



## The Insider, Feb. 9

Find out what's new at the RMWB on Feb. 9, 2026.

### Cheers for Peers: meet the winners!

#### Johanna Tobin

**Johanna Tobin**, administrative assistant, Safety Codes Services received cheers from **Shaída Elliott**, senior business analyst, IT:

"I would like to express my gratitude to Johanna Tobin in Planning & Development. She has always been a pleasure to collaborate with and was essential in the completion of some key milestones in one of my ongoing projects. Not only is she supportive, caring and always looking for ways to help those around her, she does it so effortlessly.

Johanna, I appreciate you and am thankful for your friendship and willingness to always go the extra mile for your peers. Thank you!"

#### Dennis Hokanson & Toni Martin

For the first time, both the person who shared cheers and the person who received said cheers were randomly drawn!

**Dennis Hokanson**, supervisor, Environmental Services shared the kind words below for **Toni Martin**, administrative assistant, Environmental Services:

"I just want to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for everything Toni Martin does. Her dedication, organization, and attention to detail make all the difference every single day. Honestly, I couldn't do my job without her.

She keeps things running smoothly, anticipates needs before they arise, is a pleasure to work with and handles challenges with such professionalism and grace. Your hard work doesn't go unnoticed—it's the backbone of our success.

Thank you for being such an essential part of the team. We're lucky to have her!"

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*The next Cheers for Peers draw is **Monday, Feb. 23** for the March 1 Fort McMurray Oil Barons home game.*

*Submit a photo or kind message celebrating a colleague by Feb. 23 at noon. We'll draw one name that afternoon.*

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## **Behind the scenes with the OHV Working Group**

Over the past two years, the OHV Working Group has worked across departments to support the Abasand OHV Pilot Project and ensure decisions are informed by data, safety considerations, and community input. The team has led three external public engagements, plus two internal engagements and two internal workshops to gather insights and improve how the pilot operates.

Earlier this year, the group met to review information from Roads, Traffic, RES, Pulse, Public Engagement, Bylaw Services, Parks, and the RCMP to assess whether the pilot is meeting its intended goals and where adjustments may be needed.

The group has also supported proactive safety education. Bylaw and Strategic Communications recently visited Father Beauregard School to teach Grades 4–6 students about OHV safety.

Thank you to everyone across the organization who has contributed time, expertise, and collaboration to support this pilot.

### **Final step: community feedback**

The final public engagement is now open. Help complete the picture: should the pilot be extended, end, or become permanent?

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*Share your feedback by Feb. 12 at [rmwb.ca/ohvpilot](https://rmwb.ca/ohvpilot).*

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## Highlight on People Changes

We've been keeping our eye on the [People Changes tab](#) on the intranet.

Check out some of the highlights we spotted last month!

### Kori Ford

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to **Kori Ford**, our new administrative assistant in Water Treatment!

Kori recently transferred from Wastewater Treatment, where she was also an administrative assistant, and brings valuable experience and knowledge with her.

Welcome Kori, we're excited to have you on the team!

### Graham Brown

Please help us congratulate **Graham Brown** for his new role, manager of Technical Services, in Environmental Services.

Graham has worked within the Regulatory group and in Environmental Services as a program manager, steadily growing within the organization. He brings strong analytical skills, a solid understanding of our municipal water and wastewater systems, and experience working closely with operations and regulators.

Congratulations, Graham!

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*Got a staffing update to share? Submit it to [People Changes](#)!*

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## Microsoft training: what would you like to see?

The Learn team is looking to offer additional Microsoft Training courses this year and wants to hear from you on the programs you would like to see offered!

Please complete this [short survey](#) by Feb. 23.

## Property assessment notices coming soon – watch your mail!

Property assessment notices will be mailed out on Feb. 11. Your assessment notice shows the assessed value of your property. This value is used to calculate your property taxes for 2026.

### What to know

- Assessment notices are arriving in February.
- The deadline to file an assessment appeal is **April 20, 2026**.
- Property Tax Notices will be mailed in May.

### How your property is valued

For the 2026 tax year, assessments are based on:

- Market value as of July 1, 2025.
- Property condition as of Dec. 31, 2025.

A quick reminder: **this is not your tax notice**. Tax notices will be mailed out by the end of May.

If you have concerns about your assessment, contact [Pulse](#) to speak with an assessor. If a resolution cannot be reached, you may file a formal appeal with the Assessment Review Board. For more information, visit [rmwb.ca/assessments](https://rmwb.ca/assessments).

## Are YOU ready for WinterPLAY?

This Canadian tradition returns to the region on Feb. 20-24!

Brought back by popular demand:

- Shootout on the Snye, Feb. 20 to 22
- Community Pancake Breakfast, Feb. 21 and 22 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Cabane à Sucre (Sugar Shack) brought to you by the ACFA Régionale de Wood Buffalo, Feb. 21 and 22 from 12 to 5 p.m.

And more!

Check out the full schedule at [rmwb.ca/WinterPLAY](https://rmwb.ca/WinterPLAY).

### P.S. Plan ahead!

Watch for traffic impacts:

- The parking lot at the Snye is closed from Feb. 9 – 27.
- Please access Clearwater Drive from Waterways.
- When the event begins, please drive with caution and obey traffic signage on Morimoto Drive.

## You do WHAT!? Beyond the desk at the RMWB

Learn how **Nadia Power**, manager, Council Relations, has embraced a transformative practice into her life:

"2021 was the year I embraced yoga, and it's been transformative. It's helped me feel stronger and more grounded in my body. Through breathwork and mindful movement, my thinking has become more spacious, fluid, and intentional. Yoga has slowly woven itself into the way I move, the way I breathe, and the way I meet the world.

This January, I signed up for a three-month, 200 hour yoga teacher training program. I may never formally teach—right now, I'm here to deepen my own practice and explore the philosophy and foundations of this tradition. But maybe one day, I will guide others.

I've always loved the energizing flow of vinyasa and the grounding feeling of moving with my breath. Lately, though, I've been gaining a deeper appreciation for slower, more restful practices like meditation and restorative yoga. They've taught me the value of slowing down, listening inward, and finding balance between effort and ease...and I'm learning there is as much strength in rest as there is in purposeful action."

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*Do you have an interesting hobby, passion, or skill outside of your work hours?*

*Share with The Insider and we'll highlight you in a future You do WHAT!? story!*

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## Check out February's Life Lines article

Emotional intelligence (EQ) is one of the most important skills for managing stress, improving communication, and building stronger relationships. In this video, you'll learn what emotional intelligence is, why it matters, and how to strengthen it in everyday life.

February's Life Lines article explores how to recognize your emotions, manage reactions, and respond with empathy instead of impulse. You'll also discover simple techniques to improve self-awareness, emotional regulation, and communication at work and in your personal life.

Watch the video or read the [article](#) to learn more.

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

### **Untangling the WWTP**

The Wastewater Treatment Plant server room recently underwent a SCADA server cabinet cleanup led by our Automation team.

The work is now complete, and the setup has been significantly improved—resulting in better organization, easier maintenance, and greatly enhanced cable management.

This is an excellent example of how attention to detail and standardization directly strengthen the reliability of our critical infrastructure. Kudos to the team for a job very well done!

## **Contact us**

For questions and concerns, contact [TheInsider@rmwb.ca](mailto:TheInsider@rmwb.ca).

For previous editions of The Insider, visit the archive on [rmwb.ca/staff](http://rmwb.ca/staff).