



The Insider, Jan. 26

Find out what's new at the RMWB on Jan. 26, 2026.

Proposed 2026 Municipal Budget: What to know

The RMWB 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** starting at **9 a.m.** each day. The meetings can be streamed [online](#).

- **Feb. 3:** Operating Budget, including Community Investment Program.
- **Feb. 4:** Operating Budget deliberations to continue, if required. Capital Budget deliberations are expected to begin.
- **Feb. 5:** Capital Budget to continue, if required.
- **Feb. 6:** Additional budget meeting day, if required.

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.

New firefighter-paramedics join FMFD

This week, the Fort McMurray Fire Department welcomed three new probationary firefighter-paramedics to the service.

Congratulations to Phillip Howell, Jonathan McKeown, and Ethan Young!

Welcome to the team!

You do WHAT!? Beyond the desk at the RMWB

Learn how **Janelle Fleury**, manager, Community Partnerships and Initiatives, embraced a new skill:

"Growing up, I longed to play piano but didn't have the opportunity. I think the instrument is so beautiful and love its sound. A few years ago, I saw an upright piano being given away free on marketplace and decided it was my time. I happily gave it a home and shortly after that, I started taking lessons.

I am now over three years into my career as a piano student. It brings me a lot of joy and positive challenge. It's never too late to learn a new skill or do the thing you've always wanted to do!"

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!

Winter through our lens: enter the Winter Photo Contest

Winter in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo can be spectacular!

Submit your best winter photos from around the region to TheInsider@rmwb.ca by Jan. 30.

We'll pick the top 10 and then give you the opportunity to vote for the three winning photos in the Feb. 2 edition of The Insider!

Winners can choose between a branded Yeti tumbler, candle or mug and will be announced mid-February.

So pull on the gloves and get to snapping some northern winter moments in the region!

Please note, all photos submitted may be used to promote winter in the region for future campaigns.

Upcoming transition to new custodial services vendor

As we transition to a new custodial services vendor, the following *tentative phased start dates* have been scheduled by facility.

- **Jubilee Centre** (Basement and 1st–7th Floors): Jan. 26
- **SOC Training Centre** (1st & 2nd Floors), **180 Transit Bus Barn**, **160 Transit**: Feb. 2
- **Rural Operations Complex**, **Rural Ops Storage**, **Landfill Administrative Building**, **Landfill Administrative Building (Washrooms/Gym)**, **Landfill Collection**, **Landfill Scale House**, **Landfill MRF**: Feb. 9
- **Janvier Municipal Office**: Feb. 16

Important reminder from Facilities:

To help manage cleanliness during this transition, please place all food waste (not only compostable items), as well as any materials that may deteriorate or cause odours, into the centrally located, daily serviced waste bins.

Work station waste receptacles (garbage cans) will only be changed once per week.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work through this transition. If you have questions, please contact facilities@rmwb.ca.

Check out the January 2026 edition of Life Lines

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become an important part of everyday life. It can help organize schedules, suggest routes to avoid traffic jams, analyze data, and even assist in health care. Across North America, new technologies are changing how we work, communicate, and make decisions.

While these advancements bring opportunities, they can also leave people feeling uneasy. For some, the growing presence of AI creates a sense of uncertainty, pressure, or fear about what the future might hold. This feeling is often described as AI anxiety—a response to rapid technological change and the unknowns that come with it.

If you've ever felt worried about being replaced by technology, overwhelmed by digital tools, or unsure about data privacy, this article will help you understand where those feelings come from and offer practical ways to manage them.

Read the [full article](#) or watch the video below.

Contact us

For questions and concerns, contact TheInsider@rmwb.ca.

For previous editions of The Insider, visit the archive on rmwb.ca/staff.

The Insider

Let's keep the conversation going!

Have a story idea? Fun photo? Feedback?
Share it with us at rmwb.ca/staff.



The graphic features a dark blue background with a light blue grid. In the center, the title 'The Insider' is in a large, bold, white font. Below it, the tagline 'Let's keep the conversation going!' is in a smaller, italicized, yellow font. To the left, there's a QR code. In the center, two stylized white line-art figures are shown in conversation. To the right, a hand is shown holding a megaphone, with a yellow line extending from the megaphone's handle towards the figures, symbolizing the amplification of their conversation.