

Town of Coalhurst



Regular Meeting of Council

AGENDA

Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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11. Closed

12. Business Arising from Closed Session

13. Adjournment

Town of Coalhurst

Regular Meeting of Council MINUTES

Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 6:00 PM
Council Chambers

PRESENT

COUNCIL: Mayor L. Montana
Deputy Mayor J. Potrie
Councillor H. Caldwell
Councillor S. Akkermans
Councillor D. Florence

STAFF: Jeffrey Coffman, Chief Administrative Officer (Interim)
Mike Passey, Director of Corporate Services
Karlene Betteridge, Coordinator of Legislative Services

1. Call to Order

Mayor Montana called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

2. Land Acknowledgement Statement

3. Adoption of the Agenda

M# 7370-23

MOVED that Council adopt the agenda of the Regular Meeting of Council on February 21, 2023, as presented.

Moved by: Councillor Akkermans

Carried

4. Adoption of Previous Minutes

4.1. **February 7, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council Minutes**

M# 7371-23

MOVED that Council adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on February 7, 2023, as presented.

Moved by: Councillor Caldwell

Carried

5. **Delegations**

5.1 **Citizens without Formal Notice**

None.

6. **Business of Council**

6.1. **Council Policy Template**

6.1 A - Briefing Note on the Council Policy Template

6.1 B - Draft Council Policy Template

M# 7372-23

MOVED that Council adopt the Council Policy Template as presented.

Moved by: Councillor Florence

Carried

6.2. **Council Remuneration Policy**

6.2 A - Briefing Note on the Council Remuneration Policy

6.2.B - Draft Council Policy

M# 7373-23

MOVED that Council accept for information the Draft Council Remuneration Policy.

Moved by: Councillor Florence

Carried

- 6.3. Deputy Mayor Potrie - Referral to Policy, Bylaw, Risk Review Committee
6.3 A - Deputy Mayor Potrie Council Report, Review Policy 74-02-04

M# 7374-23

MOVED that Council direct the CAO to review Administrative Policy 74-02-04 *Donation of Facilities Groups & Organizations & Special Birthday* in consideration of donated use of the community centre.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Potrie

Carried

7. CAO Requests for Decision

7.1. Prepayment of Debenture Briefing Note

M# 7375-23

MOVED that Council postpone the CAO presentation regarding options for re-allocation of the debenture prepayments to the Regular Meeting of Council on March 21, 2023.

Moved by: Councillor Akkermans

Carried

8. Administration Reports

8.1. Director of Operations Report

M# 7376-23

MOVED that Council accept for information the Director of Operation Report as presented.

9. Councillor Reports

9.1 Verbal Reports

Mayor Montana

- Attended: Alberta Municipalities Safe and Healthy Communities Meeting; Policy, Risk, Bylaw Review Committee Meeting; Agenda Setting Committee Meeting; Coalhurst Solar Panel Project Grand Opening

Deputy Mayor Potrie

- Attended: Recreation and Culture Committee Meeting; FCSS Meeting; Agenda Setting Committee Meeting; Coalhurst Solar Panel Project Grand Opening

Councillor Akkermans

- Attended: Policy, Risk, Bylaw Review Committee Meeting; Coalhurst Solar Panel Project Grand Opening; Move it Move it.
- Upcoming meetings: SouthGrow Energy Forum and SouthGrow Executive Committee.

Councillor Caldwell

- Attended: Recreation and Culture Committee Meeting

Councillor Florence

- Attended: Policy, Risk, Bylaw Review Committee Meeting; Coalhurst Solar Panel Project Grand Opening; Asset Management Workshop; Bimonthly Highway 3 Twinning Committee Meeting; Community Futures Board Meeting

9.2. Minutes from the January 23, 2023, Policy, Bylaw, Risk Review Committee Meeting

M# 7377-23

MOVED that Council receive for information the Minutes of the Policy, Bylaw, Risk Review Committee held on January 23, 2023, as presented.

Moved by: Councillor Florence

Carried

10. Correspondence

10.1 Letter to Minister Copping, Town of Fox Creek Ambulance Service

M# 7378-23

MOVED that Council accept for information the correspondence as submitted.

Moved by: Councillor Akkermans

Carried

11. Closed Session

M# 7379-23

MOVED that Council enter the Closed Session at 6:37 PM.

Moved by: Councillor Florence

Carried

Attendance included DCS Passey.

CAO Coffman and CLS Betteridge left the meeting at 6:37 PM.

CAO Coffman joined the meeting at 6:58 PM.

- 11.1. CAO Contract - Sections 24 (Advice from officials) and 29 (Information that is or will be available to the public) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

12. Business Arising from Closed Session

CLS Betteridge joined the meeting at 7:09 PM.

M# 7380-23

MOVED that Council move into Open Session at 7:09 PM.

Moved by: Councillor Caldwell

Carried

M# 7381-23

MOVED that Council direct the closed session discussions with respect to:

11.1 CAO Contract

remain confidential pursuant to Sections 24 (Advice from officials) and 29 (Information that is or will be available to the public) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Moved by: Councillor Akkermans

Carried

M# 7382-23

MOVED that Council extend Interim CAO Coffman's amended contract to May 31, 2023.

Moved by: Mayor Montana

Carried

13. Adjournment

M# 7383-23

MOVED that Council adjourn the Regular Meeting of Council at 7:10 PM.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Potrie

Carried

CAO

Mayor

DATE OF MEETING	March 7, 2021
SUBJECT	Council Remuneration Policy
SUBMITTED BY	Councillor Florence, Chair of the Policy, Bylaw, Risk, Review Committee

MOTION

MOVED that Council adopt the Council Remuneration Policy as submitted and that it be implemented to be retroactive to January 1, 2023.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Provide Coalhurst Residents with Exceptional Service.

RATIONALE

To present the draft Council Remuneration Policy for Council's deliberation and/or adoption.

The Council Remuneration Policy update was deliberated at the February 13, 2023, Policy Bylaw Risk Review Committee meeting. The Policy aims to reflect Council's roles and responsibilities and to ensure Council's compensation aligns with Council's time and effort in providing Coalhurst residents with exceptional service while keeping budget in mind.

The draft Policy was amended to include:

- Changing "honorarium" to "salary" to reflect the correctness of how Council is remunerated by the Town of Coalhurst.
- Amending the annual salary for the Mayor to \$25,000 (from an average of \$19,500).
- Amending the annual salary for Councillors to \$20,000 (from an average of \$16,600).
- Amending the definitions of "Standing Committee" and "Ad Hoc Committee."
- Additional definitions for "External Standing Committee" and "External Ad Hoc Committee."
- Including parameters for an annual review of the policy.

IMPLICATIONS

- **POLICY:** Amendments to the Council Remuneration Policy as described in "Rationale."
- **COMMUNITY/CITIZEN:** Eliminates potential financial barriers that may prevent Council from attending community events and meetings. The remuneration encompasses Council's time dedicated to governance, community engagement, and communication.
- **FINANCIAL:** Adoption of the policy will result in an annual increase of \$25,000 to the Council Remuneration budget offset through sources such as taxation or reallocation of the debenture prepayments.

- **CORPORATE:** There is no impact on current processes as this is in alignment with Town remuneration procedures and processes, Alberta employment and labour laws, and Canada Revenue Agency procedures.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Draft Council Remuneration Policy

Policy Title:	Council Remuneration
Policy Number:	C100-23
Policy Owner:	Council
Effective Date:	Click here to enter the effective date.

1. Purpose

To set the parameters for the remuneration of Council in the performance of their duties as duly elected officials of the Town of Coalhurst (the Town).

2. Scope

This policy applies to the elected officials of the Town.

3. Policy

Council Salary

Council Salary includes all the general duties or functions a member of Council is required to perform, including, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Acting as Deputy Mayor;
- Cheque and/or document signing when required;
- Attendance at Council meetings, Standing Committee meetings and/or Ad Hoc Committee meetings;
- Attendance at conferences, seminars, workshops, and professional development sessions; and,
- Representing the Town at local events or celebrations.

Extraordinary Compensation

Members of Council may be paid an additional sum at the rates described below, for participation in exceptional meetings or events if no stipend is provided. Participation in and payment for such exceptional meetings or events must be approved by Council resolution.

Full-Day Meetings (Per Diem Rate)
\$250.00/day

Half-Day Meetings
\$125.00/day

External Compensation

If a member of Council is appointed to an external Standing Committee and such Board or Committee provides compensation for meeting attendance, such remuneration shall be made payable to the Town of Coalhurst or refused.

If a member of Council is appointed to an external Ad Hoc Committee, or chooses to serve on the executive of a Standing Committee, and such Board or Committee provides compensation for meeting attendance, such remunerations shall be made payable to the member.

Optional Compensation

Extended Health and Dental Benefits

Members of Council are allowed the option to take part in the Town of Coalhurst Extended Health benefits and Dental benefits programs. Each participating Council Member will be responsible to pay 50% of the premiums for these benefits.

Expenses

Approved Out-of-Pocket Expenses shall be reimbursed in accordance with the Council Travel and Hospitality Expense Policy.

4. Definitions

Council Salary: The total annual compensation for elected officials.

Council Meeting: All Regular Meetings, including meetings in the Committee of the Whole procedural format, scheduled by Council, or a Special Meeting of Council called under Section 194 of the Municipal Government Act.

Standing Committee: A permanent Committee established by Council, comprising of Council members and authorized by resolution of the Organizational Meeting or by any other resolution of Council.

External Standing Committee: A permanent Board/Committee established by an external organization to which Council appoints a member(s) by resolution at the Organizational Meeting or by any other resolution of Council. If the external standing committee provides an honorarium, stipend, or compensation to the appointed member(s), the honorarium, stipend, or compensation is to be paid directly to the Town of Coalhurst.

Ad Hoc Committee: Board or Committee established by Council requiring the attendance of at least one appointed council member to that Board/Committee by resolution of Council. Ad hoc committees are temporary in nature and are established to address a specific issue or perform a specific task.

External Ad Hoc Committee: Board or Committee established by an outside group requiring the attendance of at least one member, who is appointed by resolution of Council. If the external ad hoc committee provides an honorarium, stipend or compensation to the appointed member(s), the honorarium, stipend, or compensation is to be paid directly to the Member.

Half-Day Meeting: A meeting or function authorized by Council of four (4) hours or less in duration.

Full-Day Meeting (Per Diem): A meeting or function authorized by Council of more than four (4) hours in duration.

Market Increase: An annual salary or honorarium increase that is based on the one (1) year percentage change of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Alberta as of the mid-year mark in the year preceding the increase.

Market Review: A review based on the financial statements of at least eight (8) municipalities for the most recent calendar year, and will examine actual total compensation paid, including salary/honorarium, taxable benefits, and allowances.

Term or Council Term: Refers to the Term for which a sitting Council has been elected.

5. Procedure

This policy shall be reviewed annually during Fall budget deliberations unless directed otherwise by Council.

6. Appendices / Forms

Annual salary to be paid to members of Council in monthly increments:

	2023
Mayor	\$25,000
Councillor	\$20,000

7. Supporting Information

N/A

8. Revision History / Amendments

Review Date	Description	Approved By:
Click here to enter the date.	The need for a policy review was identified during the 2022 budget deliberations and brought forward by the CAO during subsequent Policy, Bylaw, and Risk Committee meetings for Council to review and implement. This draft was presented at the February 13, 2023, PBRRC meeting. This policy will supersede Policy 11-01-01, 11-01-02, and 11-01-03.	_____ Mayor

DATE OF MEETING	March 7, 2023
SUBJECT	Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Convention Attendance
SUBMITTED BY	Mayor Lyndsay Montana

MOTION

MOVED that Mayor Montana and one Councillor be approved to attend the 2023 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Convention.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Pillar A: Effective and Informed Governance

- Goal 3: Make Informed Decisions Based off the Principles of Good Governance

RATIONALE

The Town of Coalhurst is a member of important municipal associations, such as Alberta Municipalities (ABMunis), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA). These organizations play a crucial role in advocating for the interests of municipalities, providing resources on critical issues and offering networking opportunities.

Attendance at the 2023 FCM convention (in Toronto) will be an opportunity connect with other municipal elected officials and gain an understanding of municipal issues on a national scale. There is also the potential to set up meetings with other municipalities that are engaging in innovative projects that we may want to consider for the Town of Coalhurst.

IMPLICATIONS

- **POLICY**

Council places an emphasis on Good Governance, and networking with other elected officials is a constant learning opportunity for 'best practices' being used in other municipalities. Attending Members will report their findings to all of Council, which can include policy approaches and considerations that we do not consider, in Coalhurst.

- **COMMUNITY/CITIZEN**

The purpose of attending conferences – Ab Muni, RMA, FCM, etc – is to learn, and to become better representatives and better leaders in the community. While there is always a cost to these events, the primary benefits include finding creative solutions to issues we face locally, and establishing relationships with other municipal leaders and their communities.

- **FINANCIAL**

Costs associated with the FCM Conference include (per person):

Registration: \$985

Flight: \$540

Accommodation: \$1900 (May 24 to May 28)

Conference events: \$250

Incidentals (ground transportation, meals, etc): \$300

Total Budget: \$4,000 per person

There is no budget designated for attending an FCM conference, so a budget allocation will be required. However, given that professional development is an emphasis of Council, if the Motion is approved then the Director of Corporate Services will find the appropriate source(s) to allocate funds.

- **CORPORATE**

N/A

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Conference information: [HTTPS://FCM.CA/EN/EVENTS-
TRAINING/CONFERENCES/ANNUAL-CONFERENCE-AND-TRADE-SHOW](https://fcm.ca/en/events-training/conferences/annual-conference-and-trade-show)

DATE OF MEETING	March 7, 2023
SUBJECT	Participation in Associations
SUBMITTED BY	Mayor Lyndsay Montana

MOTION

MOVED that Council of the Town of Coalhurst direct the CAO to draft a participation in associations policy and further, the draft policy be forwarded to the Policy, Bylaw and Risk Review committee by May 15, 2023.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Pillar A: Effective and Informed Governance

- Goal 3: Make Informed Decisions Based off the Principles of Good Governance

RATIONALE

The Town of Coalhurst is a member of important municipal associations, such as Alberta Municipalities (ABMunis), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA). These organizations play a crucial role in advocating for the interests of municipalities, providing resources on critical issues and offering networking opportunities.

To make the most of our memberships, Council should take a proactive approach by developing a policy focused on participation in associations. Since resources are limited, this policy can help build an annual plan that considers the strategic plan's priorities to ensure they continue moving forward.

IMPLICATIONS

- **POLICY**

A new policy will need to be developed.

- **COMMUNITY/CITIZEN**

Citizens will be informed about the annual plan for association involvement. Using a strategic approach rather than ad hoc, Council is demonstrating being good financial stewards of the municipality.

- **FINANCIAL**

There may be some additional budget required for attendance if additional association conventions/ events are added.

- **CORPORATE**

It will take staff time to develop the proposed policy.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

N/A

DATE OF MEETING	March 7, 2023
SUBMITTED BY	Mayor Lyndsay Montana

RECOGNITIONS

Thank you to the RCMP for the presentation on protecting property and the Q&A session for our residents. I'd also like to extend my thanks to those who attended the event. It's always great to hear what matters to those who live in our community.

Thank you to the Provincial Government, and specifically our MLA Joseph Schow, for his continued support and advocacy for municipalities like Coalhurst in relation to Budget 2023. We are excited about funding allocation for the school upgrade. Thank you!

MEETINGS/EVENTS ATTENDED

Agenda Setting Committee – February 27, 2023

Alberta Municipalities Report on Alberta's 2023 Budget Webinar – March 1, 2023

- Highlights of Alberta Municipalities analysis can be found here:
<https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/economics/budget-2023>

Barons Eureka Warner Family and Community Support Services (BEW FCSS) Board Meeting – March 1, 2023

- The provincial FCSS budget received an additional \$5,000,000 allocation, but it is uncertain if this will change our local funding levels
- Drive Happiness a volunteer-based program that provides low-cost transportation to seniors across the province. Many seniors, especially those who live in rural communities, are unable to get to medical appointments, go for groceries, or attend social events with family and friends.
 - o FCSS is pleased to be partnering with Drive Happiness and the Lethbridge Senior Centre Organization (LSCO) to offer the Senior Assisted Transportation program in the Barons-Eureka-Warner area, starting by recruiting volunteers and then clients in Coaldale and Coalhurst. Once the program is running smoothly in these pilot communities, FCSS will continue the program's expansion into the Lethbridge County, the Municipal District of Taber, and the County of Warner.
 - o More information about Drive Happiness can be found here:
www.drivehappiness.ca

Mayors and Reeves of Southwest Alberta – March 3, 2023

- Minister Nathan Neudorf and MLA Grant Hunter were both in attendance and provided updates on Budget 2023.
- Discussion on water supply and treatment / wastewater treatment and disposal. The Ministry of Transportation administers the Alberta Municipal Water/ Wastewater

Partnership (AMWWP) program which provides cost-sharing funding to eligible municipalities for water supply and treatment/ wastewater treatment and disposal. It was noted that there is a heavy focus on regional approaches to applications rather than stand-alone municipalities applying for funding.

RCMP Open House – March 6, 2023

- Approximately 18 community members attended the event where a presentation on keeping property safe was provided as well as a Q&A session with local RCMP Officers.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Agenda Setting Committee – March 13, 2023

Wetlands Open House – March 14, 2023

Diligent (eAgenda) Training – March 14, 2023

Policy Bylaw Risk Review Committee – March 20, 2023

OTHER UPDATES

N/A

DATE OF MEETING	2023.03.07
SUBMITTED BY	Deputy Mayor Jesse Potrie

RECOGNITIONS

The provincial government, our MLA Joseph Schow, and the School Division leadership team for working diligently to bring an announcement of funding for the Coalhurst High School upgrade in the recent provincial budget.

RCMP for providing an informative session yesterday. Listening and being attentive to community safety concerns.

Jess Walton for ongoing free fitness classes in our community. Tuesday's at 7pm at the Community Centre.

All those amazing people who make the extra effort to clear their neighbours sidewalk from snow.

MEETINGS/EVENTS ATTENDED

Assessment Review Board training from Feb 27 – Mar 3

- Passed the test with 90%, (needed 70%). I am now qualified to sit on LARB's and CARB's.

ORRSC – Board of Directors meeting - Mar. 2.

- New work-order/task tracking module rolling out through the GIS system. Public works may wish to look at this tool as it works with our existing GIS database. The system is also robust enough to accommodate custom work-flows using visual coding.
- New periodical regarding campgrounds
- 15-Minute cities discussion. Despite the negative origin, overall ORRSC was pleased that citizens are engaging with planning policies.
- 11 new lots in the region in January, most of which were in non-urban areas

RCMP Public Open House – Mar. 6

- Only was able to attend the last portion. I was pleased to see about 20 residents attended. There were many excellent questions and solutions. A couple highlights are that we should be encouraging everyone to lock-up vehicles and sheds to discourage thieves. Also reporting anything to the RCMP, via calling or the app.

MSDA – Mar. 7

- Review of one application for solar panels.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Next two weeks: Agenda Setting Committee, Wetlands Open House, Committee of the Whole, MSDA, Recreation and Culture Committee

April 20 - Coaldale Operations Net-Zero Building Grand Opening/Waterton Battery Energy

Seeking approval to attend the 2023 CPAA Conference - May 1-3. Registration and hotel expenses will be provided by ORRSC. Additional costs would include travel disbursements and remuneration.

OTHER UPDATES

None.

DATE OF MEETING	March 7, 2023
SUBMITTED BY	Councillor Deborah Florence

RECOGNITIONS

- To the many engaged citizens who took time out of their evening to come participate in the RCMP open house on March 6th!
- Public works team: for clearing the snow and keeping our streets safe!

MEETINGS/EVENTS ATTENDED

- Community Futures monthly board meeting
 - February 22, 2023, 10:00am-12:00pm
- RCMP Community Policing Open House
 - March 6, 2023, 7:00-9:00pm

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

- Community Futures Regional Board of Directors Training
 - March 10th and 11th
- Wetlands Open House
 - March 14th

OTHER UPDATES

N/A

DATE OF MEETING	March 7, 2023
SUBMITTED BY	Councillor Heather Caldwell

RECOGNITIONS

- To the tireless volunteers of the Coalhurst Parks and Recreation Society for providing free fitness classes and family movie nights! (Among many other events and recreation).

MEETINGS/EVENTS ATTENDED

- Green Acres Foundation monthly meetings
 - February 22, 2023, 10:00am-1:00pm
 - February 24, 2023, 9AM- partnership exploration
- MSDA
 - March 7, 2023, 9:AM

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

- Wetlands Open House
 - March 14th
- Green Acres Foundation Executive Committee
 - March 15th
- Coalhurst Community Recreation and Culture
 - March 16th

OTHER UPDATES

N/A

DATE OF MEETING	March 7 th 2023
SUBMITTED BY	Councillor Scott Akkermans

RECOGNITIONS

I'd like to thank the RCMP, the town, and members of the public for the open house on community safety that was held on March 7th. I appreciate the effort to set up and put on the event along with recognizing the time community members had shared during the presentation.

MEETINGS/EVENTS ATTENDED

March 2nd: SouthGrow Executive meeting.

- SouthGrow's financial year end is at the end of March, lots of year end tasks being completed.
- Had brief conversations about what's happening in the region
- Our next executive meeting will be about operational plans for the next year

March 6th: Community Safety Public Open House

- I thought we had a great turnout (21 community members + 4 from the RCMP side (3 local 1 remote)).
- Was good to raise concerns with the RCMP and get information from them as well.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

March 13th – SouthGrow Executive Meeting – Operating Plan Meeting

March 14th – Open House: Wetlands Project

March 20th – Policy Bylaw Risk Review Committee

April 12th to 14th – Economic Development Alberta Conference

OTHER UPDATES

The SouthGrow Southern Alberta Economic Development Forum is happening on March 30th in Lethbridge.

DATE OF MEETING	March 7, 2023
SUBJECT	CAO Report
SUBMITTED BY	Jeffrey Coffman – CAO (Interim)

Members of Council.

Included in this Report are activities and updates from February, and some promotion of upcoming events in March.

Capital Works

Capital Project Update: Outdoor Rink / Courts

On December 6, 2022, Council approved the 2023 Capital Budget, which included an instruction for the CAO to explore of the costs associated with constructing a new, multi-seasonal outdoor rink / court structure. While the base infrastructure costs are relatively similar to what was provided to Council (approximately \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 depending on the amenities), the Director of Operations is still assembling quotes for a roof, wind wall, and solar array. We are aiming to have these costs – plus operating costs (or savings with solar) - to Council by the end of April.

Capital Project Update: Public Works Building Expansion

On December 6, 2022, Council approved \$225,000 for a 50'X50'X16' expansion of the Public Works Shop on 55th Avenue. Given the design of the structure, work should progress quickly. The Director of Operations is waiting for final details on design and construction with the intent to have the expansion finished by the fall of this year.

Community

Community Safety – Public Open House:

On Monday March 6th at 7:00PM, the RCMP will host a presentation regarding 'community safety' in the Ron Coombes Room of the Community Centre (527 50th Ave). The presentation will focus on strategies and tactics that individuals and businesses can use to keep people and property safe.

Wetlands Feedback – Public Open House:

On Tuesday March 14, from 5:00 to 7:00PM, Council will be hosting a public open house to gather community input and guidance on amenity development in the Wetlands. The open house is a 'come and go' format to accommodate resident availability. Council hopes that residents will attend the open house to share their vision of the future of the Wetlands. The open house will be held in Council Chambers, at Town Hall (100 51st Ave).

Staffing

Coordinator of Community Development:

I have posted the Coordinator of Community Development position on the websites for Alberta Municipalities, RMA, and the Town. My mention of this position in the February Newsletter generated some interest, so I'm optimistic that we will receive some amazing applications for this position.

Public Works Employee: We had approximately 140 applications for the public works position, from which we have narrowed the list to about 10 individuals. Interviews will be taking place on the second week of March with the intent of having the individual in place at the end of March.

Development Officer: I have extended an offer to an applicant for the position of Development Officer. If the individual agrees to the terms, I will advise Council and will introduce them publicly on their first day of work.

Community Peace Officer

February Report: "Files" are complaints, concerns or pro-active activities that the CPO has undertaken. Year to date, we have approximately 35 files.

The CPO is working to ensure that the community sees a peace officer presence in town, once again. Included in his regular patrols is working with, and educating, residents on our municipal bylaws. For example, one ongoing concern is the poor parking behavior on Lake Drive. (Examples of poor parking behavior would include parking on the wrong side of the road, parking too close to an alley or driveway, and parking too close to intersections).

In this area, the CPO issued several "education" (warning) stickers, placing them on vehicles along the road. The result was that almost all of those who received a sticker changed their behaviour, and only two parking tickets were issued. Residents in the area understand the bylaw requirements and people have responded accordingly.

The CPO undertakes traffic enforcement patrols daily. He is pleased to report that there were no tickets issued in February, although several warnings and education stops were conducted. Additionally, five abandoned vehicles have been removed from the street and four heavy truck parking violations were issued.



ALBERTA

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Minister

MLA, Calgary-Shaw

AR111005

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

My colleague, the Honourable Travis Toews, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, has tabled *Budget 2023* in the Alberta Legislature. I am writing to share information with you about how *Budget 2023* impacts municipalities.

Alberta's government is helping to secure Alberta's future by investing almost \$1 billion to build stronger communities across our province. The Municipal Affairs budget reflects an overall increase of \$45.2 million from the previous budget. These investments will continue to support municipalities in providing well-managed, collaborative, and accountable local government to Albertans.

We have heard frequently how important it is for Alberta municipalities to secure reliable, long-term funding for infrastructure and services in your communities. Through *Budget 2023*, capital support for municipalities is being maintained with \$485 million provided through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI). In addition, we are doubling MSI operating funding to \$60 million. The estimated 2023 MSI allocations are available on the program website at www.alberta.ca/municipal-sustainability-initiative.aspx.

Next year, we will be introducing the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF), an updated framework that ties funding to provincial revenue changes, which will ensure sustainable funding levels for the province and allow municipalities to plan more effectively for the future. The baseline funding amount for the LGFF will be \$722 million in 2024/25. Furthermore, we heard your feedback and, subject to approval by the Legislature, are updating the legislation so that this amount will increase or decrease at 100 per cent of the percentage change in provincial revenues from three years prior, rather than 50 per cent as legislated. Based on the most current financial data and subject to approval of the legislation, we anticipate funding for municipalities will increase by 12.6 per cent to approximately \$813 million for the 2025/26 fiscal year.

The federal Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF), which provides infrastructure funding to municipalities throughout the province, will see an increase of \$11.1 million to Alberta. The estimated 2023 CCBF allocations are available on the program website at www.alberta.ca/canada-community-building-fund.aspx.

MSI and CCBF program funding is subject to the Legislative Assembly's approval of *Budget 2023*. Individual allocations and 2023 funding are subject to ministerial authorization under the respective program guidelines. Federal CCBF funding is also subject to confirmation by the Government of Canada. Municipalities can anticipate receiving letters confirming MSI and CCBF funding commitments in April.

.../2

I am pleased to inform you that an additional \$3 million in grant funding is being committed in support of local public library boards, which means an increase of at least five per cent for all library boards. This funding increase will help maintain the delivery of critical literacy and skill-building resources to Albertans. There will also be an increase of \$800,000 in funding to the Land and Property Rights Tribunal to expand capacity for timely surface rights decisions.

Additionally, *Budget 2023* will provide an increase of \$500,000 to provide fire services training grants. Public safety is always a priority, and while we respect that fire services is a municipal responsibility, our government recognizes that a strong provincial-municipal partnership remains key to keeping Albertans safe.

As we all look forward to the year ahead, I want to re-iterate that Alberta municipalities remain our partners in economic prosperity and in delivering the critical public services and infrastructure that Albertans need and deserve. Municipal Affairs remains committed to providing sustainable levels of capital funding, promoting economic development, and supporting local governments in the provision of programs and services.

Alberta's economy has momentum, and we are focused on even more job creation and diversification as we continue to be the economic engine of Canada. At the same time, we recognize Albertans are dealing with the financial pressures of high inflation.

Budget 2023 will help grow our economy while also strengthening health care, improving public safety, and providing relief to Albertans through the inflation crisis. Alberta's government will do its part by remaining steadfastly committed to responsible management, paying down the debt, and saving for tomorrow.

With these priorities in mind, we will move forward together in fulfilling Alberta's promise and securing a bright and prosperous future for Alberta families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rebecca Schulz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rebecca" being more prominent than the last name "Schulz".

Rebecca Schulz
Minister



265 East 400 South | Box 291 | Raymond | Alberta | T0K 2S0 | 403 752-4585 | www.abfarmsafety.com

February 1, 2023

Town of Coalhurst

Box 456

Coalhurst AB T0L 0V0

RECEIVED
FEB 13 2023
TOWN OF COALHURST

The Farm Safety Centre is a community based organization led by farmers and ranchers with an interest in helping things go right for all individuals in rural Alberta. The centre began a farm safety education effort called Safety Smarts in 1998. The 2022-2023 school year is the 25th consecutive year of Safety Smarts delivery to children attending rural and remote elementary schools in Alberta. The generosity of many continues to make this unique farm safety extension effort possible and we are grateful for each and every dollar donated in support of the important outreach of our charitable organization.

The program has been delivered continuously since 1998 and over the course of its 25 years the Safety Smarts Program is offered province wide by a regional team of instructors. The program has continued to evolve into what we have and see today. Rural children across the province receive farm safety presentations in their individual school classrooms. Since 1998 Safety Smarts learning and engagement has involved 846,376 rural children, 41,952 presentations and 7,629 school visits have been made.

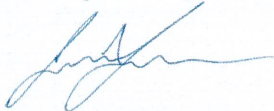
The Safety Smarts program has been adapted to allow for both virtual delivery via Zoom as well as safe face-to-face delivery in schools. Our Safety Smarts team has been well trained and fully equipped with all the necessary skills and tools to be able to successfully and safely deliver Safety Smarts presentations to rural elementary students across the province. In the 2022 calendar year, our Safety Smarts team delivered a total of 1,676 Safety Smarts presentations to 36,413 elementary students in 399 rural elementary schools across the province. Feedback from both students and teachers is both positive and encouraging.

The Farm Safety Centre runs another program for adults called the SFF Rural Health Initiative. This is a newer program designed to promote health, well-being and safety to rural adults. We partner with towns, municipalities, counties and or specialty groups like ag. societies to offer free one-on-one in-depth health assessments and personalized education for those that choose to participate. It is all about creating awareness and helping rural Albertans be more proactive about their health, well-being and safety. Please let us know if your organization would like to host a Rural Health Initiative workshop for families in your area.

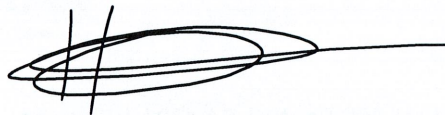
The Farm Safety Centre is hopeful that in 2023 your organization will consider supporting our continual efforts to bring awareness of farm safety to children and promote health, well-being and safety to all Rural Albertans. **As budget realities allow, we invite the Rural Communities in Alberta to consider a modest 2023 donation of \$350 - \$500.** If this does not work within your budget then a donation of any amount will be greatly appreciated.

As a charity registered with CRA, any donation in support of our mission is eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

Thank-you for your continued support,



Jordan Jensen | Executive Director
Farm Safety Centre
j.jensen@abfarmsafety.com



Keylan Kado | Program Manager
Farm Safety Centre
programs@abfarmsafety.com



SAFETY SMARTS 2022 DELIVERY UPDATE

The Farm Safety Centre, first and foremost would like to express our sincere gratitude for all your generous support over the years to the Safety Smarts Program and the Farm Safety Centre!

In 2022 our team was able to achieve:

1,676 Presentations

in

399 Rural Elementary Schools

and reached

36,413 Students

25 Years
of
Safety
Smarts
Delivery

846,376
Children
Have Been
Reached

41,952
Presentations
Have Been
Given

7,629
Schools
Have Been
Visited