

# DRAPER ROAD NEWS



**February 2025**



## Some municipal service fees and rates are increasing April 1

In November, RMWB Council approved increases to several user rates and fees as part of the annual update to the user fees, rates and charges bylaw. These include:

- Utilities (water, sewer, garbage + curbside)
- Transit
- Landfill
- Cemeteries
- Development and building permits and services

The increases will help offset the cost of delivering these services.

### Rural transit fare increasing April 1, 2025

Rural transit cash fares for adults and children are increasing by 11%, effective April 1.

- **Adult fares (ages 13 – 64):**
  - Current fare: \$12
  - New fare: \$13.50 (11% increase).
- **Child fares (ages 5 – 12):**
  - Current fare: \$6
  - New fare: \$6.75 (11% increase).

### Utility rates increasing by 10-15%

Utility rates for municipal water, wastewater, and certain solid waste services are increasing by 10 to 15%. The changes vary depending on the size of the property's water meter and between rural, urban, and commercial services.

### New fee structure in place for some administrative services

Additional new fees cover certain ambulance services and community backyard rink applications.

To view the updated rates and learn more about user fees and charges, visit [rmwb.ca/userfees](http://rmwb.ca/userfees)



# Shape Policing Priorities in Wood Buffalo

Every year, Wood Buffalo RCMP invites residents to share their safety concerns and shape policing priorities for the region. These priorities ensure that officers focus on issues that matter most to your community, alongside responding to calls for service.

## How to Participate

Your feedback, combined with local data and crime trends, helps determine focus areas for the coming year.

**You can participate in any of the following ways:**

- 1. Attend an RCMP Community Open House**  
Join an RCMP Community Open House to share your thoughts directly with officers. Visit [rmwb.ca/policingpriorities](https://rmwb.ca/policingpriorities) for details.
- 2. Visit your local Municipal office**  
Fill out a paper survey and submit it on-site.
- 3. Call Pulse**  
Complete the survey over the phone (780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663).
- 4. Online**  
Visit [rmwb.ca/policingpriorities](https://rmwb.ca/policingpriorities) to complete the survey online.

Get involved now and stay tuned this spring to see how your feedback will shape policing efforts in Wood Buffalo.

[rmwb.ca/participate](https://rmwb.ca/participate)



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF WOOD BUFFALO

## Candidate nominations open for 2025 municipal election

*New rules in place for campaigning, find more information at [rmwb.ca/elections](https://rmwb.ca/elections)*

Candidate nominations are now open to all eligible residents interested in running for the position of RMWB mayor, councillor or school board trustee.

### **New rules are in place for 2025 municipal election**

Changes to the [Local Authorities Elections Act](#) require candidates to submit a notice of intent to appear on the official register of candidates before accepting campaign donations and incurring expenses. In addition, all candidates must complete the nomination process to appear on the ballot.

The general election for the RMWB and all municipalities in Alberta will be held on Oct. 20, 2025.

### **Call for candidate nominations**

Nominations are now being accepted from candidates for the upcoming 2025 municipal election. Prospective candidates must file their notice of intent and complete the nomination process by **noon on Monday, Sept. 22, 2025**.

Find the notice of intent form, nomination forms, required documentation and additional information for interested candidates at [rmwb.ca/elections](https://rmwb.ca/elections).

Potential candidates with questions or in need of assistance, can contact the Elections Office through Pulse at 780-743-7000 or email [elections@rmwb.ca](mailto:elections@rmwb.ca) and a Legislative Services staff member will assist.

## **Join an RMWB board or committee and get involved in your community**

Help shape the future of your community while gaining valuable experience by applying to join a Council-appointed board or committee by Feb. 16.

Your skills and experience are needed for important projects and initiatives across the region. Board and committee members work alongside other community leaders and help advise Mayor and Councillors on important decisions and matters that impact your community.

There are 17 openings to apply for on the following Municipal boards and committees:

- Advisory Committee on Aging
- Combative Sports Commission
- Communities in Bloom
- Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee
- Homelessness Initiatives Strategic Committee
- Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity & Equity
- Regional Recreation Corporation Board
- Waterfront Advisory Committee
- Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation

### **Rural and Indigenous residents strongly encouraged to apply**

Most board and committee meetings can be attended remotely by video call. Rural board and committee members will also be reimbursed mileage expenses for driving to attend meetings in person.

Access the Boards and Committees portal and submit your application at [rmwb.ca/boards](https://rmwb.ca/boards)

For questions or to get help applying for a vacancy, contact Pulse at 780-743-7000 or toll-free at 1-800-973-9663.

## Embrace the magic of winter at WinterPLAY, Feb. 21 to 25



WinterPLAY at the Snye is happening Feb. 21 to 25 with lots of free winter activities for you to enjoy!

Get ready for ice slides, leisure skating, horse-drawn wagon rides, and of course, the annual Shootout on the Snye four-on-four pond hockey tournament.

### Boost your cause with WinterPLAY fundraising opportunities

To make WinterPLAY an event to remember, organizers are seeking support from **local community organizations and groups** with paid fundraising opportunities during the five-day winter festival at the Snye.

Consider applying for one of the following fundraising opportunities by

Feb. 10:

- Filling a **general event support** shift. Groups will receive \$500 per four-hour shift.
- Serving one of two **community pancake breakfasts** on Feb. 22 and 23. Fundraising will be based on the donations received during the events.
- Managing a **snack station at the WinterCHALET**.
- Refereeing during **Shootout at the Snye**. Referees will be compensated \$25 per 25-minute game.

Learn more and apply at [rmwb.ca/WinterPLAY](http://rmwb.ca/WinterPLAY).

### Access to Snye restricted until Feb. 28

As organizers begin to prepare for WinterPLAY 2025, access to the Snye will be restricted until Feb. 28.

For those looking to access the Clearwater River, please use the Tom Weber and Raphael Cree boat launches.

### Stay tuned for more information

Learn more about WinterPLAY opportunities, activities and more at [rmwb.ca/WinterPLAY](http://rmwb.ca/WinterPLAY).



## Community Policing - presentations available

The Wood Buffalo Community Policing Unit has a great list of presentations they can bring to communities when requested.

### Available presentations

- A Career in the RCMP - Gr 7-Adult
- ATV Safety - Gr 10-Adult
- Being a Good Citizen - ECDP-Gr 6
- Being a Mountie - ECDP-Gr 6
- Bicycle Safety - ECDP-Gr 6
- Bullying (includes Cyberbullying) - ECDP-Gr 9
- Consent - Gr 7-Adult
- Crime Scene Investigations - ECDP-Adult
- Drug Awareness
  - For Teens (cannabis, alcohol, vaping and opioid awareness) - Gr 7-12
  - For Adults (includes clandestine drug labs, methamphetamines, opioids)
- Fraud & Identity Theft - Adult
- Halloween Safety - ECDP-Gr 6
- History of the Force - Gr 4-Adult
- Online Safety (includes Cyberbullying) - ECDP-Gr 6
- Online Safety (include Cyberbullying, Social Media & the Law) - Gr 7-Adult
- Personal Safety - ECDP-Adult
- Police & Canadian Law (for New Canadians) - Gr 10-Adult
- Property Crime Prevention - Adult
- Restorative Justice - Gr 9-Adult
- Senior Safety - Adult
- Sexting - Gr 7-Adult
- Traffic
  - Impaired Driving (Alcohol & Drugs) - Gr 9-Adult
  - Distracted Driving - Gr 9-Adult
  - Winter Driving - Gr 9-Adult
- Unhealthy Relationships/Dating Violence - Gr 7-Adult
- Youth Criminal Justice Act - Gr 7-Adult



### Want a presentation?

Contact us if you'd like a presentation for your group, class or community at [communitypolicing@rmwb.ca](mailto:communitypolicing@rmwb.ca) or call 780-788-4040 and ask for the Community Policing Coordinator.



# WOOD BUFFALO

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

### What is it?

- A voluntary program that offers a safe, respectful way to promote healing after harm has occurred.
- Allows offenders to take responsibility for their actions and allows the community to see its role in contributing to reconciliation.
- Provides an opportunity for everyone involved to have a voice and determine actions and outcomes to ensure accountability.

### Learn more:

- The Restorative Justice Advisor will be in **Fort McKay** on Feb. 13 and **Janvier** on Feb. 19 to provide presentations for leadership or community members who are interested in learning more.
- March presentation dates are coming for **Conklin** and **Anzac**.

Restorative Justice Contact Information:

- Phone: 780-788-4253
- Toll Free: 1-888-788-4250
- Email: [restorative.justice@rmwb.ca](mailto:restorative.justice@rmwb.ca)

### Get involved.

*We need committed volunteers to help! Please contact us.*



# Join the Volunteer Fire Department

We need paid on-call members!



## What we do:

We respond to fire emergencies, helping people and protecting property.

## What you have:

- Valid Class 5 license. (Q endorsement is even better)
  - Time for weekly training and ability to respond

Interested?

Contact: Regional Emergency Services: 780-792-5500

## Accessibility around the RMWB



Did you know we recently developed accessibility checklists for buildings and events in collaboration with community stakeholders?

These tools allow residents, businesses and RMWB staff to identify areas where accessibility can be improved to meet community needs.

Learn more at [rmwb.ca/Accessibility](https://rmwb.ca/Accessibility).

### Why is accessibility important?

**It's inclusive and gives equal access to all.**

As part of the RMWB Commitment to Equity and Inclusion, we consulted with residents to better understand the prevalence of disabilities across demographics and the types of barriers being experienced.

The RMWB What We Heard About Accessibility 2022 report found that 58% of survey participants reported having a physical disability. It is important to acknowledge that residents also indicated facing mental, cognitive and sensory disabilities.

**It removes barriers, and it's the right thing to do.**

Accessibility is about eliminating barriers so that everyone can fully participate in society. The goal of the Accessible Canada Act is to achieve a barrier-free Canada by 2040. A barrier is anything that hinders the full and equal participation of a person in Canadian life. Barriers can be physical, architectural, technological, informational, or attitudinal.

**It benefits everyone.**

Accessibility is better for society, businesses and everyone.

Great societies become even greater when there is equal access, full engagement, and capacity to reach full potential. When accessibility is not prioritized, people are excluded from participation and that leads to lost potential for individuals, families, businesses, communities, and our economy.

Learn more at [rmwb.ca/Accessibility](https://rmwb.ca/Accessibility).

# Step up in an emergency

**Volunteer** with the Emergency Social Services team

Join a team that helps residents during an emergency or disaster.

- Build your knowledge, confidence, and experience.
- No experience required. Training will be provided.



## Apply online today

For more information call:

- [780-743-7000](tel:780-743-7000)
- Toll Free [1-800-973-9663](tel:1-800-973-9663)

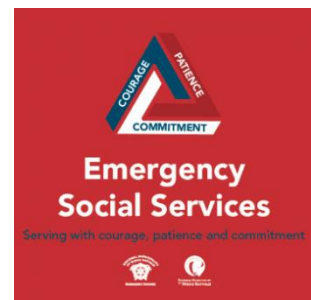


## What we do:

Emergency Social Services provides basic supports for residents displaced by large emergencies or incidents in the Municipality.

## Who we are:

Volunteers, community partners, and municipal employees who work together under the guidance of the Emergency Management Branch of Regional Emergency Services.





## Winter Maintenance season begins!

Planning to visit Fort McMurray this winter? Now is the perfect time to plan ahead for winter maintenance parking restrictions. All Winter Maintenance Subzones (WMZ) are relaxed until further notice as the program officially begins Oct. 15.

On-street parking restrictions are not in effect when subzones are relaxed but you can still [sign up for alerts](#) that will go straight to your inbox!

Subzones will typically be activated on a bi-weekly basis, meaning residents need to move their vehicles off their street once every two weeks. Windrows (snowbanks) created by a plow that are higher than 15 cm will be removed from the end of driveways in active subzones.

### Keep up to date on the status of WMZs

- [Sign up for WMZ Alerts.](#)
- Watch for updates on the orange electronic signage at the entrance of each neighborhood
- Follow the RMWB on Facebook and Twitter @RMWoodBuffalo
- Check [rmwb.ca](#)
- Contact Pulse at 780-743-7000 or [rmwb.ca/pulse](#)

# COMMUNITY NOTICE



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF WOOD BUFFALO

## Remove curbside collection bins from the street after pick-up

With winter in full swing, streets must be kept clear for snowplows and equipment to plow and remove snow. There have been recent incidents with garbage and recycling bins left on the street being damaged by equipment. This can be avoided by following the bylaws and requirements for curbside collection.



### Remove bins from the street

Your curbside collection bins cannot be left on the street. Bins must be placed on the curb by 7:30 a.m. on your collection day and removed from the street the same day. Bins need to be stored on your property when it's not your collection day.

### Winter bin placement

We need your help to ensure garbage and recycling bins are picked up safely and efficiently.

- Place your garbage and recycling bins in front of windrows (snowbanks). Do not place bins on top or behind windrows.
- Clear the snow away from the curb where you place your bins. If bins are blocked by snow, they may not be collected.
- Keep one-foot in-between bins and 3 feet away from vehicles.
- Ensure lids are firmly closed.

Thank you for your support following these requirements. To learn more about curbside collection, visit [rmwb.ca/garbage](https://rmwb.ca/garbage).

For questions, contact Pulse at 780-743-7000, 1-800-973-9663 or online at [rmwb.ca/pulse](https://rmwb.ca/pulse).

9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada T9H 2K4 | [rmwb.ca](https://rmwb.ca)





## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>PULSE (MUNICIPAL SWITCH BOARD)</b>	1-800-973-9663 780-743-7000	PULSE@RMWB.CA	RMWB.CA/PULSE
<b>COMMUNITY CONTACTS:</b>		<b>SOCIAL MEDIA:</b>	
<b>RCMP</b>	780-788-4000	 @WOODBUFFALORURALCOMMUNITYCONNECTION   @RMWOODBUFFALO   @RMWOODBUFFALO	
<b>FISH &amp; WILDLIFE</b>	780-743-7200		
<b>HEALTH LINK</b>	811		
<b>ALL EMERGENCIES</b>	911		

To submit information to the newsletter please email:

[ruralnewsletters@rmwb.ca](mailto:ruralnewsletters@rmwb.ca)

Deadline for March Newsletter submissions: **February 25, 2025**



**780-743-7000 • 1-800-973-9663**  
[rmwb.ca/pulse](http://rmwb.ca/pulse)

Call. Submit online.  
 Real answers every time, all the time.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1  Winter Bout Monster Truck VS Drifting Area 63 Motor Park 10 AM  
2  Shootout on the Snye Registration	3	4	5  Discover Arts Council Wood Buffalo WBRL 6-8 PM	6	7  Trivia Night at the Legion  7 PM  	8  Sweet Treat Day SPCA
9  Sweet Treat Day SPCA	10	11  ITA Regional Gathering Shell Place 8:30-5:30	12	13  ITA Regional Gathering Shell Place 8:30-5:30	14  The Wizard of Oz Keyano Theater 7:30 PM  	15  Wine and Chocolate  Heritage Village  7-9 PM
16	17	18	19	20  Cultural Awareness Training Syncrude Sport & Wellness 9-12 PM	21  <b>WinterPLAY</b>  	22  <b>WinterPLAY</b>
23  <b>WinterPLAY</b>	24  <b>WinterPLAY</b>	25  <b>WinterPLAY</b>	26	27	28  Charity Jam & Silent Auction Suncor Energy Center 6-11 PM  	