

AGENDA
COUNCIL MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
October 28, 2025
Following Organizational Meeting
Council Chambers

A. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

B. DELEGATION

C. MINUTES/NOTES

1. Council Committee Minutes
 - October 14, 2025
2. Council Meeting Minutes
 - October 14, 2025

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS / DIVISIONAL CONCERNS

1. Councillor Tony Bruder – Division 1
2. Reeve Rick Lemire – Division 2
3. Councillor Dave Cox – Division 3
4. Councillor Jim Welsch - Division 4
5. Councillor John MacGarva – Division 5

G. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. Operations

- a) Public Works Department Report
 - Report from Public Works dated October 20, 2025
 - Schedule A – Shop/Fleet Report
 - 2025-2026 Bus Routes (will be available in Council Chambers for viewing)
- b) Utilities & Infrastructure Report
 - Report from Utilities & Infrastructure dated October 21, 2025
- c) Community Events Board - Budgetary Increase Request
 - Report from Utilities & Infrastructure dated October 21, 2025
- d) Alberta Community Partnership Grant Application – Regional Facilities Condition Assessment & Master Plan
 - Report from Utilities & Infrastructure dated October 21, 2025

2. Finance

3. Planning and Community Services

4. Municipal

- a) CAO Report
 - Report from Administration, dated October 22, 2025

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1) For Action

- a) Invitation to Attend Strategic Planning Session
 - Invitation from Allied Arts Council

2) For Information

- a) Highway 3 Twinning, Town of Pincher Creek to Town of Fort Macleod Functional Planning Study
 - Update from Project Manager, dated October 17, 2025
- b) Support for Cardston County Concerns – Grizzly Bear Numbers

- Letter from Town of Cardston, dated October 10, 2025
- c) Request to Distribute Grassy Mountain Project Materials from Slopes Studio Creative Resistance
 - Selenium Poisoning and the Impact of Toxic Watersheds
 - The Alberta Coal Timeline
 - Issues of Water (Short Form) 11/18/2025
- d) ALUS Pincher Creek
 - ALUS Municipalities One-Pager
 - ALUS WRRP Project Impact 2018-2025
 - ALUS National Brochure
- e) Indoor Sport Court update
 - Update from Town of Pincher Creek

I. NEW BUSINESS

J. CLOSED MEETING SESSION

- a) Public Works Call Log – ATIA Sec. 29.1
- b) Pincher Creek Early Learning Center Update – ATIA Sec. 19.1
- c) Road Closure and Realignment Request – ATIA Sec. 29.1

K. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
Tuesday, October 14, 2025,
11:00 am
Council Chambers

Present: Reeve Rick Lemire, Deputy Reeve Tony Bruder, Councillors John MacGarva and Jim Welsch.

Staff: CAO Roland Milligan, Director of Corporate Services Meghan Dobie, Public Works Manager Alan McRae, Utilities & Infrastructure Manager David Desabrais, Development Officer Laura McKinnon, Director of Corporate Services Meghan Dobie, Finance Manager Brendan Schlossberger, and Executive Assistant Jessica McClelland.

Reeve Rick Lemire called the meeting to order, the time being 11:00 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

Councillor Tony Bruder

Moved that the agenda for the October 14, 2025, Committee Meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

2. Delegations

3. Closed Session

Councillor Jim Welsch

Moved that the Council move into closed session to discuss the following, the time being 11:02 am.

- a) 11:00 am Tourism and Sport – ATIA Sec. 19.1
- b) Draft Capital Budget – ATIA Sec. 28.1

Councillor John MacGarva

Moved that Council move out of closed session, the time being 2:35 pm.

Carried

7. Round Table

- Road allowance concern
- Highway 774
- Bridge concern, Division 4
- Elected Officials Training

8. Adjournment

REGULAR COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025

Councillor John MacGarva

Moved that the committee meeting adjourn at 2:49 pm.

Carried

REEVE

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Councillor Tony Bruder – Division 1
 - CPO Open House
 - Pincher Creek Regional Emergency Management Organization
2. Reeve Rick Lemire – Division 2
 - Alberta SouthWest
 - Pincher Creek Emergency Services
 - CPO Open House
 - MD Safety Core Audit
 - Retirement for Mayor Anderberg
3. Councillor Dave Cox– Division 3

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 Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9
 October 14, 2025

- Pincher Foundation
- Castle Mountain Community Association
- Pincher Creek Emergency Services
- 4. Councillor Jim Welsch - Division 4
 - CPO Open House
 - Family and Community Support Services
 - Memorandum of Understanding in Cardston County with Kainai/Blood Tribe
- 5. Councillor John MacGarva – Division 5
 - Crowsnest Pincher Creek Landfill
 - Healthcare Committee
 - Housing Committee
 - Lundbreck Citizens Council
 - CPO Open House
 - Planning Session
 - Pincher Creek Regional Emergency Management Organization

Councillor Jim Welsch 25/462

Moved to accept the Committee Reports as information.

Carried

G. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. Operations

a) Public Works Operations Report

Councillor Tony Bruder 25/463

Moved that Council receive the Public Works Operations Report, including Schedule A – Shop/Fleet Report, for the period September 15, 2025, to October 5, 2025, as information.

Carried

b) Utilities & Infrastructure Report

Councillor John MacGarva 25/464

Moved that Council received the Utilities & Infrastructure report for September 4, 2025 to October 8, 2025, as information.

Carried

2. Finance

3. Development and Community Services

a) Road Closure Resolution Portion of Uncancelled Road Plan 1835 HX within NE 12-7-3 W5M

Councillor John MacGarva 25/465

Moved that the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9, for the purpose of closing to public travel and cancelling a public highway, in accordance with Section 24 of the Municipal Government Act, Chapter M26, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, as amended.

WHEREAS, the lands hereafter described are no longer required for public travel, NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 does hereby close the following described road, subject to rights of access granted by other legislation.

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 October 14, 2025

NE 12-7-3-5

ALL THAT PORTION OF UNCANCELLED ROAD PLAN 1835 HX FORMING PART OF LOT 16, BLOCK 1, PLAN CONTAINING 2.509 HECTARES (6.20 ACRES) MORE OR LESS EXCEPTING THEREOUT ALL MINES AND MINERALS

To be transferred to:
 SHEILA CAROL PRATCHLER AND MICHAEL PRATCHLER
 BOTH OF: BOX 296
 LUNDBRECK, ALBERTA, T0K 1H0

Carried

b) Community Energy Analysis and Design Grants

Councillor Dave Cox 25/466

Moved that Council approve grant applications to the Northern and Regional Economic Development (NRED) program, and the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) for analysis and design of a community solar project.

Carried

4. Municipal

a) CAO Report

Councillor Jim Welsch 25/467

Moved that Council receive the CAO Report for the period September 22, 2025, to October 8, 2025, as information.

Carried

b) Requested Feedback for Proposed Bylaws (1365-25 Traffic and 1366-25 Community Standards)

Administration to gather feedback on the proposed bylaws and return to Council no later than the meeting in December.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

A. For Action

a) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Kainai/Blood Tribe and the Town of Cardston & Surrounding Area

Councillor Jim Welsch 25/468

Moved that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Kainai/Blood Tribe and the Town of Cardston & Surrounding Area, be received as information.

Carried

b) Castle Mountain Resort – New Years Eve Fireworks

Councillor Dave Cox 25/469

Moved to grant Castle Mountain Resort \$2500 towards the New Years Eve Fireworks,

AND THAT the amount be taken from grants to groups and organizations.

Carried

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- c) Upcoming Mandate Review of Canada Post Could Affect Jobs and Services in Your Community

Councillor Tony Bruder 25/470

Moved to receive the Upcoming Mandate Review of Canada Post Could Affect Jobs and Services in Your Community, as information.

Carried

- d) Letter of Support – Heritage Acres

Councillor Jim Welsch 25/471

Moved that Council approve a letter of support for Heritage Acres, in their application for a grant through the Canadian Heritage - Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage.

Carried

- e) Curling Club Groundbreaking Invitation

Councillor Jim Welsch 25/472

Moved that Councillor Dave Cox attend, and bring greetings, to the Pincher Creek Curling Rink Ground Breaking Ceremony on October 18, 2025.

Carried

B. For Information

Councillor Jim Welsch 25/473

Moved that the following be received as information:

- a) Kootenai Brown's Spooky Town
 - Taking Place Saturday, October 25, 2025
- b) Cavvy Energy WAG Report
 - Fall 2025
- c) Community Solar Open House
 - Thursday, October 23, 2025

Carried

I. NEW BUSINESS

J. CLOSED SESSION

Councillor John MacGarva 25/474

Moved that Council move into closed session to discuss the following, the time being 4:41 pm.

- a) Public Works Call Log – ATIA Sec. 29.1
- b) Committee Member Discussion – ATIA Sec. 29.1

Councillor Dave Cox 25/475

Moved that Council move out of closed session, the time being 5:00 pm.

Carried

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Pincher Creek Library Board

Councillor Tony Bruder 25/476

Moved that administration be instructed to send a letter to the Pincher Creek Library Board requesting that, since the current MD representatives have served on the board for a period exceeding what is permitted by the Library Bylaws, the library and the MD should advertise for new board members.

Carried

K. ADJOURNMENT

Councillor Jim Welsch 25/477

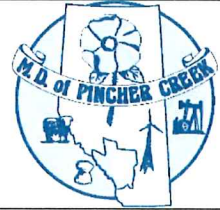
Moved that Council adjourn the meeting, the time being 5:01pm.

Carried

REEVE

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Recommendation to Council



TITLE: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT

PREPARED BY: Alan McRae

DATE: October 21, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

ATTACHMENTS:

1.Shop/Fleet Report

2. 2025-2026 Bus Route (Not attached, map will be available for review in Council Chambers)

APPROVALS:

October 21, 2025

2025/10/21

Public Works Manager

Date

CAO

Date

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council accepts the Public Works Department Report for the period of October 6 to October 19, 2025 as information.

- Gravel road maintenance-** 7 divisional graders maintain roads
- Hard Surface Maintenance-** Sand bridge decks
- Ditch Maintenance-** Mowing- finished in all divisions, some recutting in Div 2
- Ditch Maintenance-** Shoulder rehab with reclaimer
- Culvert Maintenance-** Culvert end clean-outs in Div 5
- Culvert Maintenance-** Mow and weed whip ditch and around culvert ends on culvert on Twp 7-0 (Div 3) so it can be inspected prior to upcoming replacement.
- Mowing perimeter of Lundbreck lagoons**
- Fill in abandoned storm drain in Lundbreck**
- Temporary snow fence install**
- Replace guardrail and posts at Gladstone and Highway #507. Call log item from February 2025.**
- Gravel Twp 5-0 in Div 1**
- Load out cement at Fishburn/Marr Cemetery**

Recommendation to Council

EVENTS

JHSC Inspection- October 9th

JHSC Meeting- October 16th

Benefits Orientation- Oct 1st

Finning- Orientation on new grader- Oct 17th

6 month seasonals last day- Oct 17th

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT SCHEDULE "A"

SHOP/FLEET OPERATIONAL REPORT



PREPARED BY: ALAN MCRAE

DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2025

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS

ATTACHMENTS: N/A

SHOP/FLEET OPERATIONS SUMMARY:

Graders

Unit #57 (mower grader)-T/S mower hydraulic fan

Unit #63-Install snow equipment

Unit #70- Service and repairs, install snow equipment

Unit #72- Replace blade shim

Unit #74- Install chain rack on new grader

Heavy Trucks/Trailers/Equipment

Unit #7 (loader)- Replace frog and add gussets to snow blade. New cutting edges installed-Ongoing

Unit #13 (gravel pup)- CVIP and repairs

Unit #418 (gravel/plow truck)- Pre CVIP inspection, service and preventative maintenance checks

Unit #420 (tractor)- T/S and repair coolant leak on radiator

Light Duty and Light Trailers

Unit #400 (flat deck)- Field call- Intercooler hose

Unit #494 (3/4 ton)-Power train service

Unit #505 (3/4 ton)-R&R blower motor

EVENTS

JHSC Meeting- October 16th



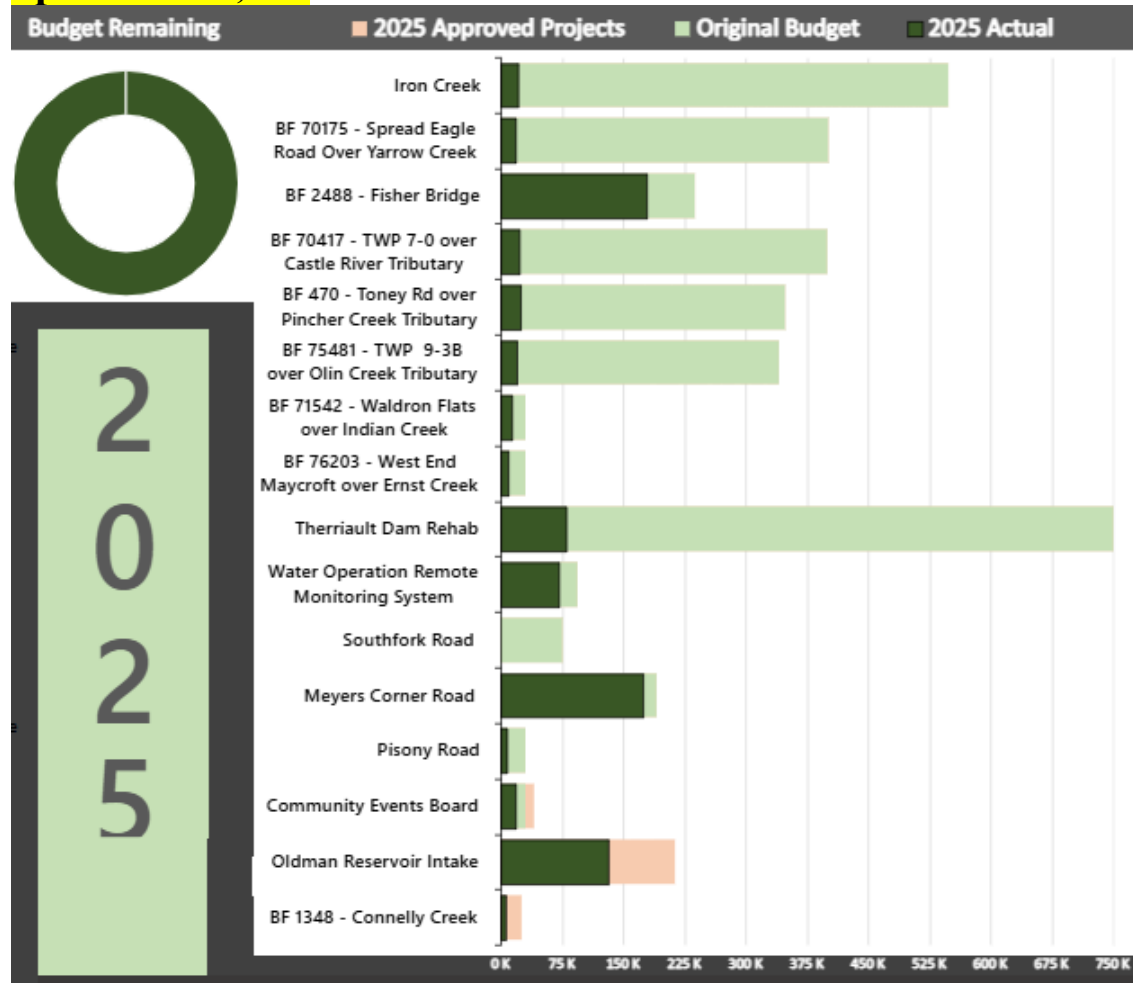
M.D. OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9

UTILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

G1b

General Projects Budget Update

2025 Approved Budget: \$3,858,000 Oct 21st Spent: \$794,044 Oct 6th Spend: \$609,923



Large Ongoing Projects (Pre-2025 Construction Start)

- **Beaver Mines Water/Wastewater Projects**
 - Final turnover package received, GIS information received Jan 20th
 - Warranty discussions
 - WWTP Septic tank experiencing infiltration. Fix work complete. Issue appears to still not be resolved, obtaining evidence for further warranty work
 - Lagoon de-icers tripping with known GFCI breaker issue. On-site troubleshoot day occurred June 25th, issue with wiring still exists. Local contractor brought in to help assess, work complete end of August. Two (2) agitators sent for warranty. Re-installation complete, all agitators operational
 - Awaiting minor changes to Lift Station Record drawings

- **Oldman Reservoir Water Intake Low Level Project**
 - \$1.68M grant application finalized Jan 30th, 2024
 - Approval received for \$1.8M project, covering up to 75% of costs
 - DFPP (Drought and Flood Protection Program) grant application approved, topping up Capital Project and covering 70% of costs for a Drought Projects Assessment
 - Troubleshooting difficulties with reaching flow capacity of VIS'
 - All accessible testing complete without resolution
 - TFA received Jul. 25th to access structure once levels drop
 - Discussion held with hydrogeologist and original driller Aug. 18th to discuss plan to pull pumps, perform lower pressure test (once accessible)
 - Pitless adapter pressure test part ordered
 - Scoping parts and pricing for Potassium Permanganate treatment addition. Cost estimate and delivery received Oct. 17th, assessing install locations. Anticipated install timeline from order is 4 months
- **Bridge File 2488 – Fisher Bridge, NW-26-07-02-W5M**
 - Final inspection complete Sep. 10th. Provincial BIM inspection also complete by 3rd party. Deficiencies identified and addressed pending final review by MD. Clearance given on 90% of deficiencies work
 - Clearance given to post load signage requirements greater than 10T
 - Reviewing potential alternate guardrail tie in at ends of bridges
- **Watercourse Crossing Inspection & Remediation Project – 100% Grant funded**
 - Funding agreement signed Mar. 28th, 2023 for \$1.55M
 - Extension received to March 31st, 2027
 - Funder confirmed prelim. eng. is acceptable on BF 1348 Connelly Creek (for use of remaining \$600,000 in funds)
 - Interim discussion held Oct 15th. Status report due Oct. 31st

Large Projects Planned for 2025 Implementation

Water Operations Remote Monitoring System Migration – 2025

SCADA System Migration to VTScada. Includes replacement of main desktop at WTP, full migration programming and HMIs (Human Machine Interfaces), and licensing software

- Awarded Jan 22nd. Desktop computer arrived. Updated and delivered to MPE
- New computer ordered and under re-programming due to continued issues with original computer shutting down
 - Fixed computer on-site and operational. Remote access enabled for testing

Meyers Corner Road Culvert Replacement

Replace failed 900mm culvert via boring method

- Sizing and aquatic assessment complete by Roseke in 2024. Design complete for a bored 1.37m x 35m Smooth Walled Welded Pipe
- Work substantially complete. Temp. fence to be removed in Spring to allow seed to take

Community Events Board, Admin Building

Single sided electric community events board on Admin building to advertise current events and upcoming meetings

- Project contingent on receiving required permits
 - Sign permit send to Town Apr. 11th. Approved during May 21st MSDA, appeal period complete June 11th
- PO placed on Genoptic Smart Display P10, holding on shipment until we are ready
- Confirmed no building permit required. Electrical permit will be required
- Council approved additional budget for standalone install Sep. 9th
- Stamped design received Sep. 22nd
- Awaiting final cost confirmation from contractor prior to finalizing permit modifications with Town
 - Costs received with revised local contractor. Stamped design was beyond original installers budget. Discussion required

• Bridge File 70175 – Yarrow Creek Bridge Rehabilitation, NW-22-003-030 W4M

Perform a pile splice repair on two piles in the west abutment, replace the east pile cap, place fill and riprap at the west headslope, minor wheel guard repairs & repairs to timber span, channel realignment, and west abutment riprap work

- Sensitive stream habitat, SARA permit required. Construction window of August
 - DFO SARA permit approval received Jan 15th
- Direction given to closeout land acquisition with RDS for bed/banks portion
 - Provincial Roadway Disposition (RDS) submitted, awaiting approval. TFA submitted July 15th while awaiting RDS approval, received Aug 6th. RDS received Aug. 8th
- Tender closed July 5th. Two (2) bids received. Awarded to low bidder (Volker Stevin) for **\$277,682 (Eng. Est. \$362,500)**
- WSC gauge wire move complete
- Pre-construction kickoff held Aug 15th, Phase 1 (stream/riprap work) complete. Phase 2 (bridge repairs) anticipated to occur **prior to Oct 28 Council meeting**

• WCR #1: Iron Creek under Tapay (Carbondale) Road, LSD SE-15-006-03 W5M

Install new 4.7m x 2m x 15m L corrugated steel box culvert to remediate fish passage concerns on Iron Creek under the WCR program (100% funded)

- Tender for install awarded to TA Excavating alongside South Todd Creek Tributary
- Completion: September 30th, 2025
- Contractual end date extended to Oct. 24th to allow time to plant Cottonwood palisades once dormant as recommended
- Site review complete Oct. 10th. Road and structure condition acceptable. Cleanup work required prior to Council

- **Bridge File 70417 – TWN RD 70 over Castle River Trib., SE-05-007-01 W5M**

6.1m clear span bridge with extensive rot and voids in piles and pile caps. Replace with two (2) 2m x 27m L CSPs

- Flexibility with construction timing window, anticipate Fall construction
- Awarded to low bidder (NLSS) for **\$325,660 (Eng. Est. \$367,749)**
- Council gave direction to proceed with road closure/detour at Aug. 26th meeting
- Traffic plan reviewed an suggestions given pending concurrent construction
- Awaiting contractor mobilization. Not anticipated until **early November**
- **Telus line move underway**

- **Bridge File 00470 – Toney Rd over Pincher Creek Trib., SE-02-006-01 W5M**

1.6m x 43m L culvert with significant perforations and minor deflections. Install Steel Wall Pipe Liner (SWPL)

- Flexibility with construction timing window, anticipate Fall construction
- Tender released Jul. 23rd, closed Aug. 8th. Four (4) bids received.
- Awarded to low bidder (Volker Stevin) for **\$198,744.46 (Eng. Est. \$282,471)**
- Traffic accommodation plan reviewed. Eco Plan sent for review
- Kicked off held Oct. 3rd, construction **started** Oct. 7th. Public notification released.
- **Anticipate completion prior to Council**

October 8, 2025
Upstream end with bevel
section removed.



October 8, 2025
Downstream end with
bevel section removed.



October 16, 2025
Upstream end clay seal
backfilling completed.
Riprap installation
underway.



October 17, 2025
Upstream riprap
installation completed.



- **Bridge File 75481 – TWN RD 93B over Olin Creek Trib., SW-23-009-01 W5M**

1.5m x 24m L culvert with high deflection and corrosion. Replace with two (2) 1.2m x 36m L CSPs

- Preliminary engineering complete Oct. 11th. STIP unsuccessful
- Design complete and reviewed by MD, upstream detour planned
- Gave direction to proceed with RDS and land
 - RDS submitted
 - Land package received Jun. 18, comments sent back for discussion. Direction given to proceed with fixing road plan misalignment within entire ¼ section. Working with surveyor to finalize
- Initial sampling complete, confirmed DFO review not required. Flexible construction timing window
- Council approved Mar. 31st, 2026 construction completion date at Sep. 23rd meeting
- Revised legal plan received Oct. 6th, finalizing tender preparations

Large Projects Planned for 2026 Implementation

- **WCR #3: Connelly Creek under Connelly Rd (BF 1348), LSD SW-03-008-02 W5M**

Preliminary engineering to replace or remediate the 3m x 49m L (5.6m cover) structural plate corrugated steel pipe (SPCSP) and remediate fish passage under the WCR Program. Structure is #8 on 10 year capital plan.

- Received funder guidance/approval to proceed with prelim eng. under WCR program
- Council approval received Mar. 11th, 2025
- Preliminary engineering kicked off Apr. 3rd
- Survey complete Apr. 25th

- **Pisomy Road over Cow Creek Tributary Culvert, LSD NE-01-009-03 W5M**

Non-bridge sized culvert failing on dead end road. 2024 funds to assess appropriate replacement sizing and design. Stream flows all year and culvert is likely undersized

- Preliminary engineering and basic aquatic assessment kicked off Jan. 31st, 2025 with Roseke. Reduced prelim. eng. scope compared to Bridge Files
- Preliminary engineering assessment received Jun. 16th. Under review
- Anticipate construction 2026

- **Bridge File 71542 – Waldron Flats over Indian Creek, SE-07-010-01 W5M**

2m x 2.2m x 32m L culvert with isolated perforations in the roof of 3 rings and 1 ring on the foot. Minor roof and sidewall deflection

- Preliminary engineering and aquatic assessment kicked off Jan. 31st, 2025 with Roseke to determine appropriate replacement design or maintenance (liner). Currently, it is anticipated replacement will be required
- Survey complete, drafted. Prelim. eng. received and reviewed Sep 9th/10th
- Recommendation is a 2.7m d x 48m L culvert replacement. Maintenance/liner options not feasible. Other feasible options include dual culverts (higher cost, reduced design life) or pre-cast concrete box (longer design life but 1.7x cost)
- Anticipate construction 2026

- **Bridge File 76203 – West End Maycroft over Ernst Creek, NW-26-010-03 W5M**

2.5m x 1.8m x 20m L culvert with 3 cracked rings in sidewall with 85mm remaining. Deflection and corrosion also present

- Preliminary engineering and aquatic assessment kicked off Jan. 31st, 2025 with Roseke to determine if maintenance of cracked seams is feasible via weld, shotcrete beam, etc. or if replacement has a better lifecycle value
- Anticipate construction 2026
- Survey complete, drafted. Prelim. eng. 80% complete

- **Therriault Dam – Rehabilitation Work (*Moved to 2026/2027*)**

Geotechnical and Hydrogeology study complete in 2023. 2024 preliminary engineering determined most economically viable solution to address undersized spillway/overtop potential. 2025 work includes detailed design work, regulatory submissions, and (pending regulatory approval and grant funding), tender/construction

- Design kicked off Jan 8th. Anticipated schedule:
 - Begin regulatory submissions mid March, 2025 (pending grant release)
 - Design completion mid April – June 2025
 - Timing of further works dependant on grant timing and regulatory approval timing
- Design, specifications, and costed estimate received Jun. 23. Reviewed and discussed Jun. 25th. Awaiting further comment/action on tightening estimate
- Grant funding stream released with round 1 funding deadline of Jul. 8-Aug. 19th, passed. 2nd call due Oct. 9, 2025
 - Unable to achieve project total under \$1M, disqualifying project from funding
- Council gave direction Aug 26th to revisit alongside drought funding options in 2026 Capital budget discussions

- **Southfork Hill Road**

Emergent investigatory and repair work for the Southfork Hill slide issues

- Geotechnical scope awarded and complete. Final geotech. report received Dec 9th
- STIP application submitted Nov. 28th, 2024 with letters of support from Campground and nearby farming operation. Revision submitted Dec. 19th with additional letter of support from MLA and final geotech. report
 - Response received June 2nd, 2025: Unsuccessful
- Project paused pending further deterioration or future grant opportunities. No capital spend planned for 2025

Studies and Planning Work

Regional Drought Strategic Implementation Strategy & Raw Water Storage Project

- Grant application for a Drought Projects Assessment under DFPP
 - Approval received to cover up to 70% of costs
- Grant application for 3 month (25-year) forecasted volumes
 - Approval received for \$3.4M project, up to 75% of costs. Signed and sent to ATEC
 - ATEC has confirmed stacking of AMMWP Raw Water Storage grant funds acceptable for the Drought Projects Assessment (Phase 2)
- Forecasted demand and water requirement scenarios presented to Council June 10th
- Draft water resource assessment received Aug. 8th, comments sent back Aug. 12th
- Received draft land siting and design criteria to approach stakeholders. **Three (3)** of three (3) initially planned stakeholders approached. Discussions ongoing

Transportation Master Plan

\$200,000 grant received from ACP to complete a Transportation Master Plan, consisting of a paved, gravel road condition assessment, culvert (non Bridge File) condition assessment, gravel pit analysis, airport runway assessment

- Awarded August, 2024
- Gravel pit report complete
- Maycroft Road draft prelim. assessment received May 26th
- Gravel road assessment field work complete. Culvert assessment field work complete, paved road assessment underway. Draft report received
 - Gravel road assessments 80% complete
 - Culvert arterial road assessments complete, GPS locating remaining culverts
- Airport load assessment work complete, data imports issue resolved. Draft report received and reviewed (May 7th), final report received May 25th
 - Concerns identified regarding Spring loading of taxiway, apron, and runway with the Lockheed L-188 Electra. Concerns discussed with Alberta Forestry June 4th
 - Working with MPE to cost out additional assessment to define max. loading requirement of taxiway, Summer loading capability, etc.
- Draft TMP report received Jul. 21st, significant amount of comments on new sections of report. Internal comments to be sent back to MPE prior to Sep. 9th Council meeting
 - Received comments back and path forward plan Sep. 10th. Discussion held with MPE Oct. 10th. Comments being incorporated

Cridland Dam

Geotechnical work as recommended in 2021 Dam Safety Review due to observed seepage and unknown soil properties

- Site visit complete Apr. 1st, costed plan received Apr. 25th
- Additional historic data located including geotechnical work from 1995, details on dam closure in the 90s, and rehabilitation work
- Dam Safety Alberta emailed us Apr. 23rd, requesting an update on the status of our high/medium priority Dam Safety Review (DSR) findings
 - Some gaps were identified in what we have tackled to date, Dam Safety Alberta seemed accepting with our overall progress to date
 - Upcoming provincial audit this year on Cridland Dam. Request received for audit in October, planned for Oct 27th
- Geotechnical analysis and spillways survey work kicked off with MPE May 16th, 2025
 - Geotechnical work complete June 4th/5th. Well observations ongoing
- Draft report for spillway discussed Jul. 22nd. Revised draft received Sep 25th, comments sent back for review Oct 8th. Geotechnical report discussed Jul. 30th. Final copy received Aug. 27th
 - Initial results indicate spillway requires some (relatively minor) earthworks and spillway culverts are undersized
 - Confirmed observed dam face seepage coming from reservoir. Dam face does not meet long term Factor of Safety (FoS) requirements
 - At minimum, recommendation is quarterly monitoring of seepage

Miscellaneous

- 10 yr. bridge study update kicked off Jan. 27th, 2025 with Roseke. Data entry complete
 - Estimate October completion

Operations Updates

WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

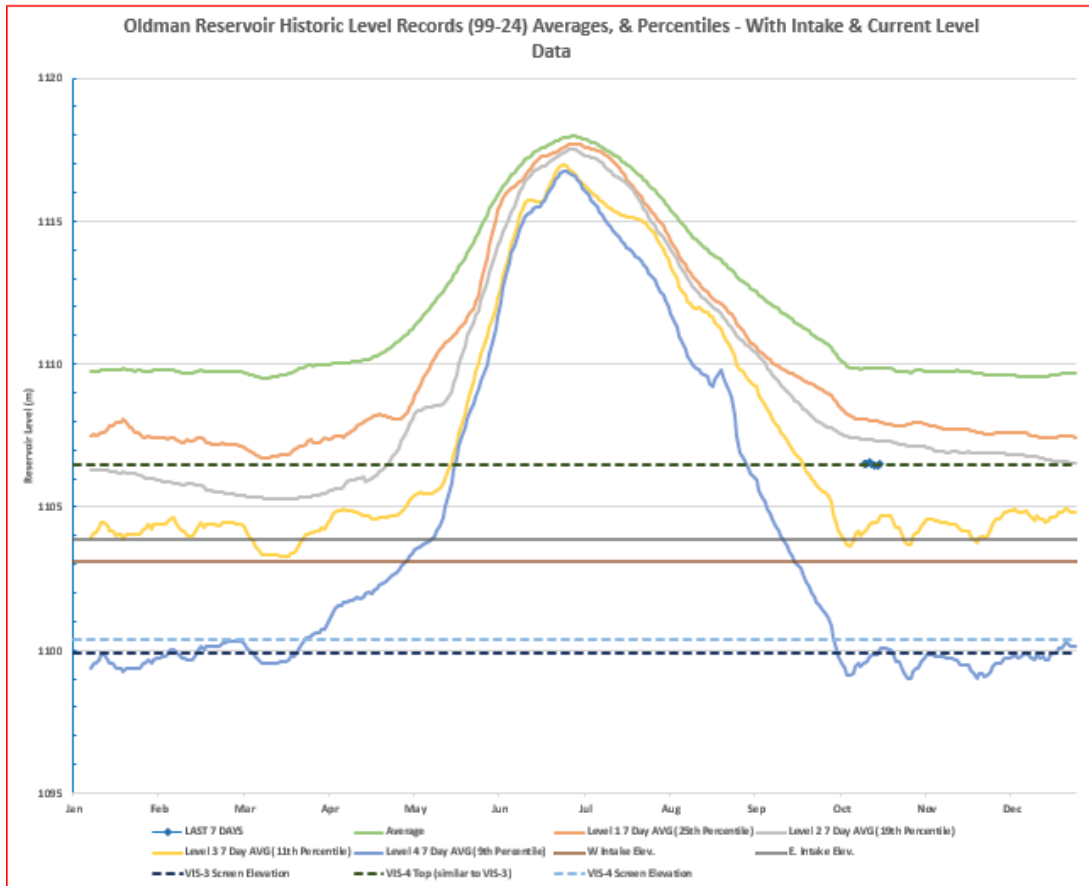
Implemented Stage: Stage 1 (July. 15th)

TOTAL WATER SHORTAGE RISK SCORE		
RESERVOIR LEVEL RISK	2.3	Score
WATER AVAILABILITY RISK	8.3	Score
FAILURE RISK	0.0	Score
SUPPLY/DEMAND RISK CALCULATION	4.0	Score
TOTAL	14.5	Score

- Reservoir levels have stabilized, slightly decreasing
- Demand has dropped since last Council update
 - Average 48 hr. demand: 237 m³/d ~~269 m³/d~~
 - Average 7 day demand: 270 m³/d ~~325 m³/d~~
- As of Oct. 6th, Alberta WIOB indicating end of season (Oct. 9th) level of 1106.5m (1106-1108m previously predicted)
 - Level may drop a bit after irrigation season, but pace of drop will rapidly level out
- Original intakes remain available (2.6m ~~2.9m~~ of water over intakes)
- Working on plans to access intakes if levels drop below flanges. Potential to access via ice may be a possibility for pressure testing

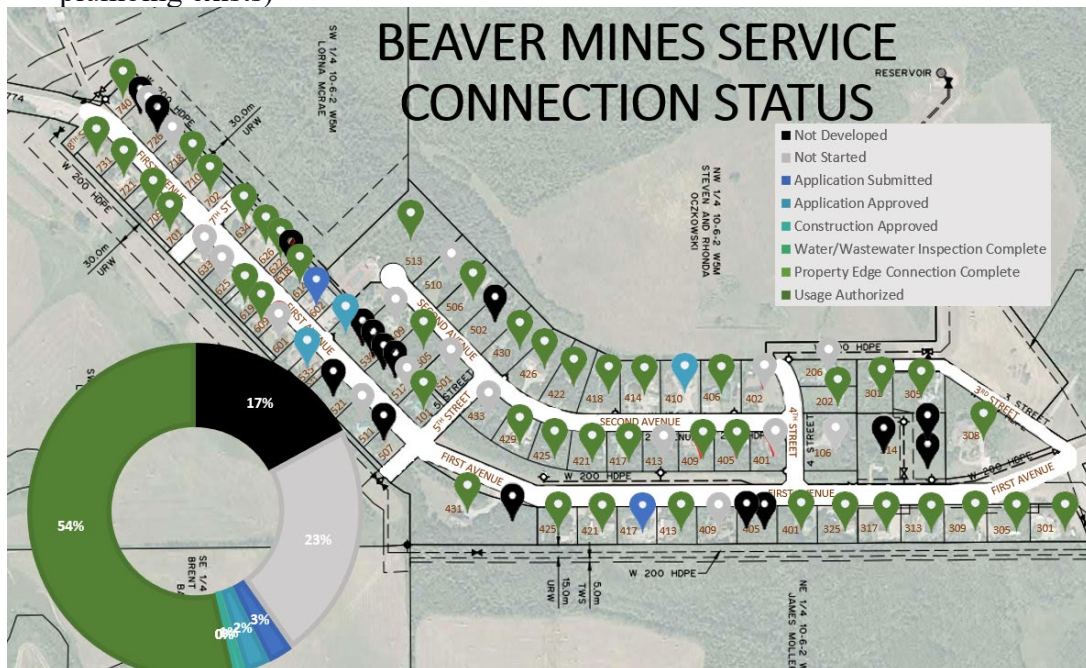
Reservoir & Snowpack Tracking

Reservoir Volume Oct 20th: 54.0% Oct. 6th: 54.9%



Beaver Mines Lot Servicing

- 49/66 developed applications received, 47 approved, 44 connected (67%)
 - Fifteen (15) undeveloped fully serviced locations, One (1) exempt with conditions (no plumbing exists)



Standpipes

- Last known issue: Jul. 11th (control line sedimentation/solenoid reaction issue at PC standpipe). Resolved Jul. 14th

General Water Operations Updates October 20th, 2025:

- Aerators pulled from Lundbreck Lagoon
- Lundbreck Lagoon release complete
- Frozen meter plate callout to Lundbreck
- Completing seasonal winterization activities
- Testing new SCADA software remote operations
- Identified via trending a likely leak in Lundbreck of 0.5 L/s, working to discover source
- Plant health check underway Oct. 21st, 22nd
- WWTP heat trace trip on one lateral failed. Issue resolved, caused corrosion in panel. Costing out fix & working to replace in house
- Utility Services Guidelines Update for Lundbreck and Rural Users drafted, backdraft of typical drawings and review by MPE complete and received Aug. 26th
- Lundbreck/Cowley reservoir inspections & cleaning complete
 - Reviewing options for repair work in Lundbreck Reservoirs B & C in next 1-3 years
- Letter sent to Cowley Mar 28th detailing various requests and proposed path forward for water assets, licenses, and amended operations contract
 - Cowley engaging with legal on proposed path, no response received to date
- Lundbreck Lagoon sludge survey complete. In depth report review complete Apr. 30th
 - Reviewing history of dredging/surveys prior to providing long term recommendations

Recommendation:

That the Utilities & Infrastructure report for October 9th – 21st is received as information.

Prepared by: David Desabrais

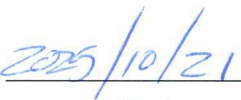
Date: October 21st, 2025

Council Meeting

Date: October 27th, 2025

Recommendation to Council

G1c

TITLE: Community Events Board – Budgetary Increase Request			
PREPARED BY: David Desabrais		DATE: October 20th, 2025	
DEPARTMENT: Utilities & Infrastructure			
David Desabrais	25/10/21	ATTACHMENTS: 1. September 9 th Council Request 2. Design Specifications	
Department Supervisor	Date		
APPROVALS:			
			
David Desabrais	25/10/21	Roland Milligan	2025/10/21
Department Director	Date	CAO	Date

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve an additional \$4,000 from the MD Buildings Reserve for the Community Events Board.

BACKGROUND:

- As per section 248(1) of the MGA, a council resolution is required for any capital work not included in the 2025 capital budget
- During the September 9th, 2025 Council Meeting, Council approved additional funds from the MD Buildings Reserve for the Community Events Board, bringing the capital project total to \$41,000
- The structural foundation design was completed September 22nd, requiring cast-in-place reinforced concrete piles
 - *Among other requirements, the engineering review was required by the development permit*
- The depth and requirements of the install exceeded what was anticipated by the supplier/installer and work was completed to revise a cost estimate
 - In an effort to reduce install costs while meeting structural requirements, an alternate local fabricator and mechanical installer was sourced whom recently completed a similar installation for the MD (Cowley Standpipe structure)
- Quoted costs as follows:
 - LED Display: **\$20,166**
 - Steel structure/frame fabrication including powder coating: **\$7,932**
 - Mechanical installation (including hydrovac, concrete pour with anchors, rebar, frame/display, and computer install): **\$9,764**
 - Electrical (*estimate*; permit + two (2) 20A dedicated circuits): **\$2,000**

Recommendation to Council

ALTERNATE CONSIDERATIONS

- As the signs are custom builds, they cannot be returned unless another buyer is found
- Switching to a lower quality enamel paint and other minor adjustments could reduce costs by around \$2,000, but may increase maintenance costs
- Currently the frame is 8.5 ft high (4 ft ground clearance). If it was lowered to ground level this could reduce some costs, but would introduce snow clearing issues & potential damage from mowers

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- Additional \$4,000 from the MD Building Reserve

Recommendation to Council

TITLE: Community Events Board – Budgetary Increase Request				
PREPARED BY: David Desabrais			DATE: September 9th, 2025	
DEPARTMENT: Utilities & Infrastructure				
David Desabrais		25/09/23	ATTACHMENTS:	
Department Supervisor		Date	1. N/A	
APPROVALS:				
 David Desabrais Department Director 25/09/23 Date  Roland Milligan CAO 2025/09/03 Date				

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve an additional \$11,000 from the MD Buildings Reserve for the Community Events Board.

BACKGROUND:

- As per section 248(1) of the MGA, a council resolution is required for any capital work not included in the 2025 capital budget
- The 2025 Capital Budget included \$30,000 for a single sided electronic community events board on the Admin building, contingent on permitting
- During the March 25th, 2025 Council meeting, Council discussed various options and Administration proceed with ordering the 4 ft x 8 ft Genoptic LED coloured sign, for install on the SW corner of the building. This solution was estimated to cost 98% of the \$30,000 budget
- A sign permit was submitted to the Town of Pincher Creek and approval with conditions received May 22nd
- The MD initiated a preliminary structural review to install the sign on the building in line with permit requirements in June
 - It was determined the building would not support an install on the building without additional support such as a beam to ground

ALTERNATE OPTION:

Administration has been working with the supplier/installer and engineering to come up with the most cost effective alternate option. The following is now proposed:

- A standalone 8.5 ft. painted steel frame sign mounted on concrete pylon base, installed about 5 ft from building
- Install location will be somewhere along SW corner to minimize electrical run requirements

Recommendation to Council

- The structural review and construction of the revised standalone sign is estimated to cost an additional \$9,000
- 10% contingency allowance for potential additional structural requirements (deeper concrete pylons/base) results in an estimated cost of **\$41,000**
- ATEC has indicated that no permit will be required, provided we follow their brightness and speed of message rotation guidelines
- The Town of Pincher Creek has preliminarily indicated no concerns with our change in direction, but will need to circulate our drawings and take them to MDSA to confirm no new application will be required

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- Additional \$11,000 from the MD Building Reserve

Complete Technical Sketch - 2D Front Elevation with Dimensions

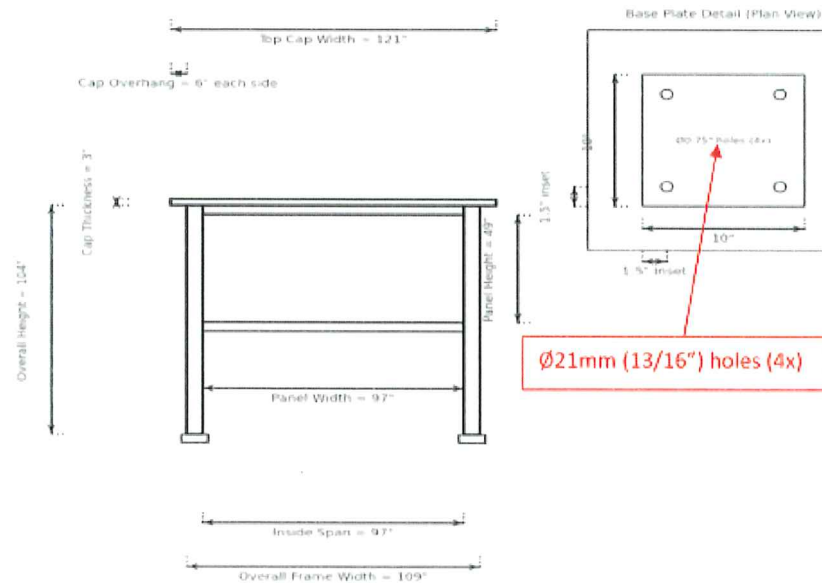
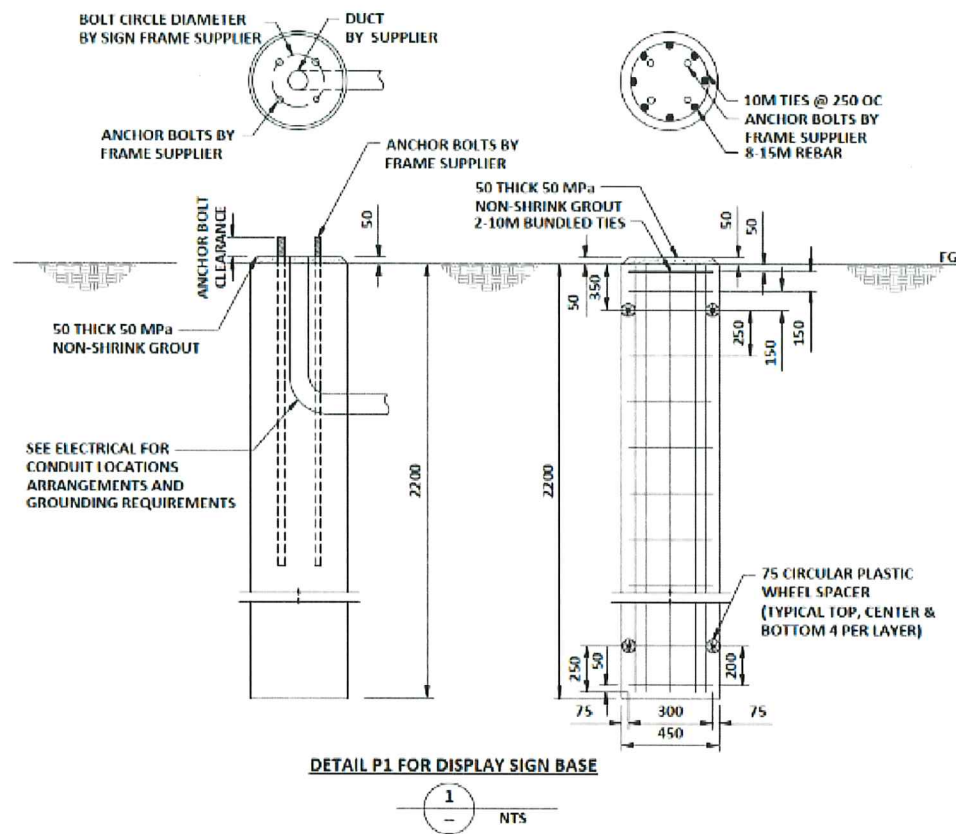


Figure 3: Cast-In-Place Reinforced Concrete Pile Sketch



2.1 SPECIFICATIONS:

- $\varnothing$ 19mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ ") headed anchor bolts to be cast into concrete piles with 450mm minimum embedment length, with $\varnothing$ 51 x 6.4mm washers. All material to be galvanized steel.
- Posts: 152x152 (6" x 6") galvanized steel tube, minimum 4.8mm thickness
- Overall Frame Width: 109"
- Inside Span: 97"
- Overall Height: 104"
- Panel: 97" x 49"
- Rails: 4" x 4" galvanized (top rail flush with cap, bottom rail under panel)
- Top Cap: 121" x 3" with 6" overhang each side (galvanized)
- Base Plates (galvanized) : 254 x 254mm (10" x 10"), 20mm thickness with 4 x $\varnothing$ 13/16" holes @ 1.5" inset
- Use galvanized corrosion-resistant fasteners.

Recommendation to Council

G1d

TITLE: Alberta Community Partnership Grant Application - Regional Facilities Condition Assessment & Master Plan			
PREPARED BY: David Desabrais		DATE: October 21st, 2025	
DEPARTMENT: Utilities & Infrastructure			
David Desabrais		ATTACHMENTS:	
Department Supervisor	Date	1.	
APPROVALS:			
			
David Desabrais	25/10/21	Roland Milligan	2025/10/21
Department Director	Date	CAO	Date

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council supports submission of a 2025/26 Alberta Community Partnership grant application for a Regional Facilities Condition Assessment & Master Plan project as the managing partner, and further;

That Council direct Administration to verify the Village of Cowley Councils support of the grant application as a project participant.

BACKGROUND:

- The Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Inter-municipal Collaboration Program provides funding to partnerships of 2+ municipalities to develop regional plans, service delivery frameworks, and regional service delivery efficiencies.
- The grant covers up to \$200,000 and requires no municipal contribution. The MD has been a successful managing partner for this grant for the recently completed Regional Wastewater Assessment & Study, as well as the nearly complete Transportation Master Plan. We have also been the project participant for Cowley's Infrastructure Master Plan.

SCOPE

- Administration is recommending applying for the ACP Grant in partnership with The Village of Cowley for a **Regional Facilities Condition Assessment & Master Plan**.
 - The 2007 & 2014 Infrastructure Master Plans (IMP) briefly reviewed regional facilities, with the 2007 plan providing a more in depth costed review of repair/replacement requirements.
 - Many facilities have aged since then or have never been assessed since original build (such as the Admin building) and it is unclear if major concerns are present.

Recommendation to Council

- The scope would involve walkthroughs and reporting by structural, mechanical, and electrical representatives to assess and determine remaining life expectancy and budgeted replacement costs for various facilities components:
 - Site (utility, grading near building, downspouts, etc.)
 - Architectural (roof/exterior condition, leaks, building envelope, interior finishes)
 - Structural (roof truss, wall construction, foundations)
 - Mechanical (HVAC, plumbing, specialty systems if applicable)
 - Electrical (power, fire, emergency lighting, access, etc.)
- Currently it is unclear what the expected remaining life is for some MD facilities, which creates challenges when trying to provide Council with a full picture to prioritize upgrades or rehabilitation work such as a Public Works Wash Bay or Airport Terminal interior renovations.

COWLEY PARTNERSHIP

- To meet the requirements of the grant application, a Council resolution is required from two (2)+ participating municipalities, indicating whom is the managing partner.
- Similar to the Wastewater ACP study, Administration is proposing completion of two (2) independent reports (1 MD, 1 Cowley), and a brief “regional collaboration” report discussing opportunities for collaboration.
 - An example collaboration opportunity is the old water treatment plant building on the MD’s land, which remains owned by Cowley. Discussions with Cowley regarding transfer of ownership for the facility have stalled and the study could provide a better assessment of the facilities lifecycle costs to move the discussion forward.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- No matching contribution required.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

October 10, 2025, to October 24, 2025

Discussion:

Oct 10	Retirement Luncheon for Mayor Don Anderberg
Oct 14	Council Committee and Council Meetings
Oct 15	JHSC Meeting
Oct 17	Cowley Lions Meeting, Castle River Rodeo Grounds Rec Lease Discussion
Oct 20	Senior Management Teram Meeting
Oct 20	Livingstone Range School Division Board Member Elections
Oct 22	Mtg with Captus – Project Update
Oct 23	Community Solar Open House
Oct 24	CPO's Role in the Municipality mtg.

Upcoming:

Oct 27	Councilor Training
Oct 28	Council Committee, Council Organizational, and Regular Council Meetings
Oct 30	Admin Staff and Safety Mtg.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives for information the Chief Administrative Officer's report for the period October 10, 2025, to October 24, 2025.

Prepared by: Roland Milligan, CAO

Date: October 22, 2025

Respectfully presented to: Council

Date: October 28, 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ACTIVITY

October 9, 2025 to October 23, 2025

Correspondence from the Last Council:

- Pincher Creek & District Library – Board Representation
 - Letters to Current Board Members
- Castle Mountain Resort – Fireworks Donation
- Heritage Acres – Letter of Support

Advertising/Social:

- Feedback sought for Bylaw 1365-25 (Traffic) and Bylaw 1366-25 (Community Standards)
- Livingstone School Division Wards 2 & 3 Election
- Pincher Creek & District Municipal Library – Looking for Board Members
- Tax Penalty Reminder – November 1, 2025, 4%
- Save the Date – CPR Holiday Train
- Road Closure - Township Rd 7-0 between the 3A Highway (Southfork) and Range Road 1-4
- Employment Opportunity - Full-Time Operator 2 (Public Works)
- Thanksgiving Closure
- Solar Open House

Other Activities:

- Regular Committee, Council
- Organizing Kootenai Brown Spooky Town – MD has Cyr House
- Meeting arranged for CPR Holiday Train

Invites to Council:

- Invitation to Waterton/ID #4 to Attend Council – they will reach out later this Fall with a presentation and to attend an MD Council meeting
- Invitation to Orphan Well Association – Attending November 12, 2025 Council Meeting
- Alberta Forestry and Parks – Attending November 12, 2025 Council Meeting

Upcoming Dates of Importance:

- Regular Committee, Council, Organizational Meeting – October 28, 2025
- Veterans Day – November 11, 2025
- Regular Committee, Council – November 12, 2025
- Coffee with Council – November 13, 2025 – At MD Administration Office
- RMA Convention – November 17-20, 2025
- Regular Committee, Council – November 25, 2025
- SW Region Elected Officials Meeting – November 27, 2025



October 23rd, 2025

Dear MD Council,

On behalf of the Allied Arts Council of Pincher Creek I would like to begin by thanking you all for serving our community as representatives this year.

As supporters of our organization through Joint Council Funding MD Council plays such an important role in helping us keep the arts vibrant and accessible here in Pincher Creek.

We truly value our positive relationship and look forward to continuing to grow and collaborate together.

As our organization looks ahead we are happy to share that we will be hosting a Strategic Planning Session on the evening of Friday, November 7th from 5-8pm.

This gathering will bring together board members, staff, members and key partners in reflect on our accomplishments, assess our goals and create a shared vision for the future.

We would like to extend an invitation to members of Council who engage and connect with the arts in Pincher Creek to join us for our community session. Insight and perspective are so valuable as we discuss how we can strengthen and expand the role of the arts in Pincher Creek.

Please let us know if any representatives of Council would like to attend, and we Will share more details about the agenda and timing of the session.

Thank you all once again for your leadership and ongoing support. We are so appreciative of all of the care and consideration that the Council provides to help us enrich the cultural life of our community.

Sincerely,

Kassandra Chancey, Executive Director
Allied Arts Council of Pincher Creek
403-627-5272 lebelpc@gmail.com
www.thelebel.ca

October 17, 2025

Via email

M.D. of Willow Creek:

Attn: Craig Pittman and Roy Johnson

M.D. of Pincher Creek:

Attn: David Desabrais

**Re: Highway 3 Twinning, Town of Pincher Creek to Town of Fort Macleod
Functional Planning Study – Update**

Hello Folks.

It has been some time since we last communicated with you regarding study progress. As you know, on behalf of Alberta Transportation & Economic Corridors, the study team has been tasked to work with the Technical Review Committee (TRC) members, including the Piikani Nation, the M.D. of Willow Creek and the M.D. of Pincher Creek, to develop the highway twinning plans between Highway 6 and Highway 810.

Understanding the twinning requirements through the Piikani Nation's lands is our current focus; however, some of the work spills across their boundary. We have recently shared a set of preliminary concept plans with the Piikani Nation, and it is possible that at some point these concept plans may come to the attention of area residents outside the Piikani Nation.

We want to remind you that engagement with the Municipal Districts (and your residents) will resume once the plans with the Piikani Nation begin to take shape and the balance of the concept plans can then begin to be developed.

Thank you for your patience as this project continues to move forward. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,



Henry Devos, P.Eng.
Project Manager

henry.devos@cima.ca

cc: Noreen Plain Eagle, Piikani Nation
Jerry Lau and Muhammad Imran, Alberta Transportation & Economic Corridors
Donald Wilkinson, Scott Land & Lease
Paul Steel, CIMA+



Town of Cardston

Honourable Todd Loewen
Minister of Forestry and Parks
323 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

October 10, 2025

RE: Support for Cardston County Concerns – Grizzly Bear Numbers

Dear Minister Loewen,

On behalf of the Council of the Town of Cardston, I wish to express our support for the concerns recently raised by Cardston County and the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 regarding the increasing grizzly bear population and the resulting safety risks for residents in our region.

Our Council has reviewed the correspondence from Cardston County dated September 9, 2025, and the joint letter from September 25, 2025, both of which outline the rising frequency of grizzly bear encounters, property damage, and threats to public safety in Southwestern Alberta. We share these concerns and recognize the pressing need for coordinated action at the provincial level to mitigate risks to our residents, agricultural producers, and visitors.

The Town of Cardston supports the recommended actions identified by the County and the MD of Pincher Creek, namely:

1. Developing or enhancing a provincial strategy for managing grizzly bears in Southern Alberta, particularly within Bear Management Area 6.
2. Increasing support and funding for the Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association and local municipalities to expand mitigation programs.
3. Establishing clear response protocols for conservation officers, Fish and Wildlife officers, municipal staff, and citizens—so all parties understand what actions can and cannot be taken when a grizzly bear threatens public safety.

We commend Cardston County and the MD of Pincher Creek for their proactive approach in addressing this regional concern and strongly urge your Ministry to collaborate with local governments and stakeholders in implementing these recommendations. Ensuring the safety of our residents and visitors is a shared priority, and we believe these measures will help achieve a balanced approach to wildlife management in our area.



Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your continued support and to ongoing discussions on this important issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Kronen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maggie Kronen
Mayor, Town of Cardston

CC: Randy Bullock, Reeve, Cardston County
MLA Joseph Schow
MLA Chelsae Petrovic
MD of Pincher Creek No. 9



Fw: Request to Distribute Grassy Mountain Project Materials

From Roland Milligan <AdminCAO@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>

Date Thu 2025-10-16 8:15 AM

To Jessica McClelland <AdminExecAsst@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>

 3 attachments (770 KB)

The Coal Fact Pages Issues of Water (Short Form) 11_18_2025-1.pdf; Selenium Poisoning and the Impact of Toxic Watersheds (Short Form) 11.08.2025-1.pdf; The Alberta Coal Timeline as of 11.08.2025-1.pdf;

Looks like Council Info to me.
Please add to next available meeting.

Roland Milligan

Chief Administrative Officer

M.D. of Pincher Creek No. 9

Box 279

1037 Herron Avenue

Pincher Creek, AB T0K1W0

Phone: 403-627-3130

Email: AdminCAO@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca

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From: Slopes Studio Creative Resistance <slopesstudio.creativeresistance@gmail.com>

Sent: October 15, 2025 5:15 PM

To: Roland Milligan <AdminCAO@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>

Subject: Request to Distribute Grassy Mountain Project Materials

Dear Ms. Smith,

Could you please distribute the attached letter and research summaries to Reeve Lemire and Council? If the Reeve and Council require support in researching the MD of Pincher Creek's potential risks from the proposed Grassy Mountain coal project, we will attempt to source volunteers to assist.

Sincerely,

Jane McQuitty

Slopes Studio Creative Resistance

Letter to Reeve Marshall and Council

Dear Reeve Lemire and Council,

Your community lies downstream of the proposed **Grassy Mountain metallurgical coal project**, advanced by **Northback Holdings** (formerly Benga Mining), whose corporate parent is **Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd**.

This project has been highly contested. A joint federal-provincial review panel previously denied approval in 2021, citing unacceptable risks to water quality, fish habitat, and species at risk. Despite this, Northback has continued to pursue the project through regulatory appeals and renewed applications, with the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) recently moving to reconsider its earlier decision. Grassy Mountain lies in the headwaters of the **Oldman River**, a system already under severe water stress—over two-thirds of its natural flow is licensed for human use, and chronic drought conditions have left flows below ecological thresholds. Any new water allocations or pollution from mining effluent (particularly selenium) would add strain to downstream users and ecosystems.

The financial and environmental context also warrants attention. Steelmaking coal faces long-term structural decline as global markets transition toward **electric arc furnaces** and **direct reduced iron** processes, reducing demand for coking coal. This casts doubt on the project's long-term viability and its ability to meet reclamation and remediation obligations should the operation cease prematurely.

I am sharing three research summaries for your review:

1. **Selenium Poisoning and the Impact of Toxic Watersheds**
2. **Issues of Water**
3. **The Alberta Coal Timeline**

Without consistent oversight and meaningful public input, the costs of water contamination and scarcity could fall upon local governments and communities.

These materials are intended to assist decision-makers in assessing whether to seek **intervenor status** and protect community interests should the hearing proceed. Please consider placing this issue on your next agenda to determine whether formal participation or inquiry is warranted.

Thank you for ensuring these materials reach those who need to see them.

Sincerely,

Jane McQuitty

2001b 10th Ave. SW

Calgary, AB

Slopes Studio Creative Resistance

587-226-3362

The Coal Facts

Selenium Poisoning and the Impact of Toxic Watersheds

A major problem with coal, oil, natural gas, fracking and LNG industries is that water used for their extraction becomes contaminated and is no longer potable. The technology to clean waste water on a large scale and make it potable again and usable for ecosystems, agriculture or municipalities, simply does not exist.

The current plans for coal exploration and development in the eastern Rockies will allow selenium and other heavy metal contaminants in concentrated amounts to seep into the head waters of the the North Saskatchewan, South Saskatchewan, Red Deer and Oldman rivers and watersheds.

The selenium problem

- The “go-to statement” in the cherry picked information passed in press releases is that ‘selenium occurs naturally and living organisms use a minute quantity of it’.
- The problem is that in mining, excessive quantities of selenium released from mining waste rock into water at levels that make it highly toxic.
- In Alberta’s and B.C’s Rockies selenium exists in high quantities in the rock. The amounts of selenium released from the waste rock of metallurgical coal mines, subject to snow, rain, and leeching out into creeks, streams and the main river of the watershed, **collects and become exponentially toxic collecting in ponds and the bottoms of creek and river beds and slowly accumulating in living organisms known a process called bioaccumulation. That toxicity continues for multiple decades, potentially for over a century because of the quantity of waste rock.**
- Once selenium is leaking into the water sheds it can not be undone. Coal mining, particularly in the Oldman River Watershed has already been harmed and further release of selenium would likely be disastrous, not only because of the potential water shortages, but because of the impact of toxic levels of selenium on agricultural areas and municipalities impacting an estimated 200,00 people downstream.
- Mining companies and consortiums have a history of downplaying the impact selenium poisoning in water on fish, ecosystems, and communities downstream.
- The current plans for coal exploration and development in the eastern Rockies will allow selenium and other heavy metal contaminants in concentrated amounts to seep into the head waters of the the North Saskatchewan, South Saskatchewan, and Athabasca watersheds.

Physical Effects of Selenium Poisoning

- Overexposure to selenium may cause disorders such as hair loss, muscle weakness, reduced brain function and nail deformities, according to Health Canada.
- It says high levels of nitrate in drinking water may lead to methemoglobinemia, a blood disorder with symptoms including headache, nausea, poor muscle co-ordination and cyanosis (blue-coloured skin).

Impact on Fish

- In fish, Environment Canada says excessive levels of selenium may accumulate in fish eggs and cause fry deformities or mortalities.
- B.C.'s Ministry of Environment says excessive nitrate can also be toxic to fish.”¹ “The estimated maximum annual loss of Westslope Cutthroat Trout embryos and fry ... exceeds one million eight hundred thousand individuals per year due to selenium poisoning”
– Dr. Dennis Lemly on fish in the Elk Valley²
- From the recent paper on selenium in the Crowsnest Lake. “Alberta has a fish tissue selenium guideline of four micrograms per gram. The authors write that every single fish sample analyzed exceeded this value.
-
- Average selenium concentrations were highest in brown trout, coming in at 18 micrograms per gram.
-
- The authors write that the selenium levels could lead to "behavioural changes, physical symptoms ... respiratory issues, reproductive issues and ultimately population collapse." Accumulating fluid in body tissue or fin and tail damage are among the other side effects...
- The high selenium concentrations can only be explained by "the incorporation of legacy coal mine pollution," the authors write.
- The study goes on to say selenium levels in fish in Crowsnest Lake are similar to those found in water bodies near Fernie, B.C., that resulted in Teck Mining Company, which owned and operated a nearby mine, being [forced in 2021](#) by B.C. provincial court to pay a \$60 million fine — the largest fine ever imposed under the Fisheries Act.

¹ Winston Szeto · “B.C. fines Teck Coal \$16 million for contaminating Kootenay waterways CBC News” · Posted: Feb 08, 2023

² Teck Coal Limited Direction and Appendices File: 8000-2017-01-22-391610 (G) 5008-2010-06- 16-993 (N) 32. A. 10. Page 21.

- Fish populations in those mining-impacted streams were found in 2011 to have an average selenium concentration of 7.6 micrograms per gram. Nine years later, the adult westslope cutthroat trout population had suffered a 93 per cent decline, the study says.”³

Selenium is not just carried in water.

- Recent research has revealed increasing concentrations and annual loads of selenium, nitrate, and sulfate in the Elk River sourced from the coal mines. (5) Nitrate concentrations in the Elk River have increased 784% since 1979, and the river now delivers ~95% of Lake Koocanusa’s annual selenium budget. (5)
- Mountaintop removal coal mining in the Elk River valley was also shown recently to release fugitive coal dust and associated contaminants to the atmosphere. (7,8)
- “Our study focused on snowpack as a receptor of contaminant inputs to a montane ecosystem. But this region also hosts communities, the residents of which are exposed to this fugitive coal dust daily. Previous research in coal mining communities in the United States and elsewhere has documented increased rates of lung cancer mortality, (41) cardiovascular disease, (42) frequency of birth defects, (43) and reduced quality of life. (44) Importantly, these studies accounted for other known drivers of health outcomes, including smoking, poverty, education, age, sex, race, and other covariates.”⁴
- Southern Alberta is known for its wind, with gusts often reaching 100 km/hr during chinooks. When the exposed coal rocks get wet, they will release contaminants downstream, and when it is dry coal dust along with its contaminants will blow all over southern Alberta, with no way to control it.”⁵

The Benga submission to the Joint Review Panel

- During the Grassy Mountain Joint Review Panel in 2021, the issue of selenium poisoning was addressed and Margaret Fairbairn, acting regional director of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) expressed concern over Benga’s submissions concerning selenium. “In Benga’s submission regarding selenium, ECCC could find “no basis upon which to validate any conclusions put forward by Benga regarding selenium speciation.” ... Benga’s said its conclusions on this subject were based on “anecdotal evidence.” Was the selenium limit Benga established in its application appropriate? ECCC didn’t think so. ECCC’s

³ Mathew Scace. “Coal mines on Alberta's eastern slopes could push fishery 'beyond recovery': study. Alberta government scientists say new coal developments could result in 'population collapse' CBC. The Canadian Press Jun 06, 2025

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

criticisms of Benga's selenium modeling highlighted a more general criticism of the company's impact assessment submission – that its quality was poor.”⁶

Teck Resources Legacy in British Columbia

- Teck has a history of assuring the government and regulatory bodies that it is committed to safe mining practices and addressing chemical toxicity in the Elk River watershed.

Teck's Water Quality Plan

- One of Teck's goals was to develop a Water Quality Plan to protect the Elk River Watershed. Unlike the proposed Grassy Mountain Coal Mining Project, Teck worked collaboratively in 2014, with multiple stakeholders including both Canadian and US Environmental agencies, a number of Indigenous groups in both Canada and the US and implemented 700 pieces of science-based advice into their Water Quality Plan to minimize the impact of toxic chemicals released from their mining operations. One of the biggest concerns was, and is, a toxic chemical known as Selenium. Teck assured everyone that these matters were being addressed. “The Model estimates concentrations of selenium, nitrate and sulphate, and was calibrated using existing monitoring data. More than 700 possible scenarios were evaluated to develop an initial implementation plan to meet the long- term water quality targets for selenium and nitrate. During implementation, Teck will continue to refine the model based on site-specific investigations of mine- affected water, and new information from monitoring data and Teck's R&D program.”⁷
- The End Result: In March of 2024, a report commissioned by the environmental group Wildsight was released on the damage done by Teck's five metallurgical coal mines.
- *“Gordon Johnson of Burgess Environmental says in the report that **it will cost \$6.4 billion to reverse rising selenium concentrations in Canadian and U.S. waters and operate those treatment systems for 60 years. That amount does not include costs for land reclamation.***
- Teck Resources said it will set aside a total of \$1.9 billion for the cleanup.
- *"The financial assurances currently provided by Teck do not appear to be reasonable or sufficient," says the report, released Tuesday.”⁸*
- “Teck has spent \$1.4 billion on water treatment. Spokesman Maclean Kay said in an email the company has quadrupled its treatment capacity from 2020 and plans to spend at least another \$150 million this year.

⁶ <https://albertawilderness.ca/opening-statements/#more-63237>

⁷ https://www.teck.com/media/2015-Water-elk_valley_water_quality_plan_T3.2.3.2.pdf

⁸ Bob Weber. “\$6.4B needed to clean toxic selenium from B.C. coal mines: report Report commissioned by Wildsight says cleanup costs 3 times what has been set aside by mine operators Teck”. The Canadian Press. March 19, 2024

- "Teck's total water treatment capacity ... represents only a small fraction of the water impacted by Teck's mine operations, and operating levels are often below the design capacities," says the report.
- Given that current spending accounts for 20 per cent of mine-affected water, the report concludes that the amount of money held to ensure environmental cleanup falls far short.”⁹
- “The report also says 130 square kilometres of mine surface will have to be cleaned up and re-vegetated. Streams will have to be rehabilitated, as will groundwater. Other chemicals besides selenium will have to be dealt with.
- “[Those] major reclamation costs have yet to be incurred by Teck and are not included in the cost estimate for selenium remediation,” it says.”¹⁰
- In July, 2024, Teck Mining sold its coal mines off to the mining conglomerate, Glencoe for \$9.5 U.S. Billion. The environmental damage remains. So much for assurances to gullible government officials. .¹¹

Long Term Impact of Mining Waste Water

- The presence of tailings on the landscape also creates additional threats, as the risk of contaminating nearby water bodies continues.”¹²
- There are numerous examples and evidence of this.
“...selenium is of particular concern downstream of mountaintop removal coal mining operations. Leaching go selenium and resultant biological impacts is well documented (Palmer et al., 2010, Linberg et al., 2011, Hendry et al., 2015).”¹³
- “On the west side of the Rocky Mountains, chemical leaching into the surrounding watershed from commercial coal mines in B.C.’s Elk Valley has been at issue since their onset...
- Expanded coal operations have led to a 95 % increase in selenium, 76 % increase in nitrate, and 38% increase in sulphate concentrations in waters at the Canada and the U.S.A’s shared

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ “ Sale of Teck's steelmaking coal business to Glencore approved

Teck Resources said it expects to receive \$9.5 billion from the sale, excluding closing adjustments”. The Canadian Press · Posted: Jul 06, 2024

¹² Kennedy Halvorson. “There’s no substitute for water.” Nature Alberta Magazine. Summer 2025. Vol. 55, No. 2

¹³ Colin A.Cooke, Craig A. Emerson, William F. Donahue, Jason G. Kerr. “Downstream water quality impacts persist despite mountain top coal reclamation in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Environmental Pollution. Volume 383, 15th October, 2025.

boundary.[7] Increased concentrations of these chemicals cause nutrient and food-chain imbalances in the aquatic ecosystems, and migration interruptions, reproductive deformities and failure, and extirpation of species within affected watersheds.”¹⁴

- “Aquatic selenium bioaccumulates in foodwebs causing toxicity in fish and birds. (Hamilton, 2004)”¹⁵
- Selenium is capable of long range transport., in the Columbia River system it was detected up to 575 river kilometres downstream from the Elk Valley mines, flowing through the aquatic ecosystems in Montana, Idaho and Washington. [9]¹⁶
- Contaminants entering the headwaters of the Oldman River to its confluence with the South Saskatchewan river... has the potential to flow past Taber and could effect 210,000 people living with the Oldman Watershed.¹⁷
- Nor is the problem easy to fix even with concerted effort. “ After decades of coal extraction, changing regulatory requirements and near complete reclamation of one coal mine, water quality remains negatively impacted with higher concentrations of ions, nutrients, and metals downstream of coal mines. These results suggest current reclamation practices and regulatory requirements for water quality and aquatic ecosystems are not meeting the desired objectives.”

¹⁸

¹⁴ Kennedy Halvorson. “There’s no substitute for water.” Nature Alberta Magazine. Summer 2025. Vol. 55, No. 2

¹⁵Colin A.Cooke, Craig A. Emerson, William F. Donahue, Jason G. Kerr. “Downstream water quality impacts persist despite mountain top coal reclamation in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Environmental Pollution. Volume 383, 15th October, 2025.

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Colin A.Cooke, Craig A. Emerson, William F. Donahue, Jason G. Kerr. “Downstream water quality impacts persist despite mountain top coal reclamation in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Environmental Pollution. Volume 383, 15th October, 2025.

Coal Fact Pages

The Alberta Coal Timeline (11/08/2025)

2015

November 2015: The Alberta Energy Regulator receives an application by Riversdale Resources (Benga Mining) to build a metallurgical coal project on Grassy Mountain north of the Crowsnest Pass. It proposes to extract 4.5 million tonnes of coal a year over a 24-year period and promises to be the first of several mine sites in the region. The proposed mega-project, located on Category 4 lands, is not subject to the 1976 Coal Policy. That policy largely banned open-pit coal mining in the eastern slopes.

2019

May 2019: Billionaire Gina Rinehart, owner of Hancock Prospecting and author of Australia's 2010 "axe the tax" protest against a proposed tax on high mining company profits, purchases Riversdale Resources for \$700 million.

October to December 2019: Capital Investment Partners, an Australian firm that owns extensive coal leases in the Rockies, tells investors that the "Alberta government [is] in the process of changing the coal policy to allow more open-pit mining." At the same time, two UCP cabinet ministers write letters to one Australian mining speculator assuring the company that Alberta is open for business and will "streamline policy."

Oct. 11, 2019: Minister of Economic Development, Trade, and Tourism Tanya Fir and Minister Nixon meet with Valory Resources chairman Vaughan Wishart.

Oct. 29, 2019: In a letter to Wishart, Fir states that "Alberta is open for business." After touting plans to cut corporate taxes by a third and reduce red tape, Fir tells Wishart to contact her "if there is anything I can do to help in the completion of your mining project."

December 2019: Though not listed in the province's lobbyist registry, Atrum Coal states in a [year-end report](#) that "Throughout 2019, senior executives of Atrum also had numerous meetings and engagement activities with Alberta government officers and ministers of Alberta Energy, Alberta Environment and Parks, and Alberta Infrastructure."

2020

Jan. 30, 2020: Deputy Minister of Energy meets with CAC president Campbell to discuss exporting Alberta coal and "potential opportunities for stranded coal assets."

February 2020: In an investor presentation document, Valory Resources says it has recently met with key Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and received strong statements of support indicating that the provincial government is “pro-development and open for business”.

Feb. 18, 2020: Campbell meets with Minister of Red Tape Reduction to talk options for reviewing the 1976 Coal Policy.

April 2020: In a [scoping study](#) of its Elan coal project, Atrium says its regular engagement with Alberta Government has increased confidence the project will be approved, “potentially as early as this year.”

April 30, 2020: CAC president Campbell discusses the 1976 Coal Policy and land-use planning with the Minister of Energy.

May 15, 2020: With no public consultation, the UCP government of then-premier Jason Kenney abruptly rescinds the 1976 Coal Policy, thereby opening the Rocky Mountains to unfettered coal mining. Australian coal speculators immediately buy leases up and down the Rockies and on lands near Grassy Mountain. The UCP government promises friendly regulators and a one per cent royalty rate on coal in contrast to Australia’s seven per cent.

October 2020: After repeated delays due to the incompleteness of Riversdale Resources’ environmental impact assessment, a public hearing on the Grassy Mountain project begins online during the pandemic. “The Joint Review Panel conducted extensive public consultations throughout the review, including a 29-day virtual public hearing. Over 100 individuals, including members of the public, representatives from Indigenous groups, non-governmental organizations, municipal governments, expert witnesses, legal counsel, and federal and provincial experts actively participated in the virtual hearing.”¹

2021

January 18th, 2021: More than 100,000 signatures had been collected as of Monday on two petitions opposing the United Conservative government's move to rescind the coal policy.²

January 18th, 2021: Minister Sonya Savage announces that the province will cancel 11 recently issued coal leases and pause future lease sales that would have allowed open-pit coal mining on

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/news/2021/08/the-government-of-canada-releases-its-final-decision-on-the-grassy-mountain-coal-project.html>

² ² Sarah Rieger. “Alberta pauses future coal lease sales in Rocky Mountains, cancels 11 recent leases” CBC News, Calgary.. January 18, 2021

the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, saying the Alberta government had listened to public concerns about the decision to rescind the 1976 coal policy.

"I want to be absolutely clear: Under the current terms, just as it was under the 1976 coal policy, coal leases do not allow for exploration, development or production without a comprehensive regulatory review. A lease-holder has no more right to set foot on lease property than any other Albertan. The same rules apply now, as before," Savage said in release late Monday afternoon.

"This pause will provide our government with the opportunity to ensure that the interests of Albertans, as owners of mineral resources, are protected." She admitted that the it would not impact coal mines already under regulatory review like the Grassy Mountain Project.³

"Katie Morrison, with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, said there are more than 840,000 hectares still at risk and that the 11 cancelled leases represent only 0.002 per cent of leased land."⁴

February 2021: Due to unprecedented public protests over Kenney's decision to open the Rockies to more than a dozen Australian coal speculators and open-pit mining, his government reluctantly reinstates the Coal Policy.

March 2021: The UCP government appoints a five-member coal committee to engage Albertans about the future of open-pit mining in the Rockies. Canada's federal government fines the B.C. coal mining operations of Teck Resources \$60 million for polluting waterways with selenium and nitrate.

June 17, 2021: In a rare negative decision, a joint panel review concludes that the Grassy Mountain metallurgical project is not in the public interest due to water, environmental and economic impacts. At that point an "advanced coal project" officially became a "cancelled" coal project. *

The JRP issued a lengthy written decision that determined the project was not in the public interest: ***Benga Mining Limited, Grassy Coal Mountain Project, Crowsnest Pass***, 2021 ABAER 010 (June 17, 2021) [JRP Decision].⁵

July 2021: Eric Lowther, a former Reform MP and coal operative, writes an opinion piece decrying the joint review panel's decision as "unbelievable" and bad for the province's international reputation. Meanwhile Rinehart's Riversdale Resources launches the first of three separate legal actions challenging Alberta's and Canada's regulatory decision to reject its mining proposal.

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Court of Appeals Alberta Citation: Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 v Alberta Energy Regulator, 2024 ABCA 274

Citation: Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 v Alberta Energy Regulator, 2024 ABCA 274
<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/abca/doc/2024/2024abca274/2024abca274.pdf>

November 2021: Lowther, a board member of Citizens Supportive of Crowsnest Coal, now accuses the Coal Policy Committee, a panel appointed by the Kenney government, of being biased against industry and influenced by American environmentalists. The accusations are false.

December 2021: The Coal Policy Committee recommends that no coal mining proceed in Alberta until proper regional and sub-regional land-use plans have been concluded because the majority of Albertans remain steadfastly opposed to open-pit mining in the Rockies.

2022

January 28th, 2022. The Alberta Court of Appeals denied the applications from Benga Mining Limited (“Benga”), the Piikani Nation (“Piikani”), and the Stoney Nakoda Nations (“Stoney Nakoda”) for permission to appeal the AER’s decision Benga Mining Limited Grassy Mountain Coal Project, Crowsnest Pass, 2021 ABAER 010. ⁶ Alberta’s Court of Appeal rejects arguments made by Rinehart’s lawyers that Alberta’s regulatory process treated her company unfairly by denying the Grassy Mountain project. Justice Bernette Ho argues that just because a company might disagree with a regulatory decision doesn’t mean it was arrived at unfairly, contravened the law or ignored the evidence. She also rules that indigenous rights were adequately addressed and reasonably considered under the JRP decisions.

March 2022: A ministerial order declares a moratorium on coal development in the Rockies. It directs the Alberta Energy Regulator to not consider any further exploration or commercial developments in the eastern slopes, “with the exception of lands subject to an advanced coal project.”

August to October 2022: While campaigning for the leadership of the UCP, Danielle Smith opens a political door to resurrect Rinehart’s mining project. She tells her supporters in Pincher Creek and the Crowsnest Pass, including Crowsnest Mayor Blair Painter (a UCP supporter), that if there were a strong referendum in support of the Grassy Mountain project, she would be more inclined to push it forward. Lowther, board member of Citizens Supportive of Crowsnest Coal, confirms the promise.

But Smith’s referendum ploy defies geography and democracy: the proposed mine is located not in the municipality of Crowsnest Pass, but in the municipal district of Ranchland, where ranchers are 100 per cent opposed to the project.

⁶ Court of Appeal of Alberta: Citation: Benga Mining Limited v Alberta Energy Regulator, 2022 ABCA 30
<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/abca/doc/2022/2022abca30/2022abca30.pdf>

September 2022: A further application for leave to appeal that dismissal was denied by the Supreme Court of Canada: *Benga Mining Limited v Alberta Energy Regulatory, et al*, September 29, 2022 (40121).”⁷

December 2022: Rinehart hires a new CEO, Mike Young, with a mandate to revive the Grassy Mountain project.

6. The AER’s Decision on February 22, 2024 found that, notwithstanding the terms of the Ministerial Order, and the rejection by the JRP, the ABCA and the SCC of Northback’s Project, the Coal Exploration Applications were issued pursuant to an “advanced coal project”. Accordingly, the AER, by way of the Decision, accepted the Coal Exploration Applications, and directed that the Coal Exploration Applications proceed to a hearing before a panel of AER commissioners.
7. In reaching the Decision, the AER relied heavily upon (and adopted as its reasons) a letter from the current Minister of Energy, the Honourable Brian Jean, K.C., dated November 16, 2023, The Minister’s Letter was not disclosed to any of the individuals or entities who submitted Statements of Concern to the AER in relation to the Coal Exploration Applications prior to the AER reaching the Decision, including the MD.

2023

February 2023: The B.C. government fines Teck Resources \$16 million for contaminating waterways with selenium and other contaminants.

June 9th, 2023: Minister Brian Jean’s involvement with the coal mining began when he was sworn in as the Minister of Energy and Minerals.

July 2023: Riversdale Resources/Benga Mining officially changes its name and is replaced by the Northback Holdings Corp. The new company begins to extensively lobby the Alberta government. It hires two different lobbying firms (Enterprise Canada and Crestview Strategy) over the next year.

August 3rd, 2023: The UCP government announces the Alberta Utilities Commission is to institute a six-month moratorium on approving wind and solar power projects greater than one

⁷ In the Court of Appeal of Alberta: Citation: *Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 v Alberta Energy Regulator*, 2024 ABCA 274 -Application for Permission to Appeal. Date: 20240822 Docket: 2401-0076AC Registry: Calgary

<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/abca/doc/2024/2024abca274/2024abca274.pdf>
accessed March 26th, 2025

megawatt. The commission will initiate an inquiry into issues of development on agricultural land, effect on scenery, reclamation security, the role of municipalities and system reliability. Industry spokespeople said that not only were they blindsided by the decision, it's a bad call that could cost the Alberta economy. "It was a done deal before we had a chance to convince the minister that the industry doesn't need a moratorium," said Vittoria Bellissimo of the Canadian Renewable Energy Association.

September 2023: After sustained lobbying, Northback applies to the AER for three exploratory coal licences to drill hundreds of new test holes on its Grassy Mountain lease. The application directly violates a ministerial order banning any further coal exploration on Category 4 lands.

November 16th, 2023: Energy Minister Brian Jean sends [a letter](#) to the AER suggesting that and identifying Grassy Mountain, Tent Mountain, Mine 14, and Vista mine "advanced projects." and are therefore exempt from the ministerial order and coal moratorium.

The ministerial order does not require an active regulatory application tied to the project description to qualify a project as an advanced coal project. Once a project is considered an advanced project it remains as one regardless of the outcome of regulatory applications submitted before it was declared an advanced project.

(the "Minister's Letter")

December 2023: Five Australian coal companies sue the Alberta government for more than \$10 billion over alleged losses due to the province's coal moratorium and reinstatement of the Coal Policy. The court date is set for this April.

2024

February 2024: Northback CEO Young begins a public relations blitz by telling Andrew Lawton, the managing editor of True North, that metallurgical coal mining is environmentally sound and good for Canada. The right-wing media site is partly funded by fracked gas tycoon Gwyn Morgan.

February 22nd, 2024: The Alberta Energy Regulator found that, "notwithstanding the terms of the Ministerial Order, and the rejection by the JRP [Joint Review Panel], the ABCA [Alberta Court of Appeals] and the SCC [Supreme Court of Canada] of Northback's Project", the Coal Exploration Applications were issued pursuant to an "advanced coal project". Accordingly, the AER, by way of the Decision, accepted the Coal Exploration Applications, and directed that the Coal Exploration Applications proceed to a hearing before a panel of AER commissioners. "In

reaching the Decision, the AER relied heavily upon (and adopted as its reasons) a letter from the current Minister of Energy, the Honourable Brian Jean, K.C., dated November 16, 2023...”⁸

Feb. 28, 2024: The Alberta government is introducing a series of new restrictions on future pursuits of wind and solar projects that come following a moratorium on such developments

March 2024: In preparation for the referendum, Northback Holdings donates \$75,000 to the Livingstone Range School Division for a school nutrition program in the Crowsnest Pass. The company calls it the Northback Breakfast Program. It also launches a \$7-billion lawsuit against the Alberta government and the office of the energy minister alleging damages from the province’s moratorium on coal development.

March 2024: A study funded by the Alberta government finds that even closed coal mines leave a legacy of selenium pollution in downstream waterways that lasts decades.

April 30, 2024: Lobbying records show in the preceding six months, CAC met with energy and environment deputy ministers “on issues as they relate to the coal industry, economic opportunities, the coal policy and existing land-use planning.”

June 2024: Another study funded by the Alberta government reveals that mountaintop removal contaminates snowpack and watersheds with toxic coal dust over a wide area.

July 2024: In preparation for the referendum, CEO Young continues his media blitz and offers tours of the proposed mine site. He tells the Western Standard, a publication with links to Danielle Smith, that selenium is not a pollution problem but an “education issue.”

September 2024: A court of appeal grants the Municipal District of Ranchland, where the mine will be located, permission to challenge the legality of classifying Grassy as “an advanced coal project” on the grounds that the regulator did not engage in any meaningful, independent analysis of the definition of an “advanced coal project” as outlined in the ministerial order.

September 2024: The council for the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass passes a motion to hold a non-binding vote referendum on the Grassy coal project even though the project is located in the municipal district of Ranchland, where residents remain totally opposed to the project. Only permanent residents are allowed to vote. Northback spends heavily on the Yes campaign.

⁸ APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO APPEAL OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF RANCHLAND NO. 66, APPLICANT. 21st of March, 2024. https://albertawilderness.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/20240321_ap_ranchlandmd_application_for_permission_to_appeal_AER_northback_application_acceptance_.pdf

Nov. 21, 2024: An investigation reveals that Citizens Supportive of Crowsnest Coal, an allegedly grassroots group that supports the project, has strong ties to Energy United and the Maple Leaf Institute, which lobby on behalf of the oil and gas industry.

Nov. 25, 2024: In the Crowsnest Pass Municipal District, a non-binding referendum for Coal Development is held. The Yes side for a proposed project wins 72 per cent of the vote. Days later, Northback's Young writes that "Premier Smith requested a local referendum and voters have given a clear message. The decisive victory shifts the focus to the next steps by the premier and the need to provide clarity on regulatory processes and to provide certainty for resource investment in general." Energy Minister Jean replies to the outcome by saying that "democracy had its day."

December 2024: Five days before Christmas, Jean conducts an abrupt news conference during which he endorses Rinehart's Grassy Mountain open-pit coal project and promises a new coal policy to be shaped by engagement with coal companies. Alberta [announces](#) "modernized" coal policy coming in 2025. A modern policy will allow metallurgical coal mining in the Rockies, which includes a ban on new open-pit mines, with exemptions for advanced projects.

2025

Jan. 14 to 16, 2025: The AER resumes a controversial public hearing on whether or not to approve more applications for coal exploration on Grassy Mountain despite a pending appeal court challenge that could find the hearings illegitimate.

Jan. 20, 2025: Northback updates its lobbyist registry to include Colin Aitchison, acting director of government communications and senior press secretary, 2022-23, and government of Alberta press secretary, 2019-20.

May 15th, 2025 - The AER announces the approval of a new Grassy Mountain Project focused on exploration in the Blairmore area of the Municipal District of Rockyview, a district whose inhabitants have made it abundantly clear that they really do not want the coal industry there. Especially one that has been cancelled.

The news is announced on a Thursday afternoon before the May long weekend.

June 11th, 2025 - Premier Danielle Smith, Energy and Minerals Minister Brian Jean, Agriculture and Irrigation Minister RJ Sigurdson, Environment and Protected Areas Minister Rebecca Schulz and the local Livingstone-Macleod MLA Chelsae Petrovic held a Town Hall meeting at the Fort Macleod and District Community Hall on the topic of Coal Mining in the Eastern Rockies. The Premier announced the meeting four days prior to holding it. Between 500 and 600 Albertans showed up most were against coal mining.

July 2nd, 2025 - Premier Danielle Smith, and Highwood MLA RJ Sigurdson, the provincial minister of agriculture and irrigation hold a Townhall Meeting in Okotoks.

July 3rd, 2025 - Evolve Power Ltd. and Atrum Coal Ltd., two coal companies suing the Alberta government announce they have reached settlements with the Alberta Government over issues with putting a moratorium on coal development on the eastern slopes of the Rockies in 2021. The dollar figures of the agreements were not disclosed, with both companies saying terms were confidential and subject to settlement privilege. Both said they would seek to update shareholders later this year.

July 17th, 2025 - The Alberta government paid Atrum Coal, \$136.8 million with another \$6 million to be paid after completion of the reclamation work. Evolve Power Ltd. has yet to announce its settlement. The Alberta Government has not released any details on the actual amounts of the settlement.

The Coal Fact Pages

Issues of Water (Short Form) 11/18/2025

In Alberta, water does not exist as a limitless resource.

- The Eastern Slopes of the Rockies supply more than 90 per cent of the water that Albertans drink or use for irrigation comes and their headwaters sustain the rivers that stretch across the prairies. This includes the Elbow and Bow Rivers, which supply water to Calgary's over 1.3 million residents.¹

The headwaters of:

- **The South Saskatchewan River Basin (SSRB)** are located on the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains of Alberta. The waters of the Saskatchewan River Basin flow through Southern Alberta into an area that covers most of southern Saskatchewan and central Manitoba. In Alberta, the South Saskatchewan River Basin includes the Bow, Red Deer, Old Man, and South Saskatchewan rivers; these rivers provide water to the cities of Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat as well as all 11 of the province's irrigation districts. Much of the water that is consumed in the SSRB is used in irrigation districts and agriculture; the agri-food industry provides economic diversification within the region.²
- **The North Saskatchewan River Basin** in Alberta is home to nearly 80 municipalities. Edmonton is the largest urban centre, with a population of 1,010,899 people in 2021. Edmonton's population increased 8.3% between 2016-2021, and this growth trend is expected to continue [1].

Six of the seven cities in the NSRB in Alberta are in the Edmonton Metropolitan Area: Beaumont, Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan, Leduc, Spruce Grove, and St. Albert. Other adjacent areas, including Strathcona County and Parkland County, are also a part of the Edmonton Metropolitan area. Together, these municipalities are home to an estimated 1,561,810 people [2].

¹ "The misunderstood mountain waters that Albertans depend on." Alberta Innovates. June 3rd, 2025

<https://albertainnovates.ca/news/the-misunderstood-mountain-waters-that-albertans-depend-on/> accessed July 27th, 2025.

² The South Saskatchewan River Operational Model (SSROM). The Canada Water Portal, October 25, 2023. <https://waterportal.ca/the-south-saskatchewan-river-operational-model-ssrom/> accessed July 28th, 2025

West of Edmonton, larger centres include the towns of Devon, Drayton Valley, Rocky Mountain House, and Stony Plain and east of the Edmonton Metropolitan Area, are larger centres including the City of Lloydminster, and towns of St. Paul, Vegreville, and Vermilion.³

Alberta is obligated to share a portion of the NSR's flows with Saskatchewan. Under the 1969 Prairie Provinces Water Board (PPWB) Master Agreement on Apportionment, Alberta must pass 50% of the natural flow of rivers into Saskatchewan. As a condition of this agreement, certain water quality standards must also be met.⁴

- **The Athabasca River Basin** covers the area south of the Peace/Slave Basin. The Athabasca River originates in the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains and flows northeast, emptying into Lake Athabasca. Communities in this basin include Jasper, Hinton, Whitecourt, Athabasca, and Fort McMurray. Other rivers that drain into this basin include the McLeod, Clearwater, and Pembina. The major issues in this basin are (1) the enormous quantity of water allocated for tar sands exploitation and (2) the fact that 90 percent of this water is so polluted in the process that it cannot be returned to the river.⁵
- There is a finite amount of water and industries such as oil, fracking, natural gas, liquid natural gas, and coal mining require a large portion of water in order to be viable. Southern Alberta is typically in drought conditions and the entire province is facing water shortages.
- Eighty per cent of Alberta's water flows north while 80 per cent of the province's growing population lives in the drier portion south of Edmonton."⁶
- In 2006, Alberta boasted 3.4 million human water drinkers. Now the number tops 4.7 million, and Premier Smith has said she would like to see that population more than double.⁷
- Hydrologists Schindler and Donahue warned 18 years ago, "the combination of climate warming, increases in human populations and industry, and historic drought is likely to cause an unprecedented water crisis in the western prairie provinces."⁸

³ THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER BASIN. <https://www.nswa.ab.ca/public/download/files/251377> accessed July 28th, 2025.

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Alberta Wilderness Association. <https://albertawilderness.ca/issues/wildwater/headwaters/> accessed July 28th, 2025.

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Ibid

- “Schindler never tired of reminding Albertans that their province has only 2.2 per cent of Canada’s renewable fresh water. Meanwhile its industries, government and residents behaved as though water came from ever-flowing taps instead of dwindling glaciers, rivers, aquifers and snowpacks.
- When Alberta became a province in 1905, it had 160,000 people who each consumed about 50 litres of water per day, related Stelfox. Now more than 4.7 million Albertans each use eight times that amount on average.”⁹

Water Today in Alberta

- Snowpack accumulations in the Oldman River basin, the Bow River basin and the North Saskatchewan River basin range from 33 to 62 per cent below normal. A reduced snowpack means less summer water for the fish and all water drinkers.
- Ancient glaciers that feed and top up prairie rivers in the late summer melted at record speeds last year, the hottest on global records. Many indomitable ice packs, such as the well-studied Peyto Glacier, are disappearing altogether, wasted by the desiccating hand of climate disorder.
- In 2024, fifty-one river basins from Milk River to Hay River report critical water shortages due to low rainfall and high temperatures, according to the provincial government.”¹⁰
- “Groundwater levels in parts of Alberta have reached record lows. Wells in Rocky View County just outside of Calgary, for example, show steady declines and the lowest levels ever measured. Some 600,000 rural Albertans depend on groundwater.”¹¹
- “Paul McLauchlin, president of Rural Municipalities of Alberta and an environmental scientist, said his members are increasingly concerned about the impact dry year after dry year is having on their water.

"It's a critically important resource that we do not know much about," McLauchlin said.

"We're in a 50-year drought, subsurface. Even if we get Snowmageddon, it is not recharging the deficit that we're going to see."

Some wells in his area near Ponoka have already dried up, he said.”

Grassy Mountain and the Oldman River

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

- The Grassy Mountain Project is located in the headwaters of the Oldman River. Northback Holding is currently requesting only 1500 metres cubed of water but to run a commercial mine the previous application stated it would require almost 375,000 metres cubed in licensed allocations. This is water the Oldman River can not afford to lose.
- “To maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems, the Alberta Government generally recommends a river return 85% of its average natural flow[3]. However, the Oldman is well over allocated with 66 per cent of its flow set aside for human use, the Alberta government has licensed out more water than is sustainable for the river in the long term.[4]. This is particularly evident during drought years like 2023 and 2024 where water users within the Oldman consumed more than half the natural flow[5]. There is an urgent need to reduce allocations and overall use in the watershed.”¹²

Water Shortages and the Agri-food Industry of Southern Alberta

- “Success in the agriculture sector is supported by the surrounding region, which includes more than 900 farms generating farm receipts of \$1.1 Billion per year, building on assets of \$3.2 Billion. Primary crops in this region include canola, corn, potatoes, sugar beets and pulses in addition to significant livestock and dairy production.
- There are more than 120 established agri-food processing businesses in the Lethbridge region producing food and/or feed for local consumption and export. In the past 10 years this sector has seen significant investment and plans for future investment, including the 2016 announcement by Cavendish Farms of a new \$350 million frozen potato processing plant, the largest private investment in Lethbridge's history which will double their annual production capacity.
- Lethbridge has a long history of being an agricultural production, distribution and service centre. The Lethbridge Research Centre (established in 1906) is the largest within Agriculture and Agri- Food Canada's national network of 19 centres and leads Canada's research in the development of bioindustrial platforms.
- The southern Alberta agricultural region has an annual production capacity of over 860,000 acres in canola crops - 21% of the Alberta total Canola crops are grown here.
- Lethbridge based Richardson Oilseed Ltd. (formerly Canbra Foods), was the first company in the world to market canola oil. In 2016, the company announced a \$120 million upgrade to its canola processing facility that would enable it to process an additional 250,000 metric tons of canola every year.

¹² Kennedy Halvorson. “There’s no substitute for water.” Nature Alberta Magazine. Summer 2025. Vol. 55, No. 2

- Beef producers in the Lethbridge region have the capacity to produce more than half a million head of cattle per year valued at approximately \$700 million. That is 10% of the total number of cattle and calves reported across all of Canada in the 2011 Census of Agriculture. Sunrise Poultry Processors Ltd processes approximately 14.5 million broilers per year, that's 275,000 to 290,000 per week.
- Sunnyside Cheese (Agropur) processes 300,000 litres of milk per day producing millions of pounds of cheese per year.
- Lethbridge Inland Terminals has shipped more than 1,000,000 tonnes of grain since it opened a few years ago on Highway 4 southeast of Lethbridge¹³

Coal Mining Impacts on Water

- The impact of these mountain top removal coal projects on watersheds and communities downstream, are of major significant concern. "There are approximately 210,000 residents living in the Oldman watershed. The Oldman watershed is part of the South Saskatchewan River Basin, which also includes the Red Deer, Bow, and Saskatchewan River watersheds. The South Saskatchewan Region of Alberta (including the South Saskatchewan & Milk River watersheds, and the Alberta portion of Cypress Hills) is home to about 1.8 million people"¹⁴
- Removing large quantities of water will have significant impacts on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Riverbanks are exposed to erosion, increased evaporation and lack of water leave once healthy stream beds dry or lower water levels and with it oxygen levels in bodies of water that kill off fish. Changes in water chemistry and composition have already be observed in some rivers and lakes. It also has severe impacts on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems impacting fish reproduction, food sources for other organisms and the impoverishment of the habitat.
- Water quality is also a key concern and of great importance. "Mining is a consumptive use of water, creating tailings contaminated with heavy metals and chemicals that can not be returned to the river; this represents volumes of water lost from an already overused river system. The presence of tailings on the landscape also creates additional threats, as the risk of contaminating nearby water bodies continues."¹⁵

Selenium

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ <https://oldmanwatershed.ca/about-the-watershed>

¹⁵ Kennedy Halvorson. "There's no substitute for water." Nature Alberta Magazine. Summer 2025. Vol. 55, No. 2

- "...selenium is of particular concern downstream of mountaintop removal coal mining operations. Leaching of selenium and resultant biological impacts is well documented (Palmer et al., 2010, Linberg et al., 2011, Hendry et al., 2015)." ¹⁶
- "On the west side of the Rocky Mountains, chemical leaching into the surrounding watershed from commercial coal mines in B.C.'s Elk Valley has been at issue since their onset.
- Expanded coal operations have led to a 95 % increase in selenium, 76 % increase in nitrate, and 38% increase in sulphate concentrations in waters at the Canada and the U.S.A's shared boundary.[7] Increased concentrations of these chemicals cause nutrient and food-chain imbalances in the aquatic ecosystems, and migration interruptions, reproductive deformities and failure, and extirpation of species within affected watersheds." ¹⁷
- "Aquatic selenium bioaccumulates in foodwebs causing toxicity in fish and birds. (Hamilton, 2004)" ¹⁸
- Selenium is capable of long range transport., in the Columbia River system it was detected up to 575 river kilometres downstream from the Elk Valley mines, flowing through the aquatic ecosystems in Montana, Idaho and Washington. [9] ¹⁹
- Contaminants entering the headwaters of the Oldman River to its confluence with the South Saskatchewan river... has the potential to flow past Taber and could effect 210,000 people living with the Oldman Watershed. ²⁰
- Nor is the problem easy to fix even with concerted effort. " After decades of coal extraction, changing regulatory requirements and near complete reclamation of one coal mine, water quality remains negatively impacted with higher concentrations of ions, nutrients, and metals downstream of coal mines. These results suggest current reclamation practices and regulatory requirements for water quality and aquatic ecosystems are not meeting the desired objectives." ²¹

¹⁶ Colin A.Cooke, Craig A. Emerson, William F. Donahue, Jason G. Kerr. "Downstream water quality impacts persist despite mountain top coal reclamation in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Environmental Pollution. Volume 383, 15th October, 2025.

¹⁷ Kennedy Halvorson. "There's no substitute for water." Nature Alberta Magazine. Summer 2025. Vol. 55, No. 2

¹⁸Colin A.Cooke, Craig A. Emerson, William F. Donahue, Jason G. Kerr. "Downstream water quality impacts persist despite mountain top coal reclamation in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Environmental Pollution. Volume 383, 15th October, 2025.

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Colin A.Cooke, Craig A. Emerson, William F. Donahue, Jason G. Kerr. "Downstream water quality impacts persist despite mountain top coal reclamation in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Environmental Pollution. Volume 383, 15th October, 2025.

ALUS Pincher Creek

From Christine Campbell <ccampbell@alus.ca>

Date Fri 2025-10-10 11:59 AM

To Roland Milligan <AdminCAO@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>; MDInfo <MDInfo@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>

Cc Kelly Cooley <coolprosolutions@gmail.com>; Shane Poulsen <ASBFieldman@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>

 3 attachments (15 MB)

ALUS Municipalities One-Pager_Digital_FINAL (1) (1).pdf; ALUS_WRRP_ProjectImpact_2018-2025 (2) (1).pdf;
8.5x11_ALUS_National_Brochure_(DIGITAL-WEB) (1).pdf;

Dear Mr. Milligan,

With municipal elections approaching this October, we wanted to take a moment to thank you and your council for your continued leadership in supporting the ALUS program in your municipality. Together, we have been able to deliver real value to your community through practical, producer-led projects that strengthen ecosystems, enhance resilience, and benefit residents across your region.

ALUS programs are a proven way for municipalities to:

- Leverage **payment for ecosystem services** to support producers in delivering cleaner water, healthier soils, carbon storage, and wildlife habitat.
- Invest in **natural infrastructure** that helps mitigate flooding, drought, and other climate-related risks.
- Enhance **community resilience and sustainability**, aligning with long-term municipal priorities while demonstrating stewardship to constituents.

We are pleased to share a package of updated resources for your reference and for distribution to council and candidates in the upcoming election:

- [ALUS Annual Report 2024–25](#)
- WRRP Cumulative Impact Summary
- Municipal One-Pager
- ALUS National Brochure

We encourage you to make these materials available to all registered candidates. ALUS provides a practical tool to achieve community goals in sustainability, economic development, and environmental stewardship.

Our team is also available to support you by hosting **information sessions**—either before or after the election—to ensure candidates and council members are fully briefed on the value and opportunities of your local ALUS program.

Thank you again for your partnership and for helping to make your municipality a leader in innovative, community-driven solutions. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you'd like to discuss scheduling a briefing session, or if we can provide tailored information for your candidates and council.

Warm regards,

Christine



Christine Campbell

Senior Hub Manager (West)

Gestionnaire principale, division de l'Ouest
ALUS

587-894-0666 | ccampbell@alus.ca | www.alus.ca



Based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Proud to work remotely for ALUS, a distributed organization. Fièvre de travailler à distance pour ALUS, une organisation décentralisée.

 [Book time to meet with me](#)

ALUS



Where **AGRICULTURE & NATURE** Meet



Working with ALUS, Alberta municipalities leverage targeted community funding for natural infrastructure projects, bolstering economic and environmental benefits for rural ratepayers.



ALUS is a community program through which farmers and ranchers voluntarily adopt practices and projects that benefit the local environment. This creates savings in municipal budgets by improving soil erosion, mitigating flood impacts, solving drainage issues, and providing other benefits to local infrastructure.

22

**ALBERTA
Municipalities**

Data as of 2024

\$7.7M

**IN FUNDING FOR
Alberta**

361

**COMMUNITY
Leaders**

492

**ORGANIZATIONAL
Partnerships**

NATURE BY ALBERTANS FOR ALBERTANS



FUNDERS

Alberta

Canada



THE ALUS ADVANTAGE

- Reduces Infrastructure Costs
- Diversifies Rural Incomes
- Local Solutions to Local Problems
- No Titles or Easements
- Integrates with Existing Municipal Programs

LEARN MORE



ALUS.ca



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ALUS Canada



587-894-0666



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@ALUS_Solutions



ALUS

WHERE AGRICULTURE & NATURE MEET

Aug' 2025

9,300+
acres of
wetland
restoration and
enhancement

200+
farmers and
ranchers
directly
supported

21
counties with
ALUS projects
funded by
WRRP

90%
counties
reached by
ALUS info
sessions

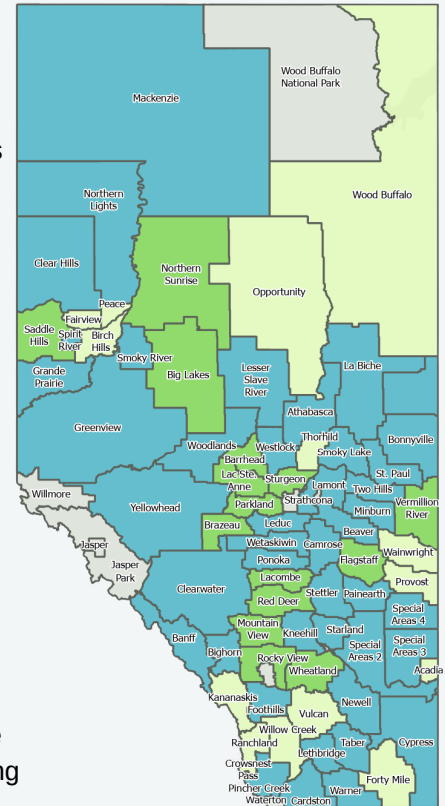
8+ Years of Collaboration with WRRP & 9,300+ Acres Improved for Watershed Resilience in Alberta

Between 2018 and 2025, the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) has enabled the delivery of **over 9,300 acres of nature-based watershed projects through ALUS communities across Alberta.**

These projects have included wetlands, riparian buffers, grasslands, and other natural infrastructure that **reduce flood and drought risk, improve water quality, and support biodiversity.**

ALUS engages communities across Alberta

-  Alberta municipalities with ALUS projects funded by WRRP
-  ALUS program overview sessions delivered to municipalities
-  Municipalities with some contact or engagement, but no formal ALUS information session
-  Protected areas and urban areas ineligible for ALUS programming



Meet the Farmers

Click on or scan QR code



WRRP Funding Supports Diverse ALUS Project Types

WRRP investments through ALUS delivered thousands of acres of nature-based solutions across Alberta, including:

- **Wetland restoration** to store water, recharge aquifers, and reduce flooding
- **Riparian enhancement** to filter runoff, stabilize banks, and improve habitat
- **Grassland projects** to reduce erosion, boost infiltration, and store carbon
- **Natural water storage** to mitigate drought and floods
- **Habitat restoration** to enhance water supply, quality, and biodiversity

\$1 WRRP → \$1.75 in External Investment

Each dollar of WRRP funding leveraged an average of \$1.75 in additional contributions from municipalities, corporate partners, NGOs, and philanthropic sources. This co-investment model increased project scale and supported long-term project monitoring and renewal.

Contributing partners include: Capital Power, Tolko Industries, Alberta Professional Outfitters Society, Results Driven Agriculture Research, Foothills Forage and Grazing, and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Recognition of Municipal Innovation



ALUS Parkland received recognition from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for incorporating natural infrastructure approaches into municipal water planning and infrastructure decisions.



20+ Local & Provincial Partnerships

WRRP support helped to strengthen collaboration across sectors—from watershed planning and technical monitoring to innovation in municipal planning. These partnerships increased the ecological, social, and operational value of each ALUS project.

ALUS partnerships supporting innovation in watershed resilience include:

- **Alberta Ecotrust Foundation, Oldman Watershed Council, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and International Institute for Sustainable Development:** Collaborative partnership to address water challenges in Alberta.
- **North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance:** Conducts riparian monitoring on ALUS projects and provides public access to watershed data.
- **Cows & Fish:** Conducts complementary riparian health assessments and ecological monitoring on ALUS projects.
- **EcoMetrics and Alberta Innovates:** Collaborates with ALUS on the development of the WaterSMART Calculator to quantify water outcomes.
- **Dr. Wanhong Yang (University of Guelph):** Conducted an academic research study using infrastructure modelling on projects in the ALUS Parkland community.

ALUS and WRRP: Shared Priorities in Action

WRRP Priority	How ALUS Has Delivered
Restore and enhance degraded or lost wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplains.	ALUS has improved 9,300+ acres through wetland restoration, riparian enhancement, and floodplain stabilization projects in priority watersheds.
Conserve critical wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplain features.	ALUS has conservation agreements with 200+ Alberta farmers and ranchers to protect high-value natural infrastructure and maintain ecological function over time.
Increase stewardship through awareness and education.	ALUS delivered outreach in ~90% of Alberta municipalities through producer-led Partnership Advisory Committees, introductory workshops and municipal engagement sessions.
Make data, research, and information publicly available.	ALUS has active partnerships with research agencies and NGOs to share riparian health data, infiltration monitoring results, and develop water quantification tools.

Strengthening Proven Solutions

ALUS continues to work with municipalities, producers, and provincial partners to identify new mechanisms for watershed resilience.

✓ **Communities are ready to deliver**, with municipalities on waitlists to enter the ALUS program.

✓ **Partnerships are established** and growing, with new collaborations emerging.

✓ ALUS National, local Partnership Advisory Committees, and partners are **aligned in advocating for watershed resilience as a shared provincial priority**.

WHERE AGRICULTURE & NATURE MEET



OUR VISION

Sustaining agriculture, wildlife and natural spaces for communities and future generations.

A PROGRAM DEVELOPED BY FARMERS FOR FARMERS

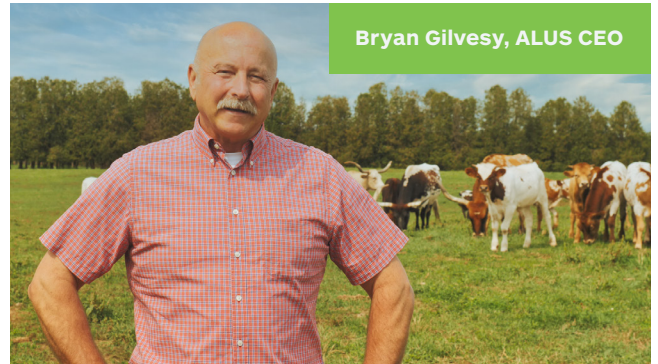
The ALUS concept was born from kitchen-table conversations about the shortcomings of conventional approaches to farm-based conservation. This new conservation model placed communities at the centre of program delivery and rewarded farmers for each acre of ecosystem goods and services their projects produced.

Over two decades later, the program is now delivered by communities across the country. The ALUS network of farmers and ranchers have restored tens of thousands of acres of nature on their lands through projects designed with their needs in mind.

“

The ALUS program is truly like no other. Farmers receive acknowledgement for the environmental work that they're doing—work that benefits the greater good of all society.

**Duane Movald,
ALUS Brazeau (Alberta)**



Bryan Gilvesy, ALUS CEO

THE ALUS ADVANTAGE

The ALUS program is voluntary. No 30-year contracts or conservation easements are required to participate. And as a non-profit charitable organization, all revenues are reinvested back into the delivery of the program to better support the people creating change on the ground and with their hands in the dirt.

ALUS has a long history of investing in farmers and ranchers who produce clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat and other ecosystem goods and services on their farms for the benefit of people and communities. We'd like to invest in you.

Join us in building solutions to some of our most pressing environmental challenges.



Paul Caplette, ALUS farmer and 2022 Dave Reid Award winner.



Helping farmers and ranchers build nature-based solutions on their land to sustain agriculture and biodiversity for the benefit of communities and future generations. **Learn more at alus.ca.**

OUR VISION IN ACTION

When you join an ALUS community, you join a network of farmers and likeminded people who can help you restore or transform marginal parcels of your land into natural areas that produce economically valuable ecosystem goods and services like healthy soils, cleaner air and water, and pollinator and wildlife habitat. This natural infrastructure helps build biodiversity and community resilience to flood, drought and other extreme weather. You'll receive annual per-acre payments for your ongoing stewardship of your projects.

A PRINCIPLE-BASED, FARMER-LED PROGRAM YOU CAN TRUST

ALUS was founded on eight core principles. These principles place knowledge, trust and people at the centre of what we do.



Community developed

The ALUS program is designed to be flexible and responsive to local priorities. Communities can customize the program to help build rural resilience in tangible and meaningful ways.



Integrated

The ALUS program complements existing conservation programs, including federal and provincial government frameworks.



Farmer delivered

Agricultural producers are uniquely positioned to deliver nature-based solutions. They have the land, tools and know-how to create positive environmental change for communities.



Targeted

ALUS projects are focused on marginal and uneconomic or ecologically sensitive parcels of land that can be used to produce vital ecosystem goods and services.



Science based

ALUS provides guidance and technical expertise based on sound scientific principles and verification guidelines to support the design and implementation of nature-based solutions.



Accountable

ALUS projects are independently monitored, verified and audited by trusted farm organizations or institutions. Data collection processes adhere to the highest standards in data integrity and privacy.



Market driven

ALUS recognizes the ecosystem goods and services that farmers and ranchers produce have economic value on the voluntary marketplace. ALUS facilitates value exchange and corporate and private investment in ALUS projects.



Voluntary

Farmers and ranchers participate in ALUS based on voluntary, flexible agreements that suit their operation and provide financial compensation for the management of the ecosystem goods and services produced on their lands.

JOIN US IN BUILDING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS THAT CREATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES.



Become an ALUS farmer



Launch an ALUS community



Become a corporate sponsor

Learn more at ALUS.ca



Indoor Sport Court update

From Andrea Hlady <community@pinchercreek.ca>

Date Thu 2025-10-23 11:23 AM

To Roland Milligan <AdminCAO@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>

Cc Jessica McClelland <AdminExecAsst@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>; Recreation <rec@pinchercreek.ca>; Adam Grose <recmanager@pinchercreek.ca>; Konrad Dunbar <cao@pinchercreek.ca>; Poolcash <poolcash@pinchercreek.ca>

Hi Roland,
Hope you are doing well.

Thanks again to M.D. Council for investing in the Indoor Sports Court project. Sport tiles are now in storage for the winter!
Please forward the summary below to the Councillors.

Indoor Court Usage	# of Times	# of Users (approx.)
Boredom Busters	17	170
Pickleball	77	120
Community Basketball	48	240
Community Volleyball	12	180
Nerf Games	7	140
Private Rentals	7	
Tournament	1	40+

Opened June 16 – September 1, 2025.

Future planning includes supporting community champions/coaches that want to expand their programming through the summer. We will be able to reinstall the flooring in May 2026, after the annual Chamber of Commerce Trade Show.

Please don't hesitate if you have any questions.
Many thanks,
Andrea



Andrea Hlady, M.A.
Director, Culture and Recreation

email: community@pinchercreek.ca

main line: (403) 627-4322 | cell: (403) 875-8442

Town of Pincher Creek, 962 St. John Ave (Box 159) Pincher Creek, AB T0K1W0

www.pinchercreek.ca

I acknowledge that we are on Treaty 7 territory, the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Nation, including Siksika, Piikani, Kainai, the Tsuut'ina Nation and the Stoney Nakoda First Nations. I acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

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