



# A message from **Councillor Kyle Vandecasteyen**

**WARD 4**



## **Budget Season**

We've hit the ground running in 2026! This month, much of Council's focus has been on preparing for 2026 municipal budget, which we will deliberate in early February. My goal continues to be making sure Ward 4's priorities are well represented while keeping services strong and sustainable across the region.

## **Connecting With the Community**

January also gave me the chance to meet with many of our community organizations and boards to kick off 2026. These conversations are always valuable, they help me understand what's working well, where we can improve, and how Council can better support the people and groups making a difference in our communities.

## **Snow Removal**

After a busy start to winter, late January gave us a bit of a break from heavy snowfall, which was a welcome relief! Snow removal crews continued to focus on targeted work in rural areas, keeping roads safe and accessible. I appreciate everyone's patience while crews tackled priority routes and challenging winter conditions.

## **Municipal Census 2025 , Growth & Outlook**

Exciting news from the 2025 Municipal Census the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has grown overall for the first time in a decade, with a total population of 107,740, up about 1.6% since 2021. This reflects more people choosing to make our region their permanent home, which strengthens local services, supports the economy, and helps guide future planning. The census also shows growth across both urban and rural areas, highlighting that our smaller communities continue to thrive.

## **Upcoming Meetings & Events**

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**Budget deliberations Feb 3-6**

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**February 16 Family Day**

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## **In this Issue**

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Budget Season

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Community Organization Meetings

Snow removal

Municipal Census 2025

## **Looking Ahead**

As we move into February, Council is preparing to complete budget deliberations and continue working on regional priorities, from community services and infrastructure to winter operations and quality of life. The insights from the municipal census give us clearer direction on where the region is headed and will help inform decisions on planning, services, and long-term investment. I'm excited about the opportunities ahead for our region.

**Thank you for your continued feedback, support, and ideas it's always appreciated and plays an important role in shaping the work we do together.**