



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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

1.a Land Acknowledgement

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

**3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

**4. PUBLIC HEARING**

None scheduled.

**5. DELEGATIONS**

5.a Bowden Historical Society – Sandra Gamble

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

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

6.a Council Resolutions Follow-Up Action

6.b Key Dates

**7. BYLAWS & POLICIES**

7a None

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

8.a Volunteer Application

**9. FINANCIAL**

9.a. Capital Budget preview

**10. CORRESPONDENCE**

10.a → 10.g

**11. REPORTS**

11.a CAO's Report

11.b Council Committee Reports.

11.c Society & Other Reports.

**12. CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL**

12.a Local Public Body Confidences – Arena Activities

This is a closed meeting of Council as permitted by section 197 of the MGA.

An exception to disclose under Division 2 of Part 1 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSA2000, Chapter F-25 (as amended over time) therefore applies on the basis of: Section 28 "local public body confidences".

**13. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

<b>Special Council Meeting:</b> 2026-02-23	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 3.a / 3.b
<b>Prepared by:</b> Laurie Miller	<b>Approved By:</b> Mayor
<b>Report Type:</b> RFD	<b>Attachment(s):</b> As per content

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

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

- Monday, February 9, 2026

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

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

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

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council adopts the minutes, as presented, for the Regular Council Meeting of February 9, 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, February 9, 2026, 7:00 pm**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Laurie Miller called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

<b>PRESENT</b>	Mayor	Laurie Miller
	Councillor	Randy Brown
	Councillor	Ryan Howlett
	Councillor	Cam Morrison
	Councillor	Amanda Peffers
	Councillor	Carol Pion
	Councillor	Marietta Tuckwell
	A/CAO	Greg Skotheim
	Delegate	Kevin Denishcuk, ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd.
	Delegate	Robert Colwell, ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd.

**1.a Land Acknowledgement**

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

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

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

Moved by Councillor Randy Brown that Council adopt the agenda as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**3.a** Regular Council Meeting (January 26, 2026)

**3.b** Special Council Meeting (January 21, 2026)

**Motion 3.a**

Motion by Councillor Carol Pion that Council adopts the minutes, as presented, for the Regular Council Meeting of January 26, 2026.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion 3.b**

Motion by Councillor Cam Morrison that Council adopts the minutes, as presented, for the Special Council Meeting of January 21, 2026.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. PUBLIC HEARING**

None scheduled.

**5. DELEGATIONS**

**5.a ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd. – Kevin Denischuk and Robert Colwell**

**5.a.i Arena Roof**

Overview provided of the Structural Condition Assessment. Discussions regarding timelines for improvements, new codes coming from the National Research Council in 2028, the importance of ongoing snow removal processes.

**5.a.ii Sanitary Lining**

Outline of plans to continue the preventative work described in the previous plan. Scheduling the relining of 6 or 7 lines in 2026. Sump draining into the sanitary system continues to be a problem.

**Motion 5.a**

Moved by Councillor Marietta Tuckwell that Council accept the presentation as information.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Recess at 7:49 until 7:52pm.**

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

**6.a.i Bowden Hi-Way Golf**

**6.a.ii ABmunis Spring 2026 Municipal Leaders Caucus**

**6.a.iii Open House Planning**

**Motion 6.a**

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion 6.a.i**

Motion by Councillor Carol Pion that Council approve the funding for advertising request from Bowden Hi-Way Golf and direct administration add this request to the operational budget.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion 6.a.ii**

Motion by Councillor Cam Morrison that Council send up to three members of Council regarding the ABmunis Spring 2026 Municipal Leaders Caucus.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.b Key Dates**

**Motion 6b**

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. BYLAWS & POLICIES**

7a None

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

None submitted.

**9. FINANCIAL**

None submitted

**10. CORRESPONDENCE**

10.a Alberta Counsel  
- January News

10.b Red Deer County  
- Letter: January 2026 Enforcement Contract

10.c Dylan Bressey, ABmunis President  
- email and Property Taxes Reimagined document  
(**Note:** request to promote the document on our website).

10.d CAEP  
- email and attachment: requesting support

10.e Red Deer County  
- email and invitation re Regional Forum on March 11.

10.f ABmunis  
- email: Call for resolutions for 2026 Convention (deadline May 31, 2026)

10.g Municipal Information Network (MIN)  
- email: Membership offer  
- MIN bulletin  
- MIN Job Board bulletin

**Motion 10**

Motion by Councillor Cam Morrison that Council accepts agenda items 10.a and 10.b as information.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****Motion 10.c**

Motion by Councillor Carol Pion that Council direct administration to promote the information presented by ABmunis, the Property Taxes Reimagined on our web site.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****Motion 10.d**

Motion by Councillor Ryan Howlett that Council provide a support letter requesting the City of Red Deer stay with CAEP. Letter will be prepared by administration and signed by Mayor to be sent on February 10th.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion 10.e**

Motion by Councillor Carol Pion that Council asks Administration to respond to Red Deer County that Council and CAO will attend the forum on March 11.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion 10.f**

Motion by Councillor Randy Brown that Council table the ABmunis request for resolutions for the 2026 fall conference until the April 13<sup>th</sup> RCM.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion 10.g**

Motion by Councillor Cam Morrison that Council decline the membership offer of the Municipal Information Network request.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

Motion by Councillor Marietta Tuckwell that Council accepts the CAO's report as information.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**11.b Council Committee Reports.****11.c Society & Other Reports.****Motion 11.b / 11.c**

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Counsellor Randy Brown moved to go in-camera at 8:45 pm (Section 20: disclosure harmful to personal privacy.)**

**Counsellor Amanda Peffers moved out of camera at 9:00pm.**

**No motions were made regarding in-camera session.**

**12. MEETING ADJOURNMENT****Motion 12**

Motion by Councillor Ryan Howlett at 9:01 pm to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Meeting adjourned.**

**Minutes signed by:**

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**Mayor  
Laurie Miller**

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**A/CAO  
Greg Skotheim**



Delegations

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> 2026-02-23	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 5.a / 5.b
<b>Prepared by:</b> Laurie Miller	<b>Approved By:</b> Mayor Laurie Miller
<b>Report Type:</b> RFD / Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildrose Assessment Presentation</li> <li>• Wildrose Assessment Contract</li> </ul>

Delegations

5.a Bowden Historical Society – Sandra Gamble

5.b Wildrose Assessment Services Inc. – Riley Kloss, AMAA

Motion 5.a

Moved by Moved by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council accept the presentation as information.

Motion 5.b

Moved by Moved by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council accept the presentation as information.

Motion 5.b.i

Moved by Moved by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council direct Administration to enter into the contract as presented.



# 2026 BOWDEN COUNCIL PRESENTATION

WILD ROSE ASSESSMENT SERVICES

# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- Wild Rose Assessment-Founded in 1995 following government privatization
- WRA has been Bowden's assessment services provider since 2004
- Riley-Appointed assessor since 2014
- Riley: Assessing for 17 years, accredited for 13 years
- WRA: 5 Accredited assessors plus administrative staff
- Located in Red Deer, provide assessments for similar municipalities like Penhold, Innisfail, Didsbury and Sundre

# OUTLINE

Introduction and Background

What is an Assessor

What is an Assessment

What is Assessed

TGS Explanatory

How Assessments are Prepared

Assessment Audit – ASSET

Assessment Cycle

2025 Preliminary Assessment Data

Exemption Tables

Questions

# WHAT IS AN ASSESSOR

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

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

# PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

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

# WHAT AN ASSESSMENT IS



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



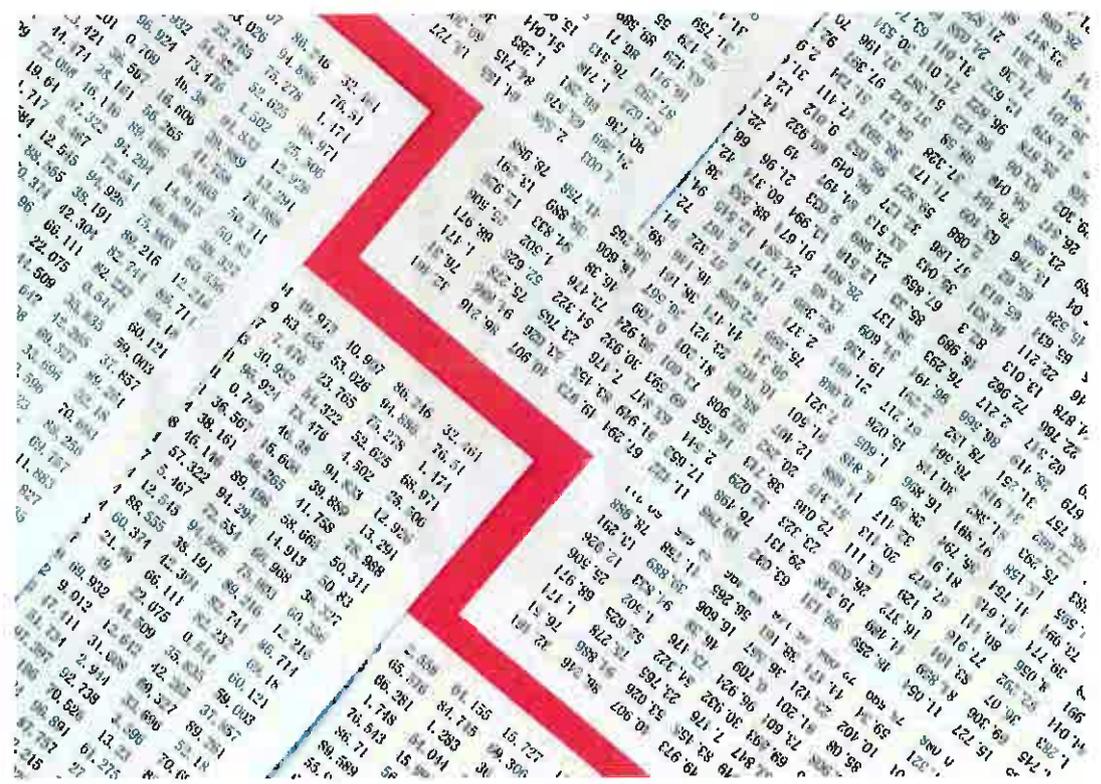
Based on Legislation, “dollar value” is either:

- 1) Market Value
- 2) Regulated Value

# MARKET VALUE

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

- Section 284(1)(r) defines property as:
  - a parcel of land,
  - an improvement, or
  - a parcel of land and the improvements to it;



# REGULATED VALUE

Regulated rate set by Province.

Property assessed with regulated rates:

## 1) By the assessor

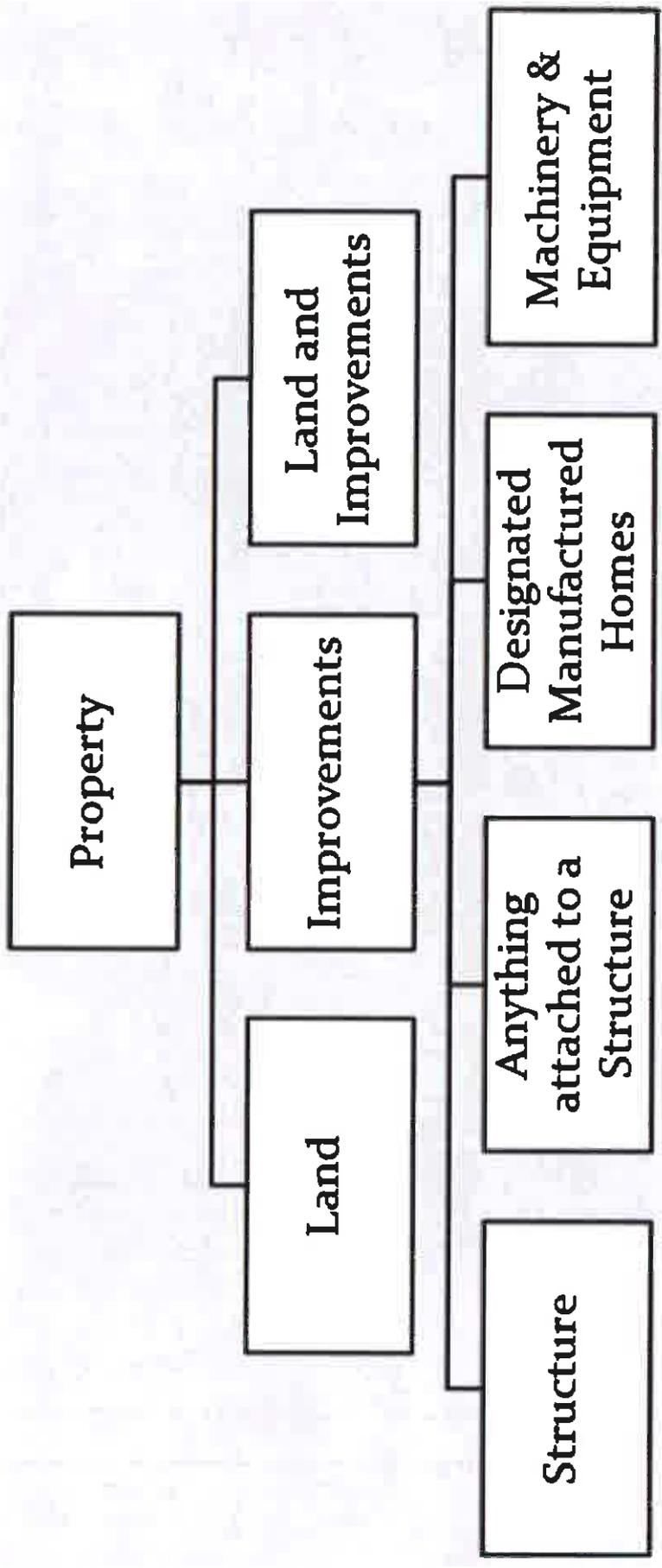
- Farmland – as agricultural use value
- Machinery & Equipment – as cost

## 2) By the Province

- Railway
- Designated Industrial Property (DIP)(Solar Farm)
- Major Plants (Johns Manville, Carbon Capture Site)



# WHAT IS ASSESSED





Assessed at market value.

Detached single family dwelling

Semi-detached dwelling

Individual condominium units in apartment or townhouse

Lot suitable for single dwelling

Multi-family – multiple units on one land title

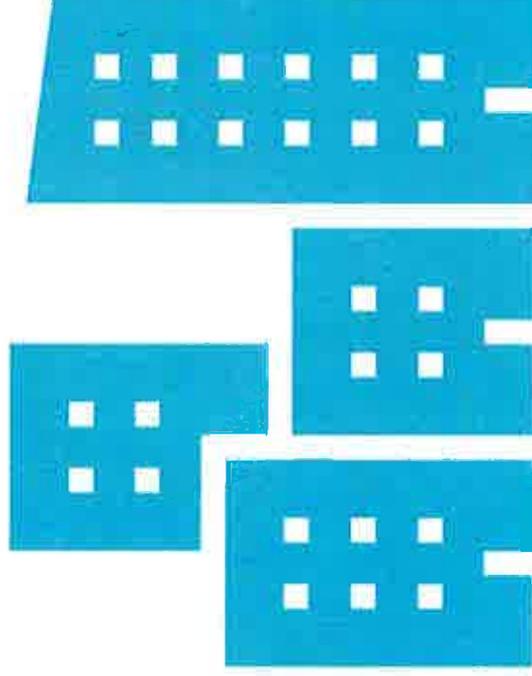
# RESIDENTIAL

# NON-RESIDENTIAL

## Assessed at market value.

Land, single or multiple user buildings, condominiums:

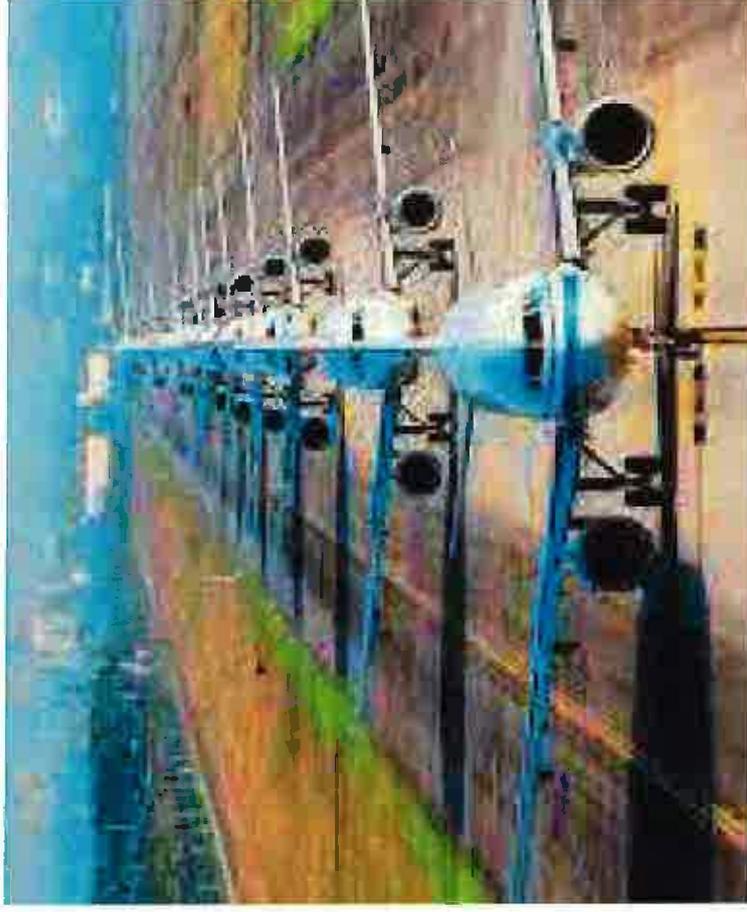
- Commercial** – land, owner user, multiple tenant
- Industrial** – land, owner user, multiple tenant
- Land** – suitable for non-residential buildings, or redevelopment
- Purpose-Built** – church, school, campground, manufactured home park



# NON-ASSESSABLE

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- Municipal Infrastructure
- Water, sewer systems
- Farm Buildings
- Airport Improvements
- Roads, runways



# TAX EXEMPTIONS

# TAXABLE OR EXEMPT

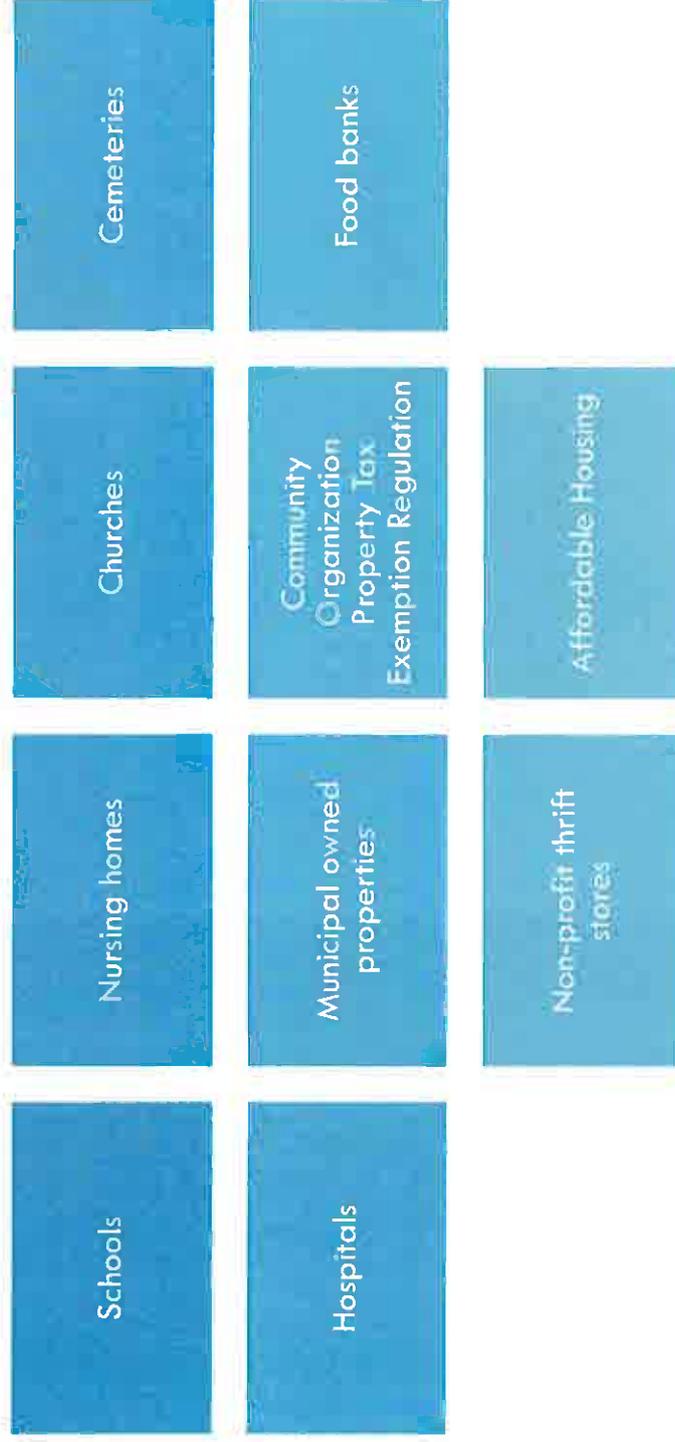
 By default, all property is **TAXABLE**.

 Tax **EXEMPTION** achieved by:

- 1) **MGA** exempts property from taxation.
- 2) **COPTER**

 \* Community Organization Property Tax Exemption Regulation

# MGA: EXEMPT FROM TAXATION



# AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

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

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

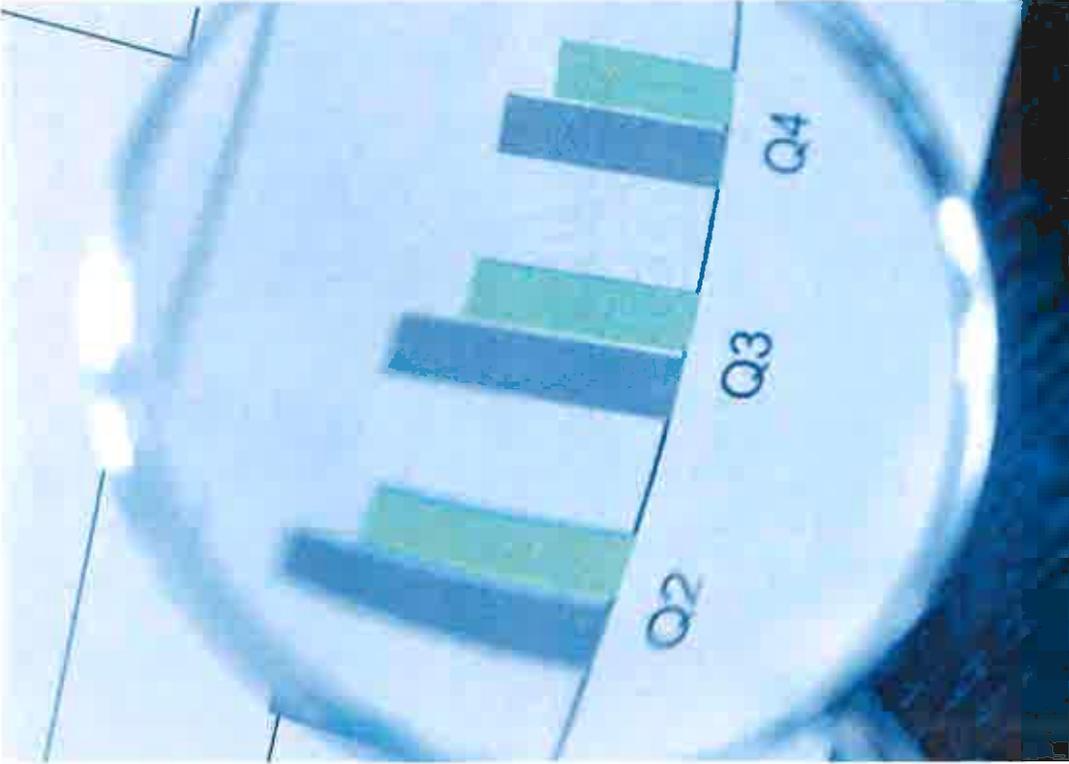
# HOW ASSESSMENTS ARE PREPARED

# ASSESSMENT STANDARDS

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

A property assessment is based on market value and must:

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



# MASS APPRAISAL

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

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

Allows annual valuation of large number of properties.

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

# APPROACHES TO MARKET VALUE

## **COST - MARKET MODIFIED**

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

## **INCOME**

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

## **SALES COMPARISON**

- Similar property compared on per unit basis

Assessors utilize the three traditional approaches to value: **Cost, Income, Sales Comparison.**

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

# ASSESSMENT AUDIT & COMPLIANCE

## Assessment Shared Systems Environment I – ASSET

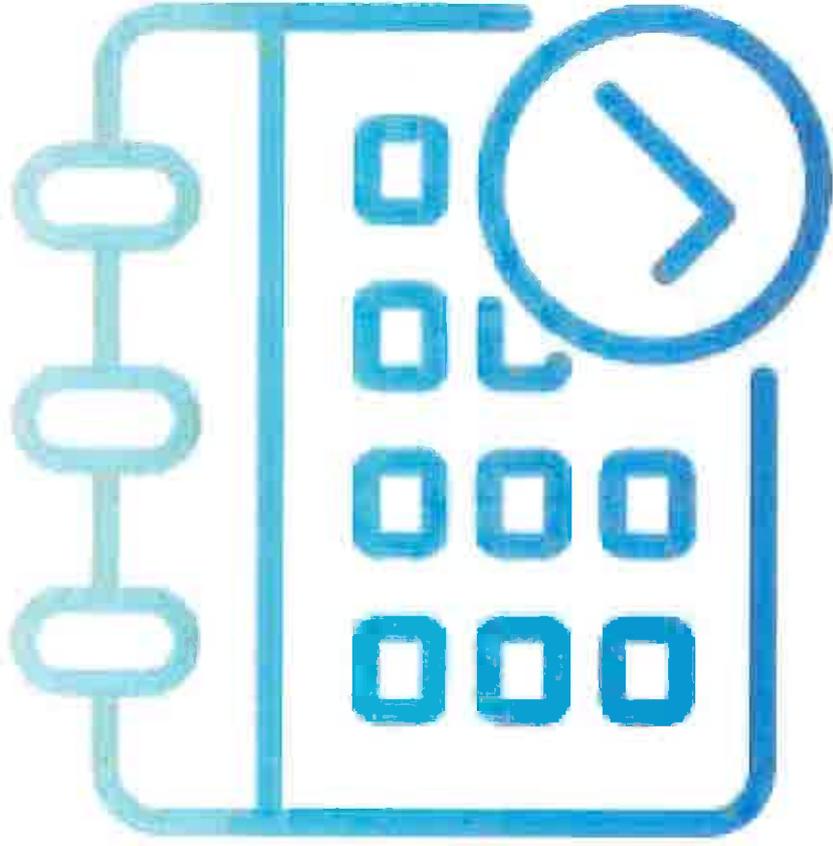
- Annually, by Feb 28, municipal assessment database loaded into ASSET.
- Changes after this date made as MGA Section 305
  - reloaded to ASSET throughout the year.
- Assessment and sales information are analyzed within ASSET.
  - to be audited for quality and compliance by the Province, Dept of Municipal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

## ASSESSMENT TO SALES RATIO

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

Assessment / Sale Price =  
Assessment to Sales Ratio  
(ASR)

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



# IMPORTANT DATES

Two legislated dates govern assessment valuation.

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



# ASSESSMENT COMPLAINTS

## Three types of assessment review boards:

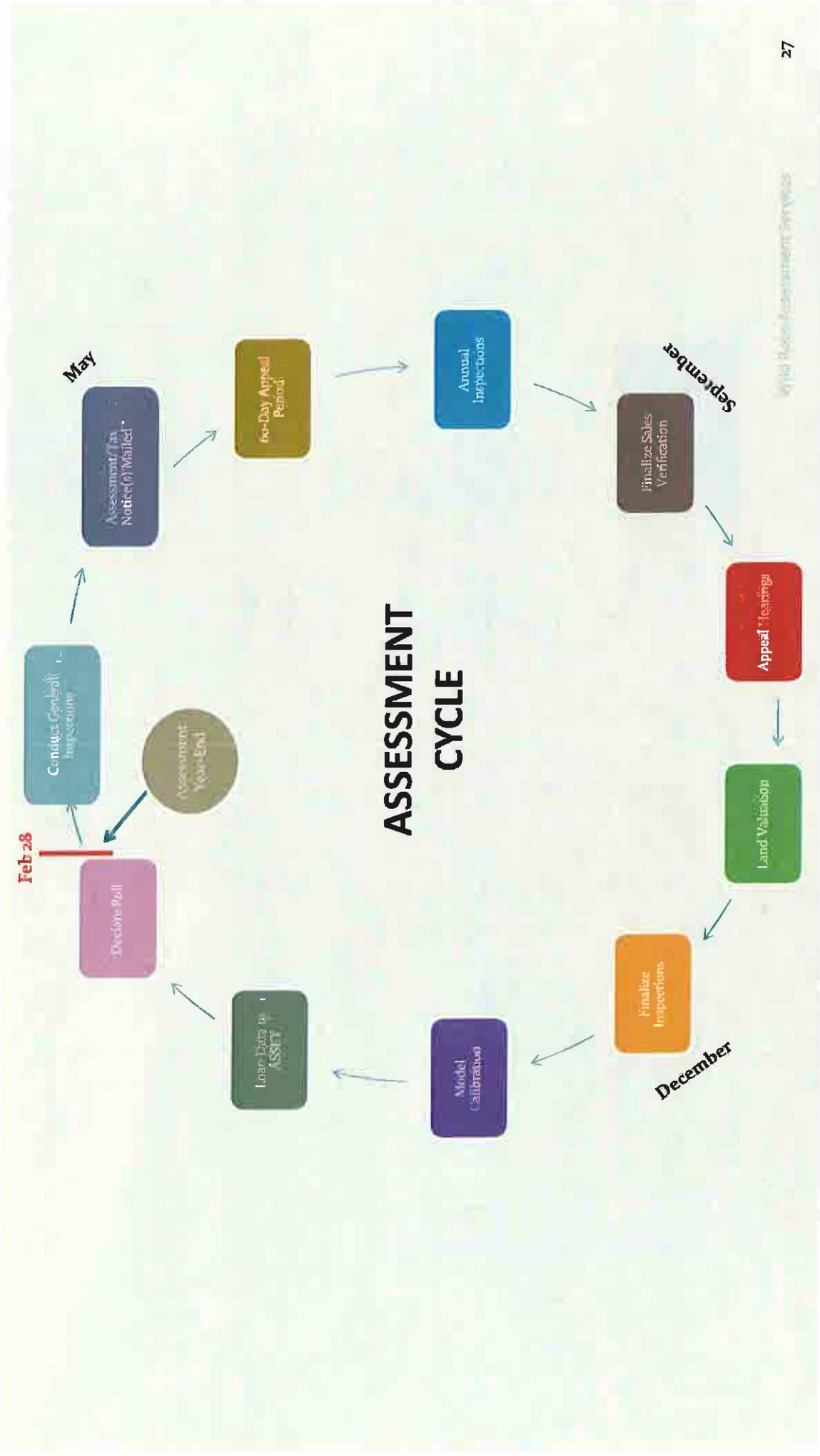
- ❑ Local Assessment Review Board (LARB)
  - Residential (3 dwellings or less) and farmland
- ❑ Composite Assessment Review Board (CARB)
  - Non-residential, multi-residential
- ❑ Land and Property Rights Tribunal
  - DIP and equalization

# COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Legislated procedure to file complaint.

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



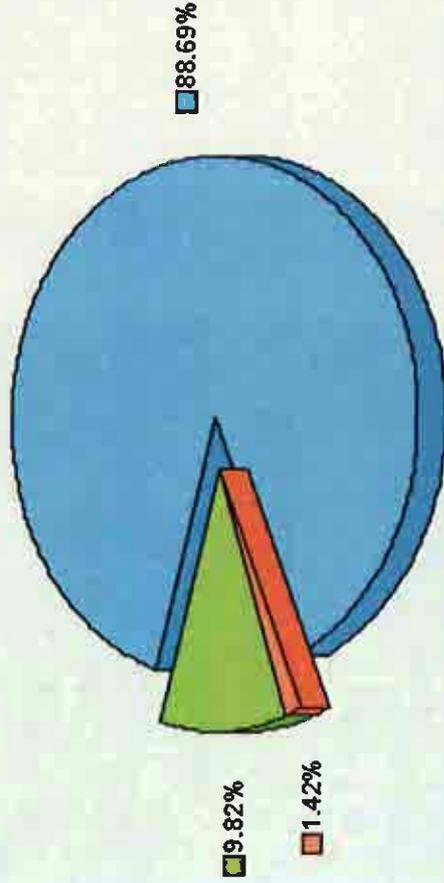


# 2025 PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT DATA

# RESIDENTIAL VS. NON-RESIDENTIAL

Assessment Breakdown by Property Description  
Total: 148,167,980

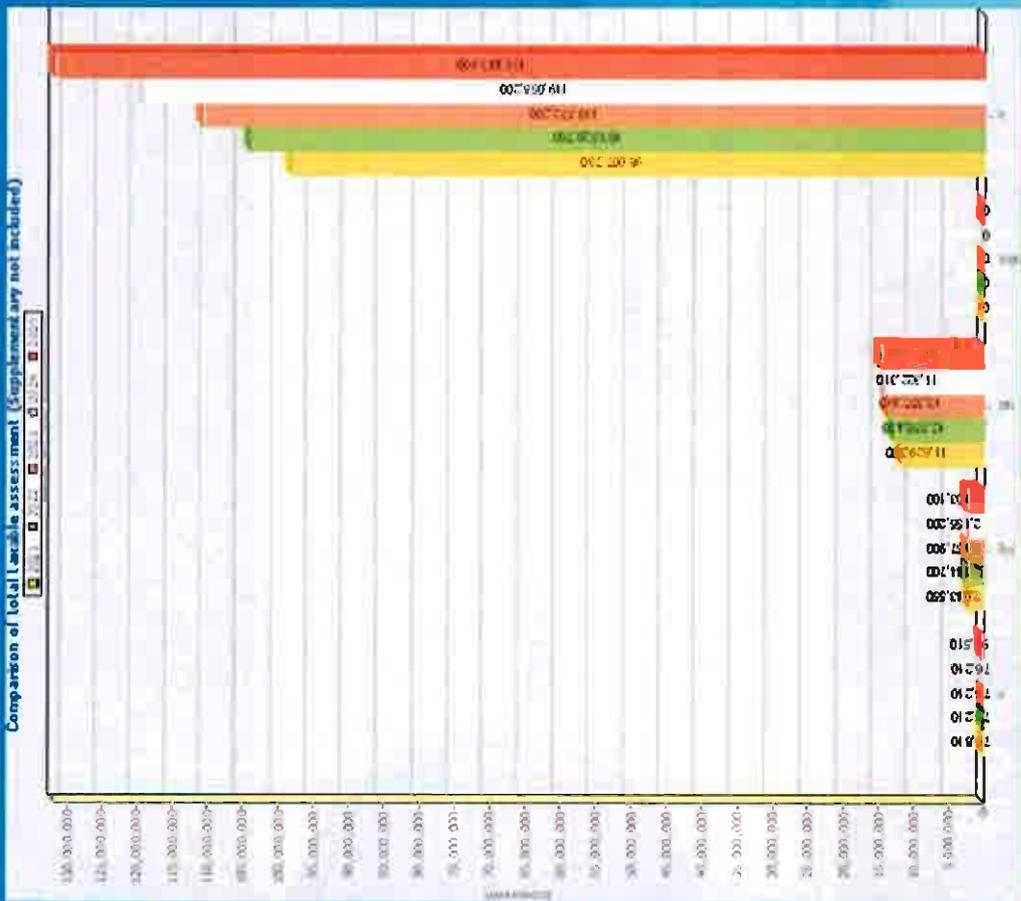
Taxable & Grant-in-Lieu & Mun. Only		
0.07%	Farm land	99,510
1.42%	Machinery and equipment	2,103,100
9.82%	Non-residential	14,552,270
0.00%	Non-residential - Railway	0
88.69%	Residential	131,413,100



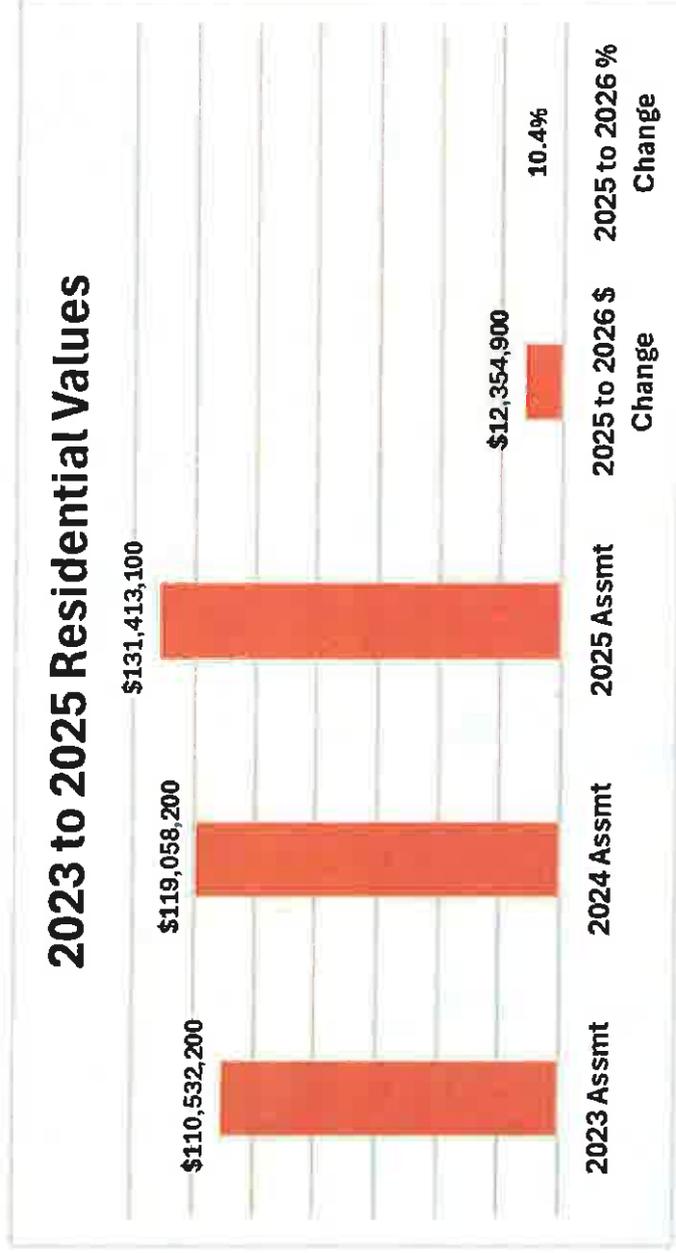
- 2023 was 10.56% other, and 87.79% Res.
- 2024 was 10.59% other, and 87.64 Res.

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

# 5 Year Trend



# 2023 - 2025 ASSESSMENT: TOTAL TAXABLE



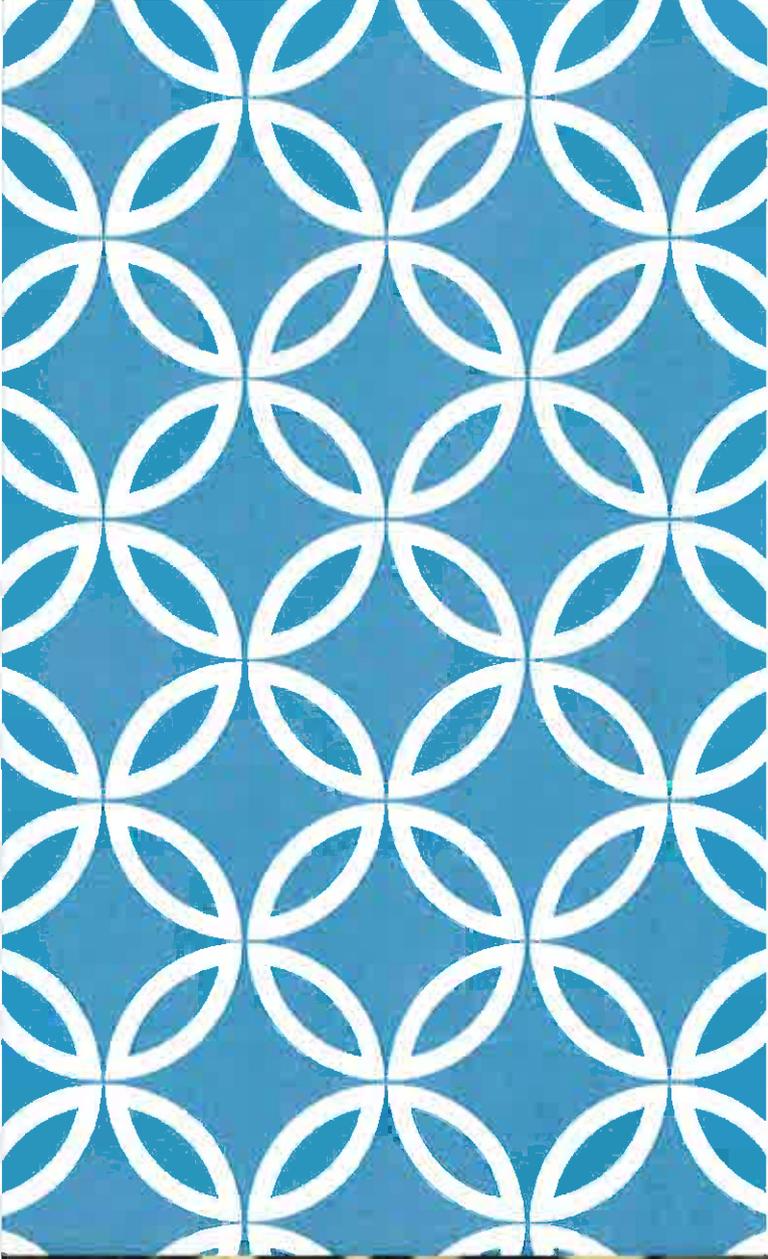
# EMERGING TOPICS

- Annexation
- Data Centres



# CONTRACT EXTENSION

- Current contract in place until 2031 with a 5-year price negotiation coming due
- Cost has been basically flat since 2015, proposing a minimal increase to cover the past 10 years increasing costs.
- Proposing ~\$300/year increase



# QUESTIONS



*Property Tax Assessors serving Alberta since 1995*

B3, 37 Burnt Basin Street, Red Deer, Alberta T4P 0J4  
 Phone: 403-343-3357 Fax: 403-343-3299 Email: admin@wildroseassmt.com

January 29, 2026

Town of Bowden  
 Box 338  
 2101 – 20 Ave.  
 Bowden, AB. T0M 0K0

Attention: Greg Skothiem, Interim C.A.O

**RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT**

Wild Rose Assessment Services Inc. wishes to submit a five-year extension.

Our proposal is:

April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027	\$ 26.00 per parcel + G.S.T.
April 1, 2027 – March 31, 2028	\$ 26.00 per parcel + G.S.T.
April 1, 2028 – March 31, 2029	\$ 26.00 per parcel + G.S.T.
April 1, 2029 – March 31, 2030	\$ 26.00 per parcel + G.S.T.
April 1, 2030 – March 31, 2031	\$ 26.00 per parcel + G.S.T.

All other portions of the contract dated September 15, 2020 would remain the same.

We thank you for your continued support and valued business.

Yours truly,

Riley Kloss, A.M.A.A.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Greg Skothiem, Interim C.A.O.



## Business Arising (1)

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> 2026-02-23	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 6.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> Laurie Miller	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor Laurie Miller
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b> Council Resolutions Follow Up Action Report

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 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 2026-02-04)

Meeting Date	Resolution	Action By Whom	Date back to Council
24 Apr 23	<p><b>Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework</b>            Motion 8.a ICF to be delayed for 2 years pending Provincial Government guidelines            Municipal Services Agreement (planning services) with RDC expires 31 December 2025            ICF changes to be introduced into the MGA reference Bill 50.            The current ICF expired in December 2022 – the provincial government's 2-year moratorium expired in December 2024.            The latest MGA is now published, dated May 15, 2025.            The requirement for an ICF is now a relevant statute.</p>	CAO	progress
7 Nov 25	<p>Following the 2025-12-31 Mayor's meeting, the ICF committee is working on convening a meeting before 2026-01-31 to start negotiations for the ICF, the IDP and the MSA.  <b>The ICF Committee met on 2026-01-23 and reached an agreement for the continuation of the existing MSA during CAO recruitment. Work on the ICF and IDP will be scheduled. The county advised it is still awaiting clarity from the provincial government regarding the ICF. *Received invitation to forum on March 11.</b></p>		
23 June 25	<p><b>Role of the Chief Administrative Officer</b>            Motion 8.g Revision of Council Procedural Bylaw            This will also include amendments that are now required following the repeal of the FOIP Act.            The MAP audit requires an update to this bylaw.</p>	CAO	progress
22 Sept 25	<p><b>Agenda item 6.c</b>            Bowden Grandview School Scholarship Awards Criteria            Council to review and determine a revised criteria for the award of the scholarship. <b>To be reviewed at 2026-02-23 RCM.</b></p>	Council	progress
27 Oct 25	<p><b>Agenda item 10.a</b>            Golf Sponsorship Request by Bowden Hi-Way Golf. <b>To be reviewed at 2026-02-09 RCM for council decision.</b></p>	CAO	RCM Feb 9, 2026
24 Nov 25	<p><b>Agenda item 8.a</b>            Administration to adopt a scent-free environment policy.</p>	CAO	Progress

08 Dec 25	<b>Agenda item 10.a</b> Council asked Administration to seek a delegation in the new year from Bowden Historical Society. A/CAO has requested the delegation. <b>Update: delegation scheduled for 2026-02-23.</b>	CAO	Progress
08 Dec 25	<b>Agenda Item 11.a Annual Staff Appraisals</b> Annual staff appraisals to be completed with the interim CAO. <b>Staff submitting employee worksheets by February 5.</b>	CAO	Pending
12 Jan 26	<b>Agenda Item 12.a – Recruitment</b> Motion 12.a Recruitment Committee to engage Richardson Executive Search to conduct CAO recruitment. Confirmed contract with the consultant, and the CAO has signed the letter of engagement. The recruitment committee submitted the Statement of Qualification to Council on January 19. The mayor is working on convening initial meetings with the consultant and recruitment committee to move forward. <b>Committee meeting with consultant 2026-01-27. Update: meeting completed. Recruitment ads to launch February 2 or 3.</b>	Cttee	Progress
21 Jan 26	<b>Budget Discussion – Agenda Item 3.a</b> Review in detail the requirements for Council in relation to council attendance and training requirements: <b>Update: discussion at 2026-02-09 RCM specific to the Spring 2026 Municipal Leaders Caucus on March 26-27 in Edmonton</b>	Council	Pending
26 Jan 26	<b>Discussion</b> Council requested that Admin prepare a draft operating budget for review. <b>Operating Budget approved January 21, 2026. Council requested that Admin prepare a draft capital budget for review.</b>	CAO/CFO	Completed/Pending
26 Jan 26	<b>Agenda Item 8.b – Open House Planning</b> Council discussed the preferred format to be individual booths (Randy-Ryan, Cam – Carol, Laurie – CAO, Marietta – Amanda) with a poster board outlining committee representation. May to open and Liz to present on MDP/LUB with community engagement process. Requirements – Immediate advertising, invite to RCMP-Bylaw, discussion with Vicinia, Brochure on Emergency Preparedness, Sign-up sheet, volunteer applications, swag for giveaway. <b>RCMP and Bylaw Officer will be in attendance.</b>	CAO/Council	Progress
26 Jan 26	<b>Agenda Item 10.h – Brownlee – Emerging Trends in Municipal Law</b> Follow-up for offering later in the year.	CAO	Pending
26 Jan 26	<b>Agenda Item 11.c – Enhance Volunteerism</b> Council requested that Administration forward the mayor's report and JustServe PowerPoint to FCSS for research about the program and report back.	CAO	Pending

26 Jan 26	<b>Agenda Item 12.a – Strategic Planning</b> Administration to engage McCarroll Consulting to provide ½ day workshop to the council. Determine availability for either February 20 or 21. <b>Strategic planning session set for February 20<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. Bowden Event Centre booked.</b>	CAO	Pending
09 Feb 26	<b>Agenda Item 10.f Abmunis Call for Resolutions</b> <b>Bring forward item for April 13 RCM following the spring caucus update on resolutions.</b>	CAO	Pending

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> 2026-02-23	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 6.b
<b>Prepared by:</b> Laurie Miller	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b>

### 6.b Key Dates *(for information)*

#### FEBRUARY 2026

**February 23**                      **Regular Council Meeting 7:00pm Council Chambers**

**February 26**                      **Special Events meeting (Rodeo)**

#### MARCH 2026

**March 9**                              **Regular Council Meeting 7:00pm Council Chambers**

**March 11**                            **Red Deer County Regional Forum – ICF – Red Deer County Office**

**March 23**                            **Regular Council Meeting 7:00pm Council Chambers**

**March 26/27**                      **ABmunis 2026 Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus, Edmonton Event Centre  
9797 Jasper Ave., Edmonton**

#### **Recommended Motion:**

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

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> 2026-02-23	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 8.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> Laurie Miller	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor
<b>Report Type:</b> RFD	<b>Attachment(s):</b> - Volunteer Application Form

### 8.a Volunteer Application

Administration received a Volunteer Application form. (Note: Personal details on the Volunteer Application Form are redacted for privacy reasons.)

#### 8.a.i

Council are required to make a decision (by resolution) regarding the application to the Bowden Public Library Board.

However:

**A** Reference should be made to the membership requirements of the Bowden Public Library Board as set out in the Council Committee Bylaw.

**B** Reference should be made to any other relevant enactment (Libraries Act or Library Board bylaws).

**C** The term of office for the appointment must be determined (as required by the Libraries Act) and stated in the Council resolution when appointing a member to the Board.

It is recommended that Council refer this application to the Bowden Public Library Board for review and ratification.

### Suggested Motions

#### Motion

Moved by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that the application by Anaya Lea o become a volunteer on Municipal Development and Planning Committees be accepted.

**OR**

#### Motion

Moved by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_



**TOWN OF BOWDEN**  
**Volunteer Application Form**  
**(CONFIDENTIAL)**

Please download this form, complete, and deliver in person to the Town Office or scan and email to: info@bowden.ca

Name: Anaya Lea

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

Occupation: retired

Hobbies / Interests:

---

Which Council Committee(s) or Board(s) are you interested in?

Municipal Development + Planning

How did you learn of this volunteer opportunity?

Open house

Please list any other community organizations you are involved with in a volunteer capacity and tell us what you find satisfying and /or challenging about your role:  
 (optional)

Special Events comm.

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Signature: [Signature]

Date: Feb 12 / 20

The personal information on this form is collected under the authority of Section 32(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and is used solely for the purpose of carrying out the volunteer program within the Town of Bowden.

Questions about collection of this information can be directed to the Chief Administrative Officer at:  
 Box 338, 2101 20 Avenue, Bowden, Alberta, T0M 0K0 or email CAO@bowden.ca



<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> 2026-02-23	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 9.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> Laurie Miller	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor
<b>Report Type:</b> RFD	<b>Attachment(s):</b> 1 Draft 1 – 2026 Capital Budget

Administration provides Council with the first draft (overview) of the 2026 Capital Budget for preview. the Operating Budget deliberations.

### Suggested Motion

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

<b>2026 CAPITAL BUDGET</b>			
<b>Capital Revenue</b>	<b>CCBF</b>	<b>MSI</b>	<b>LGFF</b>
2025 FUNDING CARRIED FORWARD	548,077.00	228,809.00	253,384.00
2026 ALLOCATIONS	127,743 EST	0	400,010.00
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>675,820.00</b>	<b>228,809.00</b>	<b>653,394.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ALL GRANTS</b>	<b>1,558,023.00</b>		
<b>Capital Projects</b>			
		<b>Expenditure</b>	
FCSS ROOF REPAIR		10,000.00	MSI
FIRE HALL UPGRADES		50,000.00	MSI
PUBLIC WORKS GATE		20,000.00	MSI
ADMIN ROOF REPAIRS		5,000.00	MSI
CONCRETE SWALES (18,360.00 + 10% CONTIGENCY)		78,000.00	MSI
WESTVIEW DRIVE OVERLAY (ASHPAULT REPAIRS)		69,700.00	LGFF
ARENA WATER PIPE ISSUE		20,000.00	MSI
TRAILER REPLACEMENT (LESS \$3,000.00 INS)		21,000.00	MSI
STREET LIGHT PLUGINS FOR XMAS DECORATIONS		6,500.00	MSI
ARENA ROOF STRUCTURE (2025 ONGOING)		17,598.00	MSI ALREADY APPROVED
SEWER LINING		150,000.00	MSI/LGFF
<b>Totals</b>		<b>447,798.00</b>	

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

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> 2026-02-23	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 10.a to 10.g
<b>Prepared by:</b> Laurie Miller	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor Laurie Miller
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b> As per content listing

### Agenda item 10

#### Content:

- 10.a** Government of Alberta  
- New Plan for Parks
- 10.b** Rural Municipalities of Alberta  
- Monthly Resolution Update – January 2026
- 10.c** Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ)  
- letter: invitation to become a member of their organization
- 10.d** CAEP Spark  
- email: Team Central Alberta – focus for 2026 and 2027.
- 10.e** CAEP  
- email: registration for courses:
  - Establishing the Foundation (overview of economic development), March 24 (9 to 3); G.H. Dawe Community Centre, 6175 – 67 St., Red Deer, Alberta
  - Fundamentals of Rural Economic Development (refine strategies), March 30 (9 to 3); Nexsource Centre, 4823 – 49 Ave., Sylvan Lake, Alberta
- 10.f** Canadian History Ehx – Craig Baird  
- email: with attached proposal for feature video on Bowden's history
- 10.g** National Police Federation  
- email: announcing the government's commitment to RCMP contract policing beyond 2032  
- Media Statement: Government commitment to RCMP contrac

#### Suggested Motion(s)

##### **Motion 10**

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

**AND/OR**



Correspondence

**Motion 10**

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

**Motion 10.c**

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

with respect to the invitation to become a member of Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ).

**Motion 10.d**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council provide a support letter requesting the City of Red Deer stay with CAEP.

**Motion 10.e**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council have Administration reply to CAEP that \_\_\_\_\_ will attend the Establishing the Foundation on March 24 and that \_\_\_\_\_ will attend the Fundamentals of Rural Economic Development on March 30.

**Motion 10.f**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council \_\_\_\_\_ with respect to the Canadian History Ehx proposal.

**Motion 10.g**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council \_\_\_\_\_ with the ABmunis request for resolutions for the 2026 fall conference.

Source URL: [rmalberta.com/news/government-of-alberta-announces-new-plan-for-parks/?utm\\_source=Contact+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=e9171ecb10-Contact\\_2025\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_ad7c2a0493-e9171ecb10-390864873](https://www.alberta.ca/news/government-of-alberta-announces-new-plan-for-parks/?utm_source=Contact+Newsletter&utm_campaign=e9171ecb10-Contact_2025_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ad7c2a0493-e9171ecb10-390864873)

# Government of Alberta Announces New Plan for Parks

Posted on: January 30, 2026



The Government of Alberta (GOA) has **announced** (<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=955604121E0DA-F6B6-81E1-0990AD69B37EAF4E>) the release of the new **Plan for Parks** (<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/1e7f6046-28fc-4165-a3e1-35adde16192b/resource/cb114f36-ef5f-439f-8a6f-b3c37b8b4059/download/fp-plan-for-parks-2026.pdf>), Alberta's strategic direction for the provincial park system. The new Plan for Parks is intended to help ensure that the provincial park system remains strong and sustainable. To support this work, the GOA is investing more than \$236 million to improve and expand recreation in and access to provincial parks and Crown land across the province.

RMA participated in the engagement facilitated by Alberta Forestry and Parks regarding the Draft Plan for Parks in Summer 2025. RMA's recommendations for the Plan focused on:

- Addressing the effects of tourism on neighbouring municipalities
- Compensation for municipalities for infrastructure strain and services provided linked to park access and usage
- Enhanced engagement with municipalities in the planning of new parks

- Ensuring that municipalities have a clear understanding of their role within park management

RMA's submission drew largely from two Fall 2022 resolutions (**Resolution 6-22F** (<https://rmberta.com/resolutions/6-22f-financial-burden-of-emergency-service-response-on-crown-lands/>): Financial Burden of Emergency Service Response on Crown Lands and **Resolution 19-22F** (<https://rmberta.com/resolutions/19-22f-portion-of-funding-from-public-lands-camping-pass-directed-to-municipalities/>): Portion of Funding from Public Lands Camping Pass Directed to Municipalities) that point to the importance of municipal collaboration and compensation for the role that they play in supporting provincial parks in the province.

RMA is in the process of analyzing the Plan for Parks and will keep members updated on any action items.

**Kallie Wischoff**

*Policy Advisor*

825.319.2245

**[kallie@rmberta.com](mailto:kallie@rmberta.com) (mailto:kallie@rmberta.com)**

**Warren Noga**

*Manager of Policy and Research*

825.319.2285

**[warren@rmberta.com](mailto:warren@rmberta.com) (mailto:warren@rmberta.com)**

Source URL: [rmalberta.com/news/monthly-resolution-update-january-2026/?utm\\_source=Contact+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=e9171ecb10-Contact\\_2025\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_ad7c2a0493-e9171ecb10-390864873](https://rmalberta.com/news/monthly-resolution-update-january-2026/?utm_source=Contact+Newsletter&utm_campaign=e9171ecb10-Contact_2025_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ad7c2a0493-e9171ecb10-390864873)

# Monthly Resolution Update – January 2026

Posted on: January 30, 2026

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*To improve reporting on resolution advocacy, the RMA shares a monthly bulletin highlighting recent actions undertaken on select active resolutions*

The Monthly Resolution Update Bulletin is a way of routinely highlighting a selection of the over 70 currently active resolutions, offering members a more detailed insight into the work being carried out on their behalf. For the latest formal statuses and reactions to all resolutions, view the RMA's **Resolutions Database** (<https://rmalberta.com/advocacy/resolutions/resolutions-database/>).

**The January 2026 edition of the Monthly Resolution Update Bulletin features the following resolutions:**

## **Resolution 9-25S: Water and Wastewater System Funding (<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/9-25s-water-and-wastewater-system-funding/>)**

The recent watermain break in Calgary reinforced what rural municipalities have been experiencing for years: Alberta's water and wastewater infrastructure is aging, demand is increasing, and available funding is not keeping pace with the cost of repair, replacement, and long-term sustainability. For rural communities, where smaller tax bases already stretch to cover essential services, inadequate water infrastructure funding poses serious risks to public health, environmental stewardship, and economic viability.

In response to these pressures, RMA members carried Resolution 9-25S calling on the Government of Alberta (GOA) to restore Water for Life funding levels and expand eligibility to include the replacement and maintenance of water and wastewater distribution systems. Despite broad recognition of the issue, the intent of this resolution remains unmet, leaving

many rural municipalities facing unaffordable costs for critical infrastructure. RMA continues to advocate for funding models that reflect the unique challenges of rural Alberta, including aging systems, dispersed populations, and limited fiscal capacity.

RMA has been actively engaged in provincial water policy reform. RMA participated in the GOA Water Availability Engagement and continues to analyze **Bill 7: the Water Amendment Act** ([https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR\\_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature\\_31/session\\_2/20251023\\_bill\\_007.pdf](https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_2/20251023_bill_007.pdf)), which significantly changes Alberta's water licensing and management framework. While RMA supports efforts to streamline processes and improve water availability, RMA has consistently emphasized the need for clear definitions, strong safeguards, transparent data, and meaningful consultation – particularly where changes may affect environmental protection, inter-basin transfers, or municipal water security. RMA remains concerned about potential unintended consequences related to cumulative environmental impacts, invasive species, and license prioritization.

Looking ahead, RMA will continue to advocate for sustainable, long-term investment in water and wastewater infrastructure, timely and transparent water licensing processes, and collaborative water management that balances economic development with environmental stewardship. This includes ongoing participation in multi-stakeholder environmental forums, continued analysis of Bill 7 and its regulations, and the development of member-facing resources to help municipalities understand and respond to evolving water policy and funding frameworks. RMA remains focused on protecting rural communities' access to safe and reliable water, and ensuring that municipalities are treated as essential partners in Alberta's water future.

## **Resolution 8-24F: Reinforcing Railway Fire Mitigation Procedures (<https://rmaalberta.com/resolutions/8-24f-reinforcing-railway-fire-mitigation-procedures/>)**

In this resolution, rural municipalities highlight the risks to wildfire ignition posed by railway activity in remote and densely forested areas. As rural municipalities in Alberta are responsible for services and infrastructure that cover over 85% of the province's landmass, wildfire events represent a significant strain on municipal services, such as emergency response resources and personnel. Wildfire events in remote areas also pose risks to human safety, wildlife and property which also primarily fall on rural municipalities to manage and mitigate.

Wildfire prevention is the ideal approach to minimize the greatest loss of life and property. As such, Resolution 8-24F advocates for increased efforts by the federal and provincial governments and railway companies to collaboratively develop and implement more robust wildfire mitigation and ignition suppression strategies. In particular, this resolution proposes increasing the usage of fire suppression follow trains in high fire risk areas. **CN Rail launched this fire suppression program in 2024** (<https://www.cn.ca/en/news/2024/05/cn->

**launches-new-firefighting-trains-to-help-protect-supply-chain)** and since then, **has expanded their fleet of fire suppression trains in late 2025** (<https://www.cn.ca/en/stories/20250911-cn-expands-its-firefighting-fleet/>).

In addition to sending this resolution to the relevant advocacy targets, RMA has also sent follow up correspondence to CN and CPKC requesting further details on any existing and forthcoming fire suppression programs. RMA has also requested updates regarding the Wildfire Mitigation Strategy Engagement referenced in the government response by Alberta Forestry and Parks.

RMA intends to continue information gathering to best support advocacy towards wildfire mitigation in rural Alberta.

### **Resolution 8-23S: Provincial Review of Agribusiness and Agritourism (<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/8-23s-provincial-review-of-agribusiness-and-agritourism/>)**

Resolution 8-23S calls on RMA to advocate for support for agribusinesses and agritourism as an important part of strengthening rural economies, as agribusiness and agritourism are leading contributors to rural economies. The economic spin-off associated with agricultural economies continues to create strong rural communities. Agritourism presents an opportunity for economic diversification and an avenue to share key agricultural information and experiences with members of the public.

To learn more about ways to support the growth of agritourism, RMA is forming an agritourism strategy working group. This working group presents an opportunity for a joint municipal/provincial review of agritourism, with the goal of enhancing opportunities in Alberta. This working group will be composed of RMA members, representatives from Alberta Tourism and Sport, an agritourism operator, and industry representative. The working group will commence in early 2026 and produce a final report with key recommendations on how to enhance agritourism in late 2026. Work is underway to launch this working group in the upcoming months, including researching how municipalities, the Government of Alberta, and Industry can collaborate to grow the agritourism industry.

Stay tuned for future editions of the Monthly Resolution Update Bulletin, where we will continue to feature updates on selected resolutions.

**Warren Noga**

*Manager of Policy and Research*

825.319.2285

**[warren@rmalberta.com](mailto:warren@rmalberta.com) (mailto:warren@rmalberta.com)**



**PAMZ** | Parkland Airshed  
Management Zone

January 31, 2026

Town of Bowden  
Box 338  
Bowden, AB  
T0M 0K0

Attn: Mayor Miller & Town Council  
Re: Parkland Airshed Management Zone 2026 Membership

The Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ) is a multi-stakeholder non-profit organization consisting of industry, provincial & local governments, environmental non-government organizations and the public. It was formed in 1997 to monitor and address air quality issues within the west central region of Alberta.

In 2025, PAMZ's achievements included:

- completion of twenty-eight years of operations and twenty-six years operating the PAMZ Regional Air Quality Monitoring Program;
- community health-based air quality monitoring in Sylvan Lake, Three Hills County, The City of Red Deer, and Clearwater County;
- completion of a six-month Air Quality Monitoring Program for the Alberta Energy Regulator to characterize Air Quality in the Eagle Valley-Eagle Hill area of Mountain View County;
- continuation of its evaluation study of low-cost Micro-Sensor systems for reporting the Air Quality Health Index.

At this time we are extending an invitation to the Town of Bowden to join other local municipalities such as the City of Red Deer, Clearwater, Lacombe, Mountain View & Red Deer Counties, and the Town of Bentley to join PAMZ. These municipalities have recognized the benefits of participating in a multi-stakeholder consensus-based process aimed at ensuring air quality in our region is maintained or improved as we move into the future.

We have taken the liberty of enclosing an invoice for the Town of Bowden's membership fee for 2026, should it decide to become a member of PAMZ. The fee calculation is attached. If you have any questions about PAMZ membership, please contact the undersigned.

Please note the new PAMZ mailing address as indicated on your invoice.

Regards,

Kevin Warren  
Executive Director, PAMZ



**PAMZ** | Parkland Airshed  
Management Zone

# INVOICE

Invoice #: 2026-039  
Invoice Date: January 31, 2026

Town of Bowden  
Box 338  
Bowden, AB  
T0M 0K0

Attn: Accounts Payable

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Price</u>
1	2026 PAMZ AQM Program Fee Assessment Town of Bowden	\$ 432.27

Sub -Total \$ 432.27

GST Number: 872803697 GST (5%) \$ 21.61

TOTAL \$ 453.88

Please Remit Payment to:

Parkland Airshed Management Zone  
Box 70  
Red Deer, AB  
T4N 5E7

Ph: 403.862.7046  
Email: [pamz@pamz.org](mailto:pamz@pamz.org)

Invoice 2026-039

Town of Bowden

**2026 PAMZ Fee Allocation**

PAMZ 2026 Budget \$525,623

PAMZ Non-Industrial Emissions X 19%  
= \$98,817

Municipal

Population 2026 Fee

1280 X \$98,817 = \$ 432.27

292,610

Zone Population

**Mayor**

---

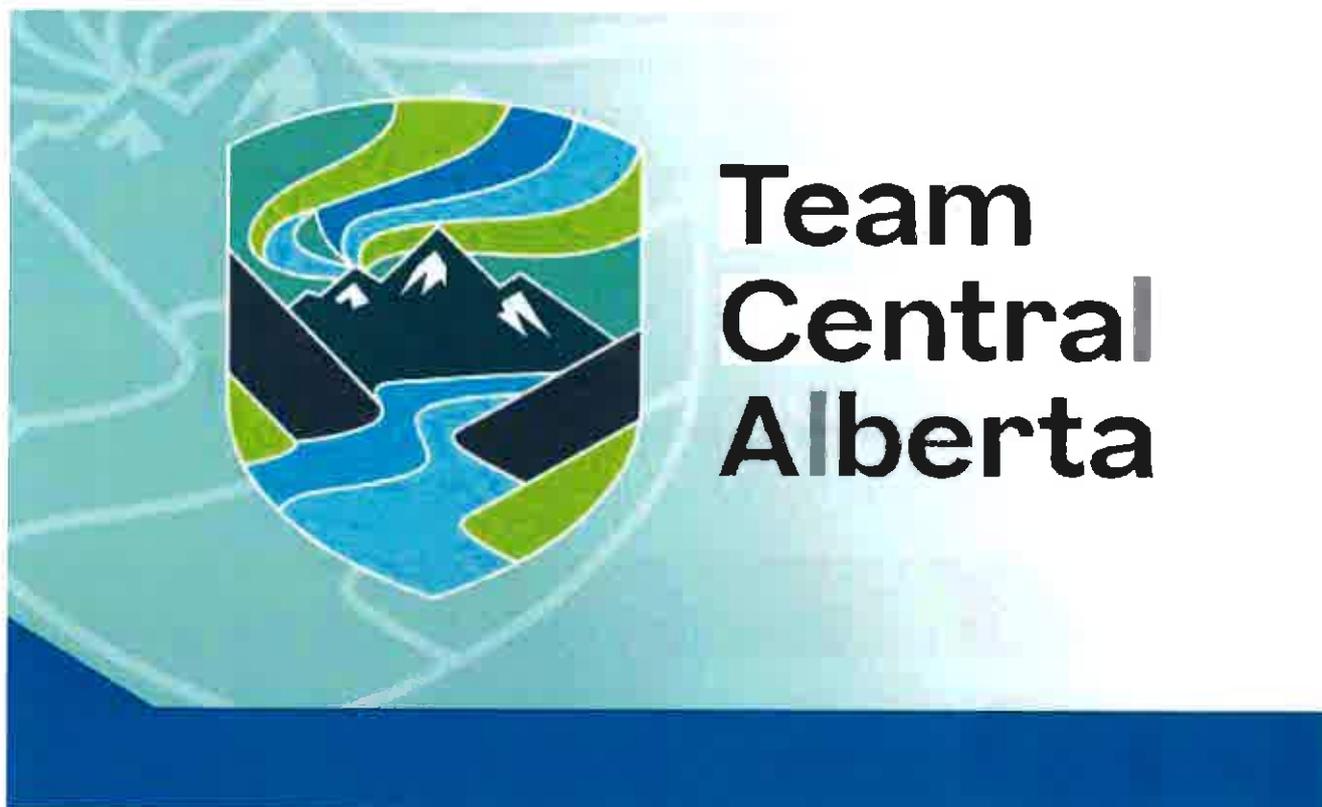
**From:** Central Alberta Economic Partnership <psalvatore@investcentralalberta.ca>  
**Sent:** February 5, 2026 10:23 AM  
**To:** Mayor  
**Subject:** CAEP Spark - February 2026 / New Ec Dev Courses – Save the Date!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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## THE CAEP SPARK - February 2026



### **TEAM CENTRAL ALBERTA: Working Together for Results**

Central Alberta is moving forward. Our 300,000 residents represent over 25 municipal members in Alberta's 3rd largest regional economy.

As investors come calling, CAEP provides a bridge between industry and our communities as "the meat in the sandwich" between Calgary and Edmonton with access to over 4 million Albertans and world markets that are more important than ever before.

This month, we will be announcing the first of our **TEAM CENTRAL ALBERTA** partners. This is our way of connecting with industry and expanding CAEP's relevance to the companies that make the largest contributions to our regional economy.

### **OUR FOCUS FOR 2026 AND 2027**

CAEP is at the crux of a generational change. We are entering year two of CAEP's three-year transition towards the elimination of provincial government funding. We're

listening to our members and making decisions that will define us for years to come. We know our members want to be more actively involved in the projects that make us all more competitive.

### HOW ARE WE DOING THIS?

- Adding **Team Central Alberta** partners.
- Discussing Team Central Alberta's participation in **Team Canada International Trade Team delegations**.
- **Telling the world about Central Alberta**. Working with our partners to develop the messages and campaigns that attract interest in regional opportunities.
- **Building relationships and support from all levels of government**.
- Identifying the projects that **act on the economic priorities in Alberta and Canada**.
- Providing opportunities for **networking that matters**. The Spring and Fall General Meetings, targeted Lunch & Learns, Economic Development Workshops, and a Fundraising Dinner that will mix advocacy with deal-making.
- **Project-based committees**. Ad hoc, time-bound groups to move priority files faster.
- **Government relations + communications**. A clear calendar, stronger advocacy, and consistent updates members can repurpose locally.

This work advances CAEP's Strategic Plan goals—**labour market, regional orientation, and organizational excellence**—so members see value in their own communities and across the region.



### WHAT MEMBERS GET:

- **Sharper first impression** with investors and talent. Shared data, consistent branding, and smoother processes that reduce friction.
- **Sector traction** where we win: transportation & logistics, agri-food and ag-tech, energy (including CCUS and waste-to-energy), tourism, advanced manufacturing, data centres and emerging tech.
- **A stronger bench.** Training and peer exchange that build local capacity without extra headcount.

### HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CAEP MEMBERSHIP:

- **Book a “CAEP Connector” check-in.** Share near-term projects, land inventory, and workforce needs; we’ll align profiles and intros.
- **Nominate one practitioner + one elected official** to a project-based committee where you want momentum.
- Have a **sector lead** in agri-food, logistics, energy transition, manufacturing, data/AI, or tourism? Put their name forward for a project group.
- Attend our **networking events** and sign up for **CAEP workshops, courses, lunch & learn sessions**

### HOW WE’LL MEASURE PROGRESS - AND REPORT IT BACK:

- Modest **membership growth** and stronger **associate engagement**.
- A short **member satisfaction pulse** to guide next steps.

### WHY DOES THIS MATTER NOW?

Regions that collaborate, build capacity, and market themselves well will capture more of the growth. Our investor-readiness work, training, and joint promotion put Central Alberta in that column.

We thank all Central Alberta communities for the work you're doing locally. When we act together as **Team Central Alberta**, we turn individual wins into regional momentum.



### **SAVE THE DATE! TWO NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COURSES**

CAEP is pleased to host two new economic development courses in March—free to CAEP members!

#### **ESTABLISHING THE FOUNDATION**

**Tuesday, March 24**

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Red Deer, Alberta

Economic development is the heartbeat of thriving communities. This session will offer participants a comprehensive overview of economic development concepts and provide guidance on developing strategic economic development plans.

#### **THE FUNDAMENTALS OF RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Monday, March 30**

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Sylvan Lake, Alberta

This one-day course will help you craft, execute, and refine effective rural economic development strategies. Participants will learn how to identify and leverage economic opportunities specific to the context of your rural community.

**REGISTRATION FEE:**

**CAEP Members:** Free (up to 2 individuals per organization)

**Non-CAEP Members:** \$350

Registration details will be available soon.

**Paul Salvatore, BA, ALUP, CLGM**

**Executive Director**

Email: [psalvatore@investcentralalberta.ca](mailto:psalvatore@investcentralalberta.ca)

Phone: 587-447-2237



---

Subscribe to The Spark below to receive monthly updates from CAEP.

**SUBSCRIBE HERE**



Our Mailing Address:

G11, 5550 – 45th Street, Red Deer, AB T4N 1L1

**Mayor**

---

**From:** Central Alberta Economic Partnership <psalvatore@investcentralalberta.ca>  
**Sent:** February 12, 2026 12:26 PM  
**To:** Mayor  
**Subject:** Two New CAEP Ec Dev Courses: Register Now!

Can't see this message? [View in browser](#)



## REGISTER NOW!

**CAEP is pleased to host two new economic development courses in March.  
Free to CAEP members!**

---

### **ESTABLISHING THE FOUNDATION**

**Tuesday, March 24**

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

G.H. Dawe Community Centre, 6175 67 St., Red Deer, AB

Economic development is the heartbeat of thriving communities. This session will offer participants a comprehensive overview of economic development concepts and provide guidance on developing strategic economic development plans.

### **REGISTRATION FEE:**

**CAEP Members:** Free (up to 2 individuals per organization)

**Non-CAEP Members: \$350**

**Deadline to register: March 17, 2026**

**REGISTER NOW**

---

## **THE FUNDAMENTALS OF RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Monday, March 30**

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Nexsource Centre, 4823 49 Ave, Sylvan Lake, AB

This one-day course will help you craft, execute, and refine effective rural economic development strategies. Participants will learn how to identify and leverage economic opportunities specific to the context of your rural community.

### **REGISTRATION FEE:**

**CAEP Members:** Free (up to 2 individuals per organization)

**Non-CAEP Members:** \$350

**Deadline to register: March 23, 2026**

**REGISTER NOW**

---

**Paul Salvatore, BA, ALUP, CLGM**

**Executive Director**

Email: [psalvatore@investcentralalberta.ca](mailto:psalvatore@investcentralalberta.ca)

Phone: 587-447-2237



Subscribe to The Spark below to receive monthly updates from CAEP.

[SUBSCRIBE HERE](#)



Our Mailing Address:

G11, 5550 – 45th Street, Red Deer, AB T4N 1L1

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**Mayor**

---

**Subject:** FW: For Council Consideration

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**From:** Craig Baird <[craig@canadaehx.com](mailto:craig@canadaehx.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2026 3:38:07 PM

**To:** Craig Baird <[craig@canadaehx.com](mailto:craig@canadaehx.com)>

**Subject:** For Council Consideration

Hello,

Can I have this added to the next council agenda?

Thank you,

Craig Baird

## Telling Your Story: A Community History Video Partnership

Dear Council Members,

My name is Craig Baird, and I am the creator and host of *Canadian History Ehx*, one of Canada's leading history podcasts and radio programs.

I launched *Canadian History Ehx* in 2019 with the goal of exploring and sharing Canada's rich past. What began as a small podcast has grown into one of the most-listened-to history shows in the country, now reaching over one million downloads per year and airing nationally on the Corus Radio Network. Alongside the show, I manage social media channels with a combined audience of more than 300,000 followers, and I am the author of the best-selling book *Canada's Main Street: The Epic Story of the Trans-Canada Highway*.

This year, I am embarking on an ambitious coast-to-coast-to-coast journey across Canada to document our country's past and present. The stories, interviews, and experiences from this trip will become a series of videos and a future book focused on the people, places, and communities that shape Canada.

With my background in journalism and video production, my goal is to visit communities like yours to tell your story—highlighting your history, heritage, and the ways you preserve it for future generations. These videos are designed not only to celebrate local history, but also to serve as lasting, shareable promotional pieces for your community.

To help fund this journey, I am offering communities the opportunity to partner with me for the creation of a dedicated feature video about their history and heritage.

What I'm offering:

- A 10–20 minute professionally produced video focused on your community's history, heritage, and preservation efforts
- Distribution across my social media platforms, YouTube channel, and TikTok, reaching hundreds of thousands of history-interested viewers. My follower count is as follows:
  - Twitter (65,000): <https://x.com/CraigBaird>
  - Instagram (48,000): @cdnhistoryehx
  - Threads (40,000): <https://www.threads.com/@cdnhistoryehx>
  - Bluesky (25,000): <https://bsky.app/profile/cdnhistoryehx.bsky.social>
  - TikTok (35,000): @cdnhistoryehx
  - YouTube (6,800): <https://www.youtube.com/@CanadianHistoryEhx>
  - Facebook (106,000): <https://www.facebook.com/CanadianHistoryEhx>
- A collaborative process: no video will be published without your approval after review
- A two-week turnaround: all videos will be delivered for review within two weeks of filming

- Filming will take place during my journey between June and September

Cost:

- \$500 total
- \$250 upon acceptance
- \$250 once the video has been delivered for your review

My aim is to create something that your community can be proud of—an engaging, accurate, and accessible story that showcases what makes your town unique, while also introducing it to a large, Canada-wide audience interested in history, travel, and heritage.

Thank you very much for considering this proposal. I would be happy to answer any questions or discuss how we can tailor this project to best serve your community.

Sincerely,

Craig Baird

*Canadian History Ehx*

**Mayor**

---

**Subject:** FW: National Police Federation | Contract Policing Commitment

**From:** Maryanne King <[mking@npf-fpn.com](mailto:mking@npf-fpn.com)>  
**Sent:** February 18, 2026 10:40 AM  
**To:** info <[info@bowden.ca](mailto:info@bowden.ca)>  
**Cc:** info <[info@bowden.ca](mailto:info@bowden.ca)>  
**Subject:** National Police Federation | Contract Policing Commitment

Dear Mayor Miller,

On behalf of the National Police Federation (NPF), we are pleased to share that the Federal Minister of Public Safety has confirmed once again the Government of Canada's ongoing commitment to RCMP contract policing in provinces and municipalities beyond 2032.

Please see a [statement from the NPF](#) highlighting the significance of this confirmation and the certainty it provides to contract partners for public safety planning purposes going forward.

The NPF has been actively working with all levels of government to demonstrate our Members' world-class policing service and to seek clarity on the future of contract policing beyond 2032. This confirmation is welcome news, verifying the expert local policing services the RCMP provides which provinces and municipalities can continue to rely on in the years ahead.

Should you have any questions or like additional information, please feel free to contact the NPF at [GVTRelations@npf-fpn.com](mailto:GVTRelations@npf-fpn.com).

Sincerely,

**Maryanne King**

Advisor, Government Relations | Conseiller, relations gouvernementales

Pronouns: She/Her

**National Police Federation | Fédération de la Police Nationale**

(587) 672-0695

[npf-fpn.com](http://npf-fpn.com)

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 [National Police Federation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-police-federation)

The mission of the National Police Federation is to provide strong, professional, fair and progressive representation to promote and enhance the rights of RCMP Members. La mission de la Fédération de la police nationale est de fournir une représentation forte, professionnelle, juste et progressive afin de promouvoir et faire avancer les droits des Membres de la GRC.

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## MEDIA RELEASES

# Media Statement: National Police Federation Welcomes Federal Government Commitment to RCMP Contract Policing Beyond 2032

February 17, 2026

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February 17, 2026

**Ottawa, ON** – The following is a statement from National Police Federation President and C.E.O., Brian Sauvé, regarding the Federal Government's confirmed intention to provide contract policing services to provinces and municipalities across Canada beyond 2032.

"After months of sustained advocacy, we welcome the Government of Canada's clear commitment, outlined by the Minister of Public Safety, to continue the RCMP's expert contract policing services beyond 2032, as reported by CBC News in "[Ottawa commits to keeping Mounties on front lines](#) .

This clarity reaffirms the exceptional service delivered by our Members and gives contract partners the certainty they need to plan and invest confidently in long-term public safety.

The previous Government's 2024 'Contract Policing Assessment: What We Heard' report made clear that most, if not all, contract partners expressed a desire to renew their RCMP policing agreements. Recent commitments from British Columbia and Nova Scotia further demonstrate

that momentum. These remarks confirm what communities across Canada already know: RCMP Members deliver highly capable, professional, and sustainable frontline policing, and stand ready to continue doing so for decades to come.

The RCMP remains a uniquely capable organization in North America, able to surge resources to any community, regardless of size or geographic location. With more than 150 specialized services, from financial crime units to extortion task forces, Members bring unmatched depth and adaptability to every operation.

The integrated nature of municipal, provincial, and federal policing within one organization provides a vital advantage for Canadians' safety and security. In an era where a single traffic stop in one community can lead to an investigation spanning provinces or even international borders, the RCMP's structure eliminates investigative gaps and enables swift, coordinated responses that support victims and protect communities.

Beneath every RCMP uniform is a person, who lives, works, and volunteers in the same community they serve. Ensuring long-term stability in contract policing keeps those Members, and their families, rooted where they belong.

As contract renewal discussions move forward, the NPF remains ready to work constructively with the Government of Canada and contract partners to strengthen RCMP policing services for the future."

#### **About the National Police Federation:**

The National Police Federation (NPF) represents ~20,000 RCMP Members serving across Canada and internationally. We are the largest police union in Canada. The NPF is focused on improving public safety for all Canadians, including our Members by advocating for much-needed investment in the public safety continuum. This includes investments in police resourcing and modern equipment, as well as social programs including health, addiction, and housing supports to enhance safety and livability in the many communities we serve, large and small, across Canada.

**For more information:** <https://npf-fpn.com/> 

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#### **Media Contact:**

**Mayor**

---

**From:** info  
**Sent:** February 18, 2026 10:45 AM  
**To:** Mayor  
**Subject:** FW: National Police Federation | Contract Policing Commitment

Jen Masching  
Tax & Utility Administrator  
Phone: 403-224-3395  
Fax: 403-224-2244  
Email: [reception@bowden.ca](mailto:reception@bowden.ca)



---

**From:** Maryanne King <[mking@npf-fpn.com](mailto:mking@npf-fpn.com)>  
**Sent:** February 18, 2026 10:40 AM  
**To:** info <[info@bowden.ca](mailto:info@bowden.ca)>  
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**Subject:** National Police Federation | Contract Policing Commitment

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Sincerely,

**Maryanne King**

Advisor, Government Relations | Conseiller, relations gouvernementales

Pronouns: She/Her

**National Police Federation | Fédération de la Police Nationale**

(587) 672-0695

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The mission of the National Police Federation is to provide strong, professional, fair and progressive representation to promote and enhance the rights of RCMP Members. La mission de la Fédération de la police nationale est de fournir une représentation forte, professionnelle, juste et progressive afin de promouvoir et faire avancer les droits des Membres de la GRC.

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## CAO's Report

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> February 23 <sup>th</sup> 2026	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 11.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> Greg Skotheim	<b>Approved by:</b>
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b>

### CAO's Report

#### 1 Open House

I attended the open house public meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup> at the Bowden Events Center. It was nice to meet and chat with Bowden residents, RCMP and our Bylaw officer. I was impressed with Liz Armitage's presentation on our upcoming MDP and also our LUB.

We do have Public Information boards set up at the office for residents to add information to as required.

#### 2 Arena / Public Works

Public Works last week assisted the Arena staff with a cleaning session. We did receive a complaint about general house keeping and I thought after inspecting some work was required.

Ice conditions this week after the thaw have made for some challenging spots around town.

#### 3 Capital Budget

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

#### 4 Ongoing Tasks

An update on the ongoing task is provided below:

- i. ATCO Franchise Renewal - Meeting set for February 24<sup>th</sup> to start process.
- ii. ARO (Asset Retirement Obligation) through ISL Eng. and BDO Canada Liability issues with AC water pipe and hazardous materials in buildings. **WIP**,
- iii. 2025 Annual Water Report was submitted.
- iv. CAO Executive search

#### **Recommended Motion:**

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

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> 2026-02-23	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 11.b / 11.c
<b>Prepared by:</b> Laurie Miller	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b> As per content

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

#### Content:

#### 11.b Council Committee Reports

None submitted

#### 11.c Other Bodies and Organizations

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

#### Note:

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

#### Recommended Motion:

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

# Expanding Horizons Society Minutes of January 7, 2026

Attendance: Brad Dallas, Sena Urichuk, Rob Wilcox, Karen Fagen, Laurie Miller, Jade Scott, Sheila Church, Tara Rankin and Sandy Gamble

Call to order: 6:57

Approval of Agenda: Tara approved. Seconded by Karen.

Approval of Minutes of Dec. 16, 2025: Sena approved. Seconded by Tara

Old Business:

Brad will look into the cost of the rubber covering for the sidewalk for the front sidewalk only.

Sheila made the motion that we look in to a benefit savings account, Tara seconded it. Carried.

Sena made the motion and Sheila seconded it that Brad approach Border Paving to give us a new estimate for the cost of paving and levelling the parking lot. If we were to do the paving at the same time Border is in town to do work, it could possibly save us a little money in the event that we receive the grant from the CEFT. We could install a sign thanking Border. We have received \$20,000.00 from Patterson to assist with the paving. This should be acknowledged on our web site.

We need to advertise for a new Hall manager and custodian right away with a closing date of end of January. Brad, Karen and Jade will do the interviews for the new hall manager so they can start right away. Karen will help with the social media and post the job description. A criminal record check as well as a Vulnerable Sector check will be required. A successful candidate will be reimbursed for the charge. It was decided that we do need to pay Kim for the training of the new person. As well a gift certificate will be purchased for Kim. She has done such an amazing job for us. Kim

has all of the log in information for Liberty Security so in the mean time this will handed off the Brad.

As for a new Custodian ,Jade mentioned that she could ask Matthew Klemke who also does the town's offices. The new Custodian must be capable of putting out and storing the table and chairs and be able to have a quick response time. As this job is only required when there are bookings at the hall and not regular hours it might be hard to find someone. Sena has made several calls to companies but to no avail.

The hall will need to be cleaned on the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month so volunteers are needed.

Painting of the hall will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> of Jan. Sheila will do goodies on Monday, Sena on Tuesday and Sandy G Wednesday and Thursday. As there is chair yoga on Wednesday morning they will need to be informed.

**New Business:**

We now have the address highway sign and once the ground thaws we will have to make a call to One Call before it is installed.

Bike races will now be on March 14,2026. Jade will update the posters, Terry will be at the door and Tara and Karen will do the beer. We will ask Anika and Chey to bar tend the event. The bikes will need to be repaired. Snacks and chips will be served. Medallions will be done up by Karen Lawson.

A \$50.00 budget has been set to purchase flowers for Dawn Zimmerman as she had surgery.

The volunteer super date has been set for April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Sena has purchased a phone for the new manager. The cost was \$1,044.00 with a \$40.00 a month rental, apple care for \$169.00, case for \$34.99 and \$03. Or \$52.00 for master cards. Payment terms can be reviewed annually. The Crome Book was \$189.30. Tara made the motion to accept this contract. Seconded by Rob. Carried

Dinner Theatre will be May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Still going with prime rib. The budget for the props will be discussed at next meeting. Last year \$620.49 was spent. We could maybe look at selling some of the current props to help with the budget. Karen made the motion that all the actors are to eat free. Jade seconded the motion. Carried. Bob Ronnie will need to be contacted.

For this month Yoga, a spaghetti supper, a private event and Rob's Alberta Big Game event has been booked.

Tara made the motion to purchase the 25 plastic corner protectors. Seconded by Sheila.

Financials presented by Sena

General Account 714.48

Casino Account 5,525.75

Benevolent Account 6,409.39

Dinner Theatre Account \$65,799.83

Operating Account \$36,089.27

Next Meeting Feb 10,2026

Meeting Adjourned by Tara.

## Meeting

### Expanding Horizons

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Mayor Miller attended this meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting (January 7, 2026) are attached.

#### Post Meeting Comments:

The group had an extensive agenda to cover, including the presentation of the January month-end and audited financial report for 2025.

Key items:

Staffing:

- Introduction of new Hall Manager and Custodians

Sponsorship:

- Discussion regarding the deposit and retention of a donation for paving/repairs. Decision regarding the grant application not expected until early summer.

Other:

- Bike race, March 14. Volunteer roster set out. Everyone to come for hall set up at noon. 50/50 draw will be organized. Lorne to repair trikes.
- Bingo, March 19. Volunteer roster set out.
- Protective corners: Hope to install prior to bike races.
- Dinner Theater: Prize structure determined and volunteers assigned to compile. AGLC registration to be done. A budget was approved for the theatre group for purchase of props/set design items.
- Liberty Security: new contract required to remove outgoing members and replace with new.
- Insurance: returning member is going to research alternatives.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 11 at 7pm.

Prepared by:

Laurie Miller, Mayor



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Publisher: Alberta Counsel

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## 2026 SPRING SESSION PREVIEW

Mackenzie Blyth

As Alberta's Legislature returns, the upcoming session will be defined by the introduction of Budget 2026. With the West Texas Intermediate currently hovering in the low to mid-sixties, the province is continuing to face a challenging fiscal environment driven by insufficient resource revenue. The question regarding the deficit is once again only a matter of size and how convincingly the provincial government can argue that its choices reflect strong economic stewardship in an increasingly uncertain global economy.

Budget 2025 was framed around meeting the challenges of international economic pressures and a rapidly growing population, with significant investments in health care and education to address capacity constraints becoming increasingly visible to Albertans across the province. These underlying challenges have not disappeared. If anything, they have been compounded by broader economic uncertainty heightened by recent American military action in Venezuela and its potential implications for global energy markets. Against that backdrop, the United Conservative government is likely to build on last year's focus rather than pivot away from it, even as fiscal room tightens.

New projections from Statistics Canada suggest Alberta could surpass British Columbia as the country's third-most populous province as early as 2038. By 2050, Alberta's population is expected to land somewhere between 6.5 and 8.1 million people. That growth has been driven by sustained interprovincial migration and a younger demographic profile. The challenge for the government is not simply that Alberta is growing, but that it is growing quickly and unevenly. Much of that pressure has been absorbed by Calgary and Edmonton, where rapid population increases have collided with limited housing supply, infrastructure constraints, and rising costs.

Those population trends inevitably pull the budget conversation back to health care and education. These pressures are visible in emergency rooms operating beyond capacity and schools struggling to keep pace with enrolment. Even in a tighter fiscal environment, it is difficult to imagine a budget that does not include new capital commitments and targeted operating investments.

In health care, expect the government to emphasize infrastructure and capacity over continued structural reform. New hospital projects, expansions, and urgent care facilities remain politically defensible investments, particularly in fast-growing urban areas. At the same time, the workforce remains the limiting factor. Recruitment and retention measures are likely to feature prominently, paired with continued pressure on health administrators to demonstrate productivity and better use of existing resources.

Education will present a similar challenge, but with sharper political edges. Rapid enrolment growth has left many school boards struggling to deliver on class size and staffing commitments, and labour tensions remain close to the surface following recent use of the notwithstanding clause. The NDP will press hard on whether government funding is sufficient to meet those commitments in practice, not just on paper. The government, for its part, is likely to lean on capital announcements and previously allocated funding, arguing that it has laid the groundwork and that results take time to materialize.

Beyond these core files, there will be quieter but no less consequential budget decisions. Ministries such as Arts, Culture, and Status of Women, and Tourism and Sport may find themselves under particular strain. For stakeholders in these areas, the challenge will be navigating a budget environment where maintaining existing funding may be positioned as a win.

One issue that will generate noise well beyond its policy footprint is the government's decision to order thousands of provincial employees back into the office five days a week, formally ending the hybrid work arrangements that have been in place since the pandemic. AUPE's response has been to encourage members to brown-bag lunches rather than support downtown businesses. The irony is hard to miss: among the most likely beneficiaries of a full return to office are small businesses in Edmonton ridings represented by the opposition, particularly Edmonton-City Centre MLA David Shepherd.

This leaves the NDP in an awkward position, forced to choose between sliding reflexively with organized labour or acknowledging that downtown revitalization and economic activity are priorities for the communities they represent. How the opposition navigates that tension will be an early test of its ability to balance labour relationships with a broader economic message during the session.

Municipal infrastructure will also become an increasingly useful political weapon, none more so than Calgary's ongoing water system failures and the legacy of the Bearsaw feeder main. The United Conservatives have already shown a willingness to cite the issue as evidence of failed civic leadership under Naheed Nenshi, and it is reasonable to expect the government to return to that line repeatedly in communications and in the Legislature.

For the NDP, the issue is more complicated. While the failures occurred under Nenshi's watch as mayor, they also expose



## MACKENZIE BLYTH

Associate

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

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

[m.blyth@albertacounsel.com](mailto:m.blyth@albertacounsel.com)



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the long-term consequences of infrastructure underinvestment across municipalities. The opposition will attempt to reframe Bearsapaw not as an indictment of one leader, but as a cautionary tale supporting the case for sustained provincial infrastructure funding at a time when fiscal restraint is likely to dominate the budget.

Complicating matters further for the opposition is the timing of the federal NDP leadership race, which is set to conclude on March 29 in the middle of the legislative session. For Naheed Nenshi, certain results would make his task easier. A leader like Heather McPherson offers predictability, familiarity to Alberta voters, and minimal ideological friction. Rob Ashton represents more of a wildcard—potentially energizing a working-class base but carrying uncertainty about message discipline. An Avi Lewis victory, however, would present a far more difficult challenge for the Alberta NDP, reopening fault lines between provincial pragmatism and federal ideology at precisely the wrong moment.

The UCP will move quickly to tie whichever leader emerges to Nenshi and his caucus, reinforcing a narrative that Alberta New Democrats are ultimately answerable to their "Ottawa bosses." How effectively the opposition resists that framing will shape the political dynamics going into the next provincial election as much as any single piece of legislation.

Separatism will continue to hover in the background of the session. For the United Conservatives, the issue presents a delicate balancing act. While the government must oppose separatism outright to maintain broad public support, it cannot afford to openly alienate a segment of its own base. Premier Danielle Smith is likely to continue navigating that tension by emphasizing practical wins in working with Ottawa on energy and regulatory rollbacks, while simultaneously reinforcing a posture of vigilance on provincial jurisdiction, particularly around immigration and judicial appointments.

The NDP, by contrast, has a far easier lane. With no appetite for separatism within its caucus or membership, Nenshi and his team can present themselves unapologetically as federalists. Expect the opposition to highlight internal UCP contradictions on the issue and position themselves as the only party firmly committed to Canada.

This legislative session is unlikely to be remembered for more dramatic floor crossings or expensive new initiatives. Instead, it will be defined by how effectively the government translates priorities into budgets, infrastructure decisions, and administrative follow-through, while managing a political environment shaped by affordability pressures, labour tensions, municipal challenges, and an increasingly complex federal backdrop. For stakeholders, the real signals will emerge less from headline legislation than from implementation decisions, regulatory direction, and where the government chooses to spend its political capital.



## AltaML

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AltaML is a Canadian leader in applied artificial intelligence (AI), building industry-specific AI solutions that help organizations unlock the value of their data and transform how they operate. Headquartered in Edmonton and with offices in Calgary and Toronto, AltaML works across sectors including energy and industrial operations, public services, and health, delivering tools that optimize processes, reduce risk, and enhance decision-making.

Founded in 2018 by technology innovators drawn to the power of data and machine learning, AltaML has grown into one of Canada's most dynamic AI firms, producing solutions that tackle complex challenges from predicting wildfire risk to improving hospital operations.

AltaML helps health systems transform care delivery by applying agentic AI to streamline operations and empower clinicians to focus on what matters most: patients. By addressing critical bottlenecks like workforce instability, fragmented data systems, diagnostic delays, and administrative burden, AltaML's solutions help health-care organizations move from reactive firefighting to proactive, data-driven care planning and delivery.

The company's work emphasizes responsible, ethical AI and ensures tools are transparent, trusted, and embedded in organizational workflows rather than simply piloted.

AltaML's success reflects both Alberta's leadership in technology and a growing global relevance. Translating data into tangible business outcomes means reducing costs, improving service delivery, and unlocking new growth potential for clients across industries, while nurturing local talent and strengthening Canada's AI ecosystem.



**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.

[s.blanchette@albertacounsel.com](mailto:s.blanchette@albertacounsel.com)

## POLITICAL EVENTS

### Alberta Municipalities Report on the 2026 Provincial Budget

**Fri, Feb 27 – 3pm**

Location: Virtual

- ABmunis will present its annual analysis of how the provincial budget supports municipalities across Alberta.
- Session includes a walkthrough of key funding figures, policy impacts, and a Q&A for municipal officials.

### Edmonton Chamber of Commerce - 2026 Provincial Budget Luncheon with Minister Nate Horner

**Thurs, March 12 - 11-1pm**

Location: The Westin Edmonton

- Minister of Finance Nate Horner will discuss Alberta's 2026 budget and its implications for Edmonton's business community.
- Discussion will focus on fiscal priorities, competitiveness, investment confidence, and regional economic growth.

### Edmonton Leader's Dinner - United Conservative Party

**Wed, March 18 – 5pm**

Location: Edmonton Convention Centre

- Premier Danielle Smith and UCP MLAs will join supporters for the party's premier annual event.
- Opportunity to connect with party leadership and discuss the future direction of Alberta.

### ABmunis' 2026 Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus

**Wed-Thurs, March 26-27**

Location: Edmonton Convention Centre

- Two-day forum for municipal leaders to discuss key priorities and shared challenges.
- Includes addresses from the Premier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and Leader of the Opposition.



Source: LinkedIn

#### KEY INFLUENCER PROFILE

### TRICIA VELTHUIZEN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNITED CONSERVATIVE CAUCUS

Mackenzie Blyth

Tricia Velthuisen has served as Executive Director of the United Conservative Caucus since March 2025. In this role, she provides strategic leadership and operational direction to caucus operations, supporting private members in advancing legislative priorities and effective governance. With deep experience across communications, policy, and political operations, Velthuisen brings a steady, institutionally grounded approach to senior political leadership within Alberta's Legislature.

Velthuisen's career spans nearly a decade within the Government of Alberta and the Legislative Assembly, where she has held progressively senior roles at the centre of government. Most recently, she served as Director of Communications and Planning in the Office of the Premier, overseeing strategic communications, issue management, and long-range planning. She previously served as Senior Press Secretary in the Office of the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation and as Press Secretary to the Minister of Service Alberta.

Her experience also includes senior political campaign work, most notably as Deputy Director of Scripting for the United Conservative Party's successful 2023 general election campaign. Earlier in her career, Velthuisen held research and policy roles with the United Conservative Official Opposition and the Wildrose Official Opposition, developing a strong foundation in legislative research, policy analysis, and caucus support.

In addition to her government and political work, Velthuisen has volunteered with the Small Canadian Women and Children Association and the Melanoma Network of Canada. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Theology from The King's University and a Certificate in Crisis Communications from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.



ALBERTA COUNSEL

# THE NEWS

Alberta's Premier Review of  
Politics and Government Vitality

from ALBERTA COUNSEL

## AT A GLANCE

### In the Media

#### **Budget 2026 Coming Late February**

The Government of Alberta confirmed that Budget 2026 will be released on February 26th, outlining the province's fiscal priorities amid continued economic pressures from declining resource revenues. The budget is expected to focus on disciplined financial management, protecting core services and long-term economic stability.

President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, Nate Horner, stated: "Albertans know these times aren't easy and the path ahead will require tough choices, but Alberta's government has a clear path forward. We are making responsible decisions now, to protect the province's financial future, stay focused on what matters, and ensure Alberta remains strong for our children and grandchildren."

#### **Expanding High-Speed Internet Access in Rural Alberta**

Alberta has announced a new round of broadband investments to extend high-speed Internet to 759 additional rural communities, reaching approximately 83,600 homes. The projects are being supported through a combined investment of approximately \$373 million from the Government of Alberta, the federal government, and participating service providers.

Minister of Technology and Innovation, Nate Glubish, commented: "When we launched our broadband strategy, we set an ambitious goal: ensure every Albertan – no matter where they are in the province – has access to reliable, high-speed Internet. This latest batch of projects brings Alberta to over 95 per cent of our goal and it shows just how far we've come. We are following through on our commitment to universal connectivity, and as more homes are identified, we will keep pushing until the job is done."

#### **New Investments in Northern Youth Care**

The Government of Alberta is investing \$14.5 million to enhance care for vulnerable children and youth in northern communities by modernizing and expanding campus-based care facilities near their home regions. These upgrades aim to ensure youth in government care receive essential therapeutic support, education, recreation, and cultural connections in safe, supportive environments.

"Children and youth in care need safe, nurturing environments and access to comprehensive supports that help them thrive. These new and improved facilities will make a positive, long-lasting impact on the children and youth they serve. This substantial commitment emphasizes our dedication to providing the highest-quality care and support to help children and youth reach their full potential," stated Minister of Children and Family Services, Searle Turton.

#### **Direct UAE Flights from Calgary**

Etihad Airways will launch direct flights between Abu Dhabi and Calgary beginning November 3, 2026. This new route reinforces Alberta's role as a global travel hub and strengthens the province's economic and trade relationships with the Middle East.

"Increasingly, Alberta is building relationships around the globe that are having a direct impact on the strength and success of our economy. This is a major step forward in Alberta's relationship with the United Arab Emirates, opening doors for more business that benefits both jurisdictions," commented Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration, Joseph Schow.



**PASCAL RYFFEL**  
VP of Corporate  
Development and  
Government Relations

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

[pr@albertacounsel.com](mailto:pr@albertacounsel.com)



ALBERTA COUNSEL



**SARA BOULET**  
Associate

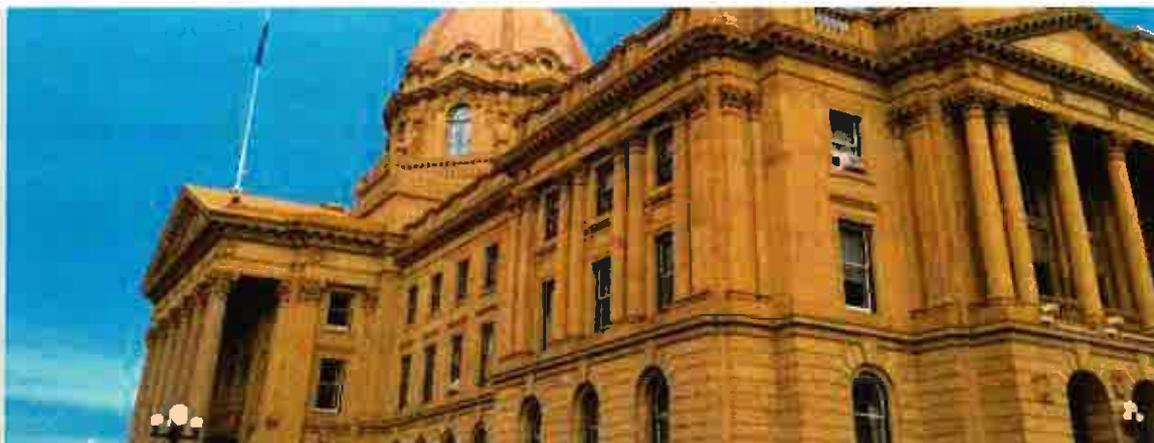
Sara M. Boulet was born in Edmonton, Alberta. After completing her Bachelor of Social Science with Honours at the University of Ottawa, she returned to her hometown to study law at the University of Alberta, from which she graduated with a Juris Doctor in 2018, and was called to the Alberta Bar in 2019.

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

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ALBERTA COUNSEL



## WHEN AN LOI COMES BACK TO HAUNT A DEAL

Sara M. Boulet

Entire agreement clauses are meant to bring finality. The signed contract is the full deal, and earlier drafts and letters of intent (LOIs) or Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are out. A recent Ontario Court of Appeal decision, *Project Freeway Inc. v. ABC Technologies Inc.*, 2025 ONCA 855 ("Project Freeway"), is a reminder that, where the definitive agreement is ambiguous, a court may still look back at an LOI or MOU as part of the "surrounding circumstances", even in situations where the definitive agreement includes an Entire Agreement Clause.

This can be a surprise to parties who thought the LOI was safely in the rearview mirror.

In *Project Freeway*, the dispute over whether post-closing financing transactions triggered the SPA's earn-out acceleration clause. After the deal closed, the purchaser entered into a sale-leaseback of company real estate (about \$97.9M) and a receivables factoring arrangement. The vendor argued these were "sales" of a material portion of the business's assets, requiring immediate payment of the remaining earn-out, while the purchaser argued they were routine financing steps that didn't materially change the business or the earn-out metrics.

At first instance, Justice Steele of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice held that neither the sale-leaseback nor the factoring arrangement triggered acceleration.<sup>1</sup> The key was the meaning of "material." The court held that, in this earn-out context, "material" meant material to the earn-out regime, not simply large in dollar value.<sup>2</sup>

In reaching that conclusion, the court considered "all the circumstances, including the LOI terms"<sup>3</sup> as objective evidence of the parties' intentions at the time of the definitive agreement.

On appeal, the Court of Appeal agreed the phrase "material portion" was ambiguous, as a portion might be "material" because of its size, or because of its impact on the earn-out payments.<sup>4</sup>

The appeal was dismissed.

*Project Freeway* argued the trial judge should not have relied on the LOI because the SPA's entire agreement clause expressly superseded prior negotiations including the LOI.

Both courts rejected that position. Justice Steele relied on the principle that an entire agreement clause "alone does not prevent a court from considering admissible evidence of the surrounding circumstances at the time of contract formation"<sup>5</sup> and held "regard may be had to the LOI"<sup>6</sup> as background facts when interpreting the SPA.

<sup>1</sup> *Project Freeway Inc. v. ABC Technologies Inc.*, 2025 ONSC 1048 ["Project Freeway ONSC"], at para 58.

<sup>2</sup> *Project Freeway ONSC*, at para 46 and 57.

<sup>3</sup> *Project Freeway ONSC*, at para 57.

<sup>4</sup> *Project Freeway Inc. v. ABC Technologies Inc.*, 2025 ONCA 855 ["Project Freeway ONCA"], at para 9.

<sup>5</sup> *Project Freeway ONSC*, at para 50, citing *Ontario First Nations (2008) Limited Partnership v Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation*, 2021 ONCA 592, at para 62.

<sup>6</sup> *Project Freeway ONSC*, at para 51.

The Court of Appeal held this “did not offend”<sup>7</sup> the entire agreement clause because the LOI was used as an interpretive aid to identify what the parties’ agreement in the SPA actually was.

Practically speaking, the entire agreement clause did not stop the court from going back to the LOI once the SPA language left room for debate.

Whatever the doctrinal label, relying on an LOI or MOU to interpret a signed agreement can undermine contractual certainty. Courts presume parties mean what they include (and exclude) in their contracts, and contractual certainty depends on that premise.

Allowing parties to reach back to an LOI or MOU can:

- Reduce certainty about “final” terms (even where the LOI or MOU was expressly superseded by the final agreement);
- Harm parties’ ability to negotiate and refine terms since LOIs and MOUs are often used to capture certain principles of a deal while key terms remain open for negotiations. For example, in Project Freeway the Plaintiff’s evidence was that at the LOI stage “they had not negotiated the final terms of the Earn-Out”<sup>8</sup>; and
- Ignore real-world deal evolution as there are often significant changes between an LOI or MOU and an executed agreement and importing LOI or MOU concepts after the fact risks tethering parties to preliminary language they intentionally moved away from.

This case reinforces a practical truth: ambiguity is what gives a court a reason to consult context.

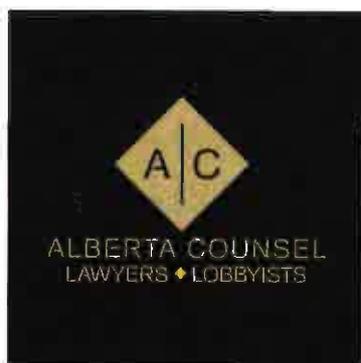
To reduce the risk that a court will look back to prior documents:

- Define your “triggers.” For example, if “material” is intended to mean “material to the earn-out,” say so (or specify an objective threshold/test);
- Eliminate ambiguities and internal inconsistencies, especially conflicting definitions or similar clauses using different wording, because that inconsistency can create the very interpretive opening that invites a court to look backwards; and
- Treat LOIs as legal documents, not placeholders. Remember, even “non-binding” LOIs can later be used as evidence of the transaction’s background.

Having counsel involved early, both in drafting the LOI and in negotiating the definitive agreement, helps preserve contractual certainty and avoid unintended interpretive battles later. If you are negotiating an LOI or MOU, drafting a definitive agreement, or involved in a dispute over contractual interpretations, Alberta Counsel can help.

<sup>7</sup> Project Freeway ONCA, at para 14.

<sup>8</sup> Project Freeway ONSC, at para 52.



## Public Relations Services

We know how to win online.

Alberta Counsel’s digital advocacy work can push your goals with the public or government forward.

Our public relations services are designed to:

- Increase awareness of your message
- Target your message to elected officials
- Make your issue relevant to voters
- Develop your election-messaging strategy

Our work gets attention and moves your key audience towards your desired outcomes. We’re all about providing digital solutions that produce real, measurable results.

We’re ready to elevate your communications to the next level

## BOWDEN FRIENDSHIP CENTER

### Thursday Nov. 20, 2025

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

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

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

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

**Minutes from the Last Meeting:**

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

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

Current Bank Balance:

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

Old Business:

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

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

#### New Business:

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

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

## 2. Members Turkey Supper

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

### Additions to the Agenda:

1. Does the town have to pay for hall rentals? The \$3000 from the town is a grant. It is not tied to the emergency center and is just a grant for the expenses. The town does quite a bit for the hall as far as mowing the lawn etc. Voted as a group that they can have 6 free rentals a year. Thank you for your partnership All in favor 100%
2. Insurance- Laurie brought some information about insurance for non-profits and see if it is cheaper than what we are paying.
3. Richard Sybblis is going to be the new rep from Parkland.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Feb . 19 7:00

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



Closed Session

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> 2026-02-23	<b>Agenda Items:</b> 12.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> Laurie Miller	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor

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

**Motion 12.a**

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

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

This is a closed meeting of Council as permitted by section 197 of the MGA.

An exception to disclose under Division 2 of Part 1 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSA2000, Chapter F-25 (as amended over time) therefore applies on the basis of: Section 28 “local public body confidences”.

**Motion 12.b**

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

**Motion 12.c**

Motion(s) (if applicable)