

Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 2026 Spring Newsletter

VISION/Where the Rockies meet the prairies, the MD of Pincher Creek promotes sustainable growth while taking pride in its Western heritage and unique natural environment.

MISSION/We are a multi-generational rural community that celebrates a mix of heritage and progress while attracting responsible development.

MD Council has worked diligently to achieve an 8% decrease in Municipal Tax Rate in 2026. This was accomplished despite recent financial challenges of inflation, increased Provincial downloading of policing costs, and reduced grant funding from both Federal and Provincial governments. Our aim has always been to make small, incremental adjustments to ensure the long-term sustainability of our community.

Alongside the complex tax situation we face each year, the Provincial Government is responsible for sharp increases in the Education Property Tax Requisition. The total for this year is \$3.8 Million, which accounts for 20% of the entire tax levy collected by the MD. You will see in the graph below where your municipality's paid tax dollars are allocated. These requisitions are set by the Provincial Government, and we are forced to collect them on Municipal Tax Notices, with no say or control over them.

Our Municipality is large and distinctive, making it a place we all cherish. However, this also leads to a complex, unavoidable problems with taxes. Assessment increases vary across our Municipality, resulting in different tax adjustments. We are tasked with setting a tax rate and determining tax revenue through a tax bylaw. This year, we lowered the municipal tax rate for residential properties to help counterbalance the significant assessment fluctuations.

If you need help reviewing or understanding your tax bill, we are here to assist. If you have questions or issues related to Municipal Taxes or your property assessment, we are ready to work with you. However, the Education Property Tax Requisition is determined by the Province of Alberta. Concerns or questions related to this portion of your tax bill can be directed here: <https://www.alberta.ca/education-property-tax>



IMPORTANT DATES:
Assessment Complaint
Deadline - June 30th

Penalties Applied to Out-
standing Tax as Follows:
July 2nd 2%
November 1st 4%
January 1st 12%

The types of payments that the MD accepts for taxes are:

- Cash
- Cheque
- Postdated cheque
- Bank draft
- Interact
- Tax Installment Payment Plan

The MD does NOT accept e-transfer.

Where does my tax dollar go?



PREMIX SALES

(Weed Spray) available to order: May 15 through September 15. To order, call (403) 627-3130 Monday to Friday, ask for premix. **PICKUP AVAILABLE THURSDAY'S AT THE AIRPORT ONLY 6:30 am to 5:00 pm.** Available to MD of Pincher Creek residents ONLY. Limit of ten (10) jugs per order. Jugs are 10 Liters.

PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2025

Division 1—Rg Rd 29-0 Culvert replacement
Division 2—Rg Rd 29-3 Culvert upsize and replacement including rip rap
Division 3—Twp Rd 6-2A Culvert replacement including rip rap
Division 3—Rg Rd 6-5 New Culvert installation
Division 3—Twp Rd 7-0 Replace 2-600mm culverts and install 1- 1400mm including rip rap
Division 4—Rg Rd 30-1 Internal Capital Project-

Ditching, drainage and culvert work on 3km
Division 4—Rg Rd 30-1 Culvert upsize and replacement
Division 5—Twp Rd 9-3 Culvert installation in problem area
Division 5—Twp Rd 10-0 Replace Texas Gate
Division 5—Portion of 3A Lundbreck resurfaced.
All Divisions –Brushing in road right of way
All Divisions—Permanent snow fence rebuilds and repair

MAJOR BRIDGE/CULVERT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2025

- Fisher Bridge North of Lundbreck – Abutment Protection Fill Work
- Iron Creek under Tapay Road culvert replacement – environmentally sensitive grant funded project to expand fish habitat
- Yarrow Creek/Spread Eagle Road bridge structure rehabilitation
- Meyers Corner culvert replacement via boring
- Castle River Tributary under Landfill Road bridge replacement with culverts
- Pincher Creek Tributary under Toney Drive culvert steel pipe liner installation

REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM—WHAT’S NEXT & SUPPLY OUTLOOK

The MD is completing water treatment upgrades at our raw water station. The MD is planning to complete our Drought Project Assessment this year, with a potential outcome project starting as early as 2027, dependant on grant funding timelines.

As of March 11, 2026, the Alberta Rivers Water Supply Forecast predicts “normal to above normal” mountain runoff for March–September. The MD is monitoring reservoir levels and supply forecasts. The MD anticipates avoiding water hauling and temporary pumping this year, thanks to the new intakes.

UPCOMING 2026 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

- Replace failing culvert with dual culverts and perform road work to accommodate the larger culverts at Twp Rd 9-0A Rg Rd 3-0
- Culvert maintenance, replacement and installations
- Texas Gate maintenance and installations
- Gravel Road Shoulder maintenance
- Bridge Maintenance
- Re-gravel program- May-July
- Dust Control program- May-June
- Roadside Vegetation Control- June-October
- Connelly Creek culvert replacement - environmentally sensitive partially grant funded project to expand fish habitat
- Waldron Flats over Indian Creek Culvert Replacement
- W. End Maycroft over Ernst Creek Culvert Replacement
- Pisony Road over Cow Creek Trib. Culvert Replacement
- Therriault Dam Emergency Spillway Expansion Work - *pending grant funding*
- Southfork Hill Road slide - Awaiting grant decision prior to finalizing design work
- Lundbreck Sewer Lining project between Park and Railway St
- Beaver Mines Lift Station HVAC modifications and Instrument Air Upgrades
- Airport + Southfork Road (HWY 3A) Pavement Max Loading Assessment
- Regional Drought Supply & Strategic Implementation Study
- Regional Facilities Condition Assessment & Master Plan
- Lundbreck Water Tank Repair & Maintenance Work

Major Bridge/Culvert Projects

- Olin Creek Tributary culvert replacement



REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM—WHERE ARE WE AT?

The MD is continuing to take seriously the potential for long term drought and future water supply impacts. New intakes have been installed (with provincial grant assistance) and are functioning for backup support, but have limitations due to aquifer constraints when trying to keep forecasted 2050 demand.

The MD has been working with an engineering firm since early 2025 on a Drought Projects Assessment. A Water Resource Assessment has been completed, giving the MD a clearer picture of the system's current bottlenecks when compared to forecasted demand.

The study is now focusing on development of preliminary designs, risk assessments, and capital and operational cost-benefit analyses of solutions like raw water storage, interconnection with the Town, and intake production increase methods, to ensure long-term water security during droughts. The MD plans to evaluate options before committing to significant expenditures.

WEED NOTICES

As I'm sure 99% of landowners are aware, if you have or think you have an infestation of regulated invasive plants (weeds!), please realize that for Prohibited Noxious (PN) weeds, the Weed Act states that the Landowner is responsible for eradicating these plants. For Noxious Weeds (N), you must do everything you can to control and stop the spread of them.

For people who had PN weeds and worked hard to eradicate them, we at Agricultural and Environmental Services (AES) will phone and/or visit to see how it's going this year and how we can help. If we can't reach you and still notice weeds, we may send a letter. For landowners who had PN weeds and didn't do everything possible to eradicate them, we will send out letters in late April/early May.

We are here to do everything we can to help with this process. We are going to start out like we usually do, talking to and working with people who have these plant species on their property. This has been the most effective way to achieve our goals and will probably always be, since the more hands and hearts (and eyeballs) that are invested in getting rid of these plants, the more likely it is to happen.

As it happens, things have changed, and we are seeing more and more absentee landowners who will need to receive letters of notice that these plants are present on their property. If there is no response, a Weed Notice will then be sent. For infestations of Prohibited Noxious weeds, this gives them a set period (stated on the Notice) to eradicate those plants. Under the Weed Act, eradication means destroying all growing and propagating parts of the plant. This means that all parts of the plant, including its seeds and roots, must be removed and destroyed.

With noxious weeds, the requirements are a little less onerous, as all you have to do is control the plants. As you know, there are several methods of control. Pulling the plants is the most obvious, but depending on the plant, it also works to spray them with an approved herbicide, plow them up, or mow them down. As long as they aren't being spread further and are being reduced in number, that will be a start. Ultimately, we want that plant gone, or as close to it as possible. The sooner that's done, the faster you can check that job off the list.

We're very aware that not all weeds are created equal. Our purpose is to work with you to help you get this done to the best of our abilities. If you have any questions, call your Agricultural Fieldman at 403-339-8741 to find out what works and what doesn't. Our goal is to keep these plants from spreading any further and, for both Prohibited Noxious and Noxious, to eradicate them.

BEAVER MINES WATER/WASTEWATER PROJECT COMPLETION

Over 70% of developed properties in Beaver Mines are now connected to the water and wastewater systems.

Remaining property owners must connect by January 1, 2028. Contractors are expected to be booked up closer to 2028, please ensure you are planning ahead!

Visit the MD website Utility Services Guidelines page for connection details.

   	Reuse & Recycle Fair Saturday, June 13 10 am to 2 pm 1037 Herron Ave, Eco Centre/MD Office
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AGRICULTURAL RENTAL EQUIPMENT

The Ag Services Department has livestock equipment for rental.

The following are rented out at **\$40/day or weekend;**

- 2 Morand Cattle Squeezes – one with a vet cage and one without
- 1 Morand Loading Chute
- 1 set of 20 + gate of 2W Corral Panels (and Trailer)
- 1 NORAC single animal electronic scale
- As well, we have a portable Sundog Solar Waterer for rent at **\$150 for 2 weeks.**

Contact Shane at **403-339-8741**, Ayla at **403-339-1034** or the main number at the MD Administration 403-627-3130, to book.



SOUTH WEST RURAL CRIME WATCH ASSOCIATION – CRIME PREVENTION IS A COMMUNITY EFFORT!

The South West Rural Crime Watch Association is looking ahead with renewed energy following the onboarding of a new executive team. The association's new leadership includes President Anne Stevick, Vice President Shelly-Anne Dennis, Treasurer Blanche Lemire, and Secretary Barb Boyer.

The association continues to focus on strengthening communication and cooperation between rural residents, local law enforcement, and the community. Rural Crime Watch programs across Alberta play an important role in helping neighbors look out for one another and report suspicious activity, which helps keep rural areas safe.

The South West Rural Crime Watch Association is fortunate to have ongoing support and collaboration from the Pincher Creek and Crowsnest Pass RCMP, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, and the MD of Pincher Creek's Enforcement Services. These partnerships help ensure that information, prevention strategies, and community concerns are shared effectively.

Moving forward, the association's goals include rebuilding and strengthening membership, improving communication with rural residents, and promoting awareness about rural crime prevention. The group also hopes to encourage more community involvement and ensure members have the tools and information they need to help protect their property and neighborhoods.

Residents can look forward to seeing the association more active in the community over the coming months. Community participation is a key part of Rural Crime Watch. By staying informed, reporting suspicious activity, and working together, residents can play an important role in maintaining the safety and well-being of rural communities across the region.

Anyone interested in learning more about the South West Rural Crime Watch Association, becoming a member, or volunteering is encouraged to attend our regular meetings or reach out to the executive team. Stay up to date with upcoming events by following the South West Rural Crime Watch Association on Facebook or keep an eye on the MD of Pincher Creek's website.

ENFORCEMENT SERVICES NEARS FIRST ANNIVERSARY!

As the MD of Pincher Creek approaches the one-year anniversary of its Enforcement Services department, it's a great opportunity to reflect on the progress made during its first year and the positive impact it has had in the community.

Since its launch, Enforcement Services has focused on a balanced approach that prioritizes education, voluntary compliance, and community engagement, while still providing the tools necessary to address safety concerns and bylaw violations when required. The goal has always been to support a safe, respectful rural community.

Over the past year, Enforcement Services has responded to a wide range of concerns from residents, including traffic safety, abandoned vehicles, nuisance complaints, and land use matters. In many cases, these issues have been resolved through communication and cooperation with property owners, demonstrating that education and proactive engagement can often achieve positive outcomes without the need for formal enforcement.

A key part of the department's success has been strong collaboration with partner agencies. Enforcement Services continues to work closely with the RCMP, Fish and Wildlife, and neighboring municipalities to address issues that affect the area. These partnerships help ensure that concerns are handled efficiently and that residents receive the appropriate levels of service.

Community outreach has also been an important part of the department's work. Over the past year, Enforcement Service has participated in several local initiatives, including school visits and community events where CPO Potter had the opportunity to speak with residents and students about her role and responsibilities. Events such as "Pop with a Cop" at Lundbreck School provided valuable opportunities for youth to learn about careers in public safety and how different agencies work together to serve the community.

As the program moves into its second year, Enforcement Services will continue to focus on proactive education, visibility in the community, and responsive service to residents. Building trust and maintaining open communication with the public will remain a top priority.

Residents who have concerns related to municipal bylaws or public safety are encouraged to contact Enforcement Services. Complaints can be submitted by completing the complaint form available on the MD's website, emailing Enforcement Services at mdcpo@mdpincercreek.ab.ca, or by calling 403-904-8007.

