



Town of Bowden - Regular Council Meeting

AGENDA

A Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Bowden
to be held in Council Chambers, at 2101 – 20 Avenue, Bowden,
on **Monday, May 11, 2026, 7:00 pm**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
 - 1.a Land Acknowledgement
- 2. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA & ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - 3.a Regular Council Meeting (April 27, 2026)
- 4. PUBLIC HEARING**

None scheduled.
- 5. DELEGATIONS**

None scheduled.
- 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - 6.a Council Resolutions Follow-Up Action
 - 6.b Key Dates
- 7. BYLAWS & POLICIES**
 - 7.a Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties, 03/2026
 - 7.b Taxation Bylaw, 04/2026
- 8. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 8.a Deputy Mayor Appointments
- 9. FINANCIAL**

None submitted.
- 10. CORRESPONDENCE**
 - 10.a → 10.b
- 11. REPORTS**
 - 11.a CAO's Report
 - 11.b Council Committee Reports.
 - 11.c Society & Other Reports.
- 12. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Special Council Meeting: 2026-05-11	Agenda Item: 3.a
Prepared by: Laurie Miller	Approved By: Mayor
Report Type: RFD	Attachment(s): As per content

Content:
3.a

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

- Monday, April 27, 2026

3
Adoption of Minutes of Previous Minutes:

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

Recommended Motion:
Motion 3.a

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council adopts the minutes, as presented, for the Regular Council Meeting of April 27, 2026.

MINUTES (unapproved)

A Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Bowden
to be held in Council Chambers, at 2101 – 20 Avenue, Bowden,
on **Monday, April 27, 2026, 7:00 pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT	Mayor	Laurie Miller
	Councillor	Randy Brown
	Councillor	Ryan Howlett
	Councillor	Cam Morrison
	Councillor	Amanda Peffers
	Councillor	Carol Pion
	Councillor	Marietta Tuckwell
	A/CAO	Jacqui Molyneux (Recorder)
	Delegate	Dylan Thudium, CPA – BDO Canada LLP
	Delegate	Angelyn Aragon, Preparer - BDO Canada LLP
	Delegate	Mitchell Kennedy, CPA, CA - BDO Canada LLP

1.a Land Acknowledgement

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

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

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

Motion 2

Motion by Councillor Randy Brown that Council adopt the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.a Regular Council Meeting (April 13, 2026)

Motion 3.a

Motion by Councillor Ryan Howlett that Council adopts the minutes, as presented, for the Regular Council Meeting of April 13, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. PUBLIC HEARING

None scheduled.

5. DELEGATIONS

- 5.a** Dylan Thudium, CPA – BDO Canada LLP – Audit review (30 - 60 minutes)
 Angelyn Aragon, Preparer - BDO Canada LLP
 Mitchell Kennedy, CPA, CA - BDO Canada LLP

Delegates presented council with an overview of the audit process through an audit communication document. Note that Section 1202 of the PSAB requires that all municipalities adopt a new format for financial information that will come into effect for the 2027 reporting year. The Asset Retirement Obligation (ARO) standard came into effect in 2023 after COVID delays, requires the determination of what the tangible assets are and what liabilities come with those (i.e. asbestos). The financial reports were reviewed and discussed.

Motion 5.a

Motion by Councillor Cam Morrison that Council approves the audited financial statements as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A/CAO, Jacqui Molyneux left the meeting at 7:43 pm prior to closed session discussions related to Item 5.a.

Motion 5.a.i

Motion by Councillor Randy Brown at 7:43 pm that Council moves to an "in-camera" session.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 5.a.ii

Motion by Councillor Ryan Howlett at 7:44 pm that Council return to an "open meeting" of Council.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

No motions were made as a result of the closed session discussion.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.a Council Resolutions Follow-Up Action

- ICF Feedback to Red Deer County – complete pending further clarification on requirements
- CAO recruitment - ongoing
- Strategic planning workshop – pending updates
- MDP/LUB workshop – pending updates
- CAEP AGM – renew March 2026 to April 2026 – table for February 2027.

Motion 6. a

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.b KEY DATES

Motion 6.b

Motion by Councillor Ryan Howlett that Council accepts agenda item 6.b as amended to include the May 19 Special Events meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. BYLAWS & POLICIES

None submitted

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.a CAEP membership

Council discussed benefits of ongoing CAEP membership. April 26 to March 27 invoice received for \$1209.60 (an increase of approximately \$100).

Motion 8.a

Motion by Councillor Amanda Peffers that Council approves Invoice No. 122915 to continue the CAEP membership for the period of April 2026 to March 2027.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.b. Website upgrade

Administration presented benefits for changing to a new platform. Some features of existing platform are being phased out which results in losing the ability to automatically send Enews to subscribers. Cost comparison showed savings in that the annual fee is slightly higher for the site, but new platform is mobile friendly which eliminates the need for retaining a separate app platform at a cost of \$590/month.

Motion 8.b

Motion by Councillor Carol Pion that Council approves the move to the new website platform offered by Catilis.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. FINANCIAL

9.a Capital budget – sewer lining project

The project quote has come in over the approved budget amount. Administration recommends and increase that will allow for a contingency.

Motion 9.a

Motion by Councillor Amanda Peffers that Council approves the increase to the capital project from \$150,000.00 to \$175,000.00.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.b Capital Budget – concrete swales

Administration presented a request to increase the budget for this capital project due to a posting error and increased costs.

Motion 9.b

Motion by Councillor Marietta Tuckwell that Council approve the increase to the capital project from \$78,000.00 to \$98,000.00.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.a Mountain View Hospice Society (MVHS)

- 2026-04-15 Email: sponsorship request for silent auction – June 11 Golf Tournament
- MVHS Sponsorship package

10.b Barbara Tuttle

- 2026-04-14 Email: requesting advocacy re AISH

Motion 10.a

Motion by Councillor Randy Brown that Council direct Administration to put together a gift basket of Bowden swag in response to the MVHS request for silent auction donations for the June 11 golf tournament.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 10.b

Motion by Councillor Randy Brown that Council accepts agenda item 10.b as information.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. REPORTS**11.a CAO's Report**

- successful in having Telus remove charges for 'cable mileage' going forward and obtaining credit for past charges - a savings of approximately \$170/month.
- ongoing discussions with MVRWSC regarding water main break
- interviews underway for summer positions in Public Works and Administration – 3 positions hired (2 for PW and 1 to be shared by Admin and PW)
- concrete work on swales has started.

Motion 11.a.

Motion by Councillor Randy Brown that Council instructs Administration to determine if there is an easement or right-of-way in place for the water line that extends outside the town boundary to the residence west of town on Township Road 343A; if there are any historical agreements for service; and to consider installation of a shut-off valve on that water line at the town boundary.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 11.a.i

Motion by Councillor Cam Morrison that Council accepts the remaining items of the CAO report as information.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.b Council Committee Reports.

None submitted.

11.c Society & Other Reports.

i. ABmunis

- Preliminary Analysis of Bill 28: Municipal Affairs & Housing Statutes Amendment Act

ii. Alberta Counsel

- The News, Issue 245 April 2026
- Session 2 Summary, Alberta 31st Legislature (April 13 to 16)

iii. CAEP

- Year-in-Review: 2025-2026

iv. Expanding Horizons

- Minutes: AGM: 2026-04-13
- Minutes: Regular Meeting: 2026-04-13

v. Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission

- Press Release

vi. Bowden Agricultural Society
- Minutes: 2026-03-18

Motion 11.b / 11.c

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion 12

Motion by Councillor Carol Pion at 8:59 pm to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes signed by:

**Mayor
Laurie Miller**

**A/CAO
Jacqui Molyneux**



Business Arising (1)

Regular Council Meeting: 2026-05-11	Agenda Item: 6.a
Prepared by: Laurie Miller	Approved by: Mayor
Report Type: Information	Attachment(s):

Matters arising from past minutes.

6.a Council Resolutions Requiring Follow Up Action Report

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

Recommended Motions:

Motion 6.a

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



Town of Bowden
COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS & FOLLOW UP ACTION
 (updated comments in red - updated 2026-04-28)

Meeting Date	Resolution	Action By Whom	Date back to Council
23 June 25	Role of the Chief Administrative Officer Motion 8.g Revision of Council Procedural Bylaw This will also include amendments that are now required following the repeal of the FOIP Act. The MAP audit requires an update to this bylaw.	CAO	progress
24 Nov 25	Agenda item 8.a Administration to adopt a scent-free environment policy. OHS tasked to complete.	CAO	Progress
12 Jan 26	Agenda Item 12.a – Recruitment Motion 12.a Recruitment Committee work ongoing.	Cttee	Progress
26 Jan 26	Agenda Item 10.h – Brownlee – Emerging Trends in Municipal Law Follow-up for offering later in the year.	CAO	Pending
26 Jan 26	Agenda Item 11.c – Enhance Volunteerism Council requested that Administration forward the mayor's report and JustServe PowerPoint to FCSS for research about the program and report back. Presentation 2026-03-09: CAO/FCSS to update website with volunteer opportunities similar to comparable sites. 2026-04-07 Work has begun, waiting on system upgrades and consultations; schedule update for RCM 2026-06-08	CAO	Progress
26 Jan 26	Agenda Item 12.a – Strategic Planning Administration to engage McCarroll Consulting to provide ½ day workshop to the council. Determine availability for either February 20 or 21. Tabled for review with LUB/MDP.	CAO/Council	Pending
23 Feb 26	Agenda Item 11.a – ATCO Renewal To be reviewed at March 23 RCM. 2026-03-23: 1 st reading of by-law. Application submitted to ATCO	CAO	Pending
23 Mar 26	Agenda Item 6.b – MDP – LUB April 20: drafts reviewed, waiting on second draft.	CAO	Pending
23 Mar 26	Agenda Item 11.a – Solar Energy Projects New CAO to investigate full cost/benefit report.	CAO	Pending
27 Apr 26	Agenda Item 8.a – CAEP Membership <i>Table for February 2027.</i>	CAO	Pending



Business Arising (2)

Regular Council Meeting: 2026-05-11	Agenda Item: 6.b
Prepared by: Laurie Miller	Approved by:
Report Type: Information	Attachment(s):

6.b Key Dates *(for information)*

MAY 2026

- May 8** CAEP, AGM 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Wolf Creek Golf Resort, Ponoka
- May 11** RCM 7:00 PM Council Chambers
- May 19** Special Events Meeting 6:30 PM Council Chambers
- May 25** RCM 7:00 PM Council Chambers

Recommended Motion:

Motion 6.b

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



Bylaws & Policies

Regular Council Meeting: 2026-05-11	Agenda Item: 7.a
Prepared by: Jacqui Molyneux	Approved by: Mayor Laurie Miller
Report Type: RFD	Attachment(s): 1 Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 03/2026

1 Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 03/2026

7.b Background:

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

This bylaw repeals Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 02/2026.

The bylaw has been updated to reflect the decision of adding a special events charges.

7.b. ii Amendments

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

Schedule B – Recreation (Arena)
Special Event Admission fees

1 Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 03/2026

7.a.v Alternative Motions:

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council give first reading to Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 03/2026.

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council give second reading to Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 03/ 2026.

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council unanimously give consideration to a third reading of Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 03/ 2026.

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council give third and final reading to Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 03/2026 and is adopted accordingly and made effective once duly signed

or,

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council give first reading to Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 03/2026.

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council direct Administration to make amendments to Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties Bylaw 03/2026 as follows, _____



Town of Bowden
Box 338, 2101 20th Ave
Bowden, Alberta, T0M 0K0

Town of Bowden – Province of Alberta RATES, FEES, CHARGES, & PENALTIES BYLAW 03 / 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 SHORT TITLE

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

2 PURPOSE

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

3 DEFINITIONS

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

Bylaw

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

CAO (Chief Administrative Officer)

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

Council

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

Municipality

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

MGA

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

Occupant

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

Owner

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

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

Person

Means any of the following:

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

Premise

Means any of the following:

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

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

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

Property

Means any of the following:

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

situated within the Municipality.

Pursuant to

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

Reasonably Practicable

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

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

Red Deer County

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

Remedial Order

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

Resident

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

Residential

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

Specific Penalty

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

Town

Means the municipal corporation of the Town of Bowden.

Words (interpretation)

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

4 DESIGNATION OF AUTHORITY

4.1 Authority of Council

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

4.2 Authority of the CAO

4.2.1

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

4.2.2

Without limitation, the CAO is empowered to provide for:

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

4.2.3

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

4.2.4

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

4.2.5

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

4.2.6

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

4.2.7

(i)

The CAO may issue a written warning that:

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

(ii)

This may lead to the issue of:

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

4.2.8

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

5 LIABILITY & APPEAL**5.1**

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

5.2

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

5.3 Right of Appeal

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

5 APPLICABILITY**5.1**

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

5.2

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

5.3

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

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

5.4

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

5.5

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

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

5.6

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

6 SEVERABILITY

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

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

7 SCHEDULES

7.1 Schedules attached to this bylaw:

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

7.2

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

8 BYLAW PRECEDENCE

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

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

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

Read a first time in open council this 11th day of May 2026,

Read a second time in open council this 11th day of May 2026,

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

Read a third time in open council this 11th day of May 2026.

Laurie Miller
Mayor

Jacqui Molyneux
A/Chief Administrative Officer

SCHEDULE A Business Licence

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

Notes

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

SCHEDULE B Recreation (Arena)

Service Description	Unit of Measure	\$ (plus GST)
Winter Ice Rental Rates ❶	Minimum time charged 1 hour	
Prime time (4:00pm until closing & weekends)	Additional time charged per ½ hour	
Resident (youth team or group)	Per hour	\$99.00
Non-Resident (youth team or group)	Per hour	\$150.00
Resident (adult)	Per hour	\$154.00
Non-Resident (adult)	Per hour	\$185.00
Non-Prime time	additional time charged per ½ hour	
Youth	Per hour	\$93.50
Adult	Per hour	\$121.00
Bowden School	Per student per rental time slot	\$1.16
Upstairs lobby	Per event / booking	\$27.50
Arena – Summer Rental Rates		
Youth	Per hour	\$71.50
Adult	Per hour	\$93.50
Resident "non profit"	Per day	\$419.27
Resident "commercial event"	Per day	\$489.10
Non-Resident "commercial event"	Per day	\$628.90
Special Event Admission (Exact fee to be set by Council or its designate for each event)	Per event	\$5.00- \$100.00

Notes

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

SCHEDULE C Planning / Development & Property Tax

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

Notes

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

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

SCHEDULE D Utilities

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

Notes

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

SCHEDULE E Cemetery

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

Notes

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

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

SCHEDULE F Animal Licencing

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

Notes

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

SCHEDULE G Bylaw Control & Enforcement Penalties

G1

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

G2

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

G3

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

Regular Council Meeting: 2026-05-11	Agenda Item: 7.b
Prepared by: Jacqui Molyneux	Approved by: Mayor Laurie Miller
Report Type: RFD	Attachment(s): 1. Taxation Rate Bylaw 04/2026

Taxation Rate Bylaw 04/2026

1 Background:

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

2 Legislative Requirement

Part 10, Division 2 Property Tax, of the MGA applies.

- i. Section 353(1) states that, *"each council must pass a property tax bylaw annually"*.
- ii. Section 353(2) states that, *"the property tax bylaw authorizes the council to impose a tax in respect of property in the municipality to raise revenue to be used toward the payment of: (a) the expenditures and transfers set out in the budget of the municipality, and (b) the requisitions"*.
- iii. Section 354 states that, *"the property tax bylaw must set and show separately all the tax rates imposed under this Division to raise the revenue required under section 353(2)"*.

3 Background Information:

The 2026 Operating Budget provided for a 1 (one) percent increase residential taxes and 1.5 (one point five) percent on non-residential taxes over the 2025 tax revenue.

Property assessments for the 2026 tax year are based on property valuations as of July 1, 2025.

The 2026 assessments have increased due to sales within town pushing prices up.

Mill rates have decreased due to the increase in assessment to keep the tax revenue at the 1% and 1.5% as per the budget.

The Alberta Government requisition for education rose by approximately 11.8%.

The Alberta Government requisition for policing was increased by 9.2%.

4 Request:

Administration requests that Council by resolution adopt Taxation Rate Bylaw 04/2026.

5 Recommended Action:

That Council:

- i. grants first reading to Taxation Rate Bylaw 04/2026 as presented,
- ii. grants second reading to Taxation Rate Bylaw 04/2026 as presented,
- iii. after second reading unanimously vote in favour of allowing a third reading,
- iv. adopt Taxation Rate Bylaw 04/ 2026.

Taxation Rate Bylaw 04/ 2026
7 Suggested Motions:

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council gives first reading to Taxation Rate Bylaw 04/2026.

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council gives second reading to Taxation Rate Bylaw 04/2026.

Moved by Councillor _____ that Council unanimously considers a third reading of Taxation Rate Bylaw 04/2026.

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council gives third and final reading to Taxation Rate 04/2026 and is adopted accordingly and made effective once duly signed.



Town of Bowden
Box 338, 2101 20th Ave
Bowden, Alberta, T0M 0K0

Town of Bowden – Province of Alberta
TAXATION RATE BYLAW
04 / 2026

Whereas the Municipal Government Act, RSA2000, Chapter M-26 provides that Council must pass a property tax bylaw annually (section 353),

And whereas the Town by bylaw wishes to establish rates of taxation to be levied against assessable properties within the Town of Bowden for the 2026 taxation year,

And whereas, the Town of Bowden has prepared and adopted estimates of the Town's revenues and expenditures, as required, at the Regular Council meeting held on May 11, 2026.

And whereas, the estimated municipal expenditures and transfers set out in the budget for the Town of Bowden for 2026 totals \$3,464,494.62.

And whereas, the estimated municipal revenues and transfers from all sources other than taxation is estimated at \$2,338,818.25 and the amount to be raised by general municipal taxation, is \$1,125,676.37.

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

1 SHORT TITLE

This bylaw may be known as, and cited as, the "Taxation Rate Bylaw".

2 DEFINITIONS

In this bylaw the following definitions apply:

Council

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

Municipal Government Act / MGA

Means the Municipal Government Act, RSA2000, Chapter M-26 (as amended over time).

Municipal

Means (of) the Town of Bowden

Town

Means the municipal corporation of the Town of Bowden.

3 REQUISITIONS

Alberta School Foundation Fund (ASFF)	
Residential and Farmland	\$335,107.23
Non-Residential	\$72,684.18
Opted Out School Fund (Red Deer Catholic Regional Division No 39)	
Residential and Farmland	\$11,028.76
Non-Residential	\$0.00
Over / Under Levy	
Residential and Farmland	0.00
Non-Residential	418.73
Total School Requisitions	\$419,238.90

4 ASSESSMENTS

4.1

Council is required to levy on the assessed value of all property, tax rates sufficient to meet estimated expenditures and the requisitions for the financial year.

4.2

Council is authorized to sub classify assessed property, and to establish different rates of taxation in respect to each class of property, subject to the Municipal Government Act.

4.3

The assessed value of all taxable property in the Town as shown on the assessment roll is:

Assessment	
Residential	\$129,842,010.00
Non-Residential / Machinery & Equipment	\$20,258,580.00
Residential Order in Council 034/25	844,900.00
Farm Order in Council 290/08 034/25	\$30,300.00
Total Assessment	\$150,975,790.00

5 TAXATION RATES

Council authorizes that the Chief Administrative Officer is to levy the following rates of taxation on the assessed value of all property as shown on the assessment roll of the Town.

5.1 General Municipal Tax Levy

Description	Assessment	Tax Rate	Tax Levy
Residential/Farm	129,842,010.00	.006652489	\$860,314.04
Non-Residential / Machinery & Equipment	20,258,580.00	.012928047	\$261,903.87
Residential Order in Council 034/18-034-25	844,900.00	.004093300	3458.43
Farm Order in Council 034/18-034/25	30,300	.014229000	\$431.14
Total	150,975,790.00		\$1,126,107.48

5.2 Education Requisitions

Description	Assessment	Tax Rate	Tax Levy
Residential	126,817,210.00	.002642443	\$335,107.23
Residential (Catholic)	3,900,000.00	.002827887	\$11,028.76
Non-Residential	20,258,580.00	.003608492	\$73,102.91
Total	153,975,790.00		\$419,238.90

5.3 Designated Industrial Property Tax Requisition

Descriptions	Assessment	Tax Rate	Tax Levy
Designated Industrial Property Tax	3,605,130.00	.000072800	\$262.45
Total	3,605,130.00		\$262.45

5.4 Government of Alberta - Police Funding Model Requisition

Descriptions	Assessment	Tax Rate	Tax Levy
RCMP Police Funding Fiscal 2023 - 24	150,975,790.00	.000462445	\$69,818.00
Total	129,018,910.00		\$69818.00

6 PENALTIES

6.1 Current Taxes

Subject to the provisions of Section 344 of the Municipal Government Act, a penalty of 12% will be levied on all current year taxes remaining unpaid after July 1, 2026.

6.2 Tax Arrears

Subject to the provisions of Section 345 of the Municipal Government Act, a further penalty of 15% will be levied on all taxes remaining unpaid after December 31, 2026, and in each following year as long as the taxes remain unpaid.

7 SEVERABILITY

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

Nothing in this bylaw relieves a person from complying with any provision of any Federal, Provincial, or municipal law or regulation or any requirement of any lawful permit, order, or license.

8 BYLAW PRECEDENCE

8.1

This bylaw supersedes and takes precedence over all previously passed bylaws that establish rates of taxation levied against assessable properties and requisitions.

Bylaw **05/2025** and all amendments thereto are hereby repealed.

This bylaw will come into effect on the date of the third and final reading and signature thereof.

8.2

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

Read a first time in open council this, 11th day of May 2026,

Read a second time in open council this, 11th day of May 2026,

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

Read a third time in open council this, 11th day of May 2026.

Laurie Miller, Mayor

Jacqui Molyneux, Interim Chief Administrative Officer



Deputy Mayor Appointments

Organizational Council Meeting: 2026-05-11	Agenda Item: 8.a
Prepared by: Laurie Miller	Approved by: Mayor
Report Type: Request for Decision	Attachment(s): n/a

8.a Deputy Mayor Appointments

Legislative Requirement

As per the requirements of section 152 of the Municipal Government Act Council must appoint a Deputy Chief Elected Official,

Deputy and acting chief elected officials

152(1) A council must appoint one or more councillors as deputy chief elected official so that

(a) only one councillor will hold that office at any one time, and

(b) the office will be filled at all times.

(2) A deputy chief elected official must act as the chief elected official

(a) when the chief elected official is unable to perform the duties of the chief elected official, or

(b) if the office of chief elected official is vacant.

(3) A council may appoint a councillor as an acting chief elected official to act as the chief elected official

(a) if both the chief elected official and the deputy chief elected official are unable to perform the duties of the chief elected official, or

(b) if both the office of chief elected official and the office of deputy chief elected official are vacant.

Deputy Mayor Schedule

At the October 27, 2026 Council was presented with an schedule to appoint Councillors as the Deputy Mayor for an 8-month period rotating through all Councillors throughout the 4-year term of office. It was noted at the time that the schedule can be amended at any time in the future by Council resolution.

**Deputy Mayor List & Schedule
2025 to 2029**

Name	Term
Councillor Randy Brown	October 27, 2025, to June 22, 2026
Councillor Ryan Howlett	June 23, 2026, to February 22, 2027
Councillor Amanda Peffers	February 23, 2027, to October 19, 2027
Councillor Cam Morrison	October 20, 2027, to June 19, 2028
Councillor Marietta Tuckwell	June 20, 2028, to February 19, 2029
Councillor Carol Pion	February 20, 2029, to October 22, 2029



Deputy Mayor Appointments

Amendment Rationale

I'm bringing this forward in response to the reality we're currently operating in. With the CAO position vacant, the demands on council leadership have increased, and consistency in that leadership is important right now.

As a newer member of council, I'm also very aware of the value that experienced leadership brings to maintaining effective meetings and supporting the Mayor's role during a period like this.

The MGA frames the role as someone to step in as Mayor when needed, but in practice, especially in small municipalities, the Deputy Mayor becomes the Mayor's closest governance support. During a period without a CAO, risks and responsibilities increase, making consistency that much more important and appointing an experienced Deputy Mayor is aligned with the intent of the legislation.

Ensuring continuity in the Deputy Mayor role is one way to support stable and effective governance during this period.

The current rotation was set under different circumstances. This proposal is about ensuring continuity and stability during this transition; it is not about individuals and not intended to be permanent.

There's a clear opportunity to revisit this once administrative stability is back in place. I'm asking council to consider this as a practical, time-limited adjustment to support effective governance.

I would ask Council support my suggestion to rescind the current Deputy Mayor rotation until the October 26, 2026, organizational meeting. Further, that Councillor Brown be appointed to this role until that time.

Suggested Motion(s)

Motion by Councillor _____ that the current Deputy Mayor List & Schedule is rescinded as discussed until the organizational meeting of October 26, 2026.

Motion by Councillor _____ that Councillor Brown continue as Deputy Mayor until the organizational meeting of October 26, 2026.

Regular Council Meeting: 2026-05-11	Agenda Item: 10.a to 10.b
Prepared by: Laurie Miller	Approved by:
Report Type: Information	Attachment(s): As per content listing

Agenda item 10

Content:

- 10.a** Steve Clark
 - 2026-04-28 Email: fundraiser suggestion

- 10.b** Parkland Regional Library System
 - 2026-04-28 Email: Bill 28 – How it Affects your Municipal Library
 - 2026-04-28 Letter: background information – impacts on public libraries, governance and municipalities
 - Template materials for Municipal Councils

Suggested Motion(s)

Motion 10

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council accepts agenda items 10.a / 10.b as information.

AND/OR

Motion 10

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

Motion 10.a

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council _____

_____.

Motion 10.b

Motion by Councillor _____ that Council _____

_____.

Mayor

From: Steven Clark
Sent: April 28, 2026 1:24 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Scrap Metal Day or Fundraiser.

Good afternoon Mayor,

As per our conversation in your office today I am writing to you about a possible scrap metal program to be done one or twice a year that would be either beneficial to Public Works or the Grad Committee.

It would involve having a scrap bin at the sand tent and advertising a "SCRAP METAL DAY", where the towns people would bring their scrap metal, washers, dryers, fridges, stoves, freezers, fans, watercoolers, piping, wiring, tire rims (NO RUBBER), car batteries (no 9-volts or less) etc and place it in the bin. I have so many ideas on what could be done to assist the grad committee but that would be another conversation.

Some electronics could go in but TVs would have to be kept aside and put in the e-waste sea cans by the arena

Regards,

The logo for Bowden features the word "BOWDEN" in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a stylized graphic of a green and blue bow with a white arrow pointing upwards and to the right.

Steve Clark
OH&S Representative
Phone: 403 357-9957
Email: ohs@bowden.ca
Web: www.bowden.ca

Mayor

From: Hailey Halberg <hhalberg@prl.ab.ca>
Sent: April 28, 2026 3:00 PM
To: CAO
Subject: Bill 28 - How it Affects Your Municipal Library
Attachments: Mayor & Council Templates.pdf; Municipal Briefing Note.pdf; Bowden Mayor & Council Letter.pdf

Dear Arno,

I hope this message finds you well. Please find attached documents consisting of:

- A formal letter outlining concerns from our library system regarding Bill 28 the Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act
- A briefing note intended to support administrative and Council discussion and action
- Draft communication templates for use by the Mayor and Members of Council for motions or communications

This package is provided for your review and consideration at your discretion. I would be pleased to provide any additional information or clarification that may assist Administration in its review.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Hailey Halberg (she/her)

Marketing Specialist

Parkland Regional Library System | 4565 46 Street Lacombe AB T4L 0K2
403.782.3850 ext 229 | 1.800.567.9024 ext 229 | prl.ab.ca

Libraries – *Value Beyond Words*



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

April 28, 2026

Mayor Miller and Members of Town of Bowden Council,

I am writing to share background information related to Bill 28, the *Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act*, and its proposed impacts on public libraries, local governance, and municipalities.

Bowden Public Library is governed locally through a municipally appointed library board and accountable to Municipal Council and the communities we serve. The changes proposed in Bill 28 raise significant questions about local decision-making, board authority, and how public libraries operate in shared, publicly funded spaces.

Earlier this month, the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries (CAP Libraries) issued a public media release outlining sector-wide concerns with Bill 28 and calling for meaningful consultation prior to further action.

Included with this letter is a briefing note prepared in collaboration with CAP Libraries, along with additional reference materials for your information. These documents outline what the legislation proposes, why local governance matters, and the operational and municipal implications that would follow if the legislation proceeded without further consultation.

Public libraries across Alberta, including Parkland Regional Library System, have made sustained efforts to engage with the province and to propose practical alternatives that respect parental responsibility while preserving local governance and professional practice. We remain hopeful that meaningful dialogue can still occur.

Thank you for your continued support of Bowden Public Library and Parkland Regional Library System. I am happy to provide further information if helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Sheppard".

Ron Sheppard, Director
Parkland Regional Library System | 4565 – 46 Street Lacombe, AB T4L 0K2
403.782.3850 | 1.800.567.9024 | prl.ab.ca

Libraries – Value Beyond Words



COALITION OF
ALBERTA
PUBLIC LIBRARIES



Parkland Regional Library System

TEMPLATE MATERIALS FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

Prepared by the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries | April 2026

These templates are provided for municipal councils and library boards to adapt as they see fit. They can be used as-is or modified to reflect local circumstances. Bracketed text should be customized.

OPTION A: Template Council Motion

This motion can be introduced by any councillor or brought forward by a library board through its municipal liaison. It is designed to be non-partisan and focused on local governance principles.

WHEREAS the [City/Town/County/Municipal District] of [Name] is the primary funder and governance authority for [Name of Library/Library System], providing [\$ amount or description] in annual operating support;

WHEREAS the [Name] Public Library Board, appointed by this council, has full management and control over library operations under Alberta's Libraries Act, including collection development, service delivery, and local policy;

WHEREAS Bill 28, the Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026, proposes to give the Minister of Municipal Affairs new powers to inspect public libraries, make regulations governing access to and borrowing of library materials, and issue directives to library boards – responsibilities that currently rest with locally appointed boards and trained library professionals;

WHEREAS these proposed changes were introduced without meaningful consultation with the library sector, municipalities, or the communities that fund and depend on public library services;

WHEREAS the proposed legislation would impose significant new operational requirements on libraries – including physical separation of materials, age verification, parental consent administration, and inspection readiness – without any new provincial funding;

WHEREAS this council believes that decisions about library services are best made at the local level, by the boards and professionals who understand the needs of their communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the [City/Town/County/Municipal District] of [Name]:

1. Expresses concern regarding the public library provisions of Bill 28 and their potential impact on local governance, library operations, patron privacy, and the quality of library services in [Name];
2. Affirms its confidence in the [Name] Public Library Board and its professional staff to manage library collections and services in accordance with existing legislation, board policies, and community standards;
3. Calls on the Government of Alberta to engage in direct, structured consultation with the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries, municipalities, and library boards before finalizing any regulations or guidelines under Bill 28;
4. Calls on the Government of Alberta to ensure that any operational requirements imposed on public libraries are accompanied by dedicated provincial funding;
5. Directs administration to send a copy of this resolution to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Premier, the local MLA(s), Alberta Municipalities, and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta.

OPTION B: Template Letter from Mayor / Reeve to Local MLA

This letter can be sent from a mayor, reeve, or council to the local MLA. It is deliberately measured in tone and focused on the local governance and fiscal implications.

[Date]

[MLA Name]

Member of the Legislative Assembly

[Constituency]

Dear [MLA Name]:

I am writing on behalf of the [City/Town/County] of [Name] regarding Bill 28 and its proposed changes to the Libraries Act.

As you know, the [Name] Public Library [is/are] among the most valued and well-used public services in our community. [Optional: insert local usage data, e.g., "Our library serves X residents and saw Y visits last year."] The library is funded primarily by [Name] taxpayers, governed by a locally appointed board, and staffed by trained professionals who understand our community's needs.

We have reviewed the library-related provisions of Bill 28 and have concerns about their impact on our community:

Local governance: Bill 28 would give the Minister new powers to inspect libraries, issue binding directives, and make regulations governing access and borrowing. These are decisions that currently – and appropriately – belong to the locally appointed board that this council oversees. As a municipality, we are concerned about the precedent this sets for provincial intervention in locally governed services.

Fiscal impact: The proposed legislation would require libraries to redesign service delivery – physical separation of materials, age verification systems, staff retraining, inspection readiness – without any new provincial funding. These costs would ultimately fall on municipal taxpayers.

Privacy: Age-based access restrictions would require some form of ID verification for library patrons. This raises practical concerns about patron privacy, equity for residents without government-issued identification, and the appropriateness of asking frontline library staff to serve as gatekeepers.

Consultation: These changes were introduced without meaningful consultation with municipalities or the library sector. We believe the government should engage directly with the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries and with municipalities before finalizing any regulations.

We are not opposed to supporting families or ensuring age-appropriate access – our library already does this through established policies and professional practice. But we believe the approach in Bill 28 is disproportionate, operationally unworkable in its current form, and undermines the local governance model that serves our community well.

We respectfully ask that you raise these concerns with the Minister and support a meaningful consultation process before the library provisions of Bill 28 are advanced further.

Sincerely,

[Mayor/Reeve Name]

[Title]

[Municipality]

cc: Hon. Dan Williams, Minister of Municipal Affairs

Hon. Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta

Alberta Municipalities / Rural Municipalities of Alberta

[Name] Public Library Board



COALITION OF
ALBERTA
PUBLIC LIBRARIES



Parkland Regional Library System

Mayor and Council

Briefing Note: Bill 28 and Alberta's Public Libraries

Purpose

To inform municipal councils whose municipalities are members of Parkland Regional Library System about the impacts of Bill 28 on public libraries, local governance, families, and staff, and to outline why municipal leadership matters.

Background

The Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries (CAP Libraries) represents 324 public library service points across Alberta, serving 99 per cent of Albertans. Public libraries are trusted, community led institutions governed locally by publicly appointed library boards and guided by professional standards.

Bill 28 introduces province-wide restrictions on access to public library materials, potentially including DVDs, eContent, and WiFi networks, and expands provincial authority into decisions traditionally governed locally.

Restricting access to library materials constitutes censorship, regardless of whether items remain physically present in library buildings.

Role of Public Libraries and Families

Alberta's public libraries exist to serve the whole community. They provide welcoming spaces and resources for families, guided by long-standing principles of intellectual freedom, equitable access to information, and responsive community service.

Public libraries already ensure that children have access to developmentally appropriate materials, while recognizing that **parents and guardians remain the primary decision-makers** about what their children borrow and how they use library services.

Public libraries support parental judgment and responsibilities. Unlike schools, public libraries do not replace parents' or guardians' role in guiding their children's library use.

Libraries support families through established practices, including:

- Organizing collections by age and subject

- Providing shared account access so families can review borrowing activity
- Offering staff assistance to locate age-appropriate materials
- Training staff to address concerns respectfully and thoughtfully

Governance and Operational Concerns

Bill 28 undermines local library governance by shifting authority away from locally appointed library boards and trained library professionals.

CAP Libraries has been engaged with the Government of Alberta since Fall 2025 on issues related to intellectual freedom. Despite repeated requests for consultation, the public library sector was not included in discussions on the changes introduced through Bill 28.

CAP Libraries proposed practical, workable alternatives that would address concerns while preserving parental responsibility and local governance. These options were shared directly with the Premier and Minister and were not considered.

The province has indicated that key definitions and requirements will be determined later through regulation and ministerial guidance. Introducing access restrictions without clear definitions, processes, or implementation frameworks creates:

- confusion and inconsistency across communities
- operational challenges in shared public spaces
- inappropriate gatekeeping expectations placed on library staff in open, shared public space

Why This Matters to Municipalities

- Municipalities appoint library boards and are responsible for local governance.
- Costs associated with compliance will be borne by municipal and system boards which will be passed on to the municipalities.
- Public libraries are essential community infrastructure supporting learning, literacy, digital access, and social connection.
- Provincewide rules that override local library governance undermine municipal authority and accountability.

What CAP Libraries Is Asking For

CAP Libraries is calling on the Government of Alberta to:

- Halt further action on Bill 28 implementation
- Engage in meaningful consultation with public libraries and municipalities
- Respect local library governance and professional decision-making
- Ensure any approach is clear, practical, and workable in real public library spaces

Core framing

- Public libraries are governed locally through municipal library boards.

- Libraries already support families and parental choice, and unlike schools, do not replace parents' or guardians' role in guiding their children's library use.
- Bill 28 undermines local authority and would place public library staff in difficult and inappropriate gatekeeping roles.
- Despite sustained efforts to engage with the province since Fall 2025, public libraries and library boards were not consulted on changes introduced through Bill 28
- CAP Libraries proposed practical, workable alternatives to address concerns while preserving parental responsibility and local governance. These options were shared directly with the Premier and Minister and were not considered.

What we're asking municipalities to do

- Publicly affirm the authority of locally appointed library boards.
- Call for meaningful consultation with public libraries and municipalities before any regulations or ministerial guidance move forward.
- Write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Premier expressing concern about restrictions on access to library materials and provincial overreach into local governance.
- Consider a council motion or resolution supporting intellectual freedom, local governance, and municipal authority over public library services.
- Share publicly available information from CAP Libraries to support accurate public understanding of how public libraries operate and why local governance matters

Suggested municipal letter language

A full letter template is available in the Template Materials for Municipal Councils document.

Public libraries are essential community institutions governed locally by appointed library boards. They support families and respect parental decision-making, and unlike schools do not replace parents' role in guiding their children's library use. Bill 28 restricts access to library materials and undermines local governance. We urge the province to pause further action and engage meaningfully with public libraries before proceeding.

Regular Council Meeting: 2026-05-11	Agenda Item: 11.a
Prepared by: Jacqui Molyneux	Approved by: Mayor Laurie Miller
Report Type: Information	Attachment(s):

CAO's Report

Public works and CAO have filled out an application to get calcium put on the road going by the Big Sky billings with a total of 250 meters with a cost of 3825.00 to keep dust down with traffic going by to the dog park and RV dumping station.

Summer Students have been hired and will be starting soon. One has started in the office and will be shared with public works when not needed in the office to cover vacation or days off. The office student will be in the office for all of May and probably part of June.

RV dumping station will be open Friday before May long weekend.

Branch pick up has started up again this will happen on Thursdays, and residence must call in with address for pick up.

Soft sided shelter used for storing our sand did not fair so well in the windstorm that we had. We can make it work for this year but will need to be replaced next year with something that is better suited for our weather conditions. This will be a capital project to replace with a pole shed that we can upgrade going forward to not only store our sand but also to store equipment in the future as we grow.

Circular Materials meeting was something I was aware of as of October 1st of this year instead of receiving recycling funds we will not longer be responsible for our recycling contracts or pick up. Our extra carts will be sold to the contractor that will be doing our pickup. I am working on a spreadsheet for circular materials due on May 15th for them to work on getting a contract.

Pros

Residents that do not get their recycling picked up will contract the contractor directly.

Carts that are damaged or need replacing will be done by the contractor.

Contracts will be done by circular materials and paid by them as well.

Cons

Small businesses will lose recycling and our office will lose this as well as pickup is only for residential.

Recommended Motion:

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

Regular Council Meeting: 2026-05-11	Agenda Item: 11.b / 11.c
Prepared by: Laurie Miller	Approved by:
Report Type: Information	Attachment(s): As per content

Content:

Agenda Item 11.b Council Committee Reports

- i. Special Events Committee
 - Minutes: 2026-04-22

Agenda Item 11.c Other Bodies and Organizations

- i. Alberta Counsel
 - The News, Issue 246 April 2026
 - Session 2 Summary, Alberta 31st Legislature (April 20 to 23)
- ii. Bowden Friendship Club
 - Minutes: 2026-04-16
- iii. Bowden Agricultural Society
 - Mayor's Report: 2026-04-22
- iv. Red Deer County
 - April 2026 Enforcement Report
- v. Bowden Historical Society
 - Agenda: 2026-04-28
 - Councillor Report: 2026-04-28
- vi. FCSS
 - 2026 Community Navigator Report
- vii. Central Alberta Christian Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
 - Councillor Report: 2026-04-16
- viii. CAEP: Fundamentals of Economic Development
 - Councillor Report: 2026-04-29

Note:

All meeting minutes where submitted should be assumed to be "unapproved".

Motion 11.b / 11.c**Recommended Motion:**

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



Town of Bowden – Special Events Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 6:30 pm

Purpose

Bowden Daze Planning (July 10 -12)

MINUTES

PRESENT	Mayor	Laurie Miller (Recorder)
	Councillor	Randy Brown
	Councillor	Ryan Howlett
	Councillor	Carol Pion
	Councillor	Amanda Peffers
	Lions Club	Stan Mills
	Ag Society	Keith Bailey
	Volunteer	Anaya Lea
	Volunteer	Alexis Masse

ACTIVITIES PLANNING HISTORY AND NOTES:

Note: current meeting comments/directions/tasks are in this font.

Budget: \$3,000 (Last year \$2515.48)

- Candy (**has been ordered – popular in the 50s, 60s: Double Bubble, Jolly Rancher & Tootsie Rolls – post meeting update: Candy arrived April 27**)
- Dignitary bags (**Town Swag – make up from registrations**)
- Food supplies (**Carol and Amanda, Lion's club to designate person/people to collaborate**)
- Participant ribbons (Inquire with Jade regarding history on judging and awards) – **Check with CAO re status.**

Pancake Breakfast (July 11 - 8 to 10am) Lions Club host and fundraiser

- Purchase supplies (pre-cooked sausage) (Town; usually Council members- **Carol, Amanda & designated Lions members**)
- Atco BBQ (pick up on Friday before 4) or Igloo kitchen grill? BBQ booking confirmed, staff to pick up and return.
- AHS registration – training (We have enough members with training, Amanda to submit registration)
- Tim Horton's Tim's will support with product and possibly a staff member. (**Ryan**)
- Tables/Chairs (Bowden Friendship Club- Museum) (Staff)
- Breakfast volunteers to arrive at 6:00 am
- Town staff presented a summary of their discussions about planning. They suggested that with the timelines for breakfast completion and the start of parade staging, that Council partner and assist at the Fortis lunch, rather than the breakfast. That would allow Council to be at the staging area to greet participants and decrease the rush between the two events. The committee discussed this and felt that we could split up between events to cover all. We felt

that we could have Administration reach out through FCSS and other groups (i.e. school) for extra volunteers. **(CAO update)**

Parade (11 am)

- **Theme**
 - Committee members reviewed previously suggested theme ideas Community Spirit (Celebrating business); Celebrating Youth (with a youth parade marshall selected by the school) A Retro or ol' School theme was suggested by Bowden Ag to include old time competitions during the rodeo (i.e. greasy pig race). During discussions; committee arrived at the theme: Salute to the 50's & 60's) **Communications refined the theme to "The Fabulous 50s & 60s"**
 - Ideas: car clubs (Laurie to reach out to her contacts), bike decorating contest (FCSS/Boys & Girls Club contact); school band programs (Innisfail/Penhold – initiate contact through Grandview School Council), local musicians/buskers and retro events at the rodeo. **Carol to work with BGS council for contacting groups. Laurie reached out to contact and was referred to Mountain View Pistons out of Olds, info provided to Anaya for follow-up**
- Parade Marshall/Organizer Town staff suggested, senior member of Bowden Ag. It was noted that Bowden Ag marshalled a few years ago. There has been contact with Kurt Browning and waiting on response. Consider other options next meeting. **Kurt Browning unavailable. Keith suggested a legacy family/Red Deer County Council rep and was asked to contact the family.**
- Staging (9:30 start)
- Route (unchanged)
- Invitations **(CAO/Mayor to review list and send. List updated, invitations sent April 27)**
 - Dignitaries (MP, MLA, Mayors, County)
 - Bowden Penitentiary Honour Guard **(hand delivered)**
 - Business - promote participation; as per above – invitations will be sent to all with licences in town
 - RCMP
 - Double T
 - Christmas Carolling Truck
 - Radio/News Media
 - Local groups (hockey, 4H, BFC, Expanding Horizons, etc.)
 - Cultural groups listing from Marietta **(added to invitation list)**
 - Committee suggested adding: Red Deer Polytechnic, Olds College, Dog Training Centre, dance troupes/school bands
 - CAO and staff to update the invitation letter and parade registration form to align with the theme. There is a master Christmas card listing that contains all or most of the businesses and dignitaries as of last December. Would only need to update that for any 2026 businesses. Communications presented letters and registration form. **Less formal letter chosen by council with a few amendments. Invite sent by Admin on April 27.**
- Note: need to encourage participants to generate noise and excitement
- Float
 - Theme has been chosen: The Fabulous 50's & 60's. Decorations and planning for this theme. **Carol and Amanada to design.**
- Band/Piper

- Laurie and Alexis were unable to source with their contacts. Alexis was given one other referral to check. **Carol to check a contact and advise. If Carol's option is not available, Alexis to book the Airdrie Scots at \$550.**
- Candy (**check on liability concerns**)
- Dignitary vehicles for council or Olds Chamber – people mover (**Laurie – email sent to Chamber April 27**)
- Dignitary bags (Town swag – Administration)

Smokies at Igloo (1 pm)

- Fortis (**Ryan to reach out to our contact**)

Liaison

- Bowden Golf Club (carts) (**Randy to contact**)
- FORTIS (BBQ lunch) **Ryan to contact**
- ATCO (BBQ) Booked
- Bowden Ag Society (Rodeo events): Invite to next meeting
- Bowden Grandview School (use of staging area – washroom access)
- **Fire Department (Administration to contact)**
- **Purchase food supplies at new grocery**
-

Duties checklist

- Invites – Admin/Mayor
- Parade Registration forms – communications
- BBQ pick-up – return – staff
- Pick up/set up tables & chairs/return – staff
- Traffic control/barricade - staff
- Float vehicle driver (**CAO to determine**)
- Parking - staff
- Cleaning
 - Areal Kitchen – Lions
 - Atco BBQ – staff
 - Arena floors/washrooms - staff
- Leftover food – staff
- Pick up/return golf carts - staff
- Dignitary swag bags - staff

NEW ITEMS/IDEAS:

Scavenger Hunt

- Joe Furman forwarded an idea to have a scavenger hunt involving a search for gnomes throughout town.
 - **Check to see if Historical Society is interested in coordinating this event out of their facility from 1-3pm on July 11. (Ryan)**
 - **Prize structure: 1st three to complete**
 - **Need puzzle writers and map**
 - **Contact Joe for input. (Ryan)**

National Indigenous History Month

- Plan an event around the Camp Crow site in the park
 - Refer to Historical Society for more information on Camp Crow. (Ryan/Amanda – Committee reps)

Escape Room

- Anaya brought up the idea of having an escape room event for 5 hours each day on Saturday and Sunday for groups of 4 to 6. She will investigate and report back.
 - **Anaya and Alexis have developed and designed two theme rooms. One for adults using a prison theme and one for kids (age 5-12) themed around 50s/60s cartoons**
 - **Decoration of rooms to be done as cost effectively as possible. I.e. borrow from thrift store. Keith to check with Heritage Park for items to decorate. List of items needed to be sent to committee.**
 - **Suggest holding 6 slots/day x 2 days for each room with a possible sneak peak on Thursday night. Fee of \$100 for adult room (max. 6) and \$50 for kids room. Pre-registration and payment required. Admin to advise of logistics. Rates & fees bylaw to be amended.**
 - **Social media blitz.**

Ball Hockey Tournament

- Cam suggested holding a tournament with Saturday and Sunday. Noted that the arena would be unavailable Saturday until after the Fortis lunch. Ryan to consult Dean Turnquist about the logistics. Suggestion for a trophy to be awarded (approx. value of \$100).
 - Due to the full itinerary and usage of the arena facility, this will be tabled for next year or look to scheduling full-weekend events at other times of the year.

2026-03-26: Post meeting note: The rates and fees bylaw would have to be reviewed and/or amended to allow for charging admissions to escape room or tournament type events. CAO to update for next meeting. *(Bylaw amendment going to RCM May 11)*

2026-04-22: Post meeting note: Marietta provided contact information for the Filipino Society in Olds. We will add them to the invitation list.

Minutes to be communicated to CAO for necessary action and staff engagement.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:30 pm; Council Chambers



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

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OVERSIGHT OR OVERREACH? EXAMINING ALBERTA'S NEW IMMIGRATION OVERSIGHT ACT

Jacob Sperling

Introduction

Bill 26, the *Immigration Oversight Act*, was introduced in Alberta for first reading on April 1, 2026. I'll place a caveat off the top that it is not yet law and is still proceeding through the legislative process. Read in that light, Bill 26 is best understood as a *proposed* oversight and enforcement framework around how foreign nationals are recruited and employed in Alberta, and how foreign worker recruiters and immigration consultants operate in that ecosystem.

The New Compliance Regime

Bill 26's centrepiece is mandatory employer registration. Subject to future exemptions, an employer would be prohibited from recruiting or hiring a foreign national, directly or through another person, without holding an active certificate of registration. Under Bill 26, the appointed Director may impose terms and conditions at issuance, on renewal, and at any other time during the term of a certificate.

Renewal and granting the certificate in the first place is framed through a "public interest" assessment. The Director may consider (among other factors) an employer's non-compliance with specified Alberta workplace statutes when deciding if granting a certificate would be in the public interest. These statutes include the *Employment Standards Code*, RSA 2000, c E-9, the *Labour Relations Code*, RSA 2000, c L-1, and the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, SA 2020, c O-2.2. The Director may also consider whether the employer provided incomplete or false information and whether a partner, affiliate, or agent related to the employer has failed to comply with Bill 26 or applicable regulations.

Bill 26 would also create a provincial licensing regime for foreign worker recruiters and immigration consultants, generally prohibiting individuals from acting as (or offering to act as) a recruiter or immigration consultant without an active licence, subject to limited exceptions. The Bill ties licensing and registration to recruiter accountability. Applicants for these licenses must disclose information about partners, affiliates, and agents "inside or outside Alberta," and must take reasonable measures to ensure those parties comply with the eventual Act and regulations.

The worker-protection elements of this Bill are substantive. Prohibited practices include misrepresentation of employment opportunities and retaining passports or other official documents. Bill 26 also protects workers who make, or try to make, a complaint under the Bill by prohibiting employers from terminating them, restricting their employment, or otherwise adversely affecting their employment or working conditions.

On fees and cost recovery, Bill 26 prohibits charging foreign nationals certain fees, including fees connected to employing them. Recruiters are only allowed to charge fees to the employer. Additionally, Bill 26 prohibits employers from reducing wages or benefits to recover recruitment costs and prohibits charging fees to foreign nationals tied to requirements they must meet to obtain or maintain employment.

Finally, Bill 26 proposes compliance infrastructure. If passed, a public registry will be established, with disclosure rules to be set by regulation. Bill 26 prescribes recordkeeping with inspection in Alberta, as well as the authority to share information with other governments to support immigration enforcement.

Potential Legal Risks

The question that most often arises in situations like this is jurisdiction. Is this provincial "overreach" into federal immigration? Constitutionally, immigration is explicitly concurrent. Section 95 of *The Constitution Act, 1867*, 30 & 31 Vict, c 3 permits provincial laws to be created with reference to immigration into any province, while providing that provincial laws operate only so far as they are not "repugnant" to federal legislation. This speaks to the doctrine of federal paramountcy.

On its face, Bill 26 is drafted to coexist with federal law rather than replace it. It defines "foreign national" by reference to the federal *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, SC 2001, c 27 (IRPA), and ties Alberta's "selection programs" to



JACOB SPERLING
Student-at-Law

Jacob is an ambitious articling student, recently graduating with his Juris Doctor at the University of Alberta. He is skilled in interdisciplinary research, leadership, and marketing. He has a passion for creative and legal writing, public media, and networking. Jacob has experience in social services and health promotion as a previous Coordinator for the Alberta Lung Association. His undergraduate degree was a Bachelor of Arts (Distinction) focused in Science, Technology, and Society from the University of Alberta.

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federal-provincial agreements made under section 8 of the IRPA. These agreements make it possible to create programs that fit local needs, including provincial nominee programs and other measures to support regional labour and economic needs. It also authorizes information sharing for purposes that include supporting the Government of Canada's administration and enforcement of the IRPA.

Most importantly for conflict analysis, the federal *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations*, SOR/2002-227 (IRPR) expressly anticipate provincial regulation in this space. Section 209.2 of the IRPR requires employers to follow federal or provincial recruitment laws (whichever applies in the situation) and prohibits them from charging foreign nationals any recruitment fees.

Practically, the direct legal risks are operational. These include factors such as discretionary "public interest" decision-making when a Director determines if it will issue an employer a certificate to hire foreign workers. There are also privacy and reputational risks that arise if foreign workers' personal information is disclosed through the proposed registry and public-disclosure framework.

Enforcement

Bill 26 contains a broad enforcement toolkit. It creates a complaints process allowing foreign nationals to submit a complaint to a director. Additionally, the Director has the authority to investigate compliance under Bill 26 regardless of a complaint being submitted. This investigation may include entering workplaces, examining records, conducting audits, using data systems, and questioning individuals.

Consequences for non-compliance would range from administrative to severe monetary penalties. Administratively, Bill 26 contemplates suspension or cancellation of an employer's registration and an administrative penalty regime with maximums set by regulation. Penalty notices may be required to be publicly disclosed at a place of business, creating harmful reputational risks.

In terms of offences, contravention of Bill 26 may expose individual employers to fines up to \$1,000,000 and/or imprisonment up to 12 months, and non-individual employers to fines up to \$1,500,000. This can potentially be multiplied per affected foreign worker. Bill 26 also contemplates compensation and, in some cases, reinstatement of a foreign worker where termination is found to be retaliatory. Reinstatement is significant as this remedy is uncommon under typical Canadian employment law standards, normally only impacting unionized workers and those who fall under the *Canada Labour Code*, RSC 1985, c L-2.

Practical Tips to Prepare for the Legislation

Since Bill 26 is still making its way through the legislative process, a good preparatory goal is readiness rather than overcorrection. Businesses hiring foreign workers should map their Alberta recruiting and hiring channels, whether that be direct hiring, third-party recruiters, or overseas agents.

The first area to consider is auditing fee practices. Ensure the business can remove direct or indirect recruitment fees paid by the employee, and review deductions/benefit changes that could appear as recruitment cost recovery. An employer should also prepare to update contracts and vendor oversight for recruiters and consultants, focusing on disclosure from agents, anti-reprisal training, and strict rules against retaining passports or other official documents. Finally, if not already in existence, an employer may want to consider building an inspection-ready recordkeeping file, aligned with both Alberta's inspection expectations and the federal employer-compliance emphasis on documentary proof and long-term retention.

Any businesses employing foreign workers should monitor the progress of Bill 26 and its draft regulations closely. A future proclamation date and any related regulations will drive real-world compliance obligations if it eventually becomes law.



AILEEN BURKE
Director of Nonprofit and
Voluntary Sector

Aileen is an experienced lobbyist, researcher, facilitator, and communicator. She has been a part of creating and adapting policy and procedure, and complex problem solving. She has significant knowledge of the non-profit industry, with more than 15 years of front-line, management, and volunteer experience in the non-profit sector. Aileen pursued her master's degree in political science from the University of Lethbridge, where her work focused on public policy and systems integration as it relates to the Housing First philosophy. Aileen has put her expertise in political advocacy into action with a run for office at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels.

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CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

**DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA: A NATIONAL LEADER
IN CONSERVATION**

For almost 90 years, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) has been a leader in conserving one of the country's most vital natural assets: wetlands.

Founded in 1938, DUC is a national conservation organization dedicated to conserving, restoring, and managing wetlands and associated habitats across the country. Operating from coast to coast to coast, DUC focuses on priority conservation regions that support North America's waterfowl and other migratory bird populations.

DUC works to conserve, restore, and manage land by working collaboratively with a wide range of partners, including Indigenous communities, landowners, industry, governments, and other conservation organizations. By aligning shared priorities, combining expertise, and leveraging investment, DUC helps deliver scalable, science based solutions in land management that support working landscapes, healthy wetlands, and resilient communities across Canada.

At the centre of this work is a clear understanding of the role wetlands play in Canada's environmental health. From marshes and bogs to swamps and open water, these ecosystems improve water quality, store carbon, reduce flooding and drought impacts, and support biodiversity. Increasingly, wetlands are being recognized as essential environmental infrastructure in natural disaster mitigation.

That role is especially significant in Alberta, where wetlands are deeply connected to the province's environmental health, economic stability, and way of life. Ducks Unlimited Canada has a long-standing presence in Alberta. Their work spans diverse landscapes, from prairie grasslands and aspen parkland to the boreal forest, each playing a critical role in supporting wildlife, water systems, and local communities.

The scale of that impact is significant. Across Alberta, Ducks Unlimited Canada has conserved 2.3 million acres across 4,532 habitat projects and partnered with 4,893 landowners, a reflection of both the reach of their work and the strength of their collaborative approach.

One example of this work is the McIntyre Ranch project, the largest private conservation initiative in Canadian history. Located south of Lethbridge, the ranch spans more than 55,000 acres of intact prairie grasslands and wetlands. Through a partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and local landowners, Ducks Unlimited Canada helped secure a conservation easement that sustains the land while allowing it to remain a working cattle ranch, demonstrating how conservation and agriculture can succeed together.

Across large-scale restoration projects to collaborative programs with local stakeholders, Ducks Unlimited Canada's work in Alberta demonstrates how natural systems, industry, and agriculture function together, supporting ecological sustainability and long-term prosperity.

In an era where environmental challenges are increasingly complex, Ducks Unlimited Canada offers a clear path forward: conserve what matters, work collaboratively and build resilience from the ground up.



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-  Ad Reporting/Website Analytics



POLITICAL EVENTS

North Edmonton Evening with Danielle Smith Mon, May 11 – 6pm

Location: Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex, Edmonton

- UCP Leader Danielle Smith will host a fundraising reception in support of Edmonton-area constituency associations.
- The event will feature a fireside chat and Q&A, offering attendees an opportunity to engage with party leadership on provincial priorities.

Canadian Vote Summit 2026

Wed–Thurs, May 20–21

Location: Calgary TELUS Convention Centre

- The Democratic Engagement Exchange will host a national, non-partisan summit focused on strengthening electoral democracy and civic participation in Canada.
- The event will bring together leaders and experts to discuss democratic innovation, public trust, and strategies to address polarization and increase engagement in democratic institutions.

Sarah Hoffman's Annual Lobsterfest

Sat, May 23 – 5:30–9pm

Location: Woodcroft Community League, Edmonton

- Edmonton-Glenora MLA Sarah Hoffman will host her annual Lobsterfest fundraiser in support of the Alberta NDP's upcoming election campaign.
- The event will feature networking opportunities, auctions, and engagement with party supporters and representatives.

Alberta Next: Energy & Environment

Thurs, May 21 – 7–10:30am

Location: BMO Centre, Calgary

- The Calgary Chamber will convene government and industry leaders for a discussion on Alberta's energy future, featuring remarks from Premier Danielle Smith.
- The event will focus on major project development, policy alignment, investment competitiveness, and the role of Alberta's energy sector in meeting global demand.

Alberta Aerospace & Defence Summit

May 3-5

Location: Edmonton Convention Centre

- Alberta Aviation, Aerospace and Defence will host a multi-day summit bringing together industry, government, and defence stakeholders.
- The event will focus on defence procurement, innovation, and sector growth, with sessions on emerging technologies, supply chain opportunities, and partnerships across aerospace and security industries.

THE NEWS
from ALBERTA COUNSEL



STEPHEN BLANCHETTE

Associate

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

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Source: LinkedIn

KEY INFLUENCER PROFILE

DARBY-RAE CROUCH

CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

Mackenzie Blyth

Darby-rael Crouch has served as Chief of Staff to Alberta's Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation since March 2026. In this role, she oversees ministerial operations, manages stakeholder relations, and supports the advancement of government priorities within one of Alberta's core economic sectors. As Chief of Staff, Crouch plays a key role in coordinating policy, communications, and political strategy within the ministry.

Crouch's appointment follows a progression through communications and political roles within government. Most recently, she served as Press Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, where she managed media relations, messaging, and announcements across a portfolio closely tied to rural communities, industry groups, and provincial economic priorities.

In addition to her government roles, Crouch was the United Conservative Party candidate in the 2025 Edmonton-Strathcona by-election, the safest New Democratic Seat in the province that was vacated by former Premier Rachel Notley. In that race, she faced current NDP leader Naheed Nenshi, providing her with direct campaign experience in a politically significant contest.

Crouch has also worked as a Communications Consultant with Endgame Strategies and served as Ministerial Assistant to the Minister of Environment and Parks. Earlier in her career, she built a communications and media profile through broadcasting roles with the Canadian Finals Rodeo and as Director of Communications for Sundre Pro Rodeo.

Originally from Rocky Mountain House and now based in Beaver County, Crouch brings a deep personal connection to Alberta's rural communities and holds a degree in Communications from MacEwan University. As the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation continues to navigate issues related to rural economic development, affordability, water management, and industry competitiveness, her role will be central to shaping how priorities are advanced within government and communicated to stakeholders across Alberta.

THE NEWS

Alberta's Premier Review of
Politics and Government Vitality

from ALBERTA COUNSEL



PASCAL RYFFEL
Senior Vice President

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

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AT A GLANCE

In the Media

Faster Approvals for Major Projects

Alberta's proposed Bill 30, the Expedited 120-Day Approvals Act, aims to speed up approvals for major projects by introducing a firm 120-day timeline once a project is designated. To qualify, projects must align with provincial priorities, demonstrate strategic economic value, and involve at least \$250 million in investment, while also completing environmental assessments and Indigenous consultation.

Minister of Energy and Minerals, Brian Jean, stated: "The world needs Alberta oil and gas now more than ever. Taking action to accelerate the approval process is critical for Alberta to unleash its energy potential and ensure a sustainable sector for decades to come."

Expanded Access to Privatized Medical Testing

Bill 29, the Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2026, proposes changes that are aimed at improving access, choice and coordination in Alberta's health system. The legislation would allow Albertans to self-refer for certain private preventative health tests, aiming to support early detection and reduce pressure on the public system. It would also permit authorized prescribers to hold limited supplies of addiction treatment medications for urgent use.

Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services, Adriana LaGrange, stated: "This legislation puts patients first, supports providers and gives Albertans more choice in their care, helping ensure we have a strong, responsive health system as we move into this new era for health care in Alberta."

Province Announces Cybercrime Task Force

The province is establishing a cross-ministry Cybercrime Task Force to address the growing threat of online fraud, identity theft and extortion targeting individuals and businesses. The task force will bring together experts in law, technology, consumer protection and law enforcement, along with representatives of several provincial ministries.

"We have seen too many examples of extortion threats across our province. This is unacceptable and it's why Alberta is taking action to develop a coordinated provincial strategy to stop these scammers from extorting families in our communities," commented Minister of Justice, Mickey Amery.

New Investments in Local Fire Services

Alberta's government is providing \$500,000 through the Fire Services Training Program grant to support 90 recipients across the province, including municipalities, First Nations and Métis Settlements. The funding will help firefighters and fire services personnel access training that meets industry standards and addresses local needs.

"When Albertans need them most, firefighters are always there for them. They put their lives on the line to protect ours, and we're making sure they have the training needed to do their jobs safely and effectively. These investments will help local teams respond with the skill and confidence to protect Albertans," commented Minister of Municipal Affairs, Dan Williams.



MACKENZIE BLYTH

Associate

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

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

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ALBERTA COUNSEL

ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION DEBATE DOMINATES LEGISLATURE

Mackenzie Blyth

Alberta's routine electoral boundary redistribution has escalated from a technical exercise into one of the most contentious political battles at the Legislature, with the introduction of a polarizing government motion and an increasingly aggressive line of attack from the NDP dominating debate.

At the centre of the dispute is the Electoral Boundaries Commission's final report, which recommends a revised map of 89 constituencies – an increase of two – to reflect Alberta's population growth, particularly in Calgary and Edmonton. The majority report emphasizes "effective representation", balancing new urban seats with adjustments to rural boundaries.

The Commission was particularly critical of the minority report's proposals in mid-sized cities like Lethbridge and Red Deer. Substantively, the majority also rejected the minority's broader approach to hybridization in these regions. While the minority proposed extensive hybrid configurations—such as expanding Lethbridge into four outward-facing regional ridings—the majority concluded that the minority's overall map was "unreasonable and unconstitutional" in its application of redistribution principles.

The introduction of a government motion has fundamentally reshaped the debate. The motion proposes that the Legislature:

- recognize the Commission's final report,
- increase the number of constituencies from 89 to 91,
- establish a Select Special Committee to oversee a new review of electoral boundaries.
- The Committee would be chaired by UCP MLA Brandon Lundy and consist of three UCP MLAs and two NDP MLAs.

The process would involve appointing an independent advisory panel to redraw the map by October 2026. However, the proposed framework removes any requirement for public hearings during this new review.

If the stakes were unclear, question period has made them unmistakable.

Across multiple sitting days, the NDP has used every question to focus on electoral boundaries, repeatedly pressing the government on allegations of gerrymandering and democratic interference.

On April 16, Opposition Leader Naheed Nenshi set the tone: "Not adopting the commission's report is cheating, not adopting the commission's report is gerrymandering, and in fact not adopting the report is a full-on assault on our democracy."

David Shepherd warned of broader implications: "Attacking our independent judges... assaulting democracy by rigging electoral processes... those are all authoritarian tactics."

Rakhi Pancholl accused the government of misrepresenting its intentions: "The UCP never intended to allow MLAs to vote on the maps developed by the independent boundary commissioner."

By April 20, the strategy had not shifted. Nenshi again challenged the government's approach, asking why it would not return the map to the original commission rather than initiate a new process.

The result has been a Legislature dominated by a single issue, with repeated exchanges crowding out most other lines of questioning.

The government has responded with a consistent defence: that it is following the Commission's recommendations, specifically the addendum suggesting the Legislature consider expanding to 91 seats.

Premier Danielle Smith has framed the move as a solution to a structural issue identified in the report: that population growth outpaced the increase in seats, creating pressure on both urban and rural representation.

Government House Leader Joseph Schow has reiterated that position: "We are following the recommendations... to move from 89 to 91 seats to ensure there is fair representation."

The government's central argument is that increasing the number of seats allows urban growth to be accommodated without eliminating rural constituencies.

The NDP rejects that framing, arguing the motion replaces an independent process with a government-directed one.

One projection comparing the Commission's majority map to a map aligned with minority proposals suggests a significant shift in electoral competitiveness. Under that analysis, a roughly competitive Legislature under the majority report (48 UCP to 41 NDP) could shift to a more lopsided outcome (57 UCP to 32 NDP), alongside a reduction in competitive ridings.

With the motion now before the Legislature and debate continuing, the key questions remain unresolved:

Whether the proposed process reflects the intent of the Commission, and whether Albertans will view the outcome as a legitimate update, or a political rewrite of the electoral map.



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Alberta 31st Legislature, Session 2 Summary
April 20th to April 23rd

Alberta 31st Legislature, Session 2 Summary: April 20th to April 23rd

Bill Updates

Government Bills

- **Bill 15: Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2026:** Amends the *Police Act* and the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* to support the transition of certain public safety functions to an independent agency police service in Alberta. The bill allows the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services to transfer employees from the Government of Alberta to the new police service through formal transfer orders while maintaining continuity of employment. It also establishes labour-relations provisions to ensure collective bargaining rights, existing bargaining units, and collective agreements continue following the transfer. In addition, the bill expands delegation authority under the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*, allowing the Director to delegate powers to employees of the independent agency police service.

 - **Status: Has come into force as legislation.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 15: Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2026](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Advancing the Alberta Sheriffs Police Service](#)

- **Bill 16: Traveller Protection and Destination Development Act:** Creates a new framework for destination marketing fees and tourism development in Alberta. The bill allows the Minister of Tourism and Sport to designate a destination marketing organization, an accommodation association (where applicable), and a trustee for each geographic area. Operators may choose to charge a destination marketing fee on accommodation or prescribed tourism experiences, but if charged, it must be collected at purchase and remitted in full to the designated trustee, who must hold the funds in trust and transfer them for regulated tourism promotion purposes. The bill adds enforcement tools (inspections, penalties, offences) and a limited right of appeal. It also amends the Consumer Protection Act to require disclosure of mandatory fees at booking.

 - **Status: Has come into force as legislation.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 16: Traveller Protection and Destination Development Act](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Legislation targets tourism fee transparency](#)

- **Bill 17: Fiscal Measures Statutes Amendment Act, 2026:** Amends several provincial statutes to implement fiscal and regulatory updates across taxation, financial services, pensions, and tourism. Key changes include amendments to the *Alberta Corporate Tax Act* affecting the calculation of levies on data centres, and revisions to the *Alberta Personal Income Tax Act* to introduce an updated Alberta caregiver credit for dependants with mental or physical infirmities. The bill also modifies the *Credit Union Act* to strengthen oversight and liquidity standards, expands regulatory authority shared between the Minister and the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation, and modernizes governance and compliance rules. Additional amendments update the *Employment Pension Plans Act* to allow pension plan administrators to transfer assets to purchase annuities and adjust eligibility rules for multi-employer plans, revise provisions under the *Loan and Trust Corporations Act*, and increase Alberta's tourism levy from 4% to 6% on accommodation purchases made after April 1, 2026.

 - **Status: Has come into force as legislation.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 17: Fiscal Measures Statutes Amendment Act, 2026](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Alberta advances budget legislation](#)

Government Bills (continued)

- **Bill 18: Safeguards for Last Resort Termination of Life Act:** Establishes additional provincial safeguards governing the provision of medical assistance in dying (MAID) in Alberta. The bill sets out enhanced eligibility and procedural requirements, including that an individual's natural death must be reasonably foreseeable within 12 months and that requests cannot be based solely on mental illness. It requires practitioner assessments, documentation safeguards, and, where possible, the presence of a family member as a witness. The legislation also introduces new rules for health care facilities, including the right to refuse provision of MAID, the creation of exclusion zones around certain facilities, and restrictions on the display or provision of MAID-related information. Additionally, it establishes a care coordination service, outlines complaint and disciplinary processes for regulated health professionals, and imposes mandatory sanctions for non-compliance.

 - **Status: Passed Third Reading.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 18: Safeguards for Last Resort Termination of Life Act](#)
 - GOA Overview: [MAID protections for Albertans with mental illness](#)

- **Bill 19: Appropriation Act, 2026:** Authorizes government spending from Alberta's General Revenue Fund for the 2026–27 fiscal year. The bill allocates funding across government operations, including approximately \$62.5 billion for public service expenses, \$4.76 billion for capital investments, \$1.45 billion for financial transactions, and \$2 billion in contingency funding, along with \$217.7 million for the Legislative Assembly. It also permits limited transfers between expense, capital, and financial transaction votes, subject to Treasury Board approval, and includes provisions for targeted infrastructure funding such as school and health facility projects.

 - **Status: Has come into force as legislation.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 19: Appropriation Act, 2026](#)
 - GOA Overview: The government did not provide a news release.

- **Bill 20: Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2026:** Authorizes additional government spending from Alberta's General Revenue Fund for the 2025–26 fiscal year to cover expenditures not previously approved. The bill allocates approximately \$326.2 million in additional operating expenses, \$17.8 million for capital investments, \$202.2 million for financial transactions, and \$18.2 million for the Legislative Assembly. It also includes targeted transfers between departments, notably reallocating funds to support social services, justice, and other priority areas.

 - **Status: Has come into force as legislation.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 20: Appropriation \(Supplementary Supply\) Act, 2026](#)
 - GOA Overview: The government did not provide a news release.

Government Bills (continued)

- **Bill 21: Interprovincial Trade Mutual Recognition Act:** Establishes a framework to reduce internal trade barriers by requiring Alberta to recognize goods and services that meet regulatory standards in other Canadian jurisdictions. The bill implements “mutual recognition rules,” meaning goods and services approved elsewhere in Canada are generally treated as meeting Alberta’s requirements, with limited exceptions. It enables Alberta to participate in agreements such as the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and New West Partnership, while allowing Ministers to issue exemption orders where necessary. The legislation also provides regulatory authority to manage standards, approvals, and verification processes across jurisdictions.

 - **Status: Has come into force as legislation.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 21: Interprovincial Trade Mutual Recognition Act](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Reducing barriers to interprovincial trade](#)

- **Bill 22: Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2026:** Amends the *Animal Protection Act* to strengthen animal welfare standards, enforcement powers, and penalties in Alberta. The bill expands the definition of “distress” to include conditions affecting an animal’s physical and psychological well-being, and introduces enhanced duties for persons responsible for animals, including requirements related to shelter, care, and the ability to express natural behaviours. It provides increased authority to peace officers, including new inspection powers, the ability to stop vehicles transporting animals, and expanded mechanisms to take animals into custody and ensure their care. The legislation also significantly increases penalties for offences, introduces prohibition orders restricting individuals from owning animals, and enables recognition of similar orders from other jurisdictions.

 - **Status: Passed Third Reading.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 22: Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2026](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Modernizing Alberta’s Animal Protection Act](#)

- **Bill 23: Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2026:** Amends several statutes related to elections, citizen initiatives, public sector disclosure, and justice processes. Key changes to the *Citizen Initiative Act* and *Recall Act* include restricting initiative activity around election periods, introducing “scrutineers” to observe petition verification processes, and enhancing transparency requirements. The bill also amends the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* to regulate the creation and distribution of misleading “deepfakes” in political contexts, including enforcement powers and penalties. Additional amendments update public sector compensation disclosure thresholds and modernize various procedural and administrative provisions across justice-related legislation

 - **Status: Has come into force as legislation.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 23: Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2026](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Boosting transparency and election integrity](#)

Government Bills (continued)

- **Bill 24: Alberta Whisky Act:** Establishes a regulatory framework and designation system for “Alberta Whisky” as a provincially recognized product. The bill sets out specific production standards, including requirements that whisky be produced entirely in Alberta using locally sourced grains and water, and limits post-distillation modifications. It designates the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission as the oversight body responsible for administering declarations, inspections, and enforcement, including the authority to revoke designations for non-compliance. The legislation also restricts the use of the term “Alberta Whisky” to products that meet the established standards, supporting product authenticity and geographic indication recognition.
 - **Status: Passed Third Reading.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 24: Alberta Whisky Act](#)
 - GOA Overview: [This is Alberta Whisky](#)

- **Bill 25: An Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms and Amend the Education Act, 2026:** Amends the *Education Act* to introduce new requirements aimed at promoting neutrality, academic rigor, and intellectual diversity in Alberta’s education system. The bill revises curriculum and instructional standards to emphasize critical thinking, a range of perspectives, and the avoidance of political or ideological bias in educational programming. It also places new restrictions on school boards, including limits on taking positions unrelated to their statutory responsibilities, requirements for ministerial approval of superintendent contracts, and expanded provincial oversight through strategic priorities. Additional provisions address school governance, including rules respecting flags and the national anthem, naming of school buildings, and the transfer of certain school board-owned property to the Crown.
 - **Status: Adjourned during Second Reading.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 25: An Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms and Amend the Education Act, 2026](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Removing politics and ideology from classrooms](#)

- **Bill 26: Immigration Oversight Act:** Establishes a comprehensive regulatory framework governing the recruitment and employment of foreign workers in Alberta. The Act introduces mandatory registration requirements for employers hiring foreign nationals and licensing requirements for foreign worker recruiters and immigration consultants. It sets out codes of conduct, prohibits exploitative practices (including charging recruitment fees to foreign workers), and imposes disclosure and contract requirements. The legislation also creates enforcement mechanisms, including inspections, administrative penalties, compensation orders, and significant fines for non-compliance. Additional provisions address information sharing, complaint processes, and provincial selection programs aligned with federal immigration agreements.
 - **Status: Passed Committee of the Whole.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 26: Immigration Oversight Act](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Restoring trust in the immigration system](#)

Government Bills (continued)

- **Bill 27: Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2026:** Introduces amendments to multiple financial statutes to support updated fiscal policy and program alignment in Alberta. The bill amends legislation including the *Alberta Enterprise Corporation Act*, *Automobile Insurance Act*, *Insurance Act*, *Seniors Benefit Act*, and other financial frameworks, reflecting changes to government financial operations, oversight, and program administration. As an omnibus bill, it bundles a range of technical and policy updates into a single piece of legislation, streamlining statutory changes related to Alberta's broader budget and financial management priorities.

 - **Status: Passed Second Reading.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 27: Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2026](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Implementing Budget 2026](#)

- **Bill 28: Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026:** Amends the *Alberta Housing Act*, *Libraries Act*, and *Municipal Government Act* to introduce a broad range of changes affecting municipal governance, housing administration, planning, and public-sector transparency. Key measures include new rules for housing management body reserve funds and requisitions, expanded ministerial inspection and regulatory powers over public libraries, and the creation of a provincial councillor accountability framework with complaint, investigation, sanction, and appeal processes. The bill also introduces new municipal employee compensation disclosure requirements, changes to property tax and assessment rules, expanded provincial authority over planning and development matters, and new provisions respecting pits, automated permitting systems, community design codes, and off-site levies.

 - **Status: Adjourned during Second Reading.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 28: Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026](#)
 - GOA Overview: [More homes, clear rules, stronger accountability](#)

- **Bill 29: Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2026:** Amends multiple health-related statutes to update Alberta's health care administration, professional regulation, and provincial health governance framework. Key changes include amendments to the *Alberta Health Care Insurance Act* and *Health Professions Act* to create a framework for provincially funded preventative health testing services available through self-referral, with the Minister given authority to specify eligible services and set benefit rates. The bill also amends the *Pharmacy and Drug Act* to authorize the sale of certain Schedule 1 drugs to regulated health professionals through written orders, and updates several statutes to reflect changes in health system terminology, governance, and oversight, including provisions related to hospital services facility operators, provincial health corporations, and employee severance repayment obligations in certain re-employment circumstances.

 - **Status: Adjourned during Second Reading.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 29: Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2026](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Expanding health care access for Albertans](#)

Government Bills (continued)

- **Bill 30: Expedited 120-Day Approvals Act:** Establishes a process for the Government of Alberta to designate certain major projects as “qualified projects” and expedite required regulatory decisions. Project proponents may apply for designation, and the Minister may recommend approval based on factors including strategic alignment with government priorities, economic importance, minimum capital spending of more than \$250 million, and the status of environmental and Indigenous consultation processes. For designated projects, decisions on prescribed approvals must be made within the lesser of 120 business days or the time frame otherwise set out in the applicable enactment. The bill also allows the Lieutenant Governor in Council to continue or rescind a project’s designation and provides that the Act prevails over conflicting enactments unless another Act expressly states otherwise.
 - **Status: Passed First Reading.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 30: Expedited 120-Day Approvals Act](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Faster approvals for major projects](#)

- **Bill 31: Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2026:** Introduces an omnibus set of amendments across multiple statutes to streamline regulatory processes and reduce administrative burden in Alberta. Key changes include expanded authority for standalone land-use planning under the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*, modernization of condominium governance and tribunal powers, and replacement of the *Daylight Saving Time Act* with a new *Official Time Act* standardizing time observance. The bill also shifts certain environmental regulatory powers to the Minister, enables limited sale of personal information by the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission under approved conditions, and advances digital processes under the *Land Titles Act*. Additional amendments update frameworks related to irrigation districts, infrastructure planning, and resource regulation.
 - **Status: Passed First Reading.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 31: Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2026](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Cutting red tape, getting results](#)

- **Bill 32: Electoral Boundaries Commission Amendment Act, 2026:** Amends the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* to increase the number of proposed electoral divisions in Alberta from 89 to 91, expanding the total number of constituencies to be considered in future boundary redistributions.
 - **Status: Passed First Reading.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 32: Electoral Boundaries Commission Amendment Act, 2026](#)
 - GOA Overview: [Updating electoral boundaries](#)

Private Member Bills

- **Bill 205: Non-Disclosure Agreements Act:** Prohibits the use of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) in cases involving sexual misconduct or sexual exploitation. The bill would prevent respondents and responsible persons from entering into agreements that restrict individuals from disclosing experiences of sexual misconduct or participating in related complaints or investigations. Any such agreements would be deemed void, and the legislation establishes penalties for contraventions, including fines for individuals and organizations. The bill also applies retroactively to invalidate existing NDAs that conflict with its provisions and affirms that rights under the Act cannot be waived.
 - **Status: Referred to Standing Committee on Families and Communities.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 205: Non-Disclosure Agreements Act](#)

Private Member Bills (continued)

- **Bill 206: Accessible Alberta Act:** Proposes creating an Accessibility Standards Committee, composed primarily of persons with disabilities, to develop and recommend accessibility standards to the government. These standards may apply to areas such as employment, the built environment, information and communications technology, government services, housing, transportation, health, education, and procurement. The legislation aims to identify, prevent and remove barriers through regulatory standards and consultation with persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, and affected organizations, with the broader goal of achieving a more accessible Alberta by 2040.

 - **Status: Defeated on division.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 206: Accessible Alberta Act](#)

- **Bill 207: Primary Provincial Industries Recognition Statutes Amendment Act, 2026:** Amends the Education Act and the Special Days Act to promote awareness of Alberta's primary provincial industries, including fossil fuels, forestry, agriculture and construction. The bill would require the Minister of Education to incorporate age-appropriate curriculum content on the economic importance of these sectors, related career opportunities, and the role they play in provincial revenues. It also establishes February 13 as "Fossil Fuel Recognition Day" to recognize the contributions of Alberta's fossil fuel industry and increase public awareness of its economic impact.

 - **Status: Passed Third Reading.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 207: Primary Provincial Industries Recognition Statutes Amendment Act, 2026](#)

- **Bill 208: Tobacco, Smoking and Vaping Reduction Amendment Act, 2026:** Amends the *Tobacco, Smoking and Vaping Reduction Act* to prohibit the sale of flavoured vaping products in Alberta, with limited exceptions for tobacco-flavoured products. The bill defines "flavoured vaping product" to include single-use vaping devices with noticeable non-tobacco flavours and allows for additional products to be designated by regulation. The prohibition aims to reduce the appeal of vaping products, particularly among youth. The legislation would come into force one year following Royal Assent.

 - **Status: Referred to Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 208: Tobacco, Smoking and Vaping Reduction Amendment Act, 2026](#)

- **Bill 209: Consumer Protection (Affordability Measures) Amendment Act, 2026:** Amends the *Consumer Protection Act* to introduce new affordability-focused protections for consumers. Key measures include prohibiting suppliers from charging prices higher than advertised (subject to limited exceptions), requiring online businesses to provide clear and accessible cancellation mechanisms for certain internet-based subscription contracts, and capping fees for private automated banking machines at the lesser of \$5 or 5% of the withdrawal amount. The bill also prohibits fees for transferring tickets on secondary ticketing platforms and establishes related enforcement provisions.

 - **Status: Passed First Reading.**
 - Bill Text: [Bill 209: Consumer Protection \(Affordability Measures\) Amendment Act, 2026](#)

Session Transcripts

Monday, April 20, 2026, Afternoon: [Transcript](#)

Tuesday, April 21, 2026, Afternoon: [Transcript](#)

Wednesday, April 22, 2026, Afternoon: [Transcript](#)

Thursday, April 23, 2026, Morning: [Transcript](#)

BOWDEN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

P.O. Box 496, 2133-18 Ave.

Bowden, Alberta TOM 0K0

GENERAL MEETING – April 16. 2026(7 pm) MINUTES

Attendance: Ashley Willert, Charlie Brittain, Carol Christenson, Grant Johnston, Don Peterson, Donna Peterson, Pauline Parlee, Brad Urichuk, Sandra Wilcox, Karilynn Marshall, Ian Marshall, Richard Sybblis, Michelle Johnson

Call the Meeting to Order: Time: 7:00 pm By: Don Peterson.

Approval of Agenda:

Approval of the agenda: Michelle Johnson

Approval of Past Minutes: AGM – 2026.03.19

Sent out digitally before the AGM to all 2026 members.

Summarized by Michelle.

Past minutes approved by: Michelle Johnson; Second by: Brad Urichuk. All in Favour. Motion Carried.

Correspondence:

Support for Non Profits Webinar Series. Submitted digitally by Laurie Miller

Promotions:

- a) The Center continues to sponsor flower baskets that add the beautification of our Town every year. Approved by: Charlie Brittain; Second by: Sandra Wilcox
- b) The Town has been helping us promote the facility through the town newsletter every month.
- c) Ashley Willert to look into purchasing promotional sign at Golf Tournament.
- d) The BFC continues to support local by donating usage of Tables and chairs at Rodeo.
- e) Thanks to Karilynn to continue with the monthly newsletter and website.

2026 Meetings/Events:

General member meetings: June 18, September 17, November 19

Turkey Dinner: December 09

NEW BUSINESS**Members:**

It was discussed if there were any perks for membership and if any additional ones could be implemented. BFC offers members kitchen privileges should they decide to rent hall and a Turkey dinner annually.

Community:

It was discussed if we could do additional things for the community. Possibility of Benches donated for walking paths or starting Pot Luck dinners for community. Further discussion on these issues in future meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**TREASURER'S REPORT: CAROL CHRISTENSEN****April 16, 2026 Balances:**

Casino Account \$8,287.08

General Account \$46,288.08

GIC Investments: \$44,412.47

Motion to approve by: Karilynn Marshall; Second by: Charlie Brittain

RENTAL AGENT REPORT: CHARLIE BRITTAIN

- a) Charlie has reported that Jam Sessions are a success and last one prior to Summer is dated April 26th.
- b) Concert Series discussed and Charlie will be bringing up more information next meeting.
- c) Upcoming Paint Night scheduled for Wednesday May 13th (Karilynn)

MAINTENANCE REPORT: GRANT JOHNSTON

- a) Grant will be installing a chain on front door to hold it open when bringing in supplies and will be repairing small table in foyer.
- b) Discussion on Samantha Brittain to do monthly cleaning of facility and waxing floors to be done every year.

KITCHEN REPORT: SANDY WILCOX

- a) Sandy Wilcox continues to stock and ensure that the supplies are available for use during these functions. (ie. Coffee supplies, toilet paper, paper towels, soap and garbage bags, etc.)
- b) Sandy mentioned to minimize garbage cans in hall unless needed. This in turn will limit waste of garbage bags.
- c) It was discussed that we need to keep up on doing a thorough viewing of facility after an event to ensure place has been properly cleaned. This will allow us to implement the hall deposit fee if needed.

ALBERTA GAMING: ASHLEY WILLERT

- a) Ashley reported that the Casino Sunday April 5th and Monday April 6th was a success.
- b) Thanks to the BFC volunteers and additional volunteers from other organizations for helping out for this event.
- c) Motion has put forward by Don to send Thank You cards to those additional volunteers who graciously donated their time to make it a success. Karilynn to mention a Thank you to volunteers on next newsletter.
- d) Ashley also reported that we received tips in the amount of \$90.00. This will be deposited in the petty cash account.
- e) Paperwork has already been submitted for the next Casino event.

Additions to the Agenda:

1.

- a) Motion put forward to have Facility carpets cleaned
- b) Tentative date to be end of May
- c) Approved by Ashley
- d) Second by Charlie
- e) Carried.

2.

- a) Approval to purchase Ashtray for front of Facility (Karilynn to purchase)
- b) Motion made by Sandy.
- c) Second by Michelle
- d) Carried.

3.

- a) Approval to purchase Physical address numbers for front of Facility.
- b) Motion made by Karilynn.
- c) Second by Pauline
- d) Carried.

- 4.
 - a) Approval to remove Water Dispensers from facility.
 - b) Motion made by Don.
 - c) Second by Karilynn.
 - d) Carried.

Next Meeting: June 18 at 7pm

Motion to adjourn at 8:14 pm: by Sandra Wilcox. Second: Richard Sybblis. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes approved by 2026 executive:

President Don Peterson: _____

Secretary Michelle Johnson: _____

Meeting

Bowden Ag Society

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

I was late attending this meeting as Council was convened at the Special Events meeting. Ag Society president, Keith Bailey was at the Special Events meeting and left early to chair his meeting.

Agenda included: Summer maintenance, Summer Worker Interviews and Rodeo planning (sponsorship, promo items, buckles).

I arrived for round table discussions:

Keith:

- Planning items for rodeo
 - Accept as many vendors as we can fit
 - Food trucks have been contacted
 - On-line ticket sales continue
- Website: need to update for search results. Bowden town site needs new link and remove old phone number (to be emailed).
- Has been contacted by a group out of Olds to hold a mid-way in the later part of August.
- Want to host a fall event and join forces with out groups to do so.

Len:

- Reminded group of volunteer appreciation dinner on the 23rd.

Laurie:

- Gave an update on the Special Events planning for Bowden Daze. Theme: The Fabulous 50s & 60s. Hoping for fun and lots of music. Advised of the escape room plans.

Prepared by:

Laurie Miller, Mayor



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

May 1, 2026

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

Sent Via Email to: cfo@bowden.ca

Attention: Chief Administrative Officer

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: April 2026 Enforcement Contract

Please be advised for the month of April, Red Deer County Patrol Officers spent 10 hours and 26 minutes in the Town of Bowden.

Four tickets were issued during patrols in April conducted between 0600-2100:

- Speeding
- Fail to Produce Insurance
- Unregistered Motor Vehicle
- Fail to Stop at Stop Sign

There was one occurrence generated during the month of April.

- Commercial CVSA Inspection – Level 1

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Irv Heide', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Irv Heide
Patrol Manager
Red Deer County, Protective Services

Museum Meeting Agenda**Date: April, 28th 2026 at 7:00 pm****Location: Bowden Museum****Prepared by: Angela****Review of Ongoing Projects****> Kitchen Renovation**

The fridge has been selected. The stove still requires approval. There are outstanding questions regarding electrical requirements and proper venting. Mr. Eric Bumstead will present the full scope of the renovation, including projected costs. The long term goal is to have a fully functional kitchen to support programming and Museum Memberships and facility rentals.

> Cattle Brands Display

The display is planned for installation above the doors. Mr. Bumstead will provide updates on cost, logistics, and timeline.

> Penitentiary, Air Force Base, and Reform School Display

This display represents three historical phases: the World War II Commonwealth Air Force training base, the reform school, and the current federal penitentiary. Photos have been sourced from Mayor Lori Miller and Dale, copied, and digitized. Costs to date include approximately 80 dollars for the first set of copies, 40 dollars for the second set, and 20 dollars for a memory stick. The proposal is to create a 5 by 7 photo book to be placed near the jail cell. The jail cell should be cleared out. A request has been made to Mayor Lori Miller for storage space, and follow up is pending.

> Approve Budget for Completion of Bowden Penitentiary Project

An approved budget is requested for completion of the Bowden Penitentiary project, including materials for enlarging and mounting large format images on core board for ceiling mounted display. This would include installation planning for larger photographic pieces within the designated space. Coordination with the cattle brands installation may allow for shared use of ceiling to floor cable systems for secure mounting of the larger panels, pending board approval.

> Financial Processes/Charge Accounts (Lumber Store and Staples)

There is a need to establish charge accounts with suppliers such as a lumber store for the cattle brands project and Staples for the penitentiary display project. This would reduce reliance on personal banking of staff, avoid repeated out of pocket purchases, reduce banking fees, and eliminate delays caused by waiting for both the treasurer and president to be available to issue reimbursements or cheques. It would also improve accuracy and ease of tracking museum expenditures through direct billing.

➤ **Accessioning Program**

The accessioning binders have been located and reviewed with Mr. Bumstead. There are also digital records on memory sticks that need to be consolidated. A plan is needed to centralize and organize all accession records.

New Business

➤ **Summer Programming**

A meeting was held with Jade. Children's programming is being developed. A tentative idea includes building toolboxes along with a focus on basic pioneer life skills. There may be a bread making demonstration, with the possibility of sending children home with prepared dough. This program is still in progress.

➤ **Ice Cream Service**

The current freezer inventory should be cleared out. Going forward, it is proposed that individually wrapped ice cream products be used. This would improve cleanliness, reduce waste, and make service easier during tours. Ice cream remains a valuable attraction for visitors. A donation or replacement ice cream maker is being sought. Cost/Profit goal.

➤ **Museum Security**

There will be a review of the alarm system and front door security code. Mr. Bumstead will also provide an update on improvements to the phone system.

➤ **Church Pews in Thrift Store**

It is recommended that the pews be sold. This would free up retail space and potentially generate funds for museum projects or general use. Options include offering them first to neighbouring museums or arranging a trade for items of interest.

➤ **Carman Museum Membership**

Membership is ongoing. There is interest in strengthening communication and engagement moving forward.

➤ **School Partnerships**

Efforts are ongoing to arrange meetings with the vice principal, the principal, and Val Dye regarding student work experience programs. The goal is to build stronger partnerships and increase student involvement.

➤ **Facility Membership and Rentals**

Museum membership could be offered as a way to build community involvement, with benefits such as reduced facility rental rates extended to members, volunteers in the thrift store and museum, and board members.

For consideration a proposal to offer the museum foyer as a rental space for events such as birthdays, anniversaries, and gatherings. Once the kitchen is functional, it could also be included. A museum staff member would be required onsite during rentals.

➤ **Additional Items**

Opening date? Victoria day weekend or later?

Work Day
Black light

Mr. Bumstead may bring forward any additional topics for discussion.

➤ **Adjournment**

B.

Bowden Historical Society

April 28, 2026.

Kitchen reno's:

Fridge has been purchased

Stove will require 220 power, Erik will send an email to CAO of the town to inquire

Cattle Brands Display:

Stan and Erik to decide on a day to paint all plaque edges with the same color (black) ,
another date to be determined to mount plaques on wall.

Penitentiary, Air Force Base and Reform School Display:

Receipts submitted by Angela for photo and memory stick purchase.

The town does not have extra storage space to offer.

Approve budget for completion of Bowden penitentiary project:

Ongoing

Financial processes/charge accounts (lumber and staples)

In progress

Accessioning Program:

In progress

Summer Programming:

In progress

Ice Cream service:

A donation for replacement ice cream maker is in progress

Museum Security:

Erik to send email to the CAO to inquire about the Museum security system.

Telus phones and internet new contract secured Internet \$65/month, phone \$30/month

Church Pews in Thrift Store:

The town does not have extra storage space for the pews. The board will look at stacking the pews at the rear of the museum.

Carman Museum Membership:

In progress

School Partnership:

In Progress

Facility Membership and Rentals:

In Progress

Museum Work day- May 17th from 10am to 2pm:

All board members welcome to volunteer to assist with organizing and moving unwanted items.

Amanda will take museum brochures to Parkland board meeting on May 7 for Autumn Grove to put up in their lounge area.

Next Meeting, May 26, 2026.

FCSS Community Navigator Report April 2026

Community:

- **Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)** – We have wrapped up the CVITP clinics. Bowden CVITP Clinics served 70 clients in town. They also hosted clinics in The Pines, Mitchner Centre and Hamlets in Red Deer County/Red Deer as an extension of our CVITP registration. We will have final numbers when the Grant Application is released.
- **Volunteer Appreciation Supper** – Was an outstanding success. Thank you to all who helped host the event. We served 150 volunteers including the members of Station 7, Red Deer County & Bowden Fire department members who were on call fighting a blaze for 7 hours that day. This is the biggest turn-out of the event in Bowden history.
- **Community Garden** – The plots and raised beds have all been assigned, 20 in-ground and 4 raised beds will each have an individual or family tending to them. There is a double plot berry patch designated in the community garden for all gardeners to access strawberries, raspberries, rhubarb and other items throughout the season. Garden Rules, Waivers and payments will be collected through the first weeks of May, and opening Friday May 15th.

Food Security Support (ongoing):

- **The Good Food Box** -The April order had 22 boxes, including 3 sponsored families, 2 donation boxes and 4 deliveries.

Seniors Programs:

- **Tech Time** – Ongoing monthly program. The April session included 4 drop-ins.
- **Golden Circle Outreach Bowden** – April date brought in 5 individuals to be connected with supports.
- **Seniors Week 2026** – planning is underway with a partnership event with Bowden Museum "Ice Cream Social" for June 3. We are also planning to host a session with the Alberta Alzheimer Society that week.

Youth Programs:

- **YES & FCSS** –April did not have any programs as there was Easter & Spring break for BGS. We have been planning towards the "Summer Daze" youth programs. The date hasn't been solidified, but potentially July 13 – 16. We have already made arrangement with the Museum to include in the week's events.
- **Keystone Youth BGC** – Bowden youth participated in an "out-trip" to Trailhead Climbing on April 27th.

Other Happenings:

- **Red Deer Polytech** – Practicum student Kiana Dykens-Andres finished her 300 hours with Bowden FCSS for the Social Work Program that she is enrolled in.
- **AHS Mental Health Group** – hosted its meeting at Park Place in partnership with FCSS. The members relaxed with some quiet conversations and adult colouring pages.
- **FCSS** was approached by a local volunteer with Expanding Horizons to potentially partner for a Halloween Family Dance activity in Bowden.
- **FCSS** completed and submitted its Quarterly Report to Red Deer & District.
- **FCSS** attended the Bowden Grandview School Council meeting.
- **FCSS** supported the Town Theatre Group with its Actor Biographies (highlighting Volunteers) and some event supplies (shared existing items for its table centres).

April Park Place users & activities included the following organizations:

- Keystone Youth BGC – Red Deer Youth HQ
- AHS Mental Health Group
- SRDRWC Regional Meeting
- Bowden Lions Club –Regular Meeting location
- Bowden AA Sunday Night Group
- Golden Circle – Bowden Outreach Senior Supports
- Henday Association for Lifelong Learning – Tech Time
- CVITP – 2 Clinics in April

Report: Christian Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

Red Deer, Alberta — April 16, 2026

This event was well attended considering the blizzard conditions in our region. I was seated next to Mayor Megan Hanson, voted in for a second term in Sylvan Lake. She mentioned her husband's roots in Bowden and their participation in the past Bowden parades.

Event Overview

The 20th Annual Central Alberta Christian Mayor's Prayer Breakfast was held in Red Deer, bringing together municipal leaders, business professionals, faith leaders, and community members for a morning centered on prayer, leadership, and community unity.

In addition to civic and business attendees, the event intentionally included representation from frontline service sectors, with a dedicated table of RCMP members and a table of first responders, reflecting a broader commitment to pray for those serving and protecting the community.

Hosts / Organizers

Troy Walker & Ryan Gaunce – Local Christian business entrepreneurs, leaders and community advocates committed to strengthening leadership and faith-based initiatives in Central Alberta.

Hosting Organization: Success Builders — a network of Christian business leaders dedicated to equipping individuals, supporting leadership development, and encouraging community impact through faith-driven principles.

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Mike Bolton – Executive leadership coach associated with the John Maxwell Team, specializing in personal growth and leadership development. As well as local business man. (His wife, Debbie Bolton brought Norwex to Canada)

Overall Tone and Significance

The 2026 gathering marked a meaningful 20-year milestone, characterized by unity across sectors, a strong emphasis on “servant leadership”, and the intentional inclusion of civic, protective, and community voices. The event reinforced the ongoing importance of prayer as a foundation for leadership and community strength.

Prepared by:

Councillor Marietta Tuckwell

CAEP, Fundamentals of Rural Economic Development

Councillor Committee Report by Councillor Pion

April 29, 2026 - Blackfalds

Presenter: Natalie

Some participants/ attendees: County of Lacombe, RDC, Watertown County, Delburne

Economic Developers of Alberta (EDA) Institute, is an organization focusing on ED in municipalities large and small. In this course we focused on the rural aspect of ED but instructor recognized municipalities such as Bowden, and identify and leverage economic opportunities specific to our community.

- How ED differs in rural and urban communities
 - Small towns typically have close knit communities where residents have deep social ties and connections. This can foster a strong sense of belonging and support, but it can also create resistance to change. Residence may fear that changes in ED can disrupt their social networks or alter the town's character. But despite this most small communities adapt and innovate to remain economically viable.
 - That's the challenge!
 - Teacher note - Triangle of change
 - CAVE PEOPLE - citizens against virtually everything
- Identified rural & municipal community needs and assets using tools like Community Needs Assessment (CNA), Asset Mapping, and Gap Analysis, facilitating the identification of strengths, challenges, and opportunities for capacity building.
- Gain insight into strategic planning and implementation, distinguishing between project and strategic planning, developing Rural Economic Development Plans based on CNAs, and integrating the Logic Model to illustrate connections between resources, activities, and outcomes.
 - Strategic Plan is a base foe ED
- Learned how to develop effective rural economic development strategies, with creative approaches for connecting strategies with resources.
- Heard about inclusive community engagement, fostering participation and community ownership, leveraging partnerships, and addressing conflict within rural communities.
 - Example - Stettler implemented a "community calendar" orgs & businesses put their events on a live calendar - promoted and published by the town to get all working together
- Learned how to empower local leadership, establish collaborative governance structures, identify rural economic development models, and define the roles of economic development officers, organizations, or committees in fostering economic growth.
- Other materials and resources will be presented and talked about more at our ED committee. Lots of discussion points . Overall great presentation, good and real world discussion. Real connections with RDC and Delburne. Happy it was rescheduled and I was able to attend.
- I received a certificate of completion.