



The Insider, April 7

Find out what's new at the RMWB on April 7, 2026.

Nominations open today for the 2026 Indigenous Sports Gallery

Do you know a local First Nation and Métis athlete, community builder or local legend? Nominate them to be part of the 2026 Indigenous Sports Gallery!

The gallery is intended to inspire youth and celebrate the story of Indigenous athletes and their ongoing contributions to sport in the region.

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games created a travelling indigenous sports gallery to honour [Call to Action 87](#). The RMWB carried this legacy forward in 2024 with its own Indigenous Sports Gallery and will be hosting a new 2026 gallery exhibition this summer.

Nominations open this afternoon – fill out the nomination form at rmwb.ca/sportsgallery by May 4.

Selected nominees will be celebrated at an induction ceremony, with the gallery later travelling around the region for public display. Nominations are open from April 7 to May 4.

Celebrate National Pet Day with a photo of your furry, feathery, or scaly friends!

April 11 is National Pet Day, and we're celebrating the companions that make life a little brighter!

This year's celebration feels extra meaningful. For the first time, our Census 2025 findings included pets, and the results are **pawsitively** impressive: there are more than 18,000 pets in the region! It's clear that pets aren't "just animals" here - they're part of the family.

To mark the occasion, we're inviting you to share photos of your beloved pets. Whether it's a dog, cat, fish, horse, hamster, reptile, or something more unexpected, we want to see them!

How to participate:

- Submit a photo of your pet to TheInsider@rmwb.ca by April 10.
- Every submission will be entered into a random draw to win some great branded prizes.

Join us in celebrating the pets that bring so much joy to our homes—and to the region. We can't wait to meet them!

Phishing Alert: Fake “click to fix” messages

We're seeing phishing messages designed to trick users into clicking a message to “fix” a problem. These scams may look like routine system or website issues, but they are not legitimate.

You may see messages or pop-ups that:

- Say there's a problem that needs to be fixed.
- Ask you to click to resolve an issue.
- Appear as a verification, CAPTCHA, or error message.
- Claim a file, webpage, or system feature isn't working.

Once clicked, some of these scams may go further and ask you to:

- Copy and paste text.
- Run a command.
- Follow additional “fix” steps.

These messages are designed to look harmless. Clicking them or following the instructions can allow malware to install or give attackers access to accounts and systems.

How to stay safe

- **Do not click** messages asking you to “fix” an issue.
- **Do not copy or run commands** from emails, pop-ups, or websites. IT will **never** ask you to run commands or fixes this way.
- If something seems urgent or unusual, **stop and check with IT.**

Cheers for Peers: March winner announced

Our newly refreshed Cheers for Peers recognition program is off to a great start - and we're excited to share our first monthly draw winner!

Congratulations to **Tara Matchim**, coordinator, Community Services, our March Cheers for Peers winner, who was randomly drawn after being nominated by a colleague who wanted to recognize her outstanding support and positive impact.

Here's what **Josephine Bamanya**, advisor, Community Services, had to say when nominating Tara:

I'd like to recognize Tara, who consistently goes above and beyond to support others.

Every time I approach her for guidance, she gives her full attention and takes the time to help me navigate challenges with patience and clarity. She brings a positive attitude to every interaction and creates a welcoming environment where it's easy to ask questions and learn.

She has also been incredibly helpful in reviewing my drafted documents, offering insightful suggestions that have improved how I present information and data.

Her willingness to help and her thoughtful approach have made a meaningful difference in my work, and I truly appreciate the support she provides.

As a reminder, Cheers for Peers allows staff to recognize colleagues for their contributions and kind acts. Each nomination is shared directly with the recipient, and nominated staff can then choose to be entered into a monthly draw for branded prize items.

Thanks you to everyone who has already participated - and keep the nominations coming!

Get started at rmwb.ca/staff.

G.E. Bussieres scholarship open for applications

Is your dependent in post-secondary? Check to see if they're eligible for the G.E. Bussieres scholarship!

Applicants must:

- Be a dependent of a permanent employee.
- Must have a minimum grade of 70% in the most recent year of completed full-time education.
- Be a full-time student.

To apply and for more information, visit the [Scholarships intranet page](#) on My RMWB.

If you have questions or require further information, please contact learn@rmwb.ca.

Apply by Aug. 31, 2026.

RMWB staff celebrate National Indigenous Languages Day in Fort Chipewyan

Mayor Sandy Bowman, CAO Andrew Boutilier, and Indigenous and Rural Relations staff flew up to Fort Chipewyan at the start of last week to celebrate National Indigenous Languages Day.

Language keepers from across the region gathered at mamawi Hall last Monday to share Dene and Cree language stories and resources. On Tuesday, they joined community leaders and residents to celebrate National Indigenous Languages Day and share their knowledge and lived experiences, focusing on the importance of the youth learning the Cree and Dene languages.

The event was hosted by Mikisew Cree First Nation and supported by the Athabasca Tribal Council and the RMWB. The main focus of the gathering and celebration was on the importance of creating a path forward to ensure that the Cree and Dene languages live on.

Congratulations to the winner of the Mayor's Food Drive!

The Mayor's Office is pleased to share the results of the recent community food drive in support of the Wood Buffalo Food Bank - and to officially congratulate our prize winner!

Congratulations to **Amy Acton**, program manager, PMO, who was selected as the lucky draw winner of the Mayor's parking stall this month.

Thanks to the generosity of staff, the food drive was a great success, directly supporting individuals and families in the community.

Staff snapshots: Where we are & what we're up to

Seeing quintuple in Legislative Services

Nicole Power, legislative officer, shared the following message and photo with us on Thursday:

Clearly, great minds think alike! We couldn't help but laugh when we arrived at the office and found so many of us "twinning." As it was completely unplanned, we knew we had to share it with The Insider.

Contact us

For questions and concerns, contact TheInsider@rmwb.ca.

For previous editions of The Insider, visit the archive on rmwb.ca/staff.