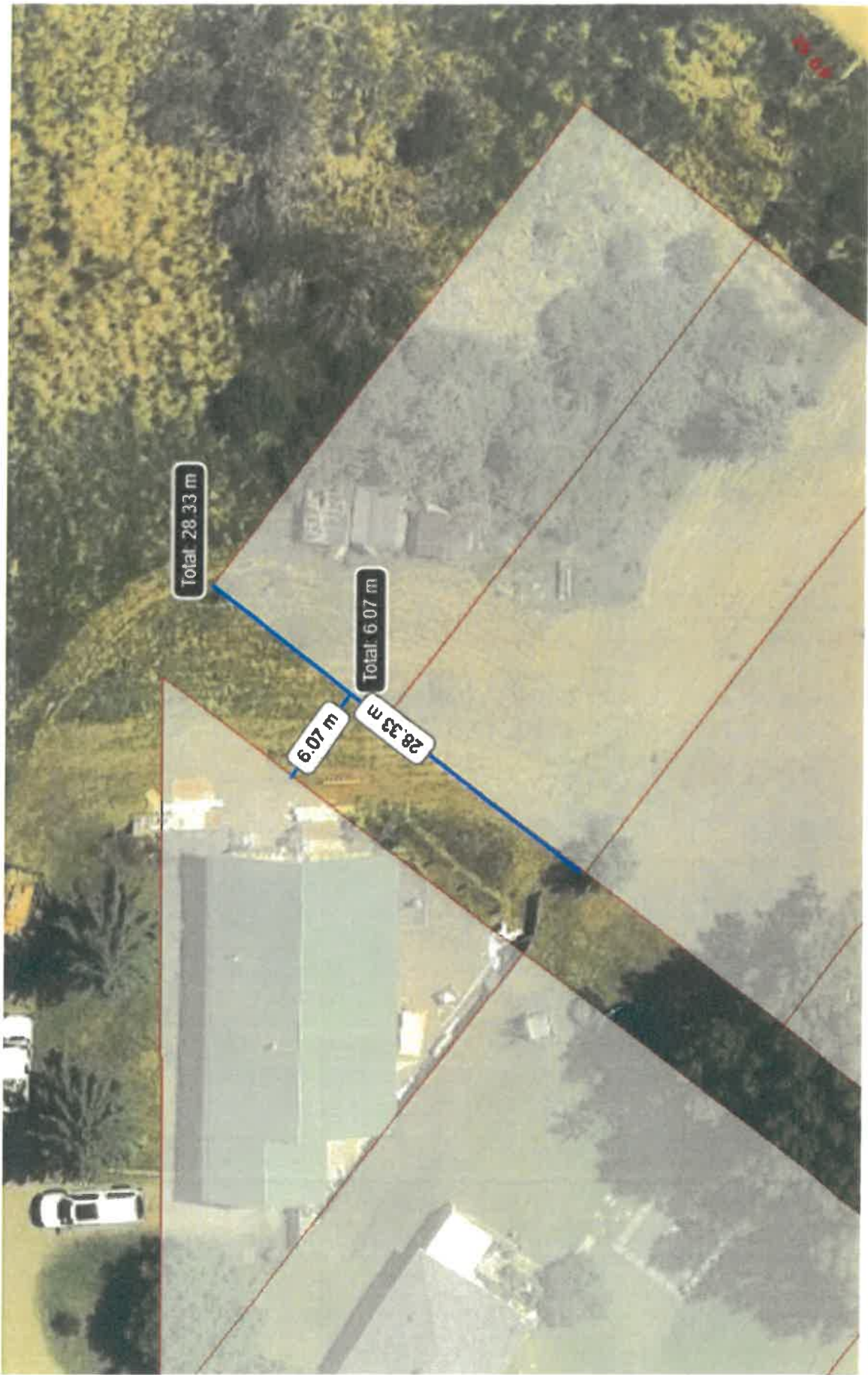
I live at 5221 50 St I own lot 19 block F and lot 20 block F I would like to make apart of 5221 50St

I am requesting that the right of way be removed for this to happen as we maintain this property at this moment as the village has never done so

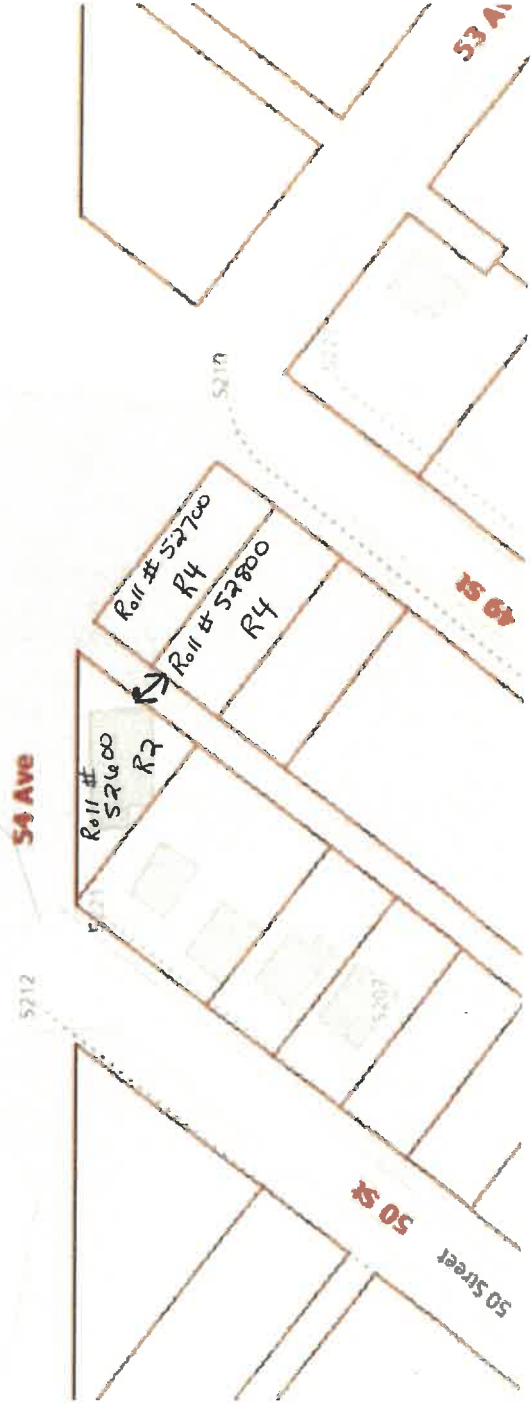
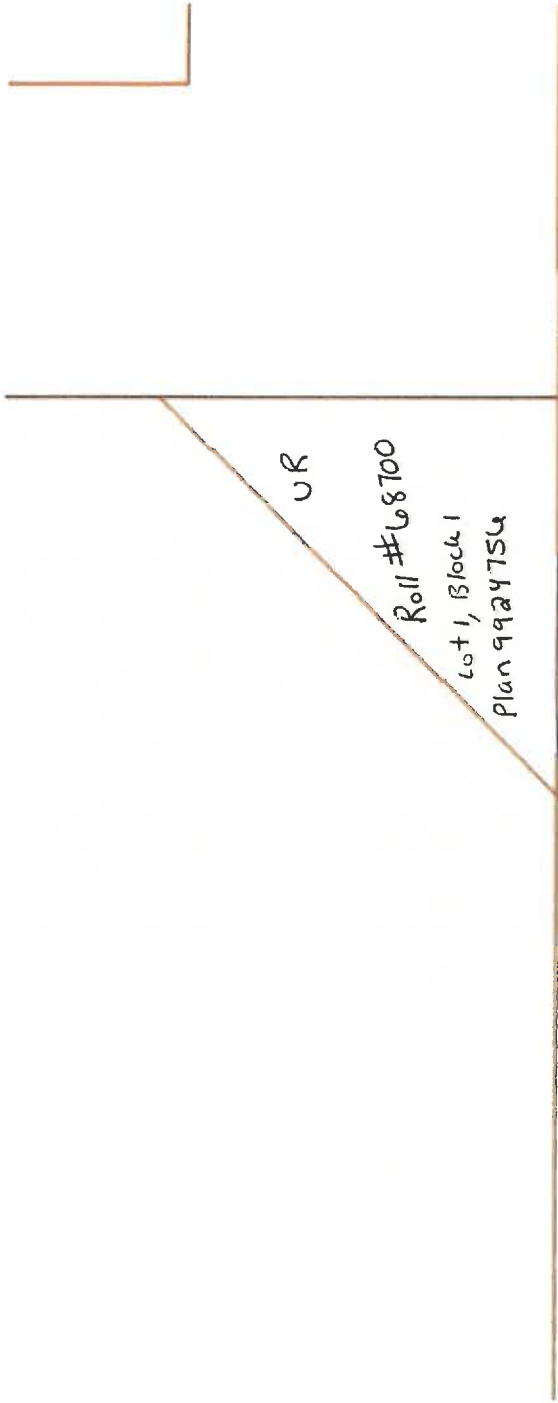
Thank you  
Kelly Mercer













## CAO REPORT MARCH 2026

1. Year End – February 28<sup>th</sup> is a big ‘deadline’ day for year end reporting. I’m happy to say staff have met filing requirements for all the typical things such as T4s, WCB, pension, water, wastewater, and the earlier GST deadline. Thank you to Council and residents for your patience with us as we try to navigate winter snow storms, staffing shortages and regular rounds of the cold bug while we were digging in to meet those deadlines.
2. RCMP Town Hall – Approximately 35 residents came out to hear from RCMP and Peace Officers. Ambulance and Alix Fire were also present. By all accounts, this 2 ½ hour Town Hall meeting went well and was able to provide answers to Alix residents, county residents and even a few from Mirror that came out that night.
3. CAO Professional Development – I’ll be taking an intermediate level excel course on February 26<sup>th</sup>. I’ve also been taking short online courses put on by the Alberta Ombudsman. The first one was called Be a Good Neighbour. It was about ratepayer issues that are actually considered “neighbour disputes” and what (if any) responsibility the municipality has regarding them. The next one is called When Bylaw Chooses Not to Enforce. Most bylaw enforcement is discretionary – meaning the municipality is not obligated to take enforcement measures every time for every infraction. This class will go through what it looks like (and how to respond to a complainant) if Bylaw does not enforce.
4. Provincial Budget Webinar – I’ve signed up for the Alberta Municipalities webinar that happens the day after the provincial budget is released. Ab Munis does a great job every year of boiling down what the new budget will mean for municipalities and how it will affect us.
5. Lacombe Regional Emergency Management Partnership – LREMP Coordinator Julian Veuger has reached out to both Alix and Clive to let us know that he and the LREMP partners are ready and willing to provide support if needed while our regular DEM is off work.



# Parkland Community Planning Services

February 23, 2026

Councillor Janice Besuijen

1. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Ken Woitt provided the Board with an update on projects that staff have been working on including the Bentley MDP, which is about halfway through and Gull Lake LUB, which is about 3/4 finished. He indicated that there were other potential projects such as private landowner projects in Cremona and Pigeon Lake and a housing demand assessment in Penhold. Also 3 subdivisions. He noted that was the extent of work that PCPS currently has and then inquired of the Board where the organization goes from here and what is the next path. He then went on to outline some options for wind down for the Board and potential upcoming projects and grant. There was also further discussion on the SDAB.
2. **FINANCIAL UPDATE TO JANUARY 31-2026** – Ken gave an overview of the financial statements for January 31 indicating that the PCPS is about 17% behind the budget. He noted that the service revenue is behind and everything else seems fine. He then requested for Dionne to go over the bank statements for the Board. Dionne went on to indicate that an updated financial position as of February 23 was provided to the Board indicating the financial position to the end of February. She noted that to the end of February there would be a liability of close to \$24,000.00 not including payouts for term of service.
3. **IN CAMERA DISCUSSION-** A notice of meeting will be sent out to member municipalities for a meeting March 26, 2026 to discuss the future of the organization.

Next Board Meeting March 9, 2026.



## Alix Arena Meeting

February 19, 2026

- Meeting called to order by Alix Arena Chair Katelynn Keddy at 1900 Hrs.
- Board Pres. Keddy presented legal opinion re: former caretaker. As noted in the last report in December 2025, the contract with the former arena manager was not renewed as of Dec 19, 2025 as negotiations broke down. Both parties are currently challenging clauses in the original contract as it relates to Alberta Labor Law and contractual obligations.
- Alix MAC High School students doing concession with assistance from board staff. Working very well. May use them again for next season as there has been an overwhelming response to it, and the students are doing very well.
- Will be exploring grant options to address facility maintenance. The chiller, de-humidifier, and boards need to be installed/repaired.
- Arena Board asked if the village would contribute to the cost of the chiller as it is a high ticket item. It is coming to the end of its 30 year life cycle. De-humidifier needs to be installed as well. Approx cost for the de-humidifier is in the 80K range. Will obtain quotes for that and the chiller in the coming days.
- Plan to remove old wood structure out back.
- Board is looking for the Arena By-laws but unable to find at this time. May need to draft and approve a new set to meet the legal requirements.
- Inspection by Alberta OHS officer occurred recently. A number of orders issued, mostly documentation based. Order demands were addressed and submitted for review.
- Board looking into a work-bee this summer to do work in the facility.
- Exploring a user rate increase to keep in line with other facilities. Currently one of the lowest user rates in Central Alberta.
- End of Season meeting scheduled for March 12, 2026.

Couns. Rob Fehr



## New Rules Create Big Costs for Drayton Valley to Deal with Sewer Water

*This is part of an informational series on the realities facing municipal government councils and the need to reimagine property taxes in Alberta.*

**Have you thought about what happens to your water after you flush it down the drain?**

If your house is connected to a community wastewater system, your municipal government must make sure that the dirty water from your laundry, showers, and toilets is cleaned before it's released back into the environment. **But the cost to treat wastewater is high, like the \$23.8 million bill that Drayton Valley is facing.**



**Like all municipal governments, Drayton Valley must follow provincial rules when it operates its wastewater system. When the Town's license was up for renewal in 2021, Town officials were told that their wastewater system no longer complied with the provincial government's updated regulations. In previous years, the federal and provincial governments raised their standards so that certain chemicals commonly found in wastewater must be reduced to lower levels before the water can be released back into rivers or streams.**

Drayton Valley's current wastewater system was not built to meet those new standards. Town officials knew that upgrades would eventually be needed, but they were surprised to learn that the new treatment system will cost an estimated \$23.8 million.

Fortunately, the Alberta government has already agreed to provide **\$5.8 million** (about 24% of the total cost) to help Drayton Valley build a new treatment system. But that still leaves \$18 million that the Town must raise on its own. With only 7,300 residents, this is a huge challenge.



**To demonstrate the cost to Drayton Valley residents, the Town will need to find funding that is:**

- Almost 1.5 times more than what the Town collects in municipal property taxes each year,
- 7.5 times more than what the Town collects in wastewater utility fees each year, or
- Borrowed, doubling the Town's debt and adding significant interest costs.

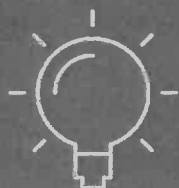
## New Rules Create Big Costs for Drayton Valley to Deal with Sewer Water

*This is part of an informational series on the realities facing municipal government councils and the need to reimagine property taxes in Alberta.*

**They have until the end of 2027 to build the new wastewater system but have requested a one-year extension from the Alberta government. To find the money in that time, the Town may have to use a variety of tools, including applying for more grant funding, raises to municipal property taxes and utility fees, and taking on new debt.**

No council wants to place that burden on their residents, but that's the reality of their situation. Albertans expect their dirty water to flow away from their homes and businesses, and they want to know that our environment is being protected. Unfortunately, today's higher standards for water treatment mean Albertans will need to get used to paying higher property taxes and water bills.

Changes to provincial and federal legislation, regulations, and oversight often have a significant impact at the community level. Generally, it means higher costs to meet those changes, which means local governments have few options but to increase property taxes, their primary revenue stream. Drayton Valley is facing this problem today, but many other municipalities have faced similar challenges, and more communities will in the future when their water or wastewater license comes up for renewal.



To learn more about why property taxes are rising and why Alberta needs to talk about how local public services are funded, visit [www.abmunis.ca/property-taxes-reimagined](http://www.abmunis.ca/property-taxes-reimagined).



## MEDIA RELEASE

**February 25, 2026**

### **Fire Permit season begins March 1: Don't forget yours!**

*Lacombe County reminds people that permit requests are free and easy to submit.*

*(Lacombe, Alberta, February 25, 2026)* – Lacombe County is reminding all ratepayers, residents, and businesses of the upcoming fire permit season beginning March 1, 2026. To ensure community safety and environmental protection, the County requires fire permits for all controlled burns. Unauthorized burning can lead to significant fines and fire department response charges.

**NEW for 2026:** To give the public time to adjust to changing fire threat levels, Lacombe County will now provide 24 hours' notice before a fire advisory, fire restriction, or fire ban is put in place or lifted. This will be clearly communicated on our website, [www.lacombecounty.com](http://www.lacombecounty.com), as well as on our County-run social media platforms.

"If Fire Services has to respond, there will be associated costs - whether the fire was permitted, accidental, or the result of negligence or permit non-compliance. The best way to avoid those charges is simple: follow the permit conditions and never leave your fire unattended," said Dave Bain, Manager of Fire and Emergency Services for Lacombe County. "With conditions shifting quickly throughout the spring, it's critical that residents stay alert, follow their permit conditions, and use extra caution. A safe burn protects your property, your neighbours, and our firefighters."

**Insurance Reminder:** Residents are strongly encouraged to review their insurance policies to confirm that firefighting costs are covered, as fire response charges will be levied for all responses.

### **Obtaining a Fire Permit**

Fire permits are free, quick, and easy to obtain online at any time via the Lacombe County website at [www.lacombecounty.com](http://www.lacombecounty.com), offering 24/7 accessibility. They are also available in person at the Lacombe County Office during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), or by contacting the Community Services Department at 403-782-8959 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fire permits provide an important layer of safety for residents and their neighbours by outlining the requirements to ensure that all burns are conducted safely and responsibly.

### **Penalties for Non-Compliance**

If you are found in contravention of Lacombe County's Fire Protection & Emergency Response Bylaw, enforcement action will also be taken.

Penalties start at a minimum \$250 fine for a first offence, in addition to being responsible for the full cost of any fire department response.

Additional charges under the Forest and Prairie Protection Act may also apply.



## **Safety First: Check Winter Burn Piles**

Given this year's unusually dry winter, residents are urged to carefully check any winter burn piles. These can smoulder unseen for weeks and unexpectedly reignite, posing a significant fire risk.

"It's critical to ensure that all controlled burns are fully extinguished and to adhere to safe burning practices," said Bain. "Please be proactive and check your winter burns to ensure there is no chance of them flaring up later."

If you burned at any time this past fall or winter, take time to revisit your burn site and ensure the fire is fully out. For more information, visit <https://www.alberta.ca/safe-burning>.

## **Fire Response Charges**

Pursuant to the County's Fire Protection & Emergency Response Bylaw and the County's Rates and Fees Bylaw, fees will be levied for Fire Department Responses, as follows:

- Engine (Pumper Truck): \$740 per hour
- Tender (Water Tanker): \$740 per hour
- Brush Truck: \$740 per hour
- Rescue Unit: \$740 per hour
- Command Vehicle (Incident Command Truck): \$215 per hour

*(Rates effective April 1, 2025)*

A maximum fee (cap) of \$10,000 shall be levied on responses to properties classified as residential or farmland. The cap does not apply to:

1. Responses involving properties of non-County residents, ratepayers, businesses, etc.
2. Responses:
  - a) to a fire that was ignited during a fire ban,
  - b) to a fire that was ignited without the required fire permit being obtained, and
  - c) to a fire that was ignited with the required fire permit, but a condition of the permit was not complied with.

For additional information, please contact:

Dave Bain  
Manager of Fire & Emergency Services  
Lacombe County  
[dbain@lacombecounty.com](mailto:dbain@lacombecounty.com)  
403-782-8959

Nicole Plewis  
Communications Coordinator  
Lacombe County  
[Nplewis@lacombecounty.com](mailto:Nplewis@lacombecounty.com)  
403-782-6601

## CAO

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**From:** municipalservicesdivision@gov.ab.ca  
**Sent:** February 25, 2026 11:15 AM  
**To:** CAO  
**Subject:** 2026 Federal Census and Municipal Affairs Population List (MAPL)

Attention: All CAOs

The next federal census will take place in May 2026. Beginning May 4, 2026, Statistics Canada will distribute census letters and packages to households across Canada.

Supporting the federal census is essential, as accurate census data directly influences federal transfer payments and provides the foundation for policy development and planning across provincial and federal ministries. Municipalities are encouraged to assist Statistics Canada, where possible, with the census enumeration process.

As outlined in the [Municipal Census Manual](#), Municipal Affairs will not recognize any municipal census conducted during a federal census year. Accordingly, the population and shadow population counts from the 2025 Municipal Affairs Population List (MAPL) will be carried forward to the 2026 MAPL. Following the release of the 2026 federal census results in 2027, all shadow population counts will be reset to zero. The 2027 MAPL will reflect the 2026 federal census results, along with any municipal census and shadow population counts conducted in 2027 and approved by the Minister.

As in previous federal census years, municipalities may request a review of their 2026 federal census population count. Requests must outline the reasons for concern and include all supporting documentation. Submissions must be made to Statistics Canada by December 31, 2026. Statistics Canada will review all submissions and, where enumeration errors are identified, will issue revised population and dwelling counts.

If you have any questions on the federal census process, please contact Statistics Canada at [statcan.census-recensement.statcan@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:statcan.census-recensement.statcan@statcan.gc.ca). For questions on Alberta's municipal census and MAPL, please contact Kim Moore, Municipal Information Advisor at (780) 422-8303, or email at [ma.updates@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ma.updates@gov.ab.ca).

Gary Sandberg  
Assistant Deputy Minister





ALBERTA  
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Peace River*

AR121350

January 8, 2026

Dear Chief Elected Official or Library Board Chair:

I am pleased to invite your municipality or library board to provide submissions for the 2026 Minister's Awards for Municipal and Public Library Excellence (MAMPLE). This program recognizes excellence in municipal government initiatives and the provision of library services and promotes knowledge sharing to build capacity. These awards offer an opportunity to recognize the truly great work happening in communities across Alberta.

The 2026 program features four municipal and two library award categories. For each municipal category, one award will be given for municipalities with populations under 10,000, and one for municipalities with populations over 10,000. For each library category, two awards will be given to library boards serving populations under 10,000, and two for library boards serving populations over 10,000.

Submissions will be accepted in the following categories:

- **Building Economic Strength (open to all municipalities)**  
Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:
  - building the economic capacity and/or resiliency of the community; and/or
  - improving the attractiveness of the community to businesses, investors, and visitors.
  
- **Enhancing Community Engagement or Livability (open to all municipalities)**  
Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:
  - increasing accessibility of community services;
  - fostering inclusive and welcoming communities;
  - improving engagement opportunities for community members; and/or
  - strengthening wellness and safety responsiveness.
  
- **Partnership (open to all municipalities)**  
Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:
  - enabling a local or regional partnership\* that achieves results that could not have been accomplished by the municipality alone;
  - generating lasting relationships between partners; and/or
  - leveraging the unique skill sets or resources of each partner.

\*Partners may include municipalities, businesses, First Nations, non-profit organizations, community groups, and other orders of government.

.../2

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

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

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

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

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

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

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

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

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

Details regarding eligibility and submission requirements are available on the Minister's Awards for Municipal and Public Library Excellence webpage at [www.alberta.ca/ministers-awards-municipal-public-library-excellence](http://www.alberta.ca/ministers-awards-municipal-public-library-excellence). **The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2026.**

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Dan Williams, ECA  
Minister of Municipal Affairs