

# SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



**February 2026**

## Proposed 2026 Municipal Budget: What to know and how to have your say

# Proposed 2026 Municipal Budget



The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has released its proposed **2026 budget totaling \$661 million**. The plan is focused on **sustainable management of municipal assets**, **strengthening partnerships**, and **building meaningful connections** with Indigenous communities, local businesses, and non-profits while positioning the region for emerging opportunities.

### Budget meetings: Feb. 3–5 (with Feb. 6 as a reserve day)

Council will review and deliberate the proposed budget from **Feb. 3 - 5** in **Council Chambers** at the Jubilee Centre, starting at **9 a.m.** each day. Meetings can be watched **in person** or **online** via the Municipality's YouTube channel and at [rmwb.ca/council](https://rmwb.ca/council).

### Want to speak to Council? Register as a delegate

Community members can make a **five-minute verbal presentation** during specific delegation periods each day of the budget meetings by registering as a delegate at [rmwb.ca/budget](https://rmwb.ca/budget).

### Registration deadlines

- To speak to the **Operating Budget** (including the Community Investment Program): register by **9 a.m. on Feb. 3, 2026**
- To speak to the **Capital Budget**: register by **9 a.m. on Feb. 4, 2026**

### Learn more

A full suite of budget resources including the **2026 Budget Primer**, the **Proposed Budget & Financial Plan**, agenda packages and more are available at [rmwb.ca/budget](https://rmwb.ca/budget).

Questions? Contact **Pulse** at 780-743-7000 or toll-free at 1-800-973-9663.



# COMMUNITY NOTICE

## How rural winter maintenance works in your community

Winter maintenance in rural communities is done by municipal contractors, and includes:

- Snow plowing and snow removal.
- Sanding/salting asphalt roadways whenever needed to create a safe driving surface.

### Snow plowing in your community:

- Primary (high-traffic) roads are plowed within 24 hours of snowfall.
- School routes will be plowed within 24 hours for easier school pick-up and drop-off.
- Secondary roads are plowed within 48 hours.
- Gravel roads are plowed within 72 hours.
- Contractors will try to remove windrows (snowbanks) at residential and commercial driveways where possible.

### Snow removal in your community:

- Contractors start snow removal when snowbanks are too high and block safe sightlines at intersections.

### Help your community with winter maintenance:

- Remove garbage and recycling bins from the roadside to leave room for plowing.
- Do not shovel/push snow onto the road or into ditches, as this creates flooding issues in the spring.

More details are available at [rmwb.ca/snowplow](http://rmwb.ca/snowplow)

Questions? Please contact Pulse at [rmwb.ca/pulse](http://rmwb.ca/pulse), or by phone at 780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663 (toll-free).

9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada T9H 2K4 [rmwb.ca](http://rmwb.ca)



# Rural Water & Sewer Service

## Hiring a certified contractor

A certified contractor must be selected from the [Alberta Municipal Affairs Private Sewage System Installer Certification List](#).

The following local contractors have been certified by Alberta Municipal Affairs as of July 2024:

Contractor	Contact information
B Mac Underground Services Ltd.	780-742-9848
Best Choice Plumbing, Heating and Wastewater Solutions	780-799-6267
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
Qalipu 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

*Please note, this list is for informational purposes only. The RMWB is not recommending or endorsing these businesses. Any contract you enter with a certified contractor is strictly at your own risk.*



## New year, new Land Use Bylaw!



As of Jan. 1, 2026, Land Use Bylaw (No. 26/001) is now in effect.

### So, what does this mean for residents, businesses, and developers?

Whether you're planning a home business, building a garage, developing a secondary suite, or putting up a sign, the new Land Use Bylaw outlines what's permitted and how to get started.

Learn more at [rmwb.ca/LandUseBylaw](https://rmwb.ca/LandUseBylaw).

### Have questions?

With the 2026 construction season just around the corner, we know you may have some questions - and we're here to help!

The RMWB Planning and Development team is available to answer them and walk you through the new bylaw. Call Pulse to connect with a planner.

## 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](http://rmwb.ca/pulse).

# 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](https://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](https://rmwb.ca/socialwellbeing)



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF WOOD BUFFALO



## 4-on-4 pond hockey tournament Feb. 20 – 22

Early bird deadline (\$40 per player): Jan. 21  
Registration deadline (\$50 per player): Feb. 2

**Register today!**



Sign up individually.  
Teams will be balanced  
and created based  
on skill level. Adult  
Division (18+) is  
team registration.

[rmwb.ca/winterplay](http://rmwb.ca/winterplay)



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## 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](http://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](https://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](mailto:restorative.justice@rmwb.ca)

### Get involved.

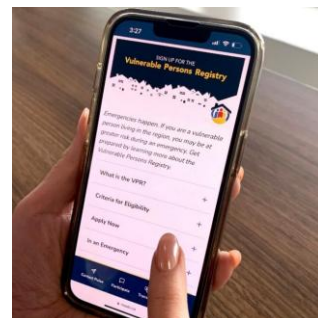
*We need committed volunteers to help! Please contact us.*



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](http://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



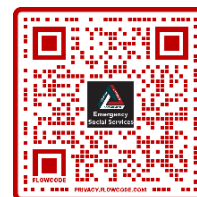
**Want a presentation?** Contact us if you'd like a presentation for your group, class or community at [communitypolicing@rmwb.ca](mailto:communitypolicing@rmwb.ca) or call 780-788-4040 and ask for the Community Policing Coordinator.

## 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.



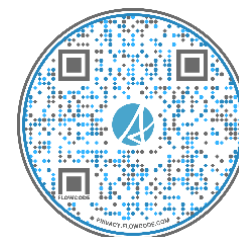
**Vulnerable  
Persons  
Registry**

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](mailto: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](http://www.rmwb.ca/pulse)



Individual \$10

Tiger (under 6) \$5

Family \$30

**Open Daily**  
**9am-6pm**

Check in at Guest Services

**VISTA  
RIDGE**



## CELEBRATING SENIORS & ELDERS IN THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO (RMWB)

Because of the contributions of Seniors & Elders, our municipality is a vibrant, inclusive and thriving place to call home.

Nominate a senior/elder for the 2026 60+ Impact Award

Nominees must be currently living in the RMWB

**Please provide the following information:**

Name, age, phone number and email address of the nominee

One or more letters of support

Name, phone number and email address of the nominator

Confirmation that the nominee accepts the nomination

A paragraph or two about why they deserve a nomination

**Email your nomination or if you have any questions please contact:**

Carolyn Evancio – [carolyn.evancio@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.evancio@gmail.com)

Curtis J. Phillips – [cjphillips@shaw.ca](mailto:cjphillips@shaw.ca) OR Harvey Tulk – [harveytulk@hotmail.com](mailto:harveytulk@hotmail.com)



**The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2026**





# YOUNG WOMEN IN TRADES AND TECHNOLOGIES

Mentor / Mentee Lunch & Learn



## JOIN US TO:

- ✓ Learn about career opportunities across a variety of industries
- ✓ Hear from inspiring mentors committed to inclusion and empowerment
- ✓ Ask questions and gain real-world insight from women working in the field
- ✓ Connect with peers exploring similar pathways
- ✓ Enjoy lunch while learning in a supportive, welcoming environment

CAREERS is proud to be breaking down barriers and paving pathways for young women to see themselves, and succeed, in trades and technology careers.

**Space is limited.** Participants will be contacted to confirm attendance. Come learn, connect, and discover what your future could look like in the trades and technologies.



For more information reach out to [Anika acampbell@nextgen.org](mailto:Anika.acampbell@nextgen.org)  
or [Chase cgargus@nextgen.org](mailto:Chase.cgargus@nextgen.org)



# 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

<b>PULSE</b> (MUNICIPAL SWITCH BOARD)	1-800-973-9663 780-743-7000	PULSE@RMWB.CA	RMWB.CA/PULSE
<b>COMMUNITY CONTACTS:</b>		<b>SOCIAL MEDIA:</b>	
<b>RCMP</b>	780-788-4000	 @WOODBUFFALORURALCOMMUNITYCONNECTION   @RMWOODBUFFALO   @RMWOODBUFFALO	
<b>FISH &amp; WILDLIFE</b>	780-743-7200		
<b>HEALTH LINK</b>	811		
<b>ALL EMERGENCIES</b>	911		

To submit information to the newsletter please email:  
[Info.rr@rmwb.ca](mailto:Info.rr@rmwb.ca)

Deadline for **March** Newsletter submissions:  
**February 23, 2026**

# COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Comedy Misfits 8:00pm Drum Brewing	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Caregivers Coffee! 9-11am 28-117 Millennium Gate	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> APEGA Science Olympics 9am – 2pm Oilsands Discovery Center 	<b>7</b> 2026 Multicultural Expo All day Syncrude Sports & Wellness Centre
<b>8</b> Oil Barons Vs Canmore Eagles 2pm Centerfire Arena	<b>9</b> Autism & Neurodiversity Awareness training 12 – 2:30 pm & 6 – 8:30pm Autism Society of the RMWB	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Age Sensitivity Training 9am – 12pm Redpoll centre @ SMS equipment place	<b>13</b> Huskies VB vs The King's University 6:00pm Syncrude Sports & Wellness 	<b>14</b> Huskies VB vs The King's University 1:00pm Syncrude Sports & Wellness 
<b>15</b> Madeline Hildebrand Keyano Theatre	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Fiddler on the Roof 7:30pm Keyano Theatre	<b>20</b> <b>WINTERPLAY</b> Huskies Basketball vs University of Alberta Augustana <b>6pm</b> Syncrude Sports and Wellness 	<b>21</b> <b>WINTERPLAY</b> Huskies Basketball vs University of Alberta Augustana <b>1pm</b> Syncrude Sports and Wellness
<b>22</b> <b>WINTERPLAY</b>	<b>23</b> <b>WINTERPLAY</b> <b>Newsletter            submission            deadline</b>	<b>24</b> <b>WINTERPLAY</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b> Snowed in Comedy Tour 7:30pm Keyano Theatre