

TOWN OF ECKVILLE-COUNCIL AGENDA

Monday March 27, 2023

Town Office Council Chambers Eckville, AB 6:00 pm

(Councillors may attend via electronic means)

- | | | |
|---|------|--|
| 1. CALL TO ORDER | 1.1 | |
| 2. DELEGATIONS/PUBLIC HEARING | 2.1 | |
| 3. AGENDA | 3.1 | Additional Agenda Items |
| | 3.2 | Adoption of Agenda |
| 4. MINUTES | 4.1 | Regular Council Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2023 pg. 1-3 |
| 5. ACTION ITEMS | 5.1 | RFD-Officially Proclaim May 8-12 as “Economic Development Week”pg. 4-6 |
| 6. BYLAWS, POLICIES | 6.1 | |
| 7. REPORTS | 7.1 | Management Report March 27, 2023 pg. 7-8 |
| | 7.2 | Financial Report-AP Report March 23, 2023 pg. 9 |
| | 7.3 | Animal Control Services Feb 2023 pg. 10 |
| 8. COMMITTEE, BOARD REPORTS | 8.1 | |
| 9. CORRESPONDENCE, INFORMATION | 9.1 | Lacombe County Highlights of Council Meeting March 9, 2023 pg. 11 |
| | 9.2 | Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus pg. 12-18 |
| | 9.3 | Lacombe County Media Release pg. 19 |
| 10. SEMINARS, MEETINGS, SPECIAL EVENTS | 10.1 | |
| 11. CLOSED SESSION | 11.1 | Section 24: Advice from Officials |
| 12. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE | 12.1 | |
| 13. ADJOURNMENT | 13.1 | |

TOWN OF ECKVILLE – COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday March 13, 2023

Eckville Town Office, 5023 – 51 Avenue, Eckville, Alberta

1. Call to Order

1.1 Mayor Ebden called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Ebden
Deputy Mayor Engen
Councillor Meyers
Councillor Palm-Fraser
Councillor See
Councillor Thoreson

Absent: None

Staff: CAO Jack Ramsden
Deputy CAO, Darcy Webb
Recording Secretary Heather Allen

Press: None

Gallery: None

2. Delegations/Public Hearings

2.1 None

3. Agenda

3.1 Additional Agenda Items - None

3.2 Adoption of Agenda

Res .062.2023

Moved by Councillor See that the agenda be adopted as presented.
Carried Unanimously.

4. Minutes

4.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2023

Res.063.2023

Moved by Deputy Mayor Engen that motion number 048.2023 be amended to read, "Moved by Councillor Palm-Fraser that the minutes of the Organizational Meeting held October 24, 2022 be adopted as presented." and further that the minutes of the regular Council Meeting held February 27 be adopted as amended. **Carried Unanimously.**

- 5. Action Items**
- 5.1 RFD-Maintenance of Eckville Community Cemetery.**
- Res. 064.2023** Moved by Councillor Meyers that Administration be instructed to secure tenders for the 2023 Eckville Municipal Cemetery Maintenance Contract for presentation at the April 10th council meeting. **Carried Unanimously.**
- 6. Bylaws/Policies**
- 6.1 None**
- 7. Reports**
- 7.1 Management Report – March 13,2023**
- Res. 065.2023** Moved by Deputy Mayor Engen that the MNP presentation of the Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Options Study be held Monday April 17th at 7:00pm. **Carried Unanimously.**
- Res. 066.2023** Moved by Councillor See the Management Report for March 13, 2023 be accepted for information. **Carried Unanimously.**
- 7.2 Financial Report – AP Report March, 7th 2023.**
- Res.067.2023** Moved by Councillor Meyers that the Financial Report be accepted for information. **Carried Unanimously.**
- 8. Committee & Board Reports**
- 8.1 Councillor See reported on the Arena**
- Res. 068.2023** Moved by Deputy-Mayor Engen that up to two Councillors attend the LRMP Debrief Session on March 21, 2023. **Carried Unanimously**
- 8.2 Councillor Palm-Fraser reported on the Reynolds Mirth Seminar.**
- 8.3 Mayor Ebden reported on, Electoral Boundaries session, a Provincial Budget session, and**
- Res. 069.2023** Moved by Councillor See that the Committee and Board Reports be accepted. **Carried Unanimously.**
- 9. Correspondence, Information Items**
- 9.1 Lacombe County Council Meeting Highlights February 23, 2023.**
- 9.2 Lacombe County Funding for Canada Day Celebration.**
- 9.3 LRWSC Minutes November. 23, 2022 and February. 22, 2023.**
- 9.4 Alberta Municipal Affairs Letter**
- Res. 070.2023** Moved by Councillor Meyers that the Correspondence and Information Items be accepted as information. **Carried Unanimously.**
- 10. Seminars, Meetings, Special Events**
- 10.1 CPTED Training**
- Res. 071.2023** Moved by Councillor See that up to two councillors be authorized to attend The CPTED Training. **Carried Unanimously**

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10.2 Employment Law Seminar

Res. 072.2023 Moved by Councillor See that up to two councillors be authorized to attend the Employment Law Seminar Training. **Carried Unanimously**

Mayor Ebden called for a five-minute recess. Time 7:10 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 7:15pm

11. Closed Session 11.1 Section 24: Advice of Officials

Res. 073.2023 Moved by Deputy -Mayor Engen that the meeting move into closed session, excluding all persons except Council Members, CAO, and Deputy CAO in order to discuss an item with Section 24 of the FOIP Act: Advice of Officials. Time 7:16 p.m. **Carried Unanimously**

Res. 074.2023 Moved by Mayor Ebden that meeting revert back to open session. Time 7:30 p.m. **Carried Unanimously.**

Mayor Ebden called for a five-minute recess. Time 7:31 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 7:36pm

Res. 075.2023 Moved by Councillor Palm-Fraser That the Town of Eckville enter into a lease agreement with Alberta Health Services for certain office space at the Eckville Community Health Centre for the provision of medical services and further that the Mayor and CAO be authorized to sign said agreement. **Carried Unanimously.**

12. Committee of the Whole 12.1 None

13. Adjournment

Res. 076.2023 13.1 Mayor Ebden adjourned the meeting. Time 7:37 p.m. **Carried Unanimously.**

Mayor

CAO

Mtg. Date Mar 27, 2023

Agenda Item 5.1

TOWN OF ECKVILLE
Request to Council for Decision

Meeting:	Town Council
Meeting Date:	March 27, 2023
Originated By:	Jack Ramsden, CAO
Title:	Proclaim May 8-12, 2023 to be "Economic Development Week"

BACKGROUND: 2023 Community Challenge in Alberta

DISCUSSION/ALTERNATIVES: That the Town of Eckville amplify the importance of economic development in Rural Municipalities.

IMPACT ON BUDGET: None

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the following motion be presented for consideration:

"That Eckville Town Council Officially Proclaim May 8 – 12, 2023 to be "Economic Development Week!"

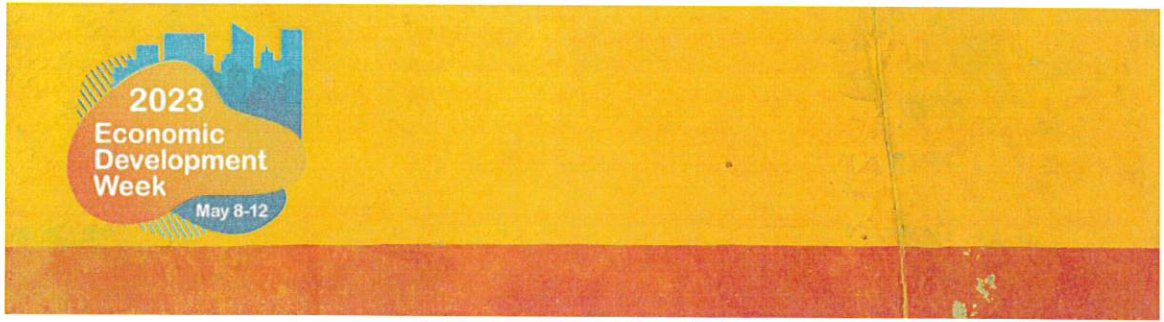
Prepared By:

Louise Marthaller

Approved By:

[Signature]

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2023 Community Challenge in Alberta

Help us to amplify the importance of economic development by taking part in the 2023 Community Challenge.

For the third year in a row, [Alberta Municipalities](#) and [Rural Municipalities of Alberta](#) are joining EDA to encourage municipalities, large and small, to formally recognize and celebrate Economic Development Week.

You can participate by having your community officially proclaim May 8 - 12 to be "Economic Development Week!"

Let's get it on your community's calendar now.

Last year, more than 50 Alberta communities made the official proclamation.

It's easy, here's how:



**2023 Economic Development Week
Information**

1. Customize a sample resolution by clicking the button below.
2. Have your Council/Mayor officially proclaim the week in your community and sign the resolution.
3. Share the proclamation with local media, and on your social media pages.
4. Don't forget to tag us: Twitter: @edaalberta; LinkedIn: @Economic Developers Alberta (EDA) and Facebook: @EconomicDevelopersofAlberta
4. Email us at admin@edaalberta.ca and it will be added to the EDA website.

Your involvement in the 2023 Community Challenge gives you a voice.

It lets your community know you value the contribution of economic development, and helps you strengthen support for the work your economic development staff does throughout the year.

You have been sent this email because you either: are a member of Economic Developers Alberta (EDA); enquired about our services; or publicly disclosed your email address without stating you do not wish to receive commercial electronic messages. If you wish to stop receiving commercial electronic messages from EDA, please click unsubscribe below to withdraw consent.

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**MANAGEMENT REPORT
TO ECKVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
March 27, 2023**

Mtg. Date Mar 27, 2023

Agenda Item 7.1

Current Activities:

- **Water Plant Upgrade Project Number Two:** Still working on this. Nothing to report at this time.
- **Snow & Ice Removal:** Our Public Works Team will continue to work with snow plowing and ice breaking as needed and as time permits. Some of our streets have been melting during the day and freezing at night. For the most part we will likely leave it to nature to clear things up.
- **Purchase of Ice Breaker:** When we ordered the new ice breaker this winter, we did not think we would get to try it out until later this year. But, thanks to a quick delivery and a late spring, our Public Works Staff has got to try it out a few times. Apparently, it works a bit better than the smaller unit we were renting. It was a good attachment for our skid steer!
- **Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Options Study:** Unfortunately, April 17th did not work out for the MNP Team, so we are trying to find another date for our workshop.
- **Main Street Solar Lights:** Nothing to report currently.
- **Town Entrance Sign:** Administration is still investigating new software and hardware alternatives which will likely involve new panels. We are also considering alternate locations where we could relocate the sign to allow better viewing.

Future / Planned Activities:

- **Highway 11 Twinning, Functional Planning Study – Highway to Township Road 390 (east of Benalto):** Further to our discussions at the last council meeting, I would note that there will be an Open House on April 5th from 4:00pm to 8:00pm at the NexSource Center in Sylvan Lake to review the final recommendations for alignment of Highway 11.
- **Replotting of Westview Lots:** We sent out our letters as required to government agencies, utility companies, etc. and neighboring Property Owners, and responses are starting to arrive. As previously noted, once responses timeframes are met, we will take the application to the Municipal Planning Commission for approval, as they are also our Town's Subdivision Approving Authority. When the MPC has approved the subdivision, we will have our Legal Surveyors register the plan with Land Titles and have new lot title issued. We will also be working on proposed pricing for the two newly created lots which we will bring forward at a later date.
- **Medical Committee Meeting:** We held a Medical Committee meeting on March 15th. We will ask Mayor Ebdon, Deputy Mayor Engen and Councillor Meyers to report to the rest of the Council at the March 27th meeting. We have also scheduled a "closed session" discussion to bring you up to speed on a recent development that we have been working on.

Management Report – March 27, 2023

- **Communication Strategy – Municipal App:** We will be presenting information to you in “closed session” at the March 27th council meeting. It is possible that we may be looking for a motion as to how to proceed after the closed session discussion.

Information Items:

- **Year End Audit:** The audit is progressing and the planned date to present to Council is still the April 24th meeting.

Jack Ramsden, CAO



Darcy Webb, Deputy CAO



Batch ID: CHEQUES
 Batch Comment: Cheques

Audit Trail Code: PMCHQ00000809
 Posting Date: 2023-03-23

Chequebook ID: ATB - GEN

Mtg. Date Mar 27, 2023

Agenda Item 7.2 **2023**

* Voided Cheques

Cheque Number	Date	Payment Number	Vendor ID	Cheque Name	Amount
026872	2023-03-23	00000000000022673	AGR002	Agriterra Equipment	\$649.81
026873	2023-03-23	00000000000022675	AMS001	AMSC	\$19,116.09
026874	2023-03-23	00000000000022676	ANI001	327241 Alberta Ltd.	\$1,121.40
026875	2023-03-23	00000000000022677	AUM003	AUMA	\$383.91
026876	2023-03-23	00000000000022678	BOB001	Bobcat	\$1,222.54
026877	2023-03-23	00000000000022679	CAN11	Canadian Linen and Uniform Ser	\$279.22
026878	2023-03-23	00000000000022680	CEN002	Central Alberta Rodeo Associat	\$1,500.00
026879	2023-03-23	00000000000022681	CEN014	Central Alberta Co-op Ltd.	\$513.25
026880	2023-03-23	00000000000022682	CEN04	Central Labs	\$487.47
026881	2023-03-23	00000000000022683	DPO001	DPOC	\$1,575.00
026882	2023-03-23	00000000000022684	ECK0024	Eckville Childrens Playgroup	\$1,500.00
026883	2023-03-23	00000000000022685	ECK023	Eckville Municipal Library	\$1,500.00
026884	2023-03-23	00000000000022686	FLO01	Flowpoint Environmental System	\$106.03
026885	2023-03-23	00000000000022687	GIM01	Gimlet-Eckville Jr. Rodeo	\$1,500.00
026886	2023-03-23	00000000000022688	GTI001	GTI Petroleum Ltd	\$1,123.68
026887	2023-03-23	00000000000022689	HIW001	Hi-Way 9 Express Ltd.	\$752.78
026888	2023-03-23	00000000000022690	LAC001	Lacombe County	\$1,889.24
026889	2023-03-23	00000000000022691	LAC010	Lacombe Regional Waste Service	\$210.00
026890	2023-03-23	00000000000022692	MAD01	Mad Catering	\$579.60
026891	2023-03-23	00000000000022693	MNP001	MNP	\$7,398.30
026892	2023-03-23	00000000000022694	NEX002	NextGen Automation	\$378.04
026893	2023-03-23	00000000000022695	ON003	On-Track Railway Operations Lt	\$36,486.45
026894	2023-03-23	00000000000022696	PAR001	Parkland Regional Library	\$2,657.49
026895	2023-03-23	00000000000022697	REC01	RecordXpress	\$36.17
026896	2023-03-23	00000000000022698	RED010	Red Deer Catholic Regional Div	\$3,482.23
026897	2023-03-23	00000000000022699	SPA001	Sparrows Auto Service Ltd	\$41.36
026898	2023-03-23	00000000000022700	TEL001	Telus	\$1,086.26
026899	2023-03-23	00000000000022701	TEL002	TELUS MOBILITY	\$132.58
026900	2023-03-23	00000000000022702	THE001	The City of Red Deer	\$2,000.00
026901	2023-03-23	00000000000022703	TIM004	TimberGate	\$280.35
026902	2023-03-23	00000000000022704	TOW011	Town of Blackfalds	\$6,050.00
026903	2023-03-23	00000000000022705	WBC001	WCB	\$3,583.77

Total Cheques: 32

Cheques Total: \$99,623.02

Mtg. Date Mar 27, 2023

Agenda Item 7.3

**ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES o/a 327241 Alberta Ltd
BILLING SUMMARY**

MONTH OF SERVICE February 2023

MUNICIPALITY ECKVILLE

DATE	HOURS	TOTAL	COST	COMPLAINT	RTO	ADOPT	COST
1			0.00				
2			0.00				
3			0.00				
4			0.00				
5			0.00				
6			0.00				
7	1-3	2	178.00				
8	12-2	2	178.00	1 Complaint			
9			0.00				
10	4-6	2	178.00				
11			0.00				
12			0.00				
13	11-1	2	178.00	1 Complaint			
14			0.00				
15			0.00				
16			0.00				
17	1-3	2	178.00				
18			0.00				
19			0.00				
20			0.00				
21			0.00				
22	1-3	2	178.00				
23			0.00				
24			0.00				
25			0.00				
26			0.00				
27			0.00				
28			0.00				
29			0.00				
30			0.00				
31			0.00				

PATROL COSTS	12	\$1,068.00
IMPOUND FEES		\$0.00
SUBTOTAL		\$1,068.00
GST		\$53.40
TOTAL		<u>\$1,121.40</u>

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WHERE PEOPLE ARE THE KEY

Mtg. Date Mar 27, 2023

Agenda Item 9.1

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 9, 2023

BYLAW NO. 1363/22 – PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held for Bylaw No. 1363/22. Bylaw No. 1363/22 is a bylaw of Lacombe County to adopt an off-site levy for land that is to be subdivided or developed within the Palm Cove Area on Sylvan Lake.

Following the public hearing, Bylaw No. 1363/22 was given second and third reading and so passed.

BYLAW NO. 1384/23 – PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held for Bylaw No. 1384/23. Bylaw No. 1384/23 is a bylaw of Lacombe County to adopt the South of Highway 11(East of Haynes) Area Structure Plan.

Following the public hearing, Bylaw No. 1384/23 was given second and third reading and so passed.

CLIVE ATHLETIC AND AG. SOCIETY

Representatives of the Clive Ag. Society presented proposed upgrades to the Clive Arena’s ice plant. The Society will request funding from Lacombe County through County Policy RC(1) Capital Support of Recreation and Cultural Facilities.

LACOMBE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Eric Burton, from Factor5 Group, provided a presentation on the proposed Lacombe County Economic Development Strategy. Following the formal endorsement of the Strategy by Council at a future meeting, the initiatives proposed in the Strategy will move forward. The County has applied for the Northern and Regional Economic Development Program Grant to assist with implementing future initiatives.

LACOMBE COUNTY MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN & LAND USE BYLAW 5-YEAR REVIEW

A presentation regarding *The Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw 5-Year Review* was presented for Council’s information.

RMA SPRING CONVENTION – RESOLUTIONS

Council reviewed the proposed RMA Spring Convention resolutions to be presented at the RMA Spring Convention, scheduled for March 20 to 22, 2023.

BYLAW NO. 1389/23

Bylaw No. 1389/23, a bylaw of Lacombe County to amend the Sylvan Lake Area Structure Plan Bylaw No. 1127/10 related to Dwelling and Residential Regulations and Requirements, received first reading and approval to hold a public hearing. A public hearing for Bylaw No. 1389/23 will be held on April 13, 2023 commencing at 9:00 a.m.

**Next Regular Council Meeting is
Thursday, March 23, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.**

**Next Committee of the Whole Meeting is
April 4, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.**

Lacombe County Administration Building

****For more details from Lacombe County Council meetings, please refer to the meeting minutes. All meeting minutes are posted on the website (www.lacombecounty.com) after approval.**

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Jack Ramsden

From: Cathy Heron <president@abmunis.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 9:18 AM
To: Jack Ramsden
Subject: Member Requests for Decisions at Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus
Attachments: RFD Lack of consultation between Alberta Health Services, the provincial government, and municipalities - Town of Ponoka.pdf; RFD - Strengthening Provincial Regulations to Improve Safety of Unlicensed Private Day Homes- City of Calgary (1).pdf

Hello Mayors, Councillors, and CAOs:

During our upcoming [Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus](#), attendees will have the chance to consider the attached Requests for Decision (RFDs):

- *Strengthening Provincial Regulations to Improve Safety of Unlicensed Private Day Homes* submitted by the City of Calgary
- *Lack of Consultation Between Alberta Health Services, the Provincial Government, and Municipalities* submitted by the Town of Ponoka

The RFD Session is scheduled for Thursday, March 30 at 4:40 p.m. Elected representatives from the submitting municipalities have two minutes to introduce their respective RFDs. Then audience members can make comments or ask questions – you will have up to 45 seconds for your question or comment. Once there are no further questions or comments from the audience, the Elected Officials from ABmunis Regular Members, in attendance will be invited to vote on the RFD using the online platform Mentimeter.

An RFD is approved if 51 percent or more of votes cast are in favour. If the RFD is not approved, no further action is taken, and the matter is closed. If the RFD is approved, it is reviewed by one of ABmunis' standing committees, which then makes recommendations to the ABmunis Board on next steps. A brief update on previous years' RFDs will be provided at the session.

RFDs give members the opportunity to raise issues of concern outside of our annual Convention. As such, the process for submitting, considering, and following up on RFDs is less formal than the process for resolutions considered at Convention.

I look forward to connecting with many of you at Caucus, as well as at the [President's Summit](#), which takes place directly beforehand.

Other ABmunis events that are coming up include the [Elected Officials Education Program](#) virtual offering of the [land use planning course](#) in April and [strategic planning course](#) in May. Don't miss out on these opportunities to build essential skills for municipal leadership!

Cathy Heron | President

E: president@abmunis.ca
300-8616 51 Ave Edmonton, AB T6E 6E6
Toll Free: 310-MUNI | 877-421-6644 | www.abmunis.ca



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We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, and play on the traditional and ancestral territories of many Indigenous, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. We acknowledge that what we call Alberta is the traditional and ancestral territory of many peoples, presently subject to Treaties 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10 and Six Regions of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

MEMBER REQUEST FOR DECISION SPRING MUNICIPAL LEADERS' CAUCUS

DATE:

March 30 and 31, 2023

TOPIC:

Lack of Consultation Between Alberta Health Services, the Provincial Government, and Municipalities

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Council from the Town of Ponoka requests that the Alberta Municipalities Board advocate for municipalities across the province to be included in the decision-making process when it comes to health care issues concerning their communities, which currently are being made almost exclusively and unilaterally by Alberta Health Services and the provincial government;
2. And further, that Council from the Town of Ponoka requests that the Alberta Municipalities advocate for the provincial government to ensure funding is made available to airports that currently find themselves in the position of needing upgrades to comply with both new Alberta Health Services and provincial standards, and to commit to providing funding to other airports who may find themselves in a similar situation in the very near future.

BACKGROUND:

Early in November 2022, with no advance notice or consultation with the municipality, Alberta Health Services placed the Ponoka Airport on a no-fly winter status. This restriction meant that air ambulance/medivac flights were prohibited from landing at the Ponoka Airport. Three weeks later on November 22, 2022, Alberta Health Services notified Ponoka Town Council of fixed wing safety concerns at the airport, and advised that patients requiring fixed wing air ambulances would be transported through the Wetaskiwin Airport and then be transported by ground ambulance to the destination facility.

Following these events, meetings were arranged with representation from MLA Ron Orr (Lacombe/Ponoka); MLA R. J. Sigurdson (Parliamentary Secretary for EMS Reform), Alberta Health Services, EMS/Air Ambulance Authority, Ponoka County and the Town of Ponoka, where information was shared after the fact.

At these meetings information was shared regarding the varying degrees of experience of pilots and that a risk assessment was conducted which identified hazards on landing the King Aircraft on the existing runway, which is at the minimum length, during winter conditions. It was also identified that in order to achieve full operation, the airport in the future would require an extension to the runway to achieve compliance with operational standards. Funding implications associated with an extension to the runway were also discussed

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and it was suggested that Ponoka along with other municipalities lobby the government to ensure funding be made available.

In researching other airports across the province, it was noted that several other airport runways are of similar size and may become subject to the same restrictions imposed on Ponoka. Similarly, we have been informed of airport closures in Two Hills and Spirit River, with the same lack of consultation on behalf of the provincial bodies, whose decisions ultimately impact resources and residents at the local level.

Ponoka's circumstances are unique in that we have the Centennial Centre for Mental Health and Brain Injury, a 330-bed hospital, which serves residents from across Alberta and even some from out of province, as well as the Ponoka Hospital and Care Centre which no longer has a functioning Helipad. Both of these care facilities rely on the air ambulance operations coming into Ponoka, and represent 400 beds.

Additionally, while the Centennial Centre for Mental Health and Brain Injury serves the entire province, the Ponoka Hospital and Care Centre serves a catchment area of nearly 50,000 people, which is comprised of the Town of Ponoka, Ponoka County and Maskwacis residents. To that end, the Emergency Department at the Ponoka Hospital and Care Centre sees on average 70 patients in a 24-hour period.

One only wonders had Ponoka been involved in the consultation and decision-making process regarding the suspension of medivac flights to Ponoka, would the outcomes have been different.

The impacts of this decision include:

- Unknown effects on patients requiring transport. 101 medivac flights came into Ponoka in 2022 delivering 87 patients to the Centennial Centre for Mental Health and Brain Injury. As a designated provincial mental health facility, air ambulance services are paramount in ensuring that patients have access to the mental health services they need in a timely and least invasive manner. It is common practice that patients from across the province receive treatment at this facility, as these specialized services are not available in many municipalities.
- Placing additional stress and workload on an already over-taxed ground ambulance service as these patients have to be transported by ground ambulance from Wetaskiwin which is 39 km away and adds 78 km for a round trip, with at least another hour in travel time.

While we are using our own experience in Ponoka as an example, we understand that lack of proactive, and transparent communication on healthcare decisions with a direct impact on local communities is an issue faced by municipalities across Alberta.

Support of this issue from the Alberta Municipalities will raise an awareness of the importance of reaching out to those closest to the source and inviting them to participate in the decision-making process.

ENCLOSURES:

None



MEMBER REQUEST FOR DECISION

SPRING MUNICIPAL LEADERS' CAUCUS

DATE:

March 30-31, 2023

TOPIC:

Strengthening Provincial Regulations to Improve Safety of Unlicensed Private Day Homes

RECOMMENDATION:

That Calgary City Council requests that the Alberta Municipalities Board advocate to the Minister of Children's Services to increase protections for the youngest and most vulnerable Albertans by:

1. Mandating minimum safety standards for unlicensed private day homes including, but not limited to:
 - a) Valid First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification for the day home operator and any employees.
 - b) A criminal record check with vulnerable sector search for the day home operator and any employees.
 - c) A criminal record check with vulnerable sector search for any individual 18 years or older who resides at the day home, regardless of whether they are providing care to children.
2. Ensuring all unlicensed private day home providers across the province have access to affordable and timely First Aid/CPR training, criminal record checks and vulnerable sector searches.

BACKGROUND:

Alberta families should not have to sacrifice safety when choosing child care for their children. Currently, the *Early Learning and Child Care Act* allows for two types of home-based child care: licensed and unlicensed. Whereas licensed home-based child care providers are recruited, trained, and regularly monitored by provincially-licensed family day home agencies, there is no government oversight of unlicensed home-based child care providers and there are no minimum standards to operate an unlicensed private day home. Private day homes are businesses that provide care to children 12 and under out of the caregiver's own home but do not include babysitters, nannies and informal arrangements with family and friends. Currently, the only regulation in place for unlicensed private day home operators is that they are only permitted to care for a maximum of six children, not including their own.

Serious incidents, including traumatic injury, sexual assault, and death have occurred in unlicensed private day homes across the province. The tragic death of 22-month-old toddler Mackenzy Woolfsmith at an unlicensed private day home in Calgary in 2012 sparked a Public Fatality Inquiry led by Justice Joshua B. Hawkes in February 2018. In the Public Fatality Report, released in December 2018, Justice Hawkes detailed the lack of risk-focused regulation of the child care sector and made 10 recommendations to

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enhance child care safety. Notably, in paragraph 63(b) on page 12 of the report, Justice Hawkes recommended that a legislative review of provincial regulations for child care be conducted and that “a specific focus of that legislative review should be to shift the focus from solely regulating the size of unlicensed daycare to a focus on reducing risk and increasing protective factors in all forms of child care. Academic research, the experience of other jurisdictions and the tragedy in this case all illustrate and support the need for risk focused regulation of child care¹”.

The Ministry of Children’s Services formally responded to the Public Fatality Report in September 2019 and accepted, or accepted in principle, all 10 recommendations proposed by Justice Hawkes. Following a legislative review, a new *Early Learning and Child Care Act* was introduced in February 2021. Although the updated Act made strides toward addressing some of Justice Hawkes’ recommendations, there were no proactive measures introduced to improve safety for children in unlicensed care. While child care providers operating under a provincially-licensed day home agency are required to pass a criminal record check, there are still no restrictions in place to prevent individuals with criminal records from operating an unlicensed private day home and no requirement that they disclose past convictions to prospective families. This leaves the door open for individuals like Mackenzy Woolfsmith’s care provider, who was convicted of manslaughter in connection with her death, to continue operating.

Municipalities across Alberta have been left to address this significant gap in provincial legislation through a variety of municipal interventions. Calgary City Council recently took steps to enhance safety in unlicensed private day homes by approving a municipal business licence to ensure applicants meet minimum standards, including valid first aid/CPR and criminal record checks and vulnerable sector searches for child care providers and residents of the home. Other municipalities have fewer requirements, and many more have no additional rules for private day homes over and above provincial legislation. This has led to a patchwork of regulations across the province, and a two-tiered system where children in licensed child care programs receive significantly more protections from the Government of Alberta than those in unlicensed care. In November 2022, the Children’s Services mandate letter was released and committed to ensuring more transparency and accountability in unlicensed day homes, including increased training. This is a positive step but falls short of the changes needed to ensure the safety of children in unlicensed child care.

All families care deeply about the health and safety of their children but must make decisions regarding their care within constraints such as child care space availability, location, cost, and work schedules. Currently, there are only enough provincially-regulated child care spaces in Alberta for approximately three out of every 10 children². This has made licensed child care unattainable for many families and, in the absence of provincial safety standards, has left municipalities to shoulder the burden of ensuring children in unlicensed private day homes are protected. Although the province recently committed to creating 42,500 new licensed child care spaces over the next five years, Statistics Canada reported in 2001 that 62 per cent of child care providers in Alberta were unlicensed home-based³. With so many children still in unlicensed care across the province, and an ever-increasing number of incidents occurring in the 10 years since Mackenzy Woolfsmith’s tragic death, it is time for Alberta Municipalities members to add their collective voices to the call for provincial accountability for improved safety and oversight of unlicensed private day homes.

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The City of Calgary appreciates the feedback provided by the Alberta Municipalities Small Communities Committee on an early draft of this request for decision and acknowledges the need for the Government of Alberta to ensure that all unlicensed private day home providers across the province have access to affordable and timely First Aid/CPR training, criminal record checks and vulnerable sector searches.

¹ Report to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General Public Fatality Inquiry, 2018:

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/c0485cf2-dc5f-4a49-8459-fe60e29d3bac/resource/adc0a267-4d51-4b91-9caf-c4a00fed419/download/woolfsmith-fatality-inquiry-report.pdf>

² Headed Up, But Still Behind, Child Care Coverage Rates in Alberta's Top Ten Largest Cities, 2016 - 2021:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f170b16bf7d977d587e43c4/t/62c46530ba63d74c32d55c64/1657038128826/Coverage+Rates+in+Albertas+Ten+Largest+Cities+2022-06-23.Final.pdf>

²Statistics Canada <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/210615/dq210615c-eng.htm>

ENCLOSURES:

None

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MEDIA RELEASE

March 20, 2023

Farm Vehicle Safety Inspections April 5 & 6

(Lacombe, Alberta - March 20, 2023) – Lacombe County is hosting a two-day voluntary farm vehicle safety check at its satellite Tees and Rainy Creek public works shops. These checks aim to increase the safety and awareness of our agricultural industry and promote 'Vision Zero,' a part of Lacombe County's Traffic Safety Plan.

'Vision Zero' is the idea that any loss of life on Alberta's roads is unacceptable; Farm Vehicle Safety checks go a long way in ensuring our community is safe and provide a positive experience with our local producers.

"We want to make sure our farmers and ranchers are not going to be stuck on the side of the road because of a breakdown - or worse yet, involved in an accident because of equipment failure," said Ray Kawai, Lacombe County Community Peace Officer. "It's all about education and working together to promote road safety for everyone."

Under Alberta law, a farm vehicle is subject to the same vehicle equipment regulations as any other commercial vehicle. Lacombe County's goal is to work with local producers to promote a positive image for our farming community.

Commercial Vehicle Inspectors will be on hand to conduct safety inspections under the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance. If safety violations are found, they will be noted on a personalized vehicle inspection report, and instructions will be given to the driver on how to proceed with repairs.

Note: Inspection results are indicated on Carrier Profiles of those operating under the authority of a Safety Fitness Certificate; please get in touch with CPO Services if you have any questions.

Questions about ELDs, load securement, or other transport-related inquiries can be directed to our local Peace Officers, who are more than happy to help.

Details:

Please show up any time between 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; refreshments and lunch will be provided. Call the number below to book a time, or stop in. Those who book a time will be prioritized; drop-ins will fit in.

(NOTE: if bringing multiple vehicles, please space arrival times by approximately 20 minutes).

Locations:

- April 5, Rainy Creek Satellite Shop located on Rainy Creek Road near RR 3-0.
- April 6, Tees Satellite Shop located on Hwy 12 and Hwy 821, Tees.

For more information or to book a time, please call 403-782-8959 or email kparent@lacombecounty.com. We hope to see you there.

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