

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Welcome
- 1.2 Call to Order
- 1.3 Review of Agenda

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

- 2.1 Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement - Blackfalds Town Council acknowledges that we are on Treaty Six Territory, a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

3. **DELEGATIONS**

- 3.1 reconcept Canada - Lacombe Solar Project, *Brenda (Law) Simon*

4. **BUSINESS**

- 4.1 Request for Direction, Community Engagement Budget Survey and Open House Planning
- 4.2 Request for Direction, Proposed Disc Golf Course
- 4.3 Request for Direction, Blackfalds Transit Service On-Demand Contract Extension
- 4.4 Request for Direction, Revised Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement
- 4.5 Request for Direction, Regional Collaboration Committee
- 4.6 Request for Direction, Municipal Election Sign Bylaw

5. **CONFIDENTIAL**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Future Meetings:

- Regular Council Meeting – August 26, 2025
- Regular Council Meeting – September 9, 2025

MEETING DATE: August 18, 2025
PRESENTED BY: Brenda (Law) Simon
SUBJECT: **reconcept Canada - Lacombe Solar Project**

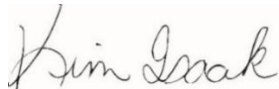
BACKGROUND

Brenda (Law) Simon, a member of the Lacombe Concerned Citizens Group, will present concerns regarding the reconcept Canada - Lacombe Solar Project.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Town of Blackfalds Council Meeting Letter – August 13, 2025*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer

August 13, 2025

Good evening, Town of Blackfalds Mayor, Council Members and other Guests,

My name is Brenda (Law) Simon, and I am a member of the **Lacombe Concerned Citizens Group**—a collective of neighbouring landowners who have come together to voice our opposition to reconcept's proposed **Solar Farm Project** at Legal Land Location SW-17-40-26-W4.

My family and I are deeply saddened, concerned, upset, and honestly can't believe we have been brought to this point that we are fighting to protect our precious agriculture industry and our high quality large producing Grade 1 & Grade 2 farmland; from large Industrial Solar Farm Projects like the one being proposed by reconcept for Legal Land Location SW-17-40-26-W4 in the Lacombe County

My family and I come from a long deep family rooted Agriculture Farming History within the Lacombe County (125 years on my grandma side (Moore) and 78 years on my grandpa's side (Otto)). For generations, my family has worked, preserved, and cultivated some of the highest-quality farmland in the province—land that has helped feed our communities, build the economy, and shape the identity of Lacombe County itself. Our family has been awarded the Lacombe County 100 Year Farm Family award on my Grandma Moore side and the Lacombe County has also named a road after my Grandpa "Otto's family "Otto Road". My family and I along with many other neighbouring landowners are pleading to the Lacombe County to help us preserve and protect our precious Grade 1 and Grade 2 Farmland from overseas Solar Farm Companies like the one being proposed by reconcet for legal land location SW-17-40-26-W4.

I am here today to provide the Mayor and each Council member with an information package, which includes a letter outlining my concerns and a series of questions related to the project. This solar development is being proposed approximately **1,000 metres Southeast of the City of Lacombe (a city of nearly 15,000 residents) and on Grade 2 farmland**. We believe it is critical that the Town of Blackfalds, Lacombe County and the City of Lacombe Residents are fully informed of this project and its potential catastrophic effects on Human / Wildlife Health & Safety, Environment and Agriculture Farmland.

At this stage, reconcept is still in the process of preparing its proposal for submission to the **Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)**. As such, the Lacombe Concerned Citizens Group along with my family and I are urging the Town of Blackfalds to take this opportunity to review its current **land use bylaws, policies, regulations, and its Emergency Response / Evacuation plans** — and to consider any necessary updates and changes—well in advance of reconcept's AUC application submission. We encourage you to research the Farmers Advocate Office website, search Energy Utilities and read the "Renewable Energy Section". Darcy Allan with the Farmers Advocate Office is also a great resource for information for not only farmers, but for municipalities as well.

We are all left questioning how anyone can justify the risks and costs associated with reconcept's proposed solar project at Legal Land Location SE-17-40-26-W4 — particularly when compared to the limited potential production profits. This is especially concerning given that the project is unable to expand due to its proximity to the City of Lacombe, Canadian Government Research Station, and neighbouring landowners, many of whom are already voicing strong concerns over the permanent loss of valuable agricultural farmland.

How can reconcept realistically cover payments to the landowner, legal and proposal fees, construction and ongoing maintenance costs, insurance, staffing, and overhead... for a project projected to supply electricity to approximately 5,600 homes *if* it performs as intended? Based on our understanding, even the existing solar farm near Joffre has underperformed, particularly during the winter months. What makes this project any different? This project from our understanding was built 2 years ago and has already sold 3 times. There is no community commitment by these overseas Solar Companies.

Furthermore, the proposed site lies in the heart of Alberta's "Hail and Tornado Alley." How often will insurance companies be willing to cover weather-related damage before denying future claims altogether? And if that happens, what safeguards are in place to prevent this from becoming an orphaned solar farm for Lacombe County and Neighbouring landowners? As the actual Landowner resides in Calgary and this will never affect him.

There is also a real risk of environmental contamination. If a storm were to shatter solar panels, how can reconcept — Lacombe County — guarantee that fragments won't blow into our neighbouring quarter section currently used for growing potatoes destined for the Old Dutch Chip company and the Human food chain.

We also feel that the Town of Blackfalds & Lacombe County's cost-benefit analysis also seems unbalanced. It's unclear how much tax revenue this project will generate — and whether it will be enough to offset the Town of Blackfalds & Lacombe County's financial and operational responsibilities, such as Emergency Response / Evacuation Planning, Specialized Firefighting Training and Equipment, the broader Human & Wildlife Health & Safety risks to an estimated 20,000 nearby City and County residents, Environmental risks, and responsibilities, just to list a few.

Lastly, what amount of insurance coverage will neighbouring landowners be required to carry to protect against potential fire damage, particularly in the event that a combine, baler, tractor... catches fire and the blaze spreads into the adjacent solar farm project? We've have consulted with our insurance provider, and the maximum personal liability coverage available to us is \$5 million. However, \$5 million would fall far short of covering the damages if a fire were to impact the solar farm. Such an incident could financially devastate any individual landowner involved.

We're struggling to understand how these risks are being justified — and by whom — when the potential gains appear minimal in comparison (power for 5,600 home in Blackfalds).

The values simply don't add up in our minds.

In summary, my family and I, along with the Lacombe Concerned Citizens Group—comprising of neighbouring landowners—are urgently appealing to The Town of Blackfalds & Lacombe County to help us protect our Grade 1 and Grade 2 farmland, the health and safety of both humans and wildlife, and the surrounding environment from reconcept's proposed solar farm project at Legal Land Location SW-17-40-26-W4.

We hope the information shared with you today will serve as a catalyst for further **research, dialogue, and preparation**, enabling the Town of Blackfalds & Lacombe County to make informed decisions and advocate effectively on behalf of its long-term residents, that have supported Lacombe County for so many years. This is a significant project with potential short term and long-term catastrophic consequences, and it must be approached with careful consideration and due diligence.

On behalf of the Lacombe Concerned Citizens Group, my family and myself, Brenda (Law) Simon, we sincerely thank you for the opportunity to present this information and attend today's Council meeting. We understand your schedules are busy, and we appreciate your time and attention to this important matter.

I leave you with the wise words of my late Grandpa Lewis Otto: "If you look after the land, the land will look after you". Please help us protect our land.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Brenda (Law) Simon.

Respectfully,

Brenda (Law) Simon: [REDACTED]
Lacombe Concerned Citizens Group

MEETING DATE: August 18, 2025

PREPARED BY: Darolee Bouteiller, Financial Services Manager

PRESENTED BY: Darolee Bouteiller, Financial Services Manager

SUBJECT: **Community Engagement Budget Survey and Open House Planning**

BACKGROUND

The community engagement portion of the budget process was approved as part of the Budget timelines at the March 25, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council. It was determined that community engagement would be in the form of an in-house survey, along with an open house during the Community Information Expo. The process of gathering input from citizens is an important part of approving an operating budget. The feedback helps to ensure the Town is addressing the concerns and prioritizing the needs of citizens.

DISCUSSION

The primary goal of conducting a survey is to provide citizens with an opportunity to provide feedback regarding service areas provided by the Town, and to indicate their tolerance and preference regarding tax changes. It aims to help the Town understand how well its services meet community expectations, and to gather valuable input that may influence how resources are allocated within the Town budget.

This survey was developed in-house and has been modified from the previous surveys to gather more in-depth responses. It consists of nine questions that focus on key Town service areas, nine questions specific to property taxes, and three optional demographic questions. Each question will be prefaced with a photo and a link where appropriate to the Town's YouTube channel for budget week videos. These links provide a great opportunity to inform and educate citizens about the type of work that is being done.

For each service area, citizens are asked to rate how effectively the Town is currently delivering the service. The multiple choice answers are between: Very Effectively, Effectively, Adequately, Ineffectively, Very Ineffectively. After rating the services, the comment box asks the question: "What is the single biggest challenge or area for improvement you have observed or experienced in the Service?" that the budget should address." The wording on the comment box encourages respondents to focus on feedback with context that can influence budget changes.

The Property tax section of the survey has been expanded with more questions and the intention of receiving more specific feedback on budget strategies, solutions and gauging citizen tax rate tolerance. The section begins with a high-level summation of the amount of property tax that goes to the Town. Then, asks five questions about strategies that can be implemented to balance the budget. The respondents are asked to rate their level of acceptability for each strategy with the answers between: Completely Acceptable, Acceptable, Neutral, Unacceptable and Completely Unacceptable.

The next four questions then focus on the respondent's willingness to support property tax increases based on specific purposes.

The questions pose different scenarios, the respondent is asked to rate the level of support for tax increases of each scenario between: Strongly support, Support, Neutral, Oppose, Strongly Oppose. After the multiple choice questions in the property tax section, there is a comment box that asks: "Are there any additional challenges or areas for improvement you have observed or experienced within the Town that the budget should address?"

The demographic section is optional, but it will give statistical context about who is responding to the survey.

Survey Planet is the platform that will be used again. It provides a user-friendly interface that can be completed on any device connected to the internet. The survey will be set up and overseen by the Communications Department. The survey will begin on August 25 and end on September 15.

As an incentive to encourage participation in the survey, the Town is offering a chance to win one of two prizes: \$150 credit to the town utility account with a Blackfalds promotional gift, and an Abbey Gift Card with a Blackfalds promotional gift. The survey will be promoted through the Town of Blackfalds social media accounts, website and on utility bills. A QR Code (Quick Response) will be posted at municipal facilities for people to take a photo and complete remotely. In addition, tablets will be set up at several Town facilities for citizens to use if they do not have access to the internet. This option will also be available at the Community Information Expo.

The Budget "open house" will take place during the Community Information Expo held on September 8, at the Community Centre. Town Council will have a display of budget boards, with informative data on services and capital investments. The display will help initiate conversations with residents. Additionally, it will provide an opportunity for residents to complete the budget survey on-site with the QR Code or on one of the town tablets.

Results from this survey will assist Council in setting priorities for budget considerations. The survey results will be finalized and presented to Council on October 14. The results will be incorporated into the Town of Blackfalds 2026 – 2028 Budget.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the survey and open house include staff time for preparing and promoting the survey, prizes, and office supplies. Total cost is expected to be less than \$1,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion:

1. That Standing Committee of Council receive the Community Engagement Budget Survey and Open House Planning, as information.

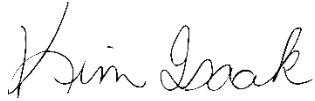
ALTERNATIVES

- a) That Standing Committee of Council receive the Community Engagement Open House Planning as information and refer the Budget Survey back to Administration with the amendments discussed for inclusion in the Budget Survey

ATTACHMENTS

- *Appendix A – 2026 -2028 Budget Survey*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer



Department Director/Author

The Town of Blackfalds delivers a balanced budget that aims to maintain infrastructure and services and improve programs while maintaining affordability for taxpayers.

We want to hear from you to help us understand your priorities and how effectively the Town services meet your expectations.

As a Citizen of the Town, your opinions are an important component in setting budget priorities. By completing this budget survey you will give valuable input into the service areas the Town provides and allow you the opportunity to give your suggestions and input on programs, projects and property tax strategies.

The survey closes on Sept. 15, 2025.

Protective Services include policing, fire and emergency services, bylaws and municipal enforcement, and occupational health & safety.

These services account for approximately 11% of the Town's operating budget, provide a safe community, encompassing policing, emergency services, fire suppression, rescue, medical response, and many common concerns including excessive noise, unsightly premises, and support at public events.

Thinking about the various functions of **Protective Services** in Blackfalds, how effectively do you believe the Town is currently delivering on services?

- Very Effectively
- Effectively
- Adequately
- Ineffectively
- Very Ineffectively

What is the **single biggest challenge or area for improvement** you have observed or experienced within Protective Services in Blackfalds that the budget should address?

Environmental Services include water, sewer, solid waste and recycling services.

The environmental services are self-funded by the revenue collected from the Town utility bills and are designed to recover costs of utility services, maintain reliable infrastructure, and support future growth.

Thinking about the various functions of **Environmental Services** in Blackfalds, how effectively do you believe the Town is currently delivering on Services?

- Very Effectively
- Effectively
- Adequately
- Ineffectively
- Very Ineffectively

What is the **single biggest challenge or area for improvement** you have observed or experienced within Environmental Services in Blackfalds that the budget should address?

Infrastructure Services consists of road and street maintenance.

Infrastructure Services account for 7% of the operating budget and consist of roads and street maintenance including repairs, street sweeping, snow removal, and signage.

Thinking about the various functions of **Infrastructure Services** in Blackfalds, how effectively do you believe the Town is currently delivering on Services?

- Very Effectively
- Effectively
- Adequately
- Ineffectively
- Very Ineffectively

What is the **single biggest challenge or area for improvement** you have observed or experienced within Infrastructure Services in Blackfalds that the budget should address?

The Economic Development department engages in activities designed to enhance and expand economic viability within the Town of Blackfalds, through business attraction and tourism. Economic Development accounts for less than 1% of the overall Town Budget.

Thinking about the various functions of **Economic Development** in Blackfalds, how effectively do you believe the Town is currently delivering on Services?

- Very Effectively
- Effectively
- Adequately
- Ineffectively
- Very Ineffectively

What is the **single biggest challenge or area for improvement** you have observed or experienced within Economic Development in Blackfalds that the budget should address?

Facility Services maintain all municipal buildings and recreational facilities, as part of the Community Services Department, which is 19% of the operating budget. Facility services are responsible for maintenance of the Town buildings like the Abbey Centre, Eagle Building Centre, Community Centre, Protective Services Building, and Operation and the Civic Center.

Thinking about the various functions of **Facility Services** in Blackfalds, how effectively do you believe the Town is currently delivering on Services?

- Very Effectively
- Effectively
- Adequately
- Ineffectively
- Very Ineffectively

What is the **single biggest challenge or area for improvement** you have observed or experienced within Facility Services in Blackfalds that the budget should address?

The Town offers various **Programs & Events** throughout the year. As part of the Community Services Department, which is 19% of the operating budget, the Town facilitates and coordinates arts & culture, fitness, aquatic, intergenerational, youth and senior programs and events. This includes Blackfalds days and Summer Cultural series.

Thinking about the various functions of **Programs & Events** in Blackfalds, how effectively do you believe the Town is currently delivering on Services?

- Very Effectively
- Effectively
- Adequately
- Ineffectively
- Very Ineffectively

What is the **single biggest challenge or area for improvement** you have observed or experienced within Programs & Events in Blackfalds that the budget should address?

Parks, Playgrounds and Green Spaces consist of playgrounds, parks, trails and open spaces. As part of the Community Services Department which is 19% of the operating budget, parks, playgrounds and green spaces include floral beautification, tree planting and other replacement initiatives.

Thinking about the various functions of **Parks, Playgrounds and Green Spaces** in Blackfalds, how effectively do you believe the Town is currently delivering on Services?

- Very Effectively
- Effectively
- Adequately

- Ineffectively
- Very Ineffectively

What is the **single biggest challenge or area for improvement** you have observed or experienced within Parks, Playgrounds and Green Spaces in Blackfalds that the budget should address?

Marketing & Communications leads, coordinates, and manages all activities that involve information sharing, promotions, and brand strategies for all departments in the Town.

The MarCom team spearheads the development of marketing goals and promotional activities and supports the organization's internal and external communications, including the Town's website, social media accounts, newsletters, media releases, events, and programs. MarCom accounts for less than 1% of the overall total budget for the Town.

Thinking about the various functions of **Marketing & Communications** in Blackfalds, how effectively do you believe the Town is currently delivering on Services?

- Very Effectively
- Effectively
- Adequately
- Ineffectively
- Very Ineffectively

What is the **single biggest challenge or area for improvement** you have observed or experienced within **Marketing & Communications** in Blackfalds that the budget should address?

Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) provides support and social programs.

The FCSS mandate includes volunteerism, family life enrichment programming and community development. Although supported by provincial and local government grants, this service accounts for about 2% of the Towns total operating budget.

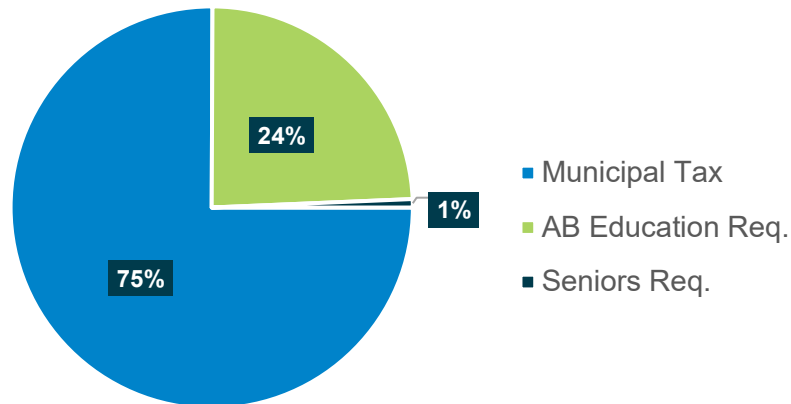
Thinking about the various functions of **Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)** in Blackfalds, how effectively do you believe the Town is currently delivering on Services?

- Very Effectively
- Effectively
- Adequately
- Ineffectively
- Very Ineffectively

What is the **single biggest challenge or area for improvement** you have observed or experienced within Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) in Blackfalds that the budget should address?

Property Tax: Your annual tax bill is made up of taxes for the Town of Blackfalds, the amount paid to the Government of Alberta Education Tax, and the amount paid to Lacombe Foundation that provides safe and affordable housing to seniors and families. In general, about 75% of what you pay in property taxes goes to The Town of Blackfalds.

Distribution of \$1 of Residential Tax



Every time your street is plowed, you see a fire vehicle or apparatus responding to an emergency, or you visit a park or arena, you are witnessing your municipal tax dollars at work.

The Town of Blackfalds is required by the Municipal Government Act (MGA) to provide a balanced budget and a three-year forecast effective at the beginning of every year.

The Town of Blackfalds uses property tax, grants, and user fees as revenue sources to pay for municipal services. To balance the budget, various strategies can be employed. Please rate how acceptable each of the following strategic options would be to you as a means of balancing the Town's budget:

• **Reducing the level of Town services** (e.g., reduced hours for facilities, fewer program offerings, mowing restrictions).

- Completely Acceptable
- Acceptable
- Neutral
- Unacceptable
- Completely Unacceptable

• **Increasing user fees** for Town services that currently have fees (e.g., Abbey Centre access, permits, licenses).

- Completely Acceptable
- Acceptable
- Neutral
- Unacceptable
- Completely Unacceptable

• **Postponing infrastructure projects** (e.g., new amenities or major repairs).

- Completely Acceptable
- Acceptable
- Neutral
- Unacceptable
- Completely Unacceptable

• **Increasing property taxes.**

- Completely Acceptable
- Acceptable
- Neutral
- Unacceptable
- Completely Unacceptable

• **Introducing new user fees** for some Town services that currently have no fees (e.g., RV dumping fees or transfer site fees)

- Completely Acceptable
- Acceptable
- Neutral
- Unacceptable
- Completely Unacceptable

Given that the Town of Blackfalds aims to deliver a balanced budget that maintains infrastructure and services and improves programs while maintaining affordability for taxpayers and recognizing that the cost to supply services increases each year.

Please indicate your willingness to support a property tax increase for the following specific purposes

• **To maintain the current level of all Town services** (e.g., Protective Services, Infrastructure, Community Services).

- Strongly Support
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly Oppose

• **To enhance specific existing services** (e.g., increased frequency of snow removal, expanded community programs, more policing presence).

- Strongly Support
- Support

- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly Oppose

• **To fund new programs or amenities** that do not currently exist in the Town.

- Strongly Support
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly Oppose

• **To keep pace with inflation** and rising operational costs across all departments

- Strongly Support
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly Oppose

Are there any additional **challenges or areas for improvement** you have observed or experienced within the Town that the budget should address?

If you would like more information on the current budget, follow the link to 2025 Town of Blackfalds Budget ([LINK](#))

The following responses are optional, but your responses would help us understand how the results from this survey reflect the makeup of our community and inform how we communicate with you in the future.

Which best applies to you?

- Blackfalds resident property owner
- Blackfalds resident renter
- Business owner/ operator in the Town of Blackfalds
- Lacombe County Resident
- Prefer not to Answer

What age group best represents you?

- Under 18 years of age
- Between Age of 18 – 30
- Between Age of 31-45
- Between Age of 46 - 65
- Age 66 and over
- Prefer not to answer.

How did you hear about the survey?

- Social Media
- Town Website
- Facility or event promotion
- Announcement on the Town Utility Invoice
- Community Information Expo
- Other

Thank you for participating in this Survey.

Submit your email to enter the draw for a chance to win one of two prizes

\$150 credit on your utility account and Blackfalds Swag

or

Abbey Gift Card and some Blackfalds Swag!

Email Address

Personal information provided through this online survey is collected under the authority of Section 4(c) of the *Protection of Privacy Act*. Names and email addresses will be used to facilitate contact with prize winners and will be protected under Part 1 of the Act. Questions or concerns regarding the collection and/or use of this information may be directed to the Information Governance Coordinator at access@blackfalds.ca or by phone at (403) 885-6370

MEETING DATE: August 18, 2025
PREPARED BY: Rick Kreklewich, Director of Community Services
PRESENTED BY: Rick Kreklewich, Director of Community Services
SUBJECT: **Proposed Disc Golf Course**

BACKGROUND

The Optimist Club of Blackfalds has been working with Administration on developing a disc golf course within Blackfalds. The baskets for the course were purchased and are currently being stored at the Operations Centre. The Optimist Club most recently attended the June 16, 2025, Standing Committee of Council to propose a layout for the Disc Golf Course.

DISCUSSION

The Optimist Club has proposed a new layout for the Disc Golf Course in Pine Crescent Park and McKay Ranch Park. They have purchased 9 targets that are currently being stored at the Town Operations Centre.

On July 9, 2025, an Open House was held at the Blackfalds Community Centre regarding the proposed course layout at Pine Crescent Park and McKay Ranch Park. Residents in attendance from those two areas were opposed to having a disc golf course in the park space in their respective areas due to several concerns such as additional noise, proximity to trails, increased foot traffic, potential property damage and safety issues, and in the case of Pine Crescent Park it's another amenity for that park which is already full of amenities.

Administration has been working with the Optimist Club on finding a suitable location for the Disc Golf Course and is now seeking direction from The Standing Committee of Council on how to move forward.

RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion:

1. That Standing Committee of Council recommend that Administration continue working with the Optimist Club of Blackfalds until a suitable location for the Disc Golf Course can be found.

ALTERNATIVES

- a) That Standing Committee of Council recommend Administration to continue working with the Optimist Club of Blackfalds on their proposed disc golf course layout at Pine Crescent Park and McKay Ranch Park, and further that it be brought forward to a Regular Council Meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

None

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer



Department Director/Author

MEETING DATE: August 18, 2025

PREPARED BY: Preston Weran, Director of Infrastructure and Property Services

PRESENTED BY: Preston Weran, Director of Infrastructure and Property Services

SUBJECT: **Blackfalds Transit Service On-Demand Contract Extension**

BACKGROUND

Since September 1, 2020, the Town of Blackfalds has been operating the new BOLT 2.0 service as an On-demand digital community commuter

Approval was granted at the June 27, 2023, Council meeting to renew the contract for two years, as per the renewal of the contract for the Blackfalds Transit Service On-Demand Contract Service (BOLT). Base Service Span 1 was approved for 2 years, as per the following motion:

RES. 212/23

Councillor Svab moved That Council authorize Administration to extend the current contract with Prairie Bus Lines Ltd. for the provision of the transit operations and maintenance - Base Service Span 1, operating on weekdays for a total of 3389 service hours for a maximum yearly cost of \$213,338 for 2024 and \$221,871 for 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rate from Aug 31 st , 2023, to December 31 st 2023	
Town owned vehicle Cost per Service Hour:	\$59.95
Contractor owned vehicle Cost per Service Hour use:	\$81.75

Rate from January 1 st , 2024 to December 31 st 2024	
Annual Total Service Cost:	\$213,338
Town owned vehicle Cost per Service Hour (year 1):	\$62.95
Contractor owned vehicle Cost per Service Hour use (year 1):	\$85.84

And year 2

Rate from January 1 st , 2025 to December 31 st 2025	
Annual Total Service Cost:	\$221,871
Town owned vehicle Cost per Service Hour (year 2):	\$65.47
Contractor owned vehicle Cost per Service Hour use (year 2):	\$89.27

As outlined above, our current contract for On Demand Transit Services is provided by Prairie Bus Lines Ltd. They manage the application, the call centre, the van routes and have been maintaining the Town-owned van since the service commenced. Prairie Bus Lines and their parent company, Pacific Western Transportation, came highly recommended and are the main provider of On-Demand services in Canada.

As the contract is coming due at the end of August and to allow for service level discussions with the new Council, Administration approached the service provider to provide a quote for a contract extension of 1 year and 2 years as outlined below:

This is how it would look for 2026/27 for Year 1 of the extension at a 3% increase

Annual Total Service Cost:	\$228,527.20
Town owned vehicle Cost per Service Hour (year 1):	\$67.43
Contractor owned vehicle Cost per Service Hour use (year 1):	\$91.95 vs. \$88.42

And year 2 of the extension at a 3% increase

Annual Total Service Cost:	\$235,379.93
Town owned vehicle Cost per Service Hour (year 2):	\$69.49
Contractor owned vehicle Cost per Service Hour use (year 2):	\$94.71

DISCUSSION:

Administration has had the last 5 years to review the contractor’s service level and ability to operate and manage this service on behalf of the residents of Blackfalds. We substantiate that they have the facilities, equipment, and professional expertise to provide our local On-Demand Transit Service future needs for the Town. They have worked very closely with us to ensure that the program is working well and have mitigated concerns as they arise. They pride themselves on providing our riders and future riders with the confidence in customer service that one needs in a Municipal Transit Service.

Administration is recommending that Council consider extending this contract by 1 year. This time period will not only allow for service level discussions with the new Council but also provide an opportunity to explore partnership opportunities with our regional neighbours. The City of Lacombe’s recent planning documents highlight transportation as a key priority for their community. The 2024-2026 Strategic Plan specifically identifies the need for improved transportation options to support community growth and accessibility.

Their 2024 Social Needs Assessment emphasizes exploring public transit to improve access to services and reduce transportation barriers. The Recreation and Culture Master Plan also notes that better transportation connections could enhance residents' access to recreational opportunities. Given this alignment, proactively approaching Lacombe to explore potential collaboration on transit could benefit both communities, enhancing service viability and efficiency.

Key Insights for Contract Extension:

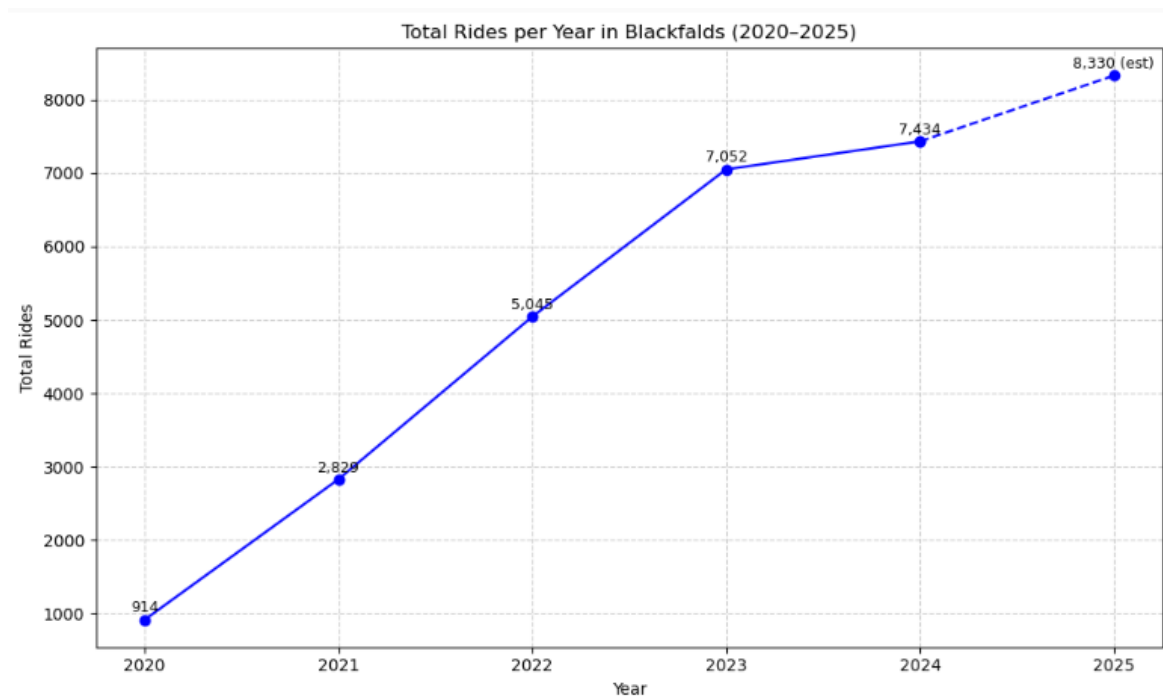
Consistent Growth: Total rides have increased every year since 2020, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of over 50% from 2020 to 2024.

Strong 2025 Start: The first half of 2025 already shows 4,165 rides, putting it on track to exceed 8,000 rides by year-end if trends continue.

Service Maturity: The average monthly rides have nearly tripled from 2021 (236) to 2024 (620), indicating growing adoption and reliance on the service.

Post-Pandemic Recovery: 2021 showed modest growth, likely reflecting pandemic recovery, followed by a sharp rise in 2022 and beyond.

Sustained Demand: The steady increase in average monthly rides suggests that Bolt has become an integral part of local transit.



We are happy to report that the service has completed over 27,439 total rides since September 1, 2020, through to June 2025.

Our arrangement with this service provider has been working very well and Administration is confident that they would be the best option to continue this transit service past the contract deadline of August 31st, 2025, if Council so wishes.

The 2026 budget will propose a full year of continued use of the Base Service Span 1 (our current hours of operation with a single van), in anticipation of this discussion. If this program continues, we suggest maintaining this level of service based on the timetable of On-demand Service below.

Base Service Span 1 (our current hours of operation with a single Van below for reference) operating on weekdays for a total of 3389 service hours

Administration is confident that there are no other service providers that can provide this type of service in the region, as they are the only privately run transit provider in Alberta. For this reason, and their excellent service to date, we are comfortable recommending a 1-year extension on this service. By setting up a continued service for a period of 1 year, our current riders and future riders can start planning for the 2026 school year to take the transit without worrying about the service shutting down in the following school year.

If the new Council wishes to change or discontinue this service, there is a termination clause built into this agreement of 60 days' notice.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The existing contract rate is \$65.47 per hour using the Town's van for service and \$89.27 for the contractor owner van. They are proposing a 3% increase for each additional year as detailed above. Under the 2025 budget, we will be on budget as the increase in 2025 was valid until the end of this year. For the 2026 budget, we can update the yearly figures in future budgets to include this 3% increase.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion:

1. That Standing Committee of Council recommend to Council to support the Administrative Recommendation to extend the current contract with Prairie Bus Lines Ltd for the provision of the transit operations and maintenance - Base Service Span 1, operating on weekdays for a total of 3389 service hours for a maximum yearly cost of \$228,527.20 for the remainder of 2025 and until August 31st, 2026.

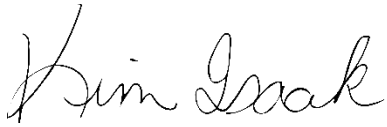
ALTERNATIVES

- a) That the Standing Committee of Council recommend to Council not to extend the current contract with Prairie Bus Lines Ltd for the provision of the transit operations and maintenance past August 31, 2025.
- b) That Standing Committee of Council refer the Blackfalds Transit Service On-Demand Contract Extension back to Administration for more information.

ATTACHMENTS

None

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer



Department Director/Author

MEETING DATE: August 18, 2025

PREPARED BY: Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer, on behalf of the Treaty Six Territory Land Acknowledgement Ad-Hoc Committee

PRESENTED BY: Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: **Revised Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement**

BACKGROUND

On August 10, 2021, Council approved a motion to amend the Council Procedural Bylaw to include a Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement. In a Notice of Motion that was prepared by Councillor Stendie, it identified that Council had discussions following a presentation on reconciliation from Lloyd Desjarlais, Manager of Indigenous Student Services at Red Deer College, about beginning each meeting of Council with a thoughtful land acknowledgement. The Land Acknowledgement that is currently in place is as follows:

Blackfalds Town Council acknowledges that we are on Treaty Six Territory, a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

In early 2024 Administration received inquiries from patrons asking if the Town would post the Land Acknowledgement in various Town facilities. Council agreed that it would be appropriate, however, noted that it would be timely to review the current acknowledgement to include consultation and engagement with local indigenous Elders and representatives.

At the March 12, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council, a Terms of Reference was approved along with the establishment of the Treaty Six Territory Land Acknowledgement Ad-Hoc Committee.

Due to difficulty finding Elders who were available to meet with the Committee, the first meeting was not held until January 30, 2025. After receiving guidance from the Elders on how to conduct a meaningful review of the Land Acknowledgement, the Committee prepared a revised draft Land Acknowledgement. The draft Land Acknowledgement was shared with the Buffalo Clan group, comprised of students from both the Iron Ridge Junior Campus and the Iron Ridge Secondary Campus, for their review and feedback. The group felt that the revised acknowledgement carried a more personal and authentic tone. They noted that they appreciated the emphasis on accountability and the importance of action behind words. Following the feedback we received from the Buffalo Clan, the draft was provided to the Elders for their review and with a suggested minor tweak, it was noted that the acknowledgement covered the areas that it should.

The Committee is now at a stage to seek Council's input on the acknowledgement before formally rolling it out. The draft revised Land Acknowledgement reads as follows:

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the Town of Blackfalds acknowledges that we are on Treaty Six Territory, the ancestral lands of Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and non-status peoples whose footsteps have marked these lands since time immemorial.

We recognize the inherent relationships Indigenous communities have with this land and its creatures and commit to supporting reconciliation and healing. We honour the resilience, culture, and contributions of Indigenous peoples, past and present.

As we gather, we pledge to listen, learn, and take meaningful action toward a future based on mutual respect and understanding as we continue on our journey of truth and healing. We recognize that reconciliation is not a single act but a lifelong journey—one that requires accountability, humility, and the centering of Indigenous voices.

DISCUSSION

The Committee is recommending that the Standing Committee of Council review the draft revised Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement and provide feedback on whether there are any recommended amendments before it is brought forward to Council for formal adoption.

The Committee proposes that the revised Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement be formally unveiled on September 30, 2025 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in advance of a public viewing of the “Remembering the Children: The Red Deer Indian Industrial School.”

All members of the Committee found the process to be not only educational but rewarding and agree that this is just the start of the Town’s ongoing commitment to relationship building and reconciliation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be a minor cost associated with creating a plaque with the new Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement. The cost will be provided when the report comes to a Regular Meeting for approval.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion:

1. That Standing Committee of Council recommend to Council that Administration bring forward the revised Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement to the September 9, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council for consideration.

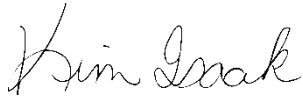
ALTERNATIVES

- a) That Standing Committee of Council recommends amendments to the revised Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement.

ATTACHMENTS

None

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer

Department Director/Author

MEETING DATE: August 18, 2025

PREPARED BY: Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer

PRESENTED BY: Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: **Regional Collaboration Committee**

BACKGROUND

On July 24, 2024, Council passed a resolution to refer the matter of a tri-party Alberta Community Partnership (“ACP”) Grant to the Lacombe, Blackfalds and Lacombe County Intermunicipal Development Plan and Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework Committee for discussion.

On October 15, 2024, representatives from the City of Lacombe, Lacombe County and the Town of Blackfalds Intermunicipal Development Plan and Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework Committee met to discuss the matter of a tri-party Alberta Community Partnership Grant. At this same meeting discussion was held around the development of a Regional Collaboration Committee similar to the City of Red Deer and Red Deer County Regional Collaboration Committee. A subsequent motion was unanimously passed to explore the development of a Regional Collaboration Committee between the three parties.

At the May 13, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council, Council approved the following resolution:

127/25 Councillor Appel moved That Council direct Administration to work with the City of Lacombe and Lacombe County on a draft Terms of Reference for a Regional Collaboration Committee and to refer the draft Terms of Reference to each respective Council for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION

As per the above resolution, Administration has collaboratively worked with the CAO’s from the City of Lacombe and Lacombe County to develop a draft Terms of Reference (“ToR”) which is being presented to the respective Council’s for consideration.

To reflect both the unique purpose and geographic location, and to distinguish it from other regional organizations, the name of the Committee is being proposed as the North Blindman River Tri-Municipal Collaborative (“NBRTC”).

The draft ToR outlines that the purpose of the NBRTC is to strengthen regional collaboration by discussing issues and opportunities of mutual interest and recommending areas for cooperation.

It is important to note that the NBRTC is not intended to replace existing committees, such as the ICF/IDP Committees that are currently in place between the entities, but rather to serve as a tri-party strategic advisory committee that will provide recommendations on regional initiatives to the respective Councils.

Key elements of the draft ToR include the following:

- Membership will be comprised of two Council members from each municipality, with the appointment of an alternate.
- The CAO's from each municipality will serve on the Committee in an advisory, non-voting capacity.
- Committee may include, but are not limited to, strategic growth, infrastructure, recreation, culture, infrastructure, economic development, emerging services, and regional planning.
- The Committee will meet twice per year with agenda's prepared jointly by the three CAO's.
- Committee decisions will take the form of recommendations to the respective Councils, with the individual Councils retaining full decision-making authority.
- Committee decisions will be made by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, a "consensus-minus-one" approach will apply, meaning that a decision can be made with one appointed Council member dissenting, but a second dissenter would block the decision.
- Committee discussions are considered confidential unless otherwise agreed.
- Approved ToR will be reviewed after one year with subsequent reviews taking place at regular intervals as needed.

The City of Lacombe will be considering the draft Terms of Reference on August 25, 2025, and the County of Lacombe will be considering the same on August 28, 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion:

1. That Standing Committee of Council directs the draft Regional Collaboration Committee Terms of Reference to the August 26, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council for consideration.

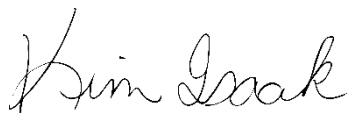
ALTERNATIVES

- a) That Standing Committee of Council refer the Regional Collaboration Committee Terms of Reference back to Administration for additional information.

ATTACHMENTS

- *North Blindman River Tri-Municipal Collaborative – Draft Terms of Reference*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer

Department Director/Author



Terms of Reference

1. Purpose:

The North Blindman River Tri-Municipal Collaborative (NBRTC) is a tri-party forum created by the City of Lacombe, Lacombe County, and the Town of Blackfalds. Its purpose is to strengthen regional collaboration by discussing issues and opportunities of mutual interest and recommending areas for cooperation. The NBRTC is not intended to replace existing Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) or Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) Committees already established between Lacombe County and the two urban municipalities. It serves as a strategic advisory committee, with all decisions remaining the responsibility of each respective Council.

2. Shared Values:

NBRTC members commit to being accountable to each other for these shared values:

- Mutual respect and professionalism
- Collaborative, solution-focused dialogue
- Recognition and respect for each municipality's distinctiveness
- Shared success and equitable benefit
- Honest, open-minded, and candid discussions
- A safe space to address challenges
- Focused attendance,
- Productive discussions

3. Membership:

- 1) The NBRTC includes six (6) Council representatives and three (3) CAOs comprised of:
 - a) Two (2) elected Council members from each municipality
 - b) Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) from each municipality in an advisory (non-voting) capacity
- 2) Each municipality shall also appoint one (1) additional Council member to serve as an alternate if their regular elected member cannot attend,
- 3) Existing municipal processes will be used for making appointments to the NBRTC.
- 4) It is intended that all members will be present for NBRTC meetings. If a regular Council member is unavailable, they may send their alternate, permit the meeting to proceed without representation, or request rescheduling.

4. Committee Scope:

- 1) New, emerging, existing, and ongoing regional issues or opportunities impacting the member municipalities.

- 2) Topics may include (but are not limited to) strategic growth, infrastructure, recreation, culture, economic development, emergency services, and regional planning.
- 3) NBRTC discussions will focus on strategic, high-level collaboration. Operational discussions will remain with administrative bodies unless referred otherwise.
- 4) Additional stakeholders may be invited to participate in topic discussions by agreement of the NBRTC.
- 5) An annual "social event" will be hosted to strengthen relationship-building among members.

5. Out of Scope:

- 1) Direct management of operational or administrative matters already governed under separate agreements or committees unless strategic oversight is appropriate.
- 2) Topics not approved by the NBRTC to discuss.

6. Initial Topics Workshop:

- 1) A workshop will be held shortly after the NBRTC's formation facilitated by qualified third party.
- 2) Each municipality will bring forward potential discussion topics.
- 3) The workshop will collaboratively prioritize an initial list of topics for NBRTC discussion.
- 4) Topics identified will guide the NBRTC's initial workplan.

7. Scoping New Topics:

- 1) Any member municipality can propose new topics.
- 2) The proposing municipality must submit a briefing report outlining:
 - a) the rationale for the topic
 - b) potential regional benefits
 - c) relevant information and supporting data.
- 3) The NBRTC will determine whether the topic fits within the committee's scope.

8. Meeting Expectations:

- 1) Host Municipality responsibilities will rotate annually in the following order:
 - Year 1:** City of Lacombe,
 - Year 2:** Lacombe County, and
 - Year 3:** Town of Blackfalds.
- 2) Meetings will be primarily in person.



- 3) The Host Municipality will provide a suitable meeting space accommodating the Committee's needs.
- 4) Frequency and Duration:
 - a) Meetings will occur semi-annually unless otherwise agreed.
 - b) Meetings will not exceed three (3) hours unless otherwise agreed.

9. Roles and Responsibilities:

- 1) Appointed Council Members shall:
 - a) engage collaboratively and respectfully,
 - b) speak freely but focus on ideas,
 - c) prepare by understanding their municipality's perspective,
 - d) identify objectives for each topic,
 - e) direct administration in a timely manner.
- 2) Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) shall:
 - a) provide general administrative support and background reports,
 - b) advise their Appointed Council Members,
 - c) collaborate to prepare draft agendas and joint Council reports.
- 3) The Host Municipality CAO shall:
 - a) facilitate the selection of a meeting Chair in consultation with their Appointed Council Members,
 - b) provide a meeting location,
 - c) coordinate meeting logistics and scheduling,
 - d) draft the meeting agenda based on input from other CAOs,
 - e) prepare and circulate meeting materials, and
 - f) record and circulate meeting notes.
- 4) The Host Municipality Meeting Chair shall:
 - a) provide structure, uphold shared values, and facilitate effective meetings,
 - b) serve as a fair and objective facilitator, encouraging balanced participation from all members, and
 - c) model collaborative tone, ensuring discussions remain constructive and respectful.
- 5) Municipal Councils retain full decision-making authority regarding NBRTC recommendations.

10. Communications:

- 1) Unless otherwise agreed upon, discussions at NBRTC are considered confidential to foster open dialogue and the free exchange of ideas, enabling participants to form well-informed opinions.
- 2) Updates, and the review of meeting notes, to each full Council will occur through confidential, in-camera sessions as appropriate.
- 3) Media communication will occur through joint news releases, with the Mayor/Reeve (or designate) serving as spokespeople.

11. Decision-Making Model:

- 1) The NBRTC aims to reach decisions by consensus.
- 2) If consensus is not achievable within agreed timelines, "consensus-minus-one" will be used; meaning a decision can be made even with one dissenting Appointed Council Member, but a second dissenter would block it.
- 3) If consensus-minus-one fails, the recommendation will not proceed to Councils.
- 4) All recommendations to Councils will be documented through joint administrative reports.

12. Joint Administrative Council Reports:

- 1) Reports will be prepared jointly by administrations.
- 2) Reports will be vetted through each municipality's internal processes before submission to Councils.
- 3) Collaboration between administrations will ensure consistency and clarity.

13. Conflict Resolution Framework:

- 1) NBRTC members commit to resolving disputes informally through facilitated collaboration first.
- 2) If unresolved, mediation may be initiated jointly.
- 3) Mediation costs will be shared equally.
- 4) If mediation fails to resolve the issue, the disputed topic will not be forwarded to Councils for consideration.

14. Terms of Reference Review:

- 1) This Terms of Reference will be reviewed after one (1) year.
- 2) Future reviews will be scheduled at regular intervals or as needed.



15. Adoption and Approval

This Terms of Reference shall come into effect once it has been adopted by resolution of all three municipal Councils.

Approved by the City of Lacombe Council on [Insert Date]

Approved by the Lacombe County Council on [Insert Date]

Approved by the Town of Blackfalds Council on [Insert Date]

MEETING DATE: August 18, 2025
PREPARED BY: Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer
PRESENTED BY: Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: **Municipal Election Sign Bylaw**

BACKGROUND

The current Election Sign Bylaw was adopted on March 28, 2023. The bylaw regulated federal, provincial, municipal and school board election signage on road right-of-ways and regulated the maximum size.

Bill 54 – *Election Statutes Amendment Act*, which received Royal Assent on May 15, 2025, prohibits Municipalities from regulating provincial election signage. To comply with this revision, the Election Sign Bylaw has been rewritten to remove any reference to provincial or federal election signage.

DISCUSSION

Administration is recommending that Standing Committee of Council direct the revised Municipal Election Sign Bylaw to a Regular Meeting of Council for consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to this revised bylaw.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion:

1. That Standing Committee of Council recommend that Administration bring forward the revised Municipal Election Sign Bylaw to a Regular Meeting of Council for consideration.

ALTERNATIVES

- a) That Standing Committee of Council recommends amendments to the revised Municipal Election Sign Bylaw.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Municipal Election Sign Bylaw - Draft*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer

Department Director/Author

BEING A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF BLACKFALDS IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO ENCOURAGE THE EFFECTIVE USE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION SIGNS AS A MEANS OF COMMUNICATION IN A MANNER THAT ENSURES SAFETY AND AESTHETICS AND THAT WILL BE EQUITABLY APPLIED AND ENFORCED.

A Bylaw of the Town of Blackfalds, in the Province of Alberta, pursuant to the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*, being Chapter M 26.1 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000 and amendments thereto, for the purpose of regulating the placement of Municipal Election Signs within the Town of Blackfalds.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7 of the MGA, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, authorizes Council to pass Bylaws for the safety, health, and welfare of people, and the protection of people and property, as well as for people, activities, and things in, on or near a public place or place that is open to the public;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 8 of the MGA, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, Council is authorized to regulate and prohibit, as well as to impose fines and penalties for infractions;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 18 of the MGA, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, a municipality has the direction, control, and management of all roads within the municipality;

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 13 of the *Traffic Safety Act*, Council is authorized to make Bylaws with respect to a highway under its direction, control, and management; and

NOW THEREFORE the Municipal Council of the Town of Blackfalds, duly assembled hereby enacts:

PART 1 – TITLE

- 1.1 That this Bylaw shall be cited as the "Municipal Election Sign Bylaw".

PART 2 – DEFINITIONS

2.1 In this Bylaw:

- (a) "**Advance Vote**" means a vote taken in advance of Election day.
- (b) "**Candidate**" means an individual who has been officially nominated to run for Election in a municipal, ~~provincial, federal,~~ or school board Election.
- (c) "**Council**" means the duly elected Council of Town of Blackfalds and includes the Mayor, and all Councillors.
- (d) "**Town**" means the Town of Blackfalds.
- (e) "**Court**" means a Court of competent jurisdiction in the Province of Alberta.
- (f) "**Education Act**" means the *Education Act*, RSA 2000, c E-0.3, as amended or replaced from time to time.
- (g) "**Election**" means a general election, by-election, and a vote on a Bylaw or question as administered by the Town of Blackfalds under the *Local Authorities Election Act*, ~~and a school board elections under the *Education Act*, and any other elections administered by Elections Alberta and Elections Canada within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Blackfalds.~~
- (h) "**Election Sign**" means a sign:
 - a. Used to promote a Candidate ~~or party~~ for an Election administered by the Town under the *Local Authorities Election Act* ~~and~~ school board Elections under the *Education Act*, ~~and any Elections administered by Elections Alberta and Elections Canada within the municipal boundaries of the Town;~~
 - b. With a maximum sign face dimensions not exceeding 3.0 m² (32 ft²);
 - c. May be either 1 sided or 2 sided;
 - d. That is not illuminated; and

- e. That indicates the name of a nominated Candidate or Registered Third Party.
- (i) **“Enforcement Officer”** means a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), a Community Peace Officer appointed by the Solicitor General of Alberta in accordance with the *Peace Officers Act*, and a Bylaw Enforcement Officer employed by the Town in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*.
- (j) **“Land Use Bylaw”** means the Town of Blackfalds Land Use Bylaw currently in force, as amended or replaced from time to time.
- (k) **“Local Authorities Election Act”** means the *Local Authorities Election Act*, RSA 2000, c L-21, as amended or replaced from time to time.
- (l) **“Municipal Government Act”** means the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26, as amended or replaced from time to time.
- (m) **“Person”** means a natural person or a corporate body and includes a partnership or a group of persons acting in concert or an association.
- (n) **“Registered Third Party”** means a third party that has been registered with the Town or the provincial registrar for third party advertising referred to in section 163 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.
- (o) **“Roadway”** means the portion of the Road Right-of-Way intended for use by vehicular traffic, pedestrians, cyclists, or other modes of transportation, and includes paved or gravel shoulders, medians, traffic circles, and roadway structures, including but not limited to bridges, guardrails, retaining walls, or concrete barriers.
- (p) **“Road Right-of-Way”** means land that is under the direction, control, and management of the Town and is:
- a. Shown as a road on a plan of survey that has been filed or registered in a land titles office; or
 - b. Used as a public road and includes a bridge forming part of the public road, together with any structure incidental to the public road or road allowances including, but not limited to, boulevards, ditches, swales, fences, retaining walls, sidewalks, pathways, trails, streetlights, traffic control devices, and traffic control signals, and which may or may not contain a developed road.
- (q) **“Town”** means the Town of Blackfalds as a municipal corporation and the geographical area within its jurisdictional boundaries, as the context requires.
- (r) **“Sign Owner”** means a Person who is indicated on an Election Sign, who created an Election Sign, who installed the Election Sign, who is in lawful control of the Election Sign or who is the subject of or otherwise benefits from the message of the Election Sign; for the purposes of this Bylaw, there may be more than one Sign Owner.
- (s) **“Traffic Safety Act”** means the *Traffic Safety Act*, RSA 2000, c T-6 as amended from time to time.
- (t) **“Violation Ticket”** means a ticket issued pursuant to Part 2 of the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*, RSA 2000, c P-34, as amended from time to time.
- (u) **“Voting Station”** means the entire building where Election voting will occur, and the property associated with the building; also known as a polling place, polling station, or voting place.

PART 3 – ELECTION SIGN INSTALLATION AND ERECTION GUIDELINES ON PUBLIC LANDS

3.1 Election Signs may be placed on Town owned property provided they are placed only in the following pre-determined locations, as shown on Schedule “A”:

3.1.1 East side of Broadway Avenue in front of water reservoir only.

- 3.1.2 Along the west side of Grigg Street.
 - 3.1.3 South Street east of the Leung Road intersection, on either side of South Street up until the Bark Park vehicular access point.
 - 3.1.4 Along the west side of Vista Trail from the intersection with South Street north to the northern property line of 4308 South Street, approximately 228.0 m (748.03 ft.) from the intersection.
 - 3.1.5 Along the east side of Vista Trail from the intersection with South Street north until the intersection with Womacks Road.
 - 3.1.6 Along either side of Blackfalds Crossing Way, setback a minimum of 30.0 m (98.43 ft.) away from Highway 2A.
 - 3.1.7 South of Park Street adjacent to the Town of Blackfalds location signage.
 - 3.1.8 West side of Parkwood Road north of Panorama Drive, setback a minimum of 30.0 m (98.43 ft.) away from Highway 2A east asphalt edge.
 - 3.1.9 West side of Parkwood Road and C&E Trail extending 30.0 m (98.43 ft.) each direction from the intersection with Cottonwood Drive.
- 3.2 Election Signs shall not be placed in a manner that obstructs Election Signs placed by other Candidates.
 - 3.3 Election Signs shall not be placed within 20.0 m (65.62 ft.) of another Election Sign from the same Candidate.
 - 3.4 Election Signs shall not be placed within 2.0 m (6.56 ft.) from the edge of Roadway pavement.
 - 3.5 Election Signs shall be a maximum of 3.0 m² (32 ft²) in size and 3.6 m (12 ft) in height and shall not be illuminated.
 - 3.6 Enforcement Officers employed by the Town may remove any Election Signs which have been erected, affixed, posted, or placed on any Town property in contravention of this Bylaw.
 - 3.7 Election Signs shall be placed outside of the 6.0 m (19.69 ft.) sight triangles at intersections, as shown in Schedule "B".
 - 3.8 The Sign Owner is responsible for ensuring all Election Signs are kept free from damage and disrepair. Sign Owners are responsible to remove any damaged or vandalized Election Signs immediately.

PART 4 – ELECTION SIGN INSTALLATION AND ERECTION GUIDELINES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

- 4.1 An Election Sign may only be placed on private property with the consent of the property owner.
- 4.2 An Election Signs shall be a maximum of 3.0 m² (32ft²) in size and 3.6 m (12 ft) in height and shall not be illuminated.
- 4.3 Election Signs shall be placed outside of the 6.0 m (19.69 ft.) sight triangles at intersections, as shown in Schedule "B".
- 4.4 Notwithstanding section 4.1 of this Bylaw, all other forms of signage on private property are subject to the requirements of the *Land Use Bylaw*.
- 4.5 An Election Sign placed on private property pursuant to this Bylaw does not require a development permit.

PART 5 – ELECTION SIGN ERECTION AND REMOVAL TIMES

- 5.1 Election Signs may be erected at any time starting:
 - 5.1.1 45 days prior to a municipal general Election; or
 - 5.1.2 After nomination day for a municipal by-Election; ~~or~~
 - ~~5.1.3 From the issuance of the writ and ending after the close of polls for a provincial or federal Election.~~
- 5.2 Election Signs shall be removed within 72 hours after the close of the Voting Station or polls on Election day.

- 5.3 Subject to 5.1 of this Bylaw, Election Signs on private property that are not removed will no longer be deemed an Election Sign under this Bylaw and will be subject to enforcement provisions under the *Land Use Bylaw*.

PART 6 – OTHER GUIDELINES

- 6.1 An Election Sign shall not be erected at a Voting Station or within the boundaries of the land on which a building used for a Voting Station is located on Election day or an Advance Vote.
- 6.2 An Election Sign shall not be erected in any place that may obstruct or impede any exit routes, escape routes, or the free access of emergency vehicles.
- 6.3 No Person shall use or display the Town of Blackfalds logo or brand, in whole or in part, on any Election Sign.
- 6.4 Nothing in this Bylaw relieves a Person from complying with any federal or provincial legislation or regulation, other municipal Bylaws, or requirement of any lawful permit, order, or license.
- 6.5 Specific references to legislation in this Bylaw are meant to refer to the current laws applicable within the Province of Alberta at the time this Bylaw was enacted, as they are amended from time to time, including any successor legislation.
- 6.6 Where any provision regulating an Election Sign under this Bylaw conflicts with any other federal or provincial Election legislation, the federal or provincial legislation prevails to the extent of the conflict.

PART 7 – ENFORCEMENT

- 7.1 Any Election Sign that impedes or interferes with the work of the Town operations may be removed by an Enforcement Officer or any other Town employees without providing notice to the Sign Owner.
- 7.2 Any Election Sign that poses a public safety risk may be removed by an Enforcement Officer or any other Town employee without providing notice to the Sign Owner.
- 7.3 Any Election Sign that an Enforcement Officer finds in breach of this Bylaw may be removed and impounded without prior notice to the Sign Owner.
- 7.4 Any Election Sign impounded for a period of 30-days that has not been claimed by the Sign Owner may be destroyed by the Town without compensation to the Sign Owner.
- 7.5 A Sign Owner is liable for any and all damage, loss, and expense caused by or arising from the erection, maintenance, removal, or destruction of the Election Sign.

PART 8 – PROSECUTIONS AND PENALTIES

- 8.1 Where an Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a Person has contravened any provision of this Bylaw, they may serve upon the Person:
- 8.1.1 A municipal ticket, allowing a voluntary payment of the penalty for the offence to the Town, which shall be accepted by the Town in lieu of prosecution for the offence if payment is received by the Town within 21 days of service of the municipal ticket; or
- 8.1.2 A Violation Ticket, allowing voluntary payment of the specified penalty for the offence, or, requiring a Person to appear in Court without the alternative of making a voluntary payment, and the recording of the payment of a penalty made to the Town or the Provincial Court of Alberta shall constitute an acceptance of a guilty plea and conviction for the offence.
- 8.2 When an Enforcement Officer issues a Person a Violation Ticket in accordance with this Bylaw, the Enforcement Officer may either:
- 8.2.1 Allow the Person to pay the specified penalty established by this Bylaw for the offence by including such specified penalty in the Violation Ticket; or
- 8.2.2 Require a Court appearance of the Person when the Enforcement Officer

believes that such an appearance is in the public interest pursuant to the provisions of Part 2 of the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*.

- 8.3 Any Person that violates any provisions of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and is liable, upon conviction, to a maximum fine of \$10,000.00, or, in default of payment of the fine, to imprisonment for a period of not exceeding one year, or to both fine and imprisonment in such amounts.
- 8.4 Any Person who contravenes any section of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and is liable upon conviction to a minimum specified penalty of \$100.00.
- 8.5 No provision of this Bylaw, nor any action taken pursuant to any provision of this Bylaw, shall in any way restrict, limit, prevent, or preclude the Town from pursuing any other remedy in relation to an offence as may be provided by the *Municipal Government Act* or any other law of the Province of Alberta.

PART 9 – SEVERABILITY

- 9.1 Each provision of this Bylaw is independent of all other provisions. If any provision of this Bylaw is declared invalid for any reason by a Court, all other provisions of this Bylaw remain valid and enforceable.

PART 10 – DATE OF FORCE

- 10.1 That this Bylaw shall come into effect, upon the date on which it is finally read and passed and that Bylaw 1280.23 and any amendments thereto are repealed.

READ for the first time this ~~28th~~ day of ~~March~~, A.D. 202~~3~~.

~~(RES. 092/23)~~

MAYOR JAMIE HOOVER

CAO ~~MYRON THOMPSON~~ KIM ISAAK

READ for the second time this ~~28th~~ day of ~~March~~, A.D. 202~~3~~.

~~(RES. 093/23)~~

MAYOR JAMIE HOOVER

CAO ~~MYRON THOMPSON~~ KIM ISAAK

READ for the third and final time this ~~28th~~ day of ~~March~~, A.D. 202~~3~~.

~~(RES. 095/23)~~

MAYOR JAMIE HOOVER

CAO ~~MYRON THOMPSON~~
KIM ISAAK