



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

A message from Councillor Jennifer Vardy

WARD 1



Dear Wood Buffalo,

As we move through the early months of 2026, I want to take a moment to thank residents for continuing to stay engaged, share feedback, and take pride in our community. Your involvement and input are essential in helping guide the decisions we make at Council

Municipal Budget

Following five days of deliberations from February 3–9, Council approved a **\$661 million Municipal Budget** for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

The approved budget reflects a balance between fiscal responsibility and operational stability, while continuing to invest in infrastructure, services, and the long-term needs of our growing region.

The budget includes:

- \$518.6 million for municipal operations
- \$142.5 million transferred to reserves, primarily to support future capital investments
- A \$134.4 million capital budget, funded through grants and 2026 revenues

As Council's first budget together, a key priority was ensuring Administration has the people, tools, and resources needed to maintain the high level of service residents expect, while also strengthening accountability and oversight as we move forward.

Council Strategic Planning

Council has officially begun our Strategic Planning process, which will help guide priorities and decision-making over the coming years. Strategic planning allows Council and Administration to work together to identify the key areas that require focus, investment, and long-term planning to support a strong and resilient community. I look forward to sharing more with residents once this work is finalized in the coming weeks.

WinterPLAY Festival

Despite extremely cold temperatures that unfortunately led to the cancellation of the Shoot Out on the Snye, WinterPLAY was still a tremendous success.

Events like WinterPLAY showcase the spirit of our community and bring residents together during the winter months. Thank you to the staff, volunteers, sponsors, and community members who make this annual festival possible each year.

EVENTS

The Mac Calendar is your one-stop shop for discovering local events

www.maccalendar.ca

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The FuseSocial Wood Buffalo Volunteer Center has a list of upcoming opportunities

www.woodbuffalovolunteers.ca

CONTACT RMWB

If you have questions or concerns, contact PULSE online or by phone

780 743 7000

www.rmwb/pulse

CONTACT ME

From kudos to concerns and everything in between, I am here to listen

jennifer.vardy@rmwb.ca



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Community Connections

This month, I had the opportunity to attend **Ramadan celebrations at Markaz-Ul-Islam**, joining members of the Muslim community to recognize this important time of reflection, faith, and community. I also attended the **Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards**, which celebrate the leadership, achievements, and contributions of Indigenous individuals and organizations in our region. It was my 8th year in attendance at this inspiring evening, recognizing the strength and talent within our Indigenous communities.

Boards & Committees

This month, I attended the following board and committee meetings as a council representative, including:

- Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development & Tourism Board
- Homelessness Initiative Strategic Planning Committee
- Emergency Advisory Committee

Thank you for staying engaged and connected.

with gratitude, Jennifer 

Disclaimer: This newsletter is provided by me in my capacity as a Councillor and is not an official communication of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
For any official information, please visit the RMWB website.

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