

SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



NOVEMBER


 RMWB 2025
Elections

Election Results

Official Results declared for the 2025 Municipal Election

The results of the 2025 Municipal Election are now official as of 12 p.m. (noon) MT on Oct. 24.

There are no changes to the unofficial results released by the Municipality on Tuesday, Oct. 21. Find the official results for the Mayor, Councillors and the Fort McMurray Catholic and Public School District Boards of Trustees at rmwb.ca/election.

A total of 10,506 voters participated in this year's election, which is approximately 25.3 per cent of an estimated 41,494 eligible voters. Of those voters, 3,516 cast ballots during the advance vote, compared to 5,259 in 2021.

The number of voters was lower than in 2021 (13,141) and the overall voter participation rate decreased from 27.2 percent in 2021 to 25.3 percent in 2025.

Please note that the 2021 voter participation rate was calculated using municipal census data, while the 2025 rate is based on the estimated number of eligible voters provided by Elections Alberta.

2025-2029 RMWB Council:

Council Position	Name	# of official votes
Mayor	Sandy Bowman	9,843
Ward 1 Councillors (Six)	Mike Allen	2,379
	Ty Brandt	2,838

	Lance Bussieres	2,943
	Luana Bussieres	2,993
	Don Scott	4,346
	Jennifer Vardy	2,885
Ward 2 Councillors (Two)	Kendrick Cardinal	93
	Greg (Cowboy) Marcel	120
Ward 3 Councillor	Stu Wigle	184
Ward 4 Councillor	Kyle Vandecasteyen	164

Fort McMurray Public School Board of Trustees:

- Angela Adams (1,443 votes)
- Tiffany Bennett (1,336 votes)
- Pamela Bowie (1,065 votes)
- Jennifer Kennett (1,408 votes)
- Jonathan Lambert (985 votes)
- Michelle Landsiedel (1,005 votes)
- Tim O'Hara (1,132 votes)

Fort McMurray Catholic School Board of Trustees:

- Dale Barfoot (1,176 votes)
- Chantal Beaver (1,217 votes)
- Cathy Larson (1,685 votes)
- Elliott Pierre (1,430 votes)
- Jeff Walsh (1,245 votes)

For more information, please contact Pulse at 780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663.



Council's *Holiday Luncheon* for Seniors & Elders

December 4, 2025
at SMS Equipment Grand Ballroom, MacDonald Island Park
from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (doors open at 11 a.m.)

Join Mayor and Councillors for a holiday meal on Thursday, December 4, 2025 at SMS Equipment Grand Ballroom MacDonald Island Park, Fort McMurray.

The holiday lunch will feature good food, great company and bingo!

EVENT REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 17

Registration is required for this free event, please do so at rmwb.ca/luncheon. If you need assistance registering, contact Pulse at **780-743-7000** or toll free at **1-800-973-9663**. This event is for seniors who are 65 and older and Elders.

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE FOR RURAL ATTENDEES

If you are coming from Anzac, Conklin, Janvier, Gregoire Lake Estates, or Fort McKay and need transportation to the venue, please indicate when you register. Transportation will be arranged so you can go to and from the event safely and comfortably.



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

Help shape your community - join an RMWB board or committee!

Wood Buffalo needs your energy and perspective for important projects and initiatives across the region!

Get involved, gain valuable experience and network with like-minded residents by applying to join a Council-appointed board or committee.

There are more than 70 vacancies among nearly 20 Municipal boards and committees. Vacancies will be posted in early September. Apply for an open position at rmwb.ca/boards, or at your local municipal office.

What are the benefits of serving on an RMWB board or committee?

Joining a board or committee is a great opportunity for professional growth – members work alongside other community leaders and help advise Mayor and Councillors on important matters that impact your community.

Are meetings accessible for rural and Indigenous residents?

Distance doesn't have to be an obstacle – you can attend most board and committee meetings remotely by video call. Rural board and committee members will also be reimbursed mileage expenses for driving to attend meetings in person.

Which board and committee positions are currently open to apply for?

- Advisory Committee on Aging
- Assessment Review Board
- Combative Sports Commission
- Communities in Bloom
- Community Identification Committee
- Community Standards Appeal Committee
- Development Advisory Committee
- Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee
- Fort McMurray Airport Authority
- Homelessness Initiatives Strategic Committee
- Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity & Equity
- Regional Recreation Corporation Board
- Public Art Committee
- Regional Library Board
- Subdivision and Development Appeal Board
- Vehicle for Hire Committee
- Waterfront Advisory Committee
- Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation

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



Visiting Fort McMurray? RMWB Transit has introduced significant changes

On August 22, a new and improved Transit system replaced all routes with high-frequency core routes, neighbourhood routes and Transit On Demand. If you're visiting Fort McMurray and planning to use RMWB Transit, plan ahead and review the new routes and schedules.

There are no changes to **rural transit** or **fares**.

Highlights:

- 2 high-frequency core routes with longer hours & shorter wait times.
- 7 neighbourhood routes during high-ridership times.
- Book a ride when neighbourhood routes aren't available using RMWB Transit On Demand.
- Main Street Terminal is closed and two new stops have been added on Franklin Avenue.

Plan ahead:

- Check the new routes & schedules at rmwb.ca/transit.
- Learn more about Transit On Demand at rmwb.ca/OnDemand.
- School route information is available at rmwb.ca/SchoolTransit.

Council's Excellence Awards: Nominate today!



The poster is divided into two main sections. The top section has a dark blue background on the left and a yellow background on the right, separated by a diagonal line. A large blue star is on the left. The bottom section has a dark blue background with a pattern of small yellow, blue, and white stars. A light blue banner is at the very bottom.

 **Council's
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**

**Help shine a light on
outstanding people in
your community!**

**Nominate them for
an award by Dec. 3.**

rmwb.ca/excellence


REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

NOMINATE A DESERVING COMMUNITY MEMBER
FOR ONE OF FOUR AWARD CATEGORIES:

- ★ Citizen of the Year
- ★ Everyday Hero
- ★ Indigenous Advocate
- ★ Youth

Learn more and nominate your local champions at rmwb.ca/excellence
Have questions? Need support? Call Pulse at 780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663.

[Rmwb.ca/excellence](https://rmwb.ca/excellence)

WHERE ARE SUPPORTS NEEDED?

Your feedback is shaping a 10-year strategy to strengthen safety and social well-being, identifying community priorities in supports for seniors and Elders, programs for youth and children, transportation, and cultural services.

Stay involved and informed

- Participate online at rmwb.ca/socialwellbeing
- Complete a paper survey or quick poll at your local municipal office
- Chat at an upcoming rural community open house



Feedback will help show where supports are strong, where gaps exist, and how to improve access and connection.

rmwb.ca/socialwellbeing



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

Skate closer to home: Build a backyard rink this winter!

With winter around the corner, it's time to get ready for skating season.



The Community Backyard Rink program makes it easy for you to create temporary ice rinks on municipal property in your neighbourhood, helping families embrace winter safely.

Get started

Getting your community backyard rink started is simple. Begin by reading through the online guide at rmwb.ca/CommunityRinks. This guide includes information and tips on the application process and building and maintaining your rink.

Approved applicants will be provided with insurance coverage under the Municipality's insurance policy.

Any unauthorized structures are subject to fines and removal.

Apply online

Applications are open all season, but rinks should be constructed by Dec. 31. Apply online through our E-Permitting portal at rmwb.ca/CommunityRinks.

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

YOUR AMBULANCE EXPERIENCE MATTERS

From paramedics at the
scene to the hospital doors
— **tell us about your care.**

rmwb.ca/EMScare



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

Stay up to date on services, news, and projects in your community!

You may have noticed a refreshed look for **rmwb.ca** last month.



The new website provides a more reliable and user-friendly way to keep informed and connected.

Key changes include an improved mobile-friendly design and enhanced accessibility.

We've also streamlined the subscription process.

News, alerts, updates and more

Stay ahead of what's happening around your neighbourhood: get timely news delivered straight to your email inbox by subscribing to municipal updates.

Pick and choose the categories you're interested in:

- Municipal News (News Releases)
- Emergency Alerts
- Winter Maintenance Zones
- Construction: Fort McMurray - North of the Bridge
- Construction: Fort McMurray - South of the Bridge
- Construction: Rural Communities - North of Fort McMurray
- Construction: Rural Communities - South of Fort McMurray
- Fort Chipewyan Winter Road
- La Loche Winter Trail
- Legislated Public Notices
- River Breakup Community Updates

Subscribe for updates at **rmwb.ca/subscribe**.

If you're having trouble finding municipal information on our website, please contact Pulse at 780-743-7000 or rmwb.ca/pulse.

Rural Water Sewer Service

Why connect?

Say goodbye to water deliveries and septic pick-ups! Once connected, deliveries and pick-ups will no longer be required at your property.

Flexible payment plan: **\$105 at 0% interest** spread out over 25 years through your bi-monthly utility bill.

Applications can be picked up and submitted at your local municipal office.

The cost will significantly increase after the connection window closes (end of construction season).

The Municipality will no longer coordinate or subsidize water delivery and septic pick-ups.

Eligibility

Ownership-You must be registered on Title

Tax-Account-your account must be in good standing

Utility Account- your account must be in good standing.

Historical Indigenous Residential Land Ownership Policy:

Approved by Council on October 8, 2024

May be eligible for the transfer of land from the RMWB to an Indigenous person having historical and continuing connection to a parcel of land

If a resident has resided on and used a parcel of land long-term, they may be eligible.

Getting Started!

1. Choose your certified contractor
2. Complete your application form.
3. Submit your application fee.

Have questions?

Visit rmwb.ca/rwss or connect with us through **Pulse** at 780-743-7000.



Remember to have your bins out by 7:30 a.m. on your collection day

Stay on track with ease —check the [garbage and recycling calendar](https://rmwb.ca/collectioncalendar) for all collection dates visit rmwb.ca/collectioncalendar.



What you need to know

- ✓ **Set your bins out on time** – Place them at the curb by **7:30 a.m.** on collection day.
- ✓ **Remove them the same day** – Bins **must not** be left on the street overnight.

Winter bin placement tips

Make sure your bins are placed in a clear, accessible spot. Bins blocked by snow, ice, or other obstacles may not be collected.

- ❄ Place bins **in front** of snowbanks, never on top or behind.
- ❄ Keep **one-foot** in-between bins and keep them **3 feet** from vehicles.
- ❄ Ensure bins are **firmly closed**.

Thank you for helping keep the community clean and running smoothly!



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:

Restorative Justice Contact Information:

- Phone: 780-788-4253
- Toll Free: 1-888-788-4250
- Email: restorative.justice@rmwb.ca

Get involved.

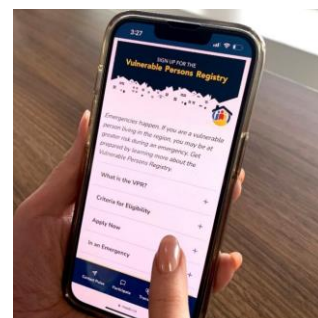
We need committed volunteers to help! Please contact us.



Emergencies happen. If you are a vulnerable person living in the region, you may be at greater risk.

Apply to be added to the Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR) - a free, voluntary and confidential service for residents living at home who would be at greater risk during emergencies.

To sign up or learn more visit –
rmwb.ca/vpr



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.

WATER AND SEWER PROGRAM

The 2025 summer construction season is underway - apply now!

Take the first step: Choose your contractor and start the conversation.

Choose a certified contractor from the Alberta Municipal Affairs Private Sewage System Installer Certification List below. Ask the contractor for a quote to connect your home and discuss what this work will entail.

Contractor	Contact information
B Mac Underground Services Ltd.	780-742-9848
Call First Plumbing & Heating	780-880-4726
Consun Contracting Ltd.	780-743-3163
H Wilson Industries (2010) Ltd.	780-743-1881
NC Transport & Equipment	780-713-1169
Parker Drainage and Waterproofing	780-799-0723
Qualipu Enterprises	780-598-4933
Rob Ryan Construction Inc.	780-799-6434
SENA Constructors Inc.	780-747-9664
Sureway Construction Management Ltd.	780-743-4788
Wellingdale Group Inc.	780-607-1431
Wood Buffalo Plumbing & Heating Ltd.	780-974-0521

Then connect with us:

Reach out to Pulse and an RWSS team member will follow up to answer your questions and assist with your application. All program details are available at rmwb.ca/rwss.

Rural Water and Sewer Servicing Connection Updates as of July 2025

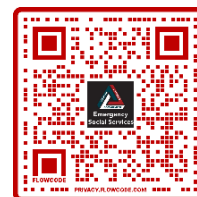
Saprae Creek Estates - 227 homes have connected; 238 applications received of 268 eligible properties.

Emergency Social Services (ESS)

ESS provides individuals or families with supports when they are displaced due to an emergency. Registration centres or other evacuation sites are set up to register evacuees and provide immediate basic needs. This support is available to provide a safe place for evacuees to plan their next steps as they transition to recovery.

Registration centres may provide the following services:

- Food/water
- Shelter
- Clothing
- First Aid/emotional support
- Family reunification
- Animal care and rescue assistance



To learn more about ESS, or to join the ESS Team, scan the QR code below:

VPR

Emergencies happen. If you are a vulnerable person living in the region, you may be at greater risk during an emergency.

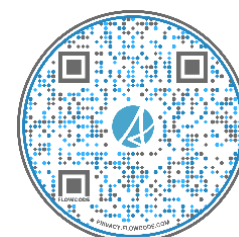


The Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR) is a service that improves the safety of vulnerable residents living at home.

This is done by communicating directly with registrants during emergencies and by sharing key information to first responders about individuals on the VPR. Click [here](#) to find out more about the VPR.

MAERS

The MyAlberta Emergency Registration System is available to all residents of Alberta as a tool to assist during an evacuation or emergency. Albertans can register themselves and their family members in advance of an emergency using their MyAlberta Digital ID. Click [here](#) or scan below to pre-register today.



NOTICE TO RURAL RESIDENTS

Water and septic service reminders

To allow water and septic delivery trucks access and to provide continuous service for all residents, please follow to the requirements below:

- 1) **Basement water tanks or water tanks that are not visible:** All customers must have their volume posted in a visible place so water delivery contractor can see proper date and amount of water required (displayed in litres).
- 2) **Hanging branches and wires on driveways:** Make sure that delivery vehicles have a minimum 15 feet of clearance. All low hanging branches must be trimmed to prevent damage to trucks, and low hanging wires are to be raised.
- 3) **Provide clear access:** All vehicles/obstacles must be removed on driveways during the delivery schedule and the ensure the water delivery vehicle is able to drive within **15.24 meters** of the delivery point for water.
- 4) **Ensure pets are contained:** For the safety of contractors and pets, all dogs are to be tied up or inside your home, for service provider to access your property.
- 5) **Keep access points clear of snow and ice:** During winter months, keep driveways and pathways to water and septic hook ups, clear of snow and ice and thaw receivers and caps for hose access.
- 6) **Maintain cam-lock/hoses:** The winterization and maintenance of the cam-lock fitting and hoses is the responsibility of the home-owner. All cam-locks and hoses are to be drained and water to be removed to prevent freezing and breakage of cam-lock.
- 7) **Safety of septic tanks:** All septic tanks will be equipped with a “stinger” and an approved lid on the tank.
- 8) **Driveways:** If your driveway is soft (spring thaw), it is the homeowner’s responsibility to contact the RMWB to suspend delivery or to add a proper hose with the required cam-lock and extend down driveway to location of delivery.

For more information:

refer to the Water Utilities Management Bylaw (Bylaw No. 07/035) Part X

If you have questions or require any additional information, call the Pulse Line at 780-743-7000

Step up in an emergency

Be the Helping Hand When It Matters Most - 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.



RMWB.ca/ESSVolunteer

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 helps people during large emergencies or incidents in the Municipality.

Who we are:

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





Wood Buffalo Victim Services provides victims of crime and trauma with support, information and referrals based on their needs. The intent is to ease the crisis and help them return to stability.

Why should victims of crime and trauma contact us?

Our support workers are empathetic listeners. They will give you information to help you make decisions that are best for you and your circumstances. Part of our role is to make sure you are treated fairly. You have rights under the *Alberta Victims of Crime Act*.

Please call or email to speak to a support worker. We can arrange to meet in your community.

Wood Buffalo Victim Services

Phone: 780-788-4250

Toll Free: 1-888-788-4250

Email: victim.services@rmwb.ca

For any questions, please contact Pulse!



PULSE

780-743-7000 • 1-800-973-9663
rmwb.ca/pulse

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



Residents in rural communities can contact the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo 24/7 by contacting Pulse via the following:

- 780-743-7000
- 1-800-973-9663 (toll-free)

www.rmwb.ca/pulse



Individual \$10
Tiger (under 6) \$5
Family \$30

Open Daily
9am–6pm
Check in at Guest Services

**VISTA
RIDGE**

Walking Safety Tips



Walk Facing Traffic: If there is no sidewalk and you must walk on the side of the road, choose the side where you are facing oncoming traffic. This gives you the best chance to see traffic approaching closest to you and take evasive action if necessary.

Cross Safely: Look both ways before crossing any street. Make eye contact with any drivers who may be turning. Give them a wave. Make sure they see you.

Walk Single File: Unless you are on a sidewalk separate from the road, you should walk single file. This is especially important on a road with lots of curves. While it can be enjoyable to walk down the road two or three abreast chatting merrily, drivers don't expect it.

Stay aware of bikes and runners: Share the road and path with bikes and runners. Bike riders should alert you when approaching from behind with a bike bell or a "passing on the left/right." Listen for them.

Be Visible: Wear bright colors when walking in daytime. When walking at night wear light-colored clothing and reflective clothing or reflective vest to be visible.

Hang Up and Eyes Up: Chatting or texting while walking is as dangerous as doing that while driving. You are distracted and not as aware of your environment. You are less likely to recognize traffic danger, passing joggers and bikers or tripping hazards. Potential criminals can also see you as a distracted easy target.

When walking your pet: keep your pet on the side away from traffic so that they don't accidentally dart into the roadway.



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 **December** Newsletter submissions:
November 25, 2025

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Micisowin Farmers Market 11-3 @ stonebridge 
2	3	4 60+ Wellness Series 10-1130 @ YMCA Eagle Ridge Community Centre	5	6	7 	8 Keyano Gala 6:30pm @ Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre
9	10	11 Remembrance Day Ceremony 10:30am @ Royal Canadian Legion McMurray Branch #165	12	13	14 Ugly Christmas Sweater Party 8:00 @ MacDonald Island Park 	15 Festival of Trees 2025 7:00pm @ MacDonald Island Park
16 Daddy Daughter Sugar Plum Fairy Ball 6:00pm @ MacDonald Island Park	17	18	19	20	21 Christmas 2025 Trade Show @ SMS Equipment Place 	22 Micisowin Farmers Market 11-3 @ Stonebridge
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Micisowin Farmers Market 11-3 @ Stonebridge 
30						