

DRAPER ROAD NEWS



March 2025



REMINDER

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

Upcoming changes to utility billing for water and sewer services



Effective April 1, in addition to garbage collection charges, Draper residents will begin receiving utility bills for water and sewer services. The fees will be billed in accordance with the rates set in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw 24/026.

You can expect to receive a utility bill from the Municipality once every two months. While the amount of your water and sewer bill will depend on your household usage, based on typical household water usage in Fort McMurray we have estimated the average fees for a Draper residence to be approximately \$235 per bill.

For years, these services have been subsidized by the Municipality in the Draper community. Following a Council Resolution on July 13, 2010, Draper residents received a \$135 rebate from the Municipality toward their monthly costs of water delivery services. In 2016, the Municipality began fully subsidizing the cost of water delivery and sewer pickup services in Draper, only charging residents for the costs of garbage collection.

However, this is not sustainable and a consistent approach to utility billing is being implemented across the region. Recovering costs through user fees for garbage collection, water and sewer services will help ensure the long-term sustainability of reliable, high-quality services for Draper and all communities in Wood Buffalo, while reducing the subsidy from the Municipal tax base.

We understand this change represents a significant adjustment for Draper residents. Please know that this decision was made with careful consideration to balance service delivery across the region.

We are committed to providing clear and transparent information to help residents through this transition. If you have questions, or for more information, please visit rmwb.ca/utilitychanges or contact the Municipality through Pulse at 780-743-7000.

Understanding your property assessment

I received my property assessment.
What's next?



Notices were issued by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo on Feb. 18 to residential and commercial property owners across the region.

Assessment notices contain important information about a property's value and help to ensure each property owner pays their fair share of property taxes in 2025.

For the 2025 taxation year, the property assessments are based on July 1, 2024 market values and physical conditions as of Dec. 31, 2024. Assessments are then used to calculate your annual property tax.

Property tax notices are sent out in May once Council reviews and approves the 2025 Property Tax Rate Bylaw. You can also access information about your property assessment using the **online search tool** on the municipal website.

File an appeal by April 28

After speaking with an assessor, property owners who still have concerns with their assessment may file an appeal with the Assessment Review Board before the April 28 deadline. For more information on how to file an appeal, visit rmwb.ca/assessments.

Request for Information (RFI) - Watch your mail in March

Some residents will also be receiving a RFI notice in the mail. This information helps the RMWB to collect information about your property so the Assessment office can calculate a fair and equitable market values assessment. The RFI cycles through different neighbourhoods, so you won't receive one every year for the same property.

Learn more about assessments and property taxes at rmwb.ca/taxes.

For further information or questions, please contact Pulse at 780-743-7000 or online at rmwb.ca/pulse.

New Land Use Bylaw being presented to Council March 24

A new Land Use Bylaw (LUB) is being presented to Council for consideration at a Public Hearing on March 24, 2025, at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Jubilee Centre. Community members are encouraged to share their thoughts about the LUB with Council during the Public Hearing.

What is the Land Use Bylaw (LUB)?

The LUB regulates the use and development of land and buildings within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to support safe and sustainable growth. The current LUB has been in place since 1999 and needs to be replaced to respond to the changes over the past 25 years and community needs.



Developed through extensive public engagement, the new Land Use Bylaw is user-friendly with updated regulations that address community needs and will support responsible development and economic growth in the region by providing greater flexibility for new development.

Review the draft LUB and the public engagement What We Heard Report at participate.rmwb.ca/LUB

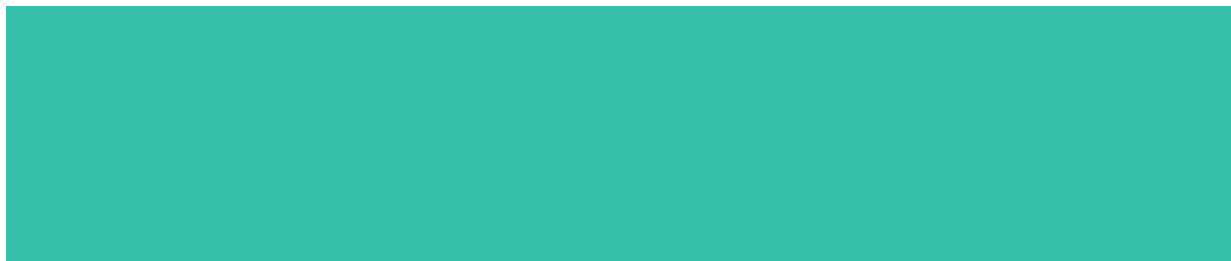
Register to participate in the Public Hearing by noon on March 17

If you would like to share your thoughts about the new LUB with Council, you must register with Legislative Services before 12:00 noon, Monday, March 17, 2025. Residents can share their thoughts in-person or by sending in a written submission.

- Register on-line at www.rmwb.ca/publichearingsubmission
- Email legislative.assistants@rmwb.ca
- Call Legislative Services at 780-743-7001. (*only for in-person presentations)

Tune in to watch the Public Hearing live on the [RMWB Youtube channel](#) or on the local Rogers TV station.

Find more information in the LUB Public Notice and at rmwb.ca/council



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 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 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



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

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.

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 and a Legislative Services staff member will assist.

2025 Street Banner Art Call

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo invites artists and creatives 12 years of age and older residing in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to showcase their artistic talent.

This year's Street Banner design contest theme is **WHEELS IN MOTION**. Celebrate pathfinding and transportation in the region. Let imagination and innovation drive the *Wheels in Motion!*

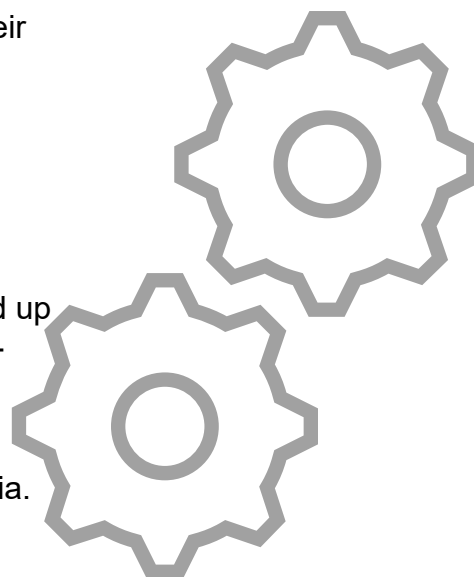
Art paper for Street Banner submissions can be picked up at the Municipal Office or by contacting PULSE at 780-743-7000.

New this year! Rural designs will be selected for rural communities. Designs must meet guidelines and criteria. Selected rural designs will receive a full-sized banner.

All designs will be included for the chance to be selected as one of the 14 designs featured in Fort McMurray. If selected as one of these 14 designs, a design fee will also be awarded.

Deadline to submit is May 1 at 4 p.m.

Learn more at rmwb.ca/banner.



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 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 **Conklin** on March 3, and in **Fort Chipewyan** on March 5-7, to provide presentations for leadership or community members who are interested in learning more.

Restorative Justice Contact Information:

- Phone: 780-788-4253
- Toll Free: 1-888-788-4250
- Email: 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.

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.

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)

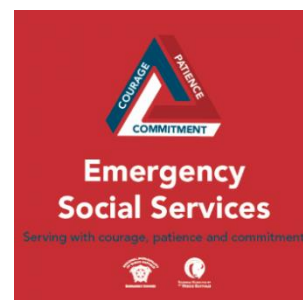


What we do:

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.

For questions, contact Pulse at 780-743-7000, 1-800-973-9663 or online at rmwb.ca/pulse.

9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada T9H 2K4 | rmwb.ca





IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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

To submit information to the newsletter please email:

ruralnewsletters@rmwb.ca

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



780-743-7000 • 1-800-973-9663

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 Snowed in Comedy Tour Keyano Theater 7:30 PM
2 Legion Bingo 1 PM	3	4	5	6 Abasand OHV Pilot Program Father Beauregar d School 4-6 PM	7 Girls Mini Gala Unifor 5-8 PM 	8 Women of Inspiration Day Shell Place 6 PM
9  Legion Bingo 1 PM	10	11	12	13 Crafty Kids Program Big Brothers Big Sisters 6-7:15 PM	14 The Trews SSWC 8 PM 	15 April Wine SSWC 8 PM
16 Legion Bingo 1 PM	17 Youth 10+ Beading Workshop Lions Park 5-8 PM	18	19	20	21 March Mullets and Live Music Club Rewind 7 PM 	22 Bowl for Kids Sake The Alley 2-9:30 PM
23 Spring Market Quality Inn 11-5 PM	24 Youth 10+ Beading Workshop Lions Park 5-8 PM	25 Cultural Awareness Training SSWC 1-4 PM	26 Job Fair Shell Place All Day	27 Job Fair Shell Place All Day	28 Job Fair Shell Place All Day 	29 Job Fair Shell Place All Day
30 Job Fair Shell Place All Day	31 Job Fair Shell Place All Day					