



TOWN OF DIDSBURY AGENDA
Regular Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 6:00 pm
Council Chambers 1606 14 Street

Pages

1.	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
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14. ADJOURNMENT



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Hope 4 MVC Kids
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services
ITEM: 3.1

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Lisa Nicholson (Founder), Susan Smyth (Corporate Engagement Director), Kendra (Family Applications Director), Stacey Vester (Grants Director) and Jamie Ausin (Secretary) from Hope 4 MVC Kids is presenting to Council a request for funding for their organization.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

Please see the attached letter and supplemental information prepared by Hope 4 MVC Kids for Council. The organization is requesting a total of \$10,000 in funding from the Town for various programs, as outlined in the letter.

Council may direct administration to prepare some options for funding the request or accept it as information.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

2. Vibrant & Connected Character Community

RECOMMENDATION

To thank Hope 4 MVC Kids for their presentation and accept it as information.



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Tel: [Redacted]

hope4mvpkids.org

11th February 2026

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

On behalf of Hope 4 MVC Kids Society, I am writing to respectfully request an opportunity to present at the Town of Didsbury Council meeting scheduled for **March 24, 2026**.

The purpose of this presentation is to share our organization's **Annual Report**, provide an update on our ongoing work supporting families caring for children with medical needs across the region, and to outline our current initiative to secure a suitable space for our **Home for Hope** project.

As part of this discussion, we would also like to respectfully request Council's consideration of **municipal funding support** in the amount of **\$10,000**, allocated as follows:

- **\$5,000 toward Program 7**, to assist in sustaining this essential program and ensuring continuity of support for families currently accessing services; and
- **\$5,000 toward the Home for Hope project**, supporting the development of a welcoming, accessible space where families can connect with resources, receive support, and access community services.

Hope 4 MVC Kids Society has operated for over **13 years** as a **fully volunteer-run organization**, supporting families facing significant medical and financial challenges. During that time, we have focused primarily on direct family support and have not previously requested program funding at this level. However, increasing community need and growing program demand have made it necessary for us to seek sustainable funding partnerships to ensure services can continue.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to provide Council with further information about our work, the impact within the community, and how municipal partnership could assist in maintaining and strengthening support for local families.

Thank you for your consideration. We would be pleased to provide any additional information required in advance of the meeting.

Kind regards,

Lisa Nicholson
Founder
Hope 4 MVC Kids Society

[Redacted]







ANNUAL
REPORT
2025



Chair Report For Financial Year End 1st November 2024 - 31st October 2025

A message from the founder Lisa Nicholson:

As we approach the close of this financial year, I am proud to reflect on 12 years of supporting local families with children facing medical challenges across Mountain View County.

This year alone, we have had the privilege of assisting 41 children and their families, providing a total of \$78,088.65 in support. Since our founding in 2013, we have fulfilled 201 child applications, delivering \$401,941 in program support to local families in need.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated board members. Our organization operates entirely on a volunteer basis, and it is their commitment, generosity, and passion for building community that allow our programs to thrive.

I also wish to thank our financial supporters and everyone who contributes by sharing our mission, attending our events, or volunteering in any capacity. Your generosity ensures that we can continue to bring hope and tangible support to families who need it most.

We are truly blessed to be part of such a compassionate and giving community.

Lisa Nicholson

Founder



A message from the Chair Katie Dunn

Another year of being a part of this amazing organization has come to a close and to say it was a big year personally as well as organizationally, is an understatement.

This year was a big one for me in terms of learning and growth. Not only did I officially step full time into the chair role and all that comes with learning the specific duties involved there but I was tasked with onboarding three new board members. Each new board member brings enthusiasm and great qualities to our existing group of board members. I also had the pleasure of training a couple ladies who moved into my old role as application directors.

Whether we were ready for it or not, we dove head first into planning for an office space, which is greatly needed for our continued growth. It was also time to shift our focus on planning for another event, even though most of us felt like we just had our decade celebration. However, this time around we decided to partner with the Rotary Club of Olds instead of competing against each other for donations and support as we have our annual events around the same time every two years. There was a lot of time spent collaborating and planning for both organizations. All our efforts paid off as it was an extremely successful event!

I am eager to see what next year will bring and how much more growth we will see in our organization; as well as the continued impact we can make for our local families. To be a part of something that means so much to many, has been incredibly fulfilling and life changing.

Katie Dunn

Chair



Our Mission

Our mission is based on a foundation of compassion. We strive to 'pay it forward' by providing support to those families with children in medical need across Mountain View County

Our Vision

Our Vision is supporting families with children in medical need.

Program Overview

Program 1: offers assistance to local children who are hospitalized. This includes support for parking, meals, fuel, and sibling care. For long-term hospital stays, additional help may be available, including rent, mortgage, and utility assistance.

Program 2: provides support for local children needing adaptive equipment for home or school, which is not covered by other funding sources.

Program 3: assists children who require home modifications due to illness or disability, also not covered by other resources.

Program 4: helps local children needing therapeutic services, such as counseling, occupational therapy, physical therapy, mental health support, or alternative therapies that are not covered by health insurance.

Program 5: extends assistance for prescription medications that aren't covered by health insurance.

Program 6: offers support, advocacy, and information to families navigating a child's illness or diagnosis. With the personal experiences of our board members, we understand the challenges faced and can guide families to additional resources and support.

Program 7 – Assessment Support (Launched January 15, 2024): Assists children requiring assessments, including psychoeducational evaluations, psychological assessments, and IQ tests. This program is offered on a limited basis as funds allow.

Chair's Report – Program & Community Impact Summary Bringing Hope to Mountain View Families

Number of applications per town this financial year:

6 Carstairs, 11 Olds, 1 Sundre, 12 Rural Mountain View County, 9 Didsbury, 2 Cremona

Individual program breakdown this financial year:

Program 1 Hospital supports ~ 8
Program 2 Adaptive Equipment ~ 3
Program 3 Home adaptation ~ 0
Program 4 Therapy ~10
Program 5 Prescription ~2
Program 7 Assessment ~ 18

Total Applications this financial year: 41

Total amounts given per town this financial year:

Carstairs: \$13,144.90
Olds: \$34,791.81
Sundre: \$617.88
County: \$9,410.75
Didsbury: \$19,336.32
Cremona: \$786.99

Grand total to families via programs this financial year: \$78,088.65

Number of applications per town since we began:

37 Carstairs, 71 Olds, 8 Sundre, 50 Rural Mountain View County, 33 Didsbury, 2 Cremona

Total amounts given per town since we began:

Carstairs: \$65,588
Olds: \$138,351
Sundre: \$16,589
County: \$101,592
Didsbury: \$78,034
Cremona: \$787.00

Total Amount provided to families since inception: \$401, 949



Chair's Report Continued Bringing Hope to Mountain View Families

Individual program breakdown since we began:

Program 1 Hospital supports ~ 72
Program 2 Adaptive Equipment ~ 36
Program 3 Home adaptation ~ 10
Program 4 Therapy ~ 28
Program 5 Prescription ~ 20
Program 7 Assessment ~ 35

Total program uses since inception: 201

Summary:

This year reflects a strong and steady need across all communities in Mountain View County, with 41 families supported and over \$78,000 distributed through our programs. Since our charity began, we have supported 201 applications and distributed over \$401,000 directly to families with children in medical need.

Our programs continue to meet critical gaps in care, especially in:

- Hospital transportation and accommodation support
- Therapy and developmental supports
- Psychoeducational assessments
- Medical equipment and adaptive tools

We remain committed to reducing financial hardship for families during some of their most challenging moments.

Program 7 Spotlight

Year 12 (2025)

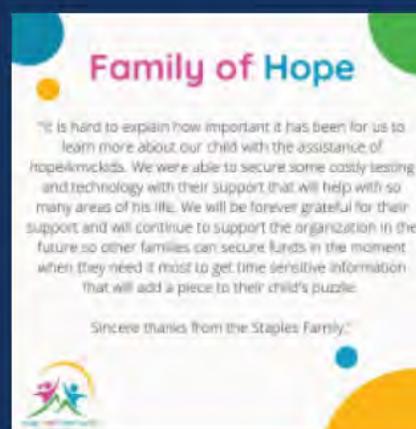
In 2025, Hope 4 MVC Kids Society reintroduced Program 7 – Assessments to address the continuing need for timely and accessible developmental and psychological evaluations for children within our region. Persistent wait times, averaging up to three years, along with the high cost of private assessments, have created substantial barriers for families seeking timely support for their children. Program Delivery and Funding Applications reopened on January 15, 2025, and were accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until the annual allocation was fully distributed. A total of \$49,488.31 in assistance was provided, supporting 18 children through this program. Eligible families could receive up to \$3,000 including GST, after application of any private health care coverage. Required documentation included a professional recommendation for the assessment and a formal cost estimate.

Community Reach

Program 7 served families across multiple areas within the region:

- Olds: 9 applications
- County: 5 applications
- Carstairs: 3 applications
- Didsbury: 1 application

Applications may originate from any community at any time, based on need and available resources.



Program 7 Spotlight

Impact and Importance

Early access to developmental and psychological assessments is essential for ensuring children receive appropriate support at home, in school, and within the broader community. These assessments are often required to access educational accommodations, therapeutic programs, and government-funded services. Without timely evaluations, children may experience delays in development, increased emotional and mental strain, and barriers that affect long-term outcomes.

Challenges and Advocacy

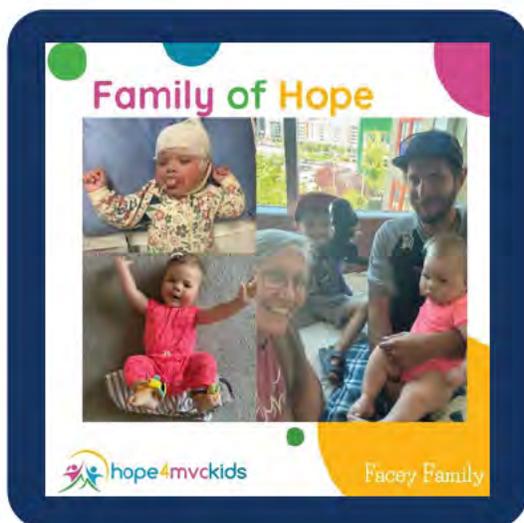
Hope 4 MVC Kids Society remains committed to continuing this limited program to meet ongoing community needs. However, efforts to secure local grant funding were unsuccessful. Municipal funders indicated that health care funding and service delivery fall under the jurisdiction of the provincial government and therefore lie outside municipal mandate.

While this position reflects governmental structure, it does not address the significant and complex challenges faced by families in our communities—particularly those who cannot wait years for assessments that are essential to their children’s well-being. This gap highlights the urgent need for collaborative solutions and sustainable funding models to ensure that children receive timely and appropriate evaluations.

Conclusion

Program 7 continues to play a critical role in bridging service gaps for families facing long wait times and high assessment costs. Hope 4 MVC Kids Society remains dedicated to supporting children’s developmental and emotional well-being and will continue advocating for funding mechanisms that reflect the realities and needs of the families we serve.

Families of Hope Highlights 2024



Read their full stories on our website & social media pages

Introducing “Home for Hope”

Community Lending Shelf
- Located on 2nd floor

Hope 4 MVC Kids - Located on 1st floor

The **Home for Hope** is envisioned as a safe, inclusive, and accessible community hub for families caring for children with medical needs across the Mountain View region.

While we previously explored establishing the Home for Hope in a specific leased space, we have since determined that location was not operationally viable for our organization. Our commitment to creating the Home for Hope, however, remains strong.

Our updated goal is to secure a **right-sized, accessible space** that aligns with our capacity as a volunteer-run charity and allows us to open our doors to families in a sustainable and timely way.

What the Home for Hope Will Be

The Home for Hope will provide families with:

- A welcoming, dignified place to meet privately with our team
- Support navigating medical, financial, and emotional challenges
- Connections to other lifespan, health, and community-based resources
- A calm and supportive environment during some of life’s most difficult moments

For over **13 years**, Hope 4 MVC Kids Society has supported families wherever we could — in coffee shops, parking lots, and public spaces — far from ideal when families are facing medical crises. A dedicated space will allow us to serve families with greater privacy, consistency, and care.

What We Are Looking For

We are actively seeking:

- **One accessible room** to serve as the Home for Hope
- **An additional office at the same location**, to be used as a boardroom and/or future staff workspace (if available)
- **Access to a bathroom** (shared facilities are suitable)

The space may be donated or offered at a reasonable nonprofit rate. Utilities can be covered by our organization.

Community Impact

The Home for Hope will:

- Provide a centralized, accessible point of support for families with medically complex children
- Improve coordination of family, health, and community resources
- Strengthen family resilience and community connection
- Support long-term sustainability and volunteer engagement

Ways You Can Help

- **Donate** via our website (please note “Home for Hope” in the comments)
- **Offer Space** — donated or low-cost facilities are critical to making this vision possible
- **Share Our Story** — help us reach partners who may have space available

Together, we can find a **Home for Hope** — a lasting symbol of compassion, connection, and community.

To get involved:

info@hope4mvckids.org

Volunteer Spotlight

Hope 4 MVC Kids simply could not thrive without the dedication of our extraordinary volunteers. They are the heart of our mission—strengthening our capacity, extending our reach, and reducing costs for both our organization and the families we serve. Their commitment not only elevates our visibility in the community but also ensures we can continue providing vital support to those who need it most. Each volunteer brings unique strengths, skills, and passion, and together, they form the foundation of our success.

Our Board of Directors is currently composed of 11 exceptional volunteers who give generously of their time, expertise, and compassion. Many contribute well beyond traditional expectations, with some offering up to 20 hours per week. Their unwavering dedication and belief in our mission allow Hope 4 MVC Kids to continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of local families.

Our Board:

- **Lisa Nicholson**, Founder – *12 Years Volunteering*
- **Suzanne Young**, Co-Founder – *12 Years Volunteering*
- **Jamie Austin**, Secretary – *12 Years Volunteering*
- **Katie Dunn**, Chair – *6 Years Volunteering*
- **Richard Nicholson**, Volunteer Director – *6 Years Volunteering*
- **Bobbi Bartek**, Treasurer – *5 Years Volunteering*
- **Jennifer Forscutt**, Assessments Application Director – *5 Years Volunteering*
- **Kendra McReadie**, Family Applications Director – *3 Years Volunteering*
- **Joy Cavin**, IT Director – *3 Years Volunteering*
- **Shaylene Doucette**, Co-Chair – *1 Year Volunteering*
- **Jennifer Snelgrove**, Marketing Director – *1 Year Volunteering*
- **Sue Smyth**, Corporate Engagement Director – *1 Year Volunteering*

Honorable mention and goodbyes to:

Jen Forscutt—For the past five years, **Jennifer Forscutt** has generously volunteered in multiple key roles within our organization, beginning as Volunteer Director, then transitioning to Grants Director, and most recently serving as Assessments Application Director. Her compassion, empathy, and unwavering commitment to families in need have been evident in everything she does.

Jennifer's presence—and her remarkable heart—will be greatly missed. We extend our sincere gratitude for her years of service and wish her all the best as she enjoys some well-deserved time with her grandson.



Danielle Cheeseman - For the past several years, Danielle Cheeseman has generously contributed her time and talents to Hope 4 MVC Kids, initially joining the board in October 2021 as Grants Director. After a brief hiatus to focus on her family, Danielle returned in October 2023 as Marketing Director, bringing her creativity and expertise to enhance our social media presence and strengthen our outreach.

Danielle left her 2 year term early in August 2025. Danielle's energy, innovation, and has been invaluable to our organization. Her presence—and her remarkable talents—will be greatly missed. We extend our sincere gratitude for her service and wish her all the best as she focuses on her business and family.



The Heart of Hope 4 MVC Kids

Given the sensitive nature of the work we do, it is essential to focus on retaining, nurturing, and supporting our volunteers. We remain deeply committed to preventing burnout, fostering personal growth, and promoting the mental well-being of all our volunteers. By prioritizing their support, we ensure that they can continue to serve effectively and confidently.

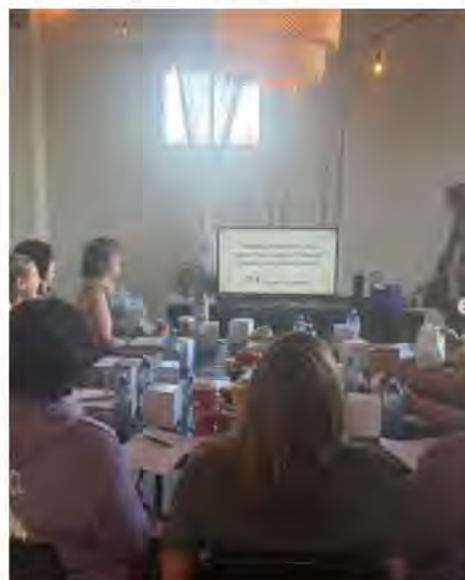
This year, we were grateful to receive a grant from FCSS Olds, Mountain View County, Olds, and Didsbury, which enabled us to host a mental health support day for our board members. Highlights of the day included:

- Alicia Carignan, who guided the group through strategies for building resilience and supporting families through trauma and mental health
- Debbie Unger, who led a meaningful craft activity to honor the sacrifices of our troops for Remembrance Day and to spread a message of hope in the Town of Olds
- Natale Stubber, who facilitated a restorative yoga session and guided sound bath to promote mindfulness and well-being

We also sincerely thank Amy Lee from Olds Town Square for providing her beautiful studio and delicious beverages, and RC Eats for a nutritious and thoughtfully prepared lunch that enhanced the day's experience.

Through initiatives like these, we continue to invest in the well-being, growth, and resilience of our volunteers—the heart of Hope 4 MVC Kids.

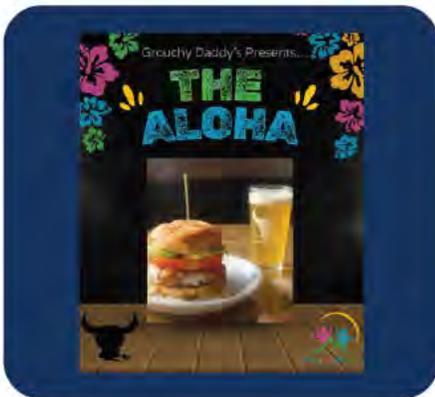
We are also fortunate to have many additional community volunteers who lend their time and energy during our events, and we are deeply grateful for their ongoing support.



Fundraisers/Supporters Highlights 2025

Thank you to:

1. Grouchy Daddies in Olds for your support of our cause with Octobers 'Burger of the month'
2. The Rotary club of Olds for your 'Dragons Den' evening. It was great to share the evening with other amazing local groups
3. Mountain View Colts Jr for Hope 4 MVC Kids Night
4. Barley's Pub Carstairs – Customer Appreciation Turkey Dinner donations
5. Western Financial Group – “Buy a Block” walking fundraiser
6. Eagle Beef and Multi 4-H Club for donating Steer Mountie and Lamb Hope at their Annual Achievement Day
7. AltaGas Harmatten Gas Plant for their Charity Golf Tournament
8. Mountain View County Social Club
9. Velocity Garage for hosting a car show with proceeds to Hope 4 MVC Kids



Fundraisers/Supporters Highlights 2025



Grants:

- FCSS Carstairs – \$1,000
- FCSS Didsbury – \$250
- FCSS Olds – \$1,300
- FCSS Mountain View County – \$1,300
- Mountain View County – Reoccurring Programs Grant: \$15,000

Your support enables us to continue providing vital programs and services to children and families across our communities.

Cardel Ride of a Lifetime – September 12, 2025

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Cardel Homes and Rocky Mountain Motorsports for hosting our Hope families at the unforgettable Cardel Ride of a Lifetime on September 12, 2025.

It was a spectacular day filled with fast cars, big smiles, and lasting memories. Eight of our Hope families had an incredible experience on the track, and several of our dedicated volunteers even got the chance to take a spin! The public also participated, helping to make the event even more exciting.

Thanks to the generosity and community spirit of Cardel Homes and Rocky Mountain Motorsports, the event raised \$15,000 for Hope 4 MVC Kids and \$15,000 for Make-A-Wish, totaling \$30,000 in support for children and families in our community. We are truly grateful for your continued commitment to making a difference in the lives of those we serve.



Thank you
Cardel Homes!

Your Ride of a Lifetime event raised an incredible
\$15,000 for Hope 4 MVC Kids!
Together, we're giving kids the support they deserve. ♥

CARDEL
HOMES



Awards

Hope 4 MVC Kids Society was honored as Best Local Cause in 2025 at the Albertan Annual Readers' Choice Awards.



Founder Lisa Nicholson was recognized on International Women's Day 2025, receiving the Women in Business – Not-for-Profit Award at the Second Annual Mountain View & Neighbors Women in Business Awards.



Lisa Nicholson, Founder, and Joy Cavin, IT Director, were recognized as Citizen Volunteers of the Year by the Town of Olds.



Financial Statement



Hope 4 MVC Kids Society
Financial Statements
Year Ended October 31, 2025

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Assets:		
Cash Deposits	\$ 120,751	\$ 140,360
Accounts Receivable	\$ 3,889	\$ 1,933
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,050	\$ 2,040
Total Net Assets / Closing Surplus	\$ 123,590	\$ 140,253

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues:		
Donations	\$ 52,911	\$ 47,266
Grants	\$ 24,100	\$ 21,902
Event Income	\$ -	\$ 22,933
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ 11,070
Interest	\$ 1,148	\$ 2,346
Total Revenues	\$ 78,159	\$ 105,517
Expenditures:		
Advertising and Promotion	\$ 651	\$ 911
Bank Service Fees	\$ 516	\$ 694
Event Supplies	\$ 178	\$ 13,139
Fundraising Supplies	\$ 373	\$ 1,230
Insurance	\$ 1,699	\$ 1,912
Office and Administrative	\$ 4,825	\$ 3,670
Professional Fees	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
Volunteer Expenses	\$ 1,732	\$ 1,348
Assistance to Families	\$ 83,848	\$ 115,415
Total Expenditures	\$ 94,822	\$ 140,319
Current Year Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (16,663)	\$ (34,802)



 Signature
 Staphlene Doucette

 Name
 vice chair

 Position
 Nov 11'25

 Date



 Signature
 Suzanne Young

 Name
 Co founder

 Position
 Nov 11'25

 Date



Budget November 1, 2025 - October 31, 2026

November 1st 2025 to October 31st 2026:

Promotion and Advertising - **\$782**
Event Supplies - **\$214**
Fundraising Supplies - **\$2000** (swag to sell)
Insurance - **\$2039**
Meals and Travel - **\$0**
Office and Administrative cost - **\$5790**
To Families(50,000 for assessments) - **\$100,618**
Home for Hope - **\$30,000**
Gst Paid - **\$1200**
Professional Fees - **\$1200**
Volunteer Expenses (Include mental healthday/training/recruitment)
- **\$5078**
Bank Charges and interest - **\$619**

Total Budget Disbursements = \$149,540

Budgeted Revenue November 1st 2025 to October 31st 2026

Donations - **\$43,493**
Event Income - **\$40,000**
Grants **\$50,000**
Fundraising - **\$0**
Gst refund - **\$2000**
Interest - **\$1378**
Funds from surplus **\$12,169**

Total Anticipated Revenue = \$149,540

Strategic Goals and Progress Review

In April 2024, the board dedicated a full day to outlining our strategic goals for the next five years. Our key focus areas and progress to date are as follows:

Volunteers

- Develop a volunteer handbook, name tags, and T-shirts – Handbook completed, name tags and T-shirts - **Completed**
- Follow up with volunteers from family applications – **Not completed**
- Conduct presentations with schools, community services, emergency services, and local councils – **Not completed**
- Enhance the volunteer sign-up process – **Not completed**

Transition to Paid Positions

- Begin planning for future paid roles to support the organization's ongoing growth – **In progress**
- Establish a dedicated space ("Home for Hope") to support operational needs – **Space to be acquired - New avenues to be pursued in 2026**

Without these steps, relying solely on volunteer hours would risk operational strain given our growth and community demands.

Supporting Growth

- Appoint a second Applications Director to alleviate unsustainable volunteer hours – **Completed**
- Explore additional funding streams to sustain Program 7 – **Tried but not secured; new avenues to be pursued in 2026**
- Complete an annual report to share with supporters and the community – **Completed**

Funding

- Increase corporate sponsorship opportunities – **Not completed**
- Select a donation platform to support organizational growth – **Not completed**
- Establish clear spending priorities – **Ongoing**

Training and Development

- Implement buddy training and cross-role support for board members – **Not completed**
- Create an onboarding guide for new board members – **Not completed**
- Provide mentorship from the Chair and Vice Chair – **Not completed**
- Seek funding opportunities for board training and development – **Mental health funding day grant completed; continuing to explore for 2026**

Proactive planning remains critical to ensuring the sustainability of Hope 4 MVC Kids. While some priorities are still in progress, significant steps—such as looking for a viable “Home for Hope” and the addition of a second Applications Director—have strengthened our foundation for future growth. We welcome any questions about these priorities and look forward to building on our achievements in 2026.

For more information about our cause and any questions about this report don't hesitate to contact:

Katie Dunn at Chair@hope4mvckids.org.

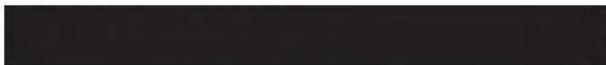
THANK YOU

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors and supporters.

A special thanks to *The Albertan* and 96.5 CKFM - Olds for their ongoing support and for helping us share updates about our cause.

For more information about our cause and any questions about this report don't hesitate to contact:

Katie Dunn:





REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Melody Knutson
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services
ITEM: 3.2

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Melody Knutson, Didsbury resident, is presenting to Council on their thoughts and opinions on Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw 2026-08. The delegate has also sent a letter to Council, included in the Correspondence section of the Council agenda package.

Council's Procedural Bylaw 2024-11, sets out the following: "if a person wishes to speak to Council on any matter, that person must notify Administration in writing and must state the reason for the request to speak". A request is only deemed to not be appropriate if:

- a) the matter is re-addressing a previously heard issue, where there is no new information being brought forth,
- b) Administrative in nature,
- c) Unrelated to Council business or the governance of the town or not in the scope of local government responsibilities and powers;
- d) Self-promoting or politicking, or a sales pitch,
- e) Incoherent, or libelous, impertinent, or improper.

Delegates are generally allotted 10 minutes to speak, however, their time to speak will be at the discretion of the Chair. (section 47)

If a person appears at a Council meeting wishing to speak to Council without having given proper notice, Council may choose to add them to the "Delegation" portion of the agenda by unanimous motion; if the motion is not approved unanimously, the person will not be allowed to speak. (section 48)

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

In her delegation request, the delegate is requesting, "That Council Members will take time to look at the rights of all citizens, not just a select few that feel the approval of this bylaw is somehow helpful to our community, which it is not! This bylaw needs to be tabled to give time to consider this bylaw very carefully with ALL citizens in mind. They need to look at why this bylaw was proposed. Is this bylaw for the betterment of all citizens? What hurtful consequences will result from this bylaw being approved,"

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

2. Vibrant & Connected Character Community

RECOMMENDATION

To thank Melody Knutson for her presentation, and receive it as information.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 10, 2026
SUBJECT: March 10, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services
ITEM: 4.1

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The minutes of the March 10, 2026 Regular Council Meeting are being presented to Council for their review and approval.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

Council can adopt the minutes as presented or amended.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION

To adopt the March 10, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented.



**Minutes of the Town of Didsbury Regular Council Meeting held on
March 10, 2026 in Council Chambers 1606 14 Street
Commencing at 6:00 p.m**

Council Members Present Mayor Chris Little
Deputy Mayor Bob Murray
Councillor Curt Engel
Councillor Troy Lambert
Councillor Irwin Mahon
Councillor Norm Quantz
Councillor Will Stevens

Administration Present Chief Administrative Officer, Michael Simpson
Chief Financial Officer, Amanda Riley
Director of Community Services, Nicole Aasen
Director of Engineering & Infrastructure, Craig Fox
Communications Coordinator, Lisa Bastarache
Legislative Services Coordinator/Recording Officer, Jocelyn Baxter

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Little called the March 10, 2026 Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Removal of item 12.3 Outstanding Loan

Res. 110-26

MOVED by Councillor Stevens

To adopt the March 10, 2026 Regular Council Meeting agenda as amended.

Motion Carried

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Stirling Committee

Councillor Quantz declared a conflict of interest under section 172.1(2)(b)(a) of the Municipal Government Act due to having been actively involved and on the Committee which wrote the application; and shall abstain from any discussion of the matter of the Stirling Rock project and shall abstain from voting on any question relating to the matter.

Res. 111-26

MOVED by Councillor Engel

To thank Mr. Leeson for his presentation and accept it as information.

Motion Carried

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 February 24, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Res. 112-26

MOVED by Councillor Engel

To adopt the February 24, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

Motion Carried

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS – no public hearings

6. CAO REPORT

Res. 113-26

MOVED by Councillor Stevens

To accept the Chief Administrative Officer Report for March 10, 2026 as information.

Motion Carried

7. BYLAWS & POLICIES

7.1 ADMIN 001 - Policy Development Guidelines

Res. 114-26

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Murray

To rescind ADMIN 001 – Policy Development Guidelines.

Motion Carried

7.2 COUN 008-26 - Council Technology Policy

Res. 115-26

MOVED by Councillor Quantz

To rescind COUN 008-22 – Council Technology Policy.

Motion Carried

Res. 116-26

MOVED by Councillor Quantz

To adopt COUN 008-26 – Council Technology Policy as presented.

Motion Carried

7.3 Public Space Neutrality Bylaw 2026-08

Res. 117-26

MOVED by Councillor Lambert

That Council grant first reading to Public Space Neutrality Bylaw 2026-08.

Motion Carried

Res. 118-26

MOVED by Councillor Mahon

That Council grant second reading to Public Space Neutrality Bylaw 2026-08.

Councillor Stevens requested a recorded vote:

	FOR	OPPOSED
Mayor Little	X	
Deputy Mayor Murray	X	
Councillor Engel		X
Councillor Lambert	X	
Councillor Mahon	X	
Councillor Quantz		X
Councillor Stevens		X

Motion Carried

8. BUSINESS

8.1 2026 Campground Operations

Res. 119-26

MOVED by Councillor Quantz

To approve the release of a Request for Proposal to seek submissions for the Rosebud Valley Campground Caretaker Service Contract for the 2026 camping season.

Motion Carried

8.2 2026 Roadworks - Award Recommendation

Res. 120-26

MOVED by Councillor Mahon

To award the 2026 Roadworks Contract to Border Paving Ltd for a total of \$354,014.28.

Motion Carried

9. **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Res. 121-26

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Murray

To accept the March 10, 2026 Council Reports as information.

Motion Carried

10. **CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION**

11. **QUESTION PERIOD**

12. **CLOSED MEETING**

Res. 122-26

MOVED by Councillor Engel

To go into closed meeting at 7:19 p.m. for the following items:

12.1 Proposal - section 29 of ATIA

12.2 Proposal - section 29 of ATIA

12.3 Land Updates - section 29 of ATIA

Motion Carried

Councillor Engel left the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Councillor Engel returned to the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

13. **RECONVENE**

Res. 123-26

MOVED by Councillor Mahon

To return to open meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Motion Carried

Res. 124-26

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Murray

That the Town of Didsbury host a community public event to coincide with the Didsbury Rodeo, with budgeted revenues of \$36,000, budgeted expenditures of \$60,460, and a transfer from the Economic Development Reserve of \$24,460.

Motion Carried

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Res. 125-26

MOVED by Councillor Stevens

To adjourn the March 10, 2026 Regular Council Meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Motion Carried

Mayor - Chris Little

Chief Administrative Officer - Michael Simpson



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-05
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Planning & Development
ITEM: 5.1

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The intent of the proposed amendment is to update Land Use Bylaw 2019-04 (“LUB”) to better reflect the planning principles of the Municipal Development Plan Bylaw 2024-12 (“MDP”). These amendments propose changes to the LUB that reinforce the direction to eliminate unnecessary regulatory barriers to development that has already been supported through existing plans and policy.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

1. Administration would like to clean up some of the definitions and Uses outlined in the LUB to help to “reduce red tape” for potential future developments as follows:
 - a) **Amend definition of “Retail (General)” to the following:**
Retail (General) – means a Development used for the sale of goods or services, including off-sales and personal services to an individual, in a small or medium building.
 - b) **Amend definition and use of Retail (Large) to the following:**
Retail (Box Store) – means a Development used for the sale of goods or services in a large-sized Building (with a Gross Floor Area greater than 4,000.0 metres² (43,055.64 feet²)).
 - c) **Amend definition and use of Dwelling, Townhouse to the following:**
Dwelling, Townhouse – means Dwellings that are side-by-side and share a common wall, where each unit has a separate entrance from the outside.
 - d) **Amend definition and use of Dwelling, Stacked Townhouse to the following:**
Dwelling, Stacked Townhouse – means Dwellings where the Townhouses are stacked on top of each other, each with their own separate entrance from the outside.
 - e) **Removal of definition and use for:**
Retail (Personal Services) – means a Development used for the provision of personal services to an individual.
Retail (Vice) – means a development permit where potentially controversial goods and services are offered to the public for sale for use or consumption off-site. Typical uses include liquor stores and adult goods stores.
Retail (Small) – means a Development used for the sale of goods and services in a physically small Building (with a Gross Floor Area less than 1,000.0 metres² (10,763.91 feet²)). Typical uses include a convenience store or sandwich shop.
 - f) **Amend Retail (Vice), Retail (Personal Services), and Retail (Small) to Retail (General).**
 - g) **Amend s.3-60, Parking Requirements, to reflect the proposed “Retail (General)” amendments.**
 - h) **Amend all references and uses of “Cannabis Retail Sales” to “Retail (Cannabis)”.**
2. Rescind the C1: Commercial District – General and replace with “New C1: Commercial District - General” as attached in *Schedule “A”*.
3. Establish the RC2: Residential/Commercial District – High Density as attached in *Schedule “B”*.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
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The use of Retail (Groceries) was not included in the newly proposed RC2: Residential/Commercial District – High Density (“RC2”) at the time of first reading. If Council wanted to add this permitted use to the RC2 District to allow for more flexibility then this could be done by amendment at the time of second reading of this Bylaw.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

3. Strong & Resilient Local Economy

RECOMMENDATION

If Council is satisfied with the Public Hearing, Administration is recommending that Council grant second and third reading to Amending Land Use Bylaw 2026-05 during the Bylaw and Policies portion of the Agenda.

Schedule "A"

New C1: Commercial District - General

C1: COMMERCIAL DISTRICT – GENERAL

General Purpose
To provide for a variety of commercial uses which are accessible to pedestrians and motor vehicles. New commercial development must connect to municipal sewer and water systems, if municipal services are within a right of way directly adjacent the property. Existing commercial is authorised to continue to utilize onsite water and sewer systems.

Permitted Uses

- a) Accessory Building
- b) Accessory Structure
- c) Establishment (Eating or Drinking Class 1)
- d) Market (Indoor)
- e) Office
- f) Public Utility
- g) Retail (Small/General/Personal Service)

Discretionary Uses

- a) Animal Services
- b) Automotive Services (Minor)
- c) Building, Accessory
- d) Bus Depot
- e) Cannabis Retail Sales
- f) Car Wash
- g) Care Facility (Child/Clinic)
- h) Drive-Through
- i) Dwelling or Dwelling Unit
- j) Dwelling Unit, Occupancy of Owner, Operator or Caretaker
- k) Establishment (Eating or Drinking Class 2/Entertainment)
- l) Funeral Home
- m) Gas Station
- n) Market (Outdoor)
- o) Park
- p) Recreation (Private)
- q) Retail (Groceries/Vice)
- r) Shipping Container (Small)
- s) Shopping Centre
- t) Any uses that are, in the opinion of the Development Authority, similar to the Permitted or Discretionary Uses, and which conform to the general purpose and intent of the District.

Site Requirements

Minimum Parcel Size	At the discretion of the Development Authority
Maximum Building Height	10.0 metres (32.81 feet)
Min. Landscaping Parcel Coverage	At the discretion of the Development Authority

Minimum Setback Requirements

Front Yard	0 metres (0 feet)
Side Yard w/Lane	0 metres (0 feet)
Side Yard w/o Lane	3.0 metres (9.84 feet)*
Rear Yard	Shall be provided for parking and loading

Where there is no provision for access to the rear of the lot, the setback on one side shall be 6.0 metres (19.68 feet)

C2: COMMERCIAL DISTRICT – HIGHWAY

General Purpose
To provide for commercial development adjacent to major thoroughfares with access primarily by motor vehicle. New commercial development must connect to municipal sewer and water systems, if municipal services are within a right of way directly adjacent the property. Existing / commercial is authorised to continue to utilize onsite water and sewer systems.

Permitted Uses

- a) Accessory Building
- b) Accessory Structure
- c) Automotive Services (Minor/Major)
- d) Car Wash
- e) Establishment (Eating or Drinking Class 1&2)
- f) Gas Station
- g) Hotel/Motel
- h) Public Utility
- i) Retail (Small/General/Personal Services)

Discretionary Uses

- a) Animal Services
- b) Bus Depot
- c) Cannabis Retail Sales
- d) Care Facility (Child/Clinic)
- e) Drive-Through
- f) Dwelling Unit, Occupancy of Owner, Operator or Caretaker
- g) Establishment (Entertainment)
- h) Industrial (Services)
- i) Office
- j) Park
- k) Recreation (Private)
- l) Retail (Groceries, Large, Vice)
- m) Shipping Container (Small/Large)
- n) Shopping Centre
- o) Any uses that are, in the opinion of the Development Authority, similar to the Permitted or Discretionary Uses, and which conform to the general purpose and intent of the District.

Site Requirements

Minimum Parcel Size:	At the discretion of the Development Authority
Maximum Building Height:	10.0 metres (32.81 feet)
Min. Landscaping Parcel Coverage:	At the discretion of the Development Authority

Minimum Setback Requirements

Front Yard:	26.0 metres (85.30 feet), or 15.0 metres (49.21 feet), when adjacent to a service road, or 6.0 metres (19.68 feet), from an internal subdivision road
Side Yard w/Lane:	3.0 metres (9.84 feet)
Side Yard w/o Lane:	3.0 metres (9.84 feet)*
Rear Yard:	6.0 metres (19.68 feet)

*Where there is no provision for access to the rear of the lot, the setback on one side shall be 6.0 metres (19.68 feet)

Highlights are the Uses added to C1 District

C1: COMMERCIAL DISTRICT – GENERAL

General Purpose

To provide for a variety of commercial uses which are accessible to pedestrians and motor vehicles. New commercial development must connect to municipal sewer and water systems, if municipal services are within a right of way directly adjacent the property. Existing commercial is authorised to continue to utilize onsite water and sewer systems.

Permitted Uses

- a) Accessory Building
- b) Accessory Structure
- c) Establishment (Eating or Drinking Class 1)
- d) Hotel/Motel
- e) Market (Indoor)
- f) Office
- g) Public Utility
- h) Retail (General)
- i) Shopping Centre

Discretionary Uses

- a) Animal Services
- b) Automotive Services (Minor/Major)
- c) Bus Depot
- d) Car Wash
- e) Care Facility (Child/Clinic)
- f) Drive-Through
- g) Dwelling Unit, Occupancy of Owner, Operator or Caretaker
- h) Establishment (Eating or Drinking Class 2/Entertainment)
- i) Funeral Home
- j) Gas Station
- k) Industrial (Services)
- l) Market (Outdoor)
- m) Park
- n) Recreation (Private)
- o) Retail (Box Store/Groceries)
- p) Retail (Cannabis)
- q) Shipping Container (Small/Large)
- r) Any uses that are, in the opinion of the Development Authority, similar to the Permitted or Discretionary Uses, and which conform to the general purpose and intent of the District.

Site Requirements

Minimum Parcel Size	At the discretion of the Development Authority
Maximum Building Height	10.0 metres (32.81 feet)
Min. Landscaping Parcel Coverage	At the discretion of the Development Authority

Minimum Setback Requirements

Front Yard	0 metres (0 feet)
Side Yard w/Lane	0 metres (0 feet)
Side Yard w/o Lane	3.0 metres (9.84 feet)*
Rear Yard	Shall be provided for parking and loading

Schedule “B”

RC2: RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL DISTRICT-HIGH DENSITY

General Purpose

To provide for the development of moderate to high density multi-unit dwellings with a mix of residential and commercial uses intended to provide a transition between commercial and adjacent residential districts. New residential/commercial development must connect to municipal sewer and water systems.

Permitted Uses

- a) Dwelling, Multi-Unit (Apartment)
- b) Dwelling, Row House
- c) Dwelling, Stacked Townhouse
- d) Dwelling, Townhouse
- e) Establishment (Eating or Drinking Class 1)
- f) Group Use Facility
- g) Retail (Box Store/**Groceries**)
- h) Retail (General)

Discretionary Uses

- a) Care Facility (Child/Clinic/Group)
- b) Dwelling Unit, Occupancy of Owner, Operator or Caretaker
- c) Hotel/Motel
- d) Office
- e) Secondary Suite (Internal) **not allowed in stacked townhouse**
- f) Any uses that are, in the opinion of the Development Authority, similar to the Permitted or Discretionary Uses, and which conform to the general purpose and intent of the District.

Site Requirements

Minimum Parcel Size	At the discretion of the Development Authority
Minimum Parcel Size (Townhouse)	Interior Units: 180.0 metres ² (1,937.50 feet ²) Exterior Units: 220.0 metres ² (2,368.06 feet ²)
Maximum Building Height	At the discretion of the Development Authority
Min. Landscaping Parcel Coverage	At the discretion of the Development Authority

Minimum Setback Requirements

Front Yard	At the discretion of the Development Authority
Side Yard w/Lane	1.5 metres (4.92 feet)
Side Yard w/o Lane	1.5 metres (4.92 feet)
Rear Yard	At the discretion of the Development Officer

Additional Regulations

- a) Outdoor storage may be permitted at the discretion of the Development Authority where fencing and/or vegetative screening has been provided;
- b) Outdoor commercial patios shall not be detrimental to the surrounding area by way of noise, lighting, odours, access or any other means as determined by the Development Authority.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-03
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Planning & Development
ITEM: 5.2

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The Land Use Bylaw within the Direct Control District section has two types of Direct Control Districts. This proposal will bring the properties within one Direct Control District. Furthermore, this Bylaw would remove the use of DC-01: Direct Control District – Industrial District from the Land Use Bylaw.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The uses within the properties will not be impacted by the change to the designation of Direct Control District and as before any Development Permit Applications will be presented to Council for consideration.

The Public Hearing notification was posted on the Town of Didsbury website and advertised in The Albertan on March 3, 10 and 17. The proposal was also circulated to Adjacent Landowners on February 25, 2026 with a comment deadline of March 18, 2026.

Administration has not received any concerns or objections as a result of the circulation of this proposal.

1. The intent of this Bylaw is to redesignate the lands noted in the table below to Direct Control District. The Land Use Bylaw map shows Direct Control District as one color so the map does not require an amendment.

	Legal	Civic
a)	Plan 2484JK, Block J, Lot 5	1213 – 20 Street
b)	Plan 2484JK, Block J, Lot 6	1209 – 20 Street
c)	Plan 2484JK, Block J, Lot 7	1205 – 20 Street
d)	Meridian 5; Range 1; Township 31; Section 19; NW	3001 – 23 Street

2. To repeal DC-01: Direct Control District – Industrial.

MDP Bylaw 2024-12

4.2 Economic Development

Goal: To foster a vibrant, diverse, inclusive, resilient and sustainable economic growth that provides opportunities for prosperity and advancement for all, while also safeguarding the natural environment and enhancing the overall quality of life and well-being within the community.

- The redesignation proposal supports continued growth within the Town.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

According to Figure 2 Policy Areas these properties are within two Policy Areas, Live-Work Neighborhood and Mature Neighborhoods.

5.1 Mature Neighbourhoods

Goal: Implement a flexible and incremental approach to growth and development to preserve and enhance the Town's assets, infrastructure, community character, fiscal health and environmental resilience.

5.3 Live Work Neighbourhood

Goal: Strengthen the tax base through efficient non-residential growth that contributes to fiscal stability. Strengthen the perception of Didsbury as a business-friendly community.

- The redesignation proposal should not detract from the unique character within their respective neighborhoods.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

3. Strong & Resilient Local Economy

5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION

If Council is satisfied with the Public Hearing, Administration is recommending that Council grant second and third reading to Amending Land Use Bylaw 2026-03 during the Bylaw and Policies portion of the Agenda.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-04
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Planning & Development
ITEM: 5.3

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

This is a proposal to redesignate properties from DC-IND: Direct Control District – Industrial to I2: Industrial District – Heavy. Furthermore, this Bylaw would remove the use of DC-IND from the Land Use Bylaw.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The Public Hearing notification was posted on the Town of Didsbury website and advertised in The Albertan on March 3, 10 and 17. The proposal was also circulated to Adjacent Landowners on February 25, 2026 with a comment deadline of March 18, 2026.

Administration has not received any concerns or objections as a result of the circulation of this proposal

1. The intent of this Bylaw is to redesignate the lands noted in the table below to Direct Control District. The Land Use Bylaw map shows Direct Control District as one color so the map does not require an amendment.

The uses within these properties will comply with the Land Use Bylaw.

	Legal	Civic
a)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 1	2825 – 19 Street
b)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 2	2837 – 19 Street
c)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 3	2849– 19 Street
d)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 4	2861– 19 Street
e)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 5	2873– 19 Street
f)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 6	1801– 29 Avenue (Valarosa Drive)
g)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 7	2901– 19 Street

2. To repeal DC-IND: Direct Control District – Industrial.

MDP Bylaw 2024-12

4.2 Economic Development

Goal: To foster a vibrant, diverse, inclusive, resilient and sustainable economic growth that provides opportunities for prosperity and advancement for all, while also safeguarding the natural environment and enhancing the overall quality of life and well- being within the community.

- The redesignation proposal supports continued growth within the Town.

According to Figure 2 Policy Areas these properties are within the Live-Work Neighborhood Policy Area.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

5.3 Live Work Neighbourhood

Goal: Strengthen the tax base through efficient non-residential growth that contributes to fiscal stability. Strengthen the perception of Didsbury as a business-friendly community.

- The redesignation proposal should not detract from the unique character within this neighborhood.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

3. Strong & Resilient Local Economy

5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION

If Council is satisfied with the Public Hearing, Administration is recommending that Council grant second and third reading to Amending Land Use Bylaw 2026-04 during the Bylaw and Policies portion of the Agenda.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE:	March 24, 2026
SUBJECT:	Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-06
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:	Planning & Development
ITEM:	5.4

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Upon approval of Bylaw 2026-05, this is a proposal to redesignate one parcel, 1000 Shantz Drive, from the current R5: Residential District – High Density to the newly established RC2: Residential/Commercial District – High Density.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The Public Hearing notification was posted on the Town of Didsbury website and advertised in The Albertan on March 3, 10 and 17. The proposal was also circulated to Adjacent Landowners on February 25, 2026 with a comment deadline of March 18, 2026.

Administration has not received any concerns or objections as a result of the circulation/notification of this proposal.

The redesignation of this property will provide for a mix of residential high density & commercial uses that will blend with the surrounding neighborhood.

MDP Bylaw 2024-12

4.2 Economic Development

Goal: To foster a vibrant, diverse, inclusive, resilient and sustainable economic growth that provides opportunities for prosperity and advancement for all, while also safeguarding the natural environment and enhancing the overall quality of life and well-being within the community.

- The redesignation proposal supports continued growth within the Town.

According to Figure 2 Policy Areas these properties are within the Live-Work Neighborhood Policy Area.

5.3 Live Work Neighbourhood

Goal: Strengthen the tax base through efficient non-residential growth that contributes to fiscal stability. Strengthen the perception of Didsbury as a business-friendly community.

- The redesignation proposal should not detract from the unique character within this neighborhood.

Shantz Village ASP Bylaw 2016-04

Vision

Successful plans include a vision that helps shape what happens on the site from the very beginning. A vision gives the site coherence and a sense of identity and place. It is derived from an understanding of the characteristics of the site, its history and geography, to create a sense of place. Simply, the vision process is a means of back casting - starting first with the desired outcome of the ASP in mind and then identifying present day actions to realize that outcome.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

The vision for the ASP is consistent with the overriding principles identified in the Town's MDP and Sustainability Plan.

- This proposal will provide for diversity within this area.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

3. Strong & Resilient Local Economy

5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION

If Council is satisfied with the Public Hearing, Administration is recommending that Council grant second and third reading to Amending Land Use Bylaw 2026-06 during the Bylaw and Policies portion of the Agenda.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-07
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Planning & Development
ITEM: 5.5

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

This is a proposal to redesignate properties that contain development and some undeveloped area from the current C2: Commercial District – Highway to C1: Commercial District - General.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The Public Hearing notification was posted on the Town of Didsbury website and advertised in The Albertan on March 3, 10 and 17. The proposal was also circulated to Adjacent Landowners on February 25, 2026 with a comment deadline of March 18, 2026.

Administration has not received any concerns or objections as a result of the circulation/notification of this proposal.

Upon approval of Bylaw 2026-05, which would amend the Land Use Bylaw (by merging two existing commercial districts, the C2: Commercial District – Highway and C1: Commercial District – General) to create a newly blended C1: Commercial District – General, the following properties are being considered for this redesignation:

	Legal	Civic
a)	Condo Plan 1311141 Unit 1	2409 - 16 Street, Unit 1
b)	Condo Plan 1311141 Unit 2	2409 - 16 Street, Unit 2
c)	Condo Plan 1311141 Unit 3	2409 - 16 Street, Unit 3
d)	Condo Plan 1311141 Unit 4	2409 - 16 Street, Unit 4
e)	Condo Plan 1311141 Unit 5	2409 - 16 Street, Unit 5

MDP Bylaw 2024-12

4.2 Economic Development

Goal: To foster a vibrant, diverse, inclusive, resilient and sustainable economic growth that provides opportunities for prosperity and advancement for all, while also safeguarding the natural environment and enhancing the overall quality of life and well- being within the community.

- The redesignation proposal supports continued growth within the Town.

According to Figure 2 Policy Areas these properties are within the Live-Work Neighborhood Policy Area.

5.3 Live Work Neighbourhood

Goal: Strengthen the tax base through efficient non-residential growth that contributes to fiscal stability. Strengthen the perception of Didsbury as a business-friendly community.

- The redesignation proposal should not detract from the unique character within this neighborhood.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

3. Strong & Resilient Local Economy

5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION

If Council is satisfied with the Public Hearing, Administration is recommending that Council grant second and third reading to Amending Land Use Bylaw 2026-07 during the Bylaw and Policies portion of the Agenda.

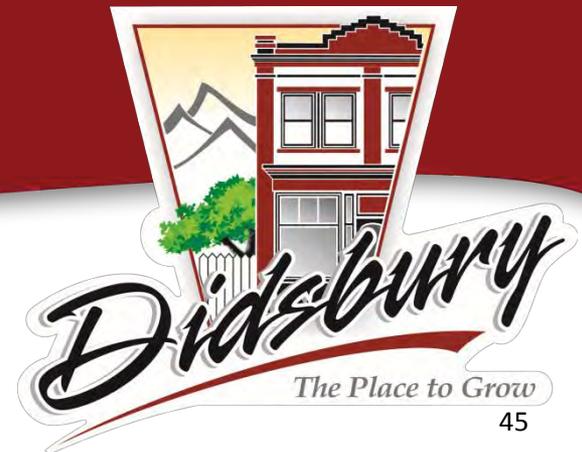
Bylaws 2026-03, 2026-04, 2026-06 & 2026-07

Council

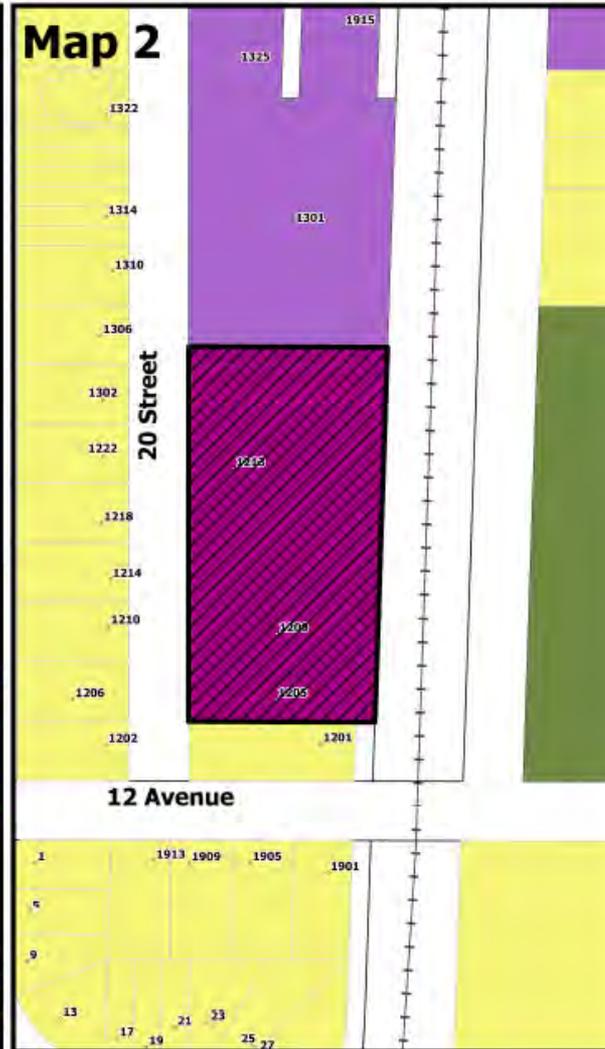
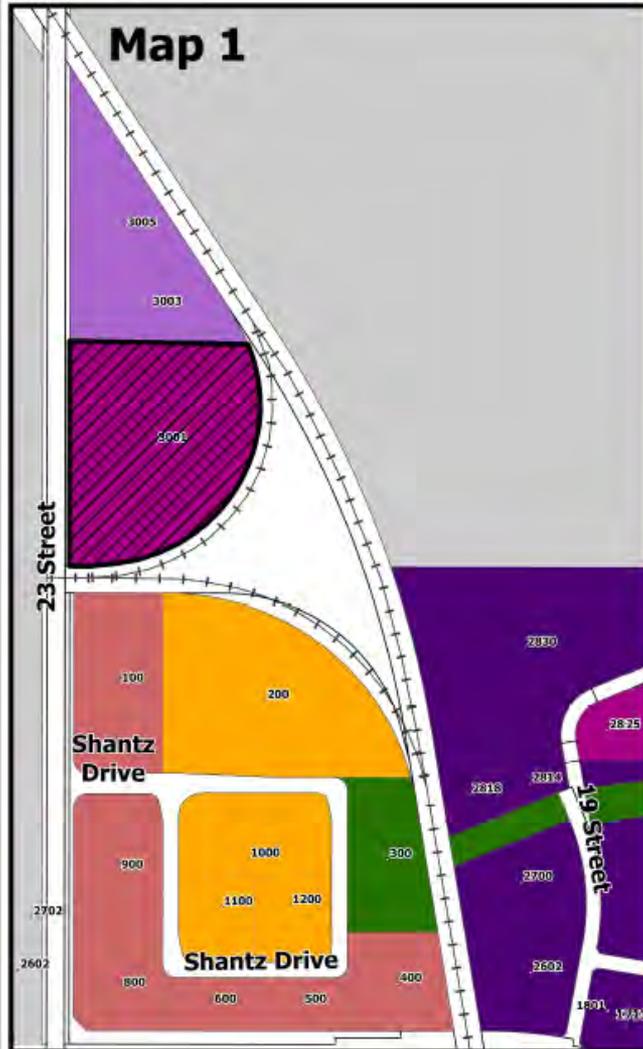
March 24, 2026

Applicant: Town of Didsbury

Owner: Various, Bylaw 2026-06 Town of
Didsbury



Bylaw 2026-03 Land Use Amending Bylaw





Town of Didsbury

Land Use Amending Bylaw

Bylaw 2026-03

Legend

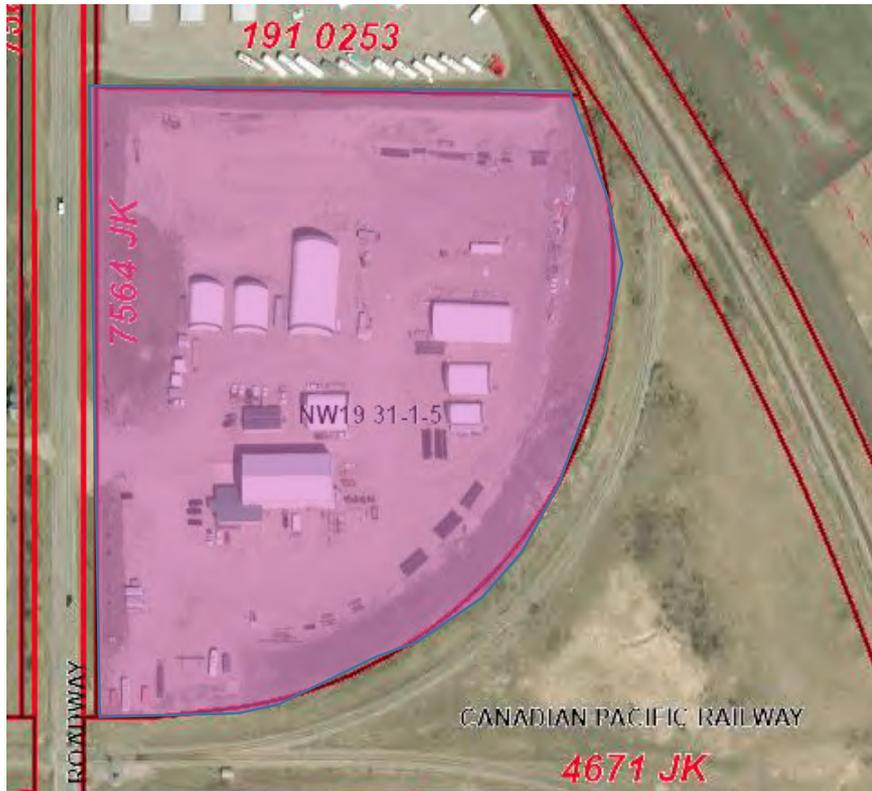
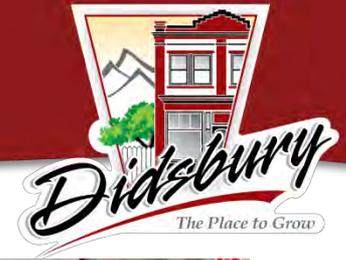
	Bylaw 2026-03
Land Use Zone	
	I1
	DC
	C1
	R5
	R2
	I2
	R3
	MR (REC)

Date: February 2026
 Author: SC
 Scale: Map 1=1:2000 & Map 2=1:600
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 3TM 114
 Data Sources: Town of Didsbury & Altalis

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Map 1	
Map 2	

Proposal Location Bylaw 2026-03



To Redesignate to DC: Direct Control District

Bylaw 2026-04 Land Use Amending Bylaw




Town of Didsbury

Land Use Amending Bylaw
Bylaw 2026-04

Legend

 Direct Control - Industrial
 Industrial District - Heavy

Land Use Zone

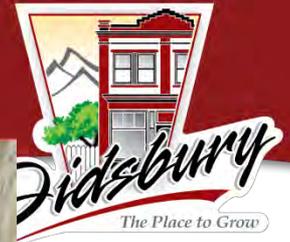
 DC	 R1
 C2	 R2
 I2	 REC
 UR	 MR (REC)

Date: February 2026
 Author: SC
 Scale: 1:800
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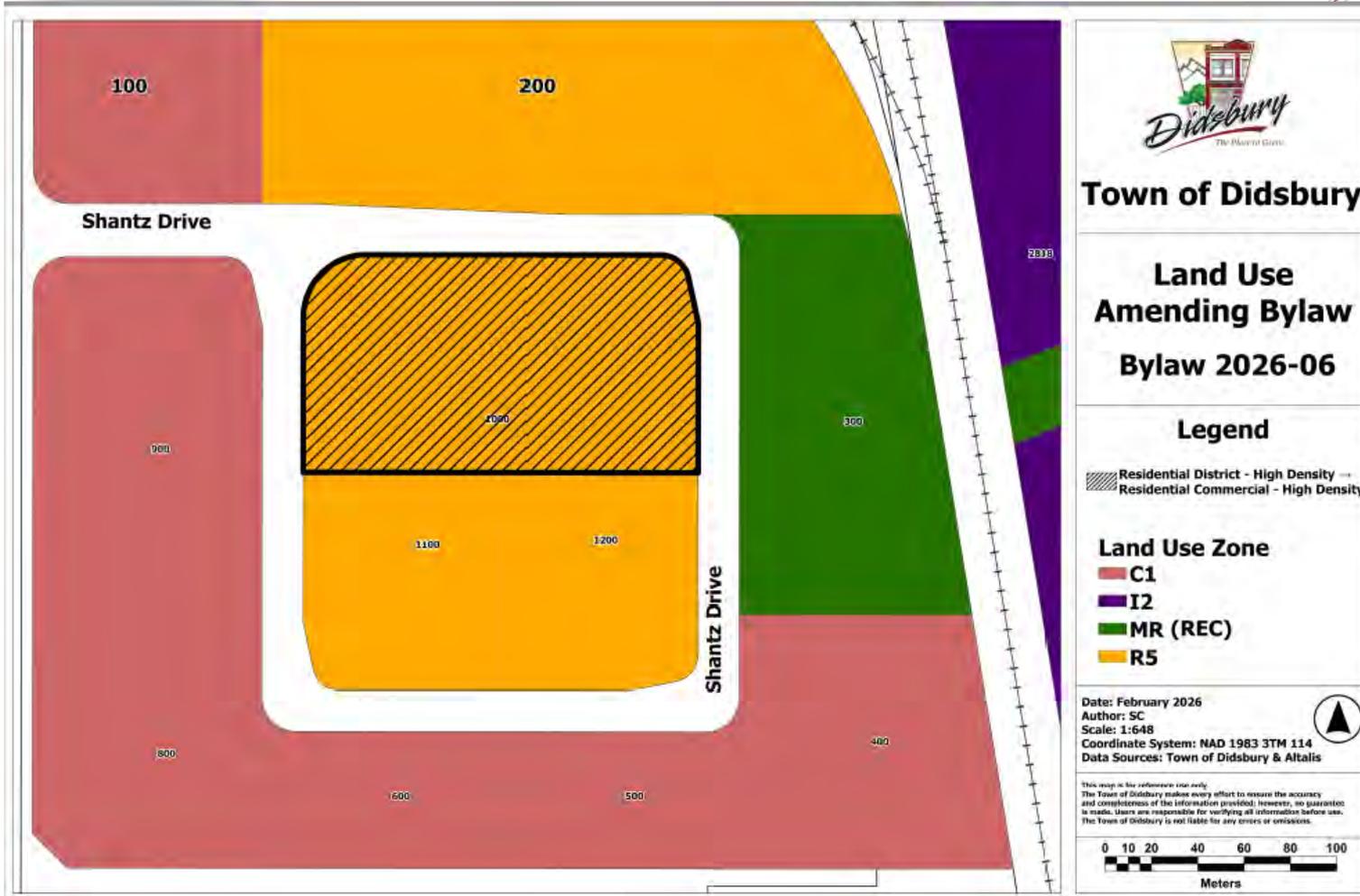
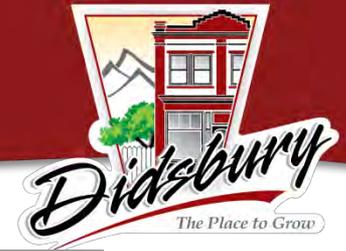


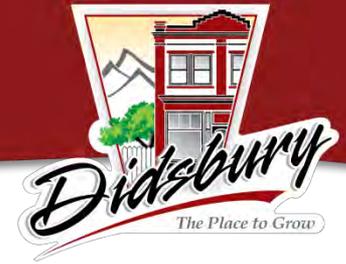

Proposal Location Bylaw 2026-04



To Redesignate from DC-IND to I2

Bylaw 2026-06 Land Use Amending Bylaw





SHANTZ VILLAGE AREA STRUCTURE PLAN

Bylaw No. 2016-04

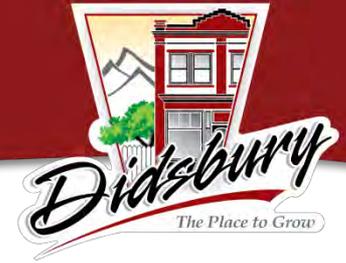
Consolidated Version (Bylaw No. 2023-13) June 27, 2023



Land Use Policy Areas



Shantz Village ASP cont.



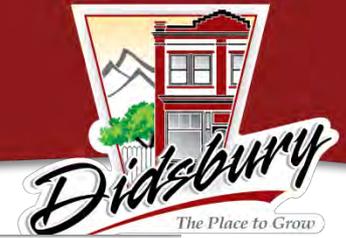
Vision

Successful plans include a vision that helps shape what happens on the site from the very beginning. A vision gives the site coherence and a sense of identity and place. It is derived from an understanding of the characteristics of the site, its history and geography, to create a sense of place. Simply, the vision process is a means of back casting - starting first with the desired outcome of the ASP in mind and then identifying present day actions to realize that outcome.

The vision for the ASP is consistent with the overriding principles identified in the Town's MDP and Sustainability Plan.

- This proposal will provide for diversity within this area.

Bylaw 2026-07 Land Use Amending Bylaw





Town of Didsbury

Land Use Amending Bylaw

Bylaw 2026-07

Legend

 Commercial District - Highway →
 Commercial District - General

Land Use Zone

 R2	 C2
 R5	 REC
 I1	 MR (REC)
 I2	 ER (REC)

Date: February 2026
 Author: SC
 Scale: 1:600
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 3TM 114
 Data Sources: Town of Didsbury & Altalis

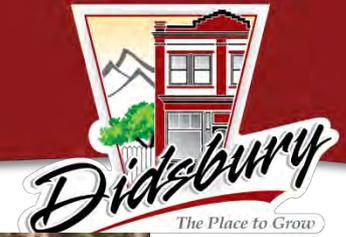


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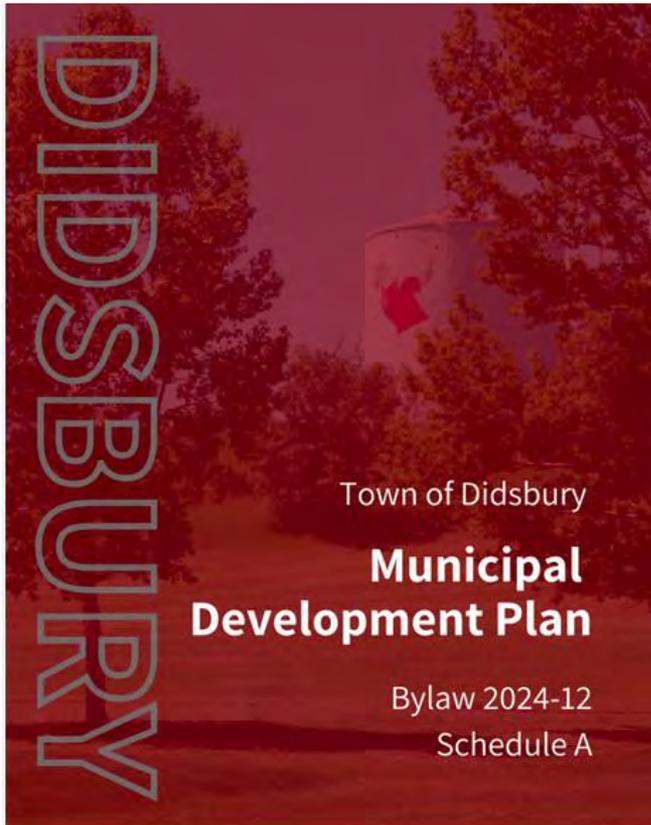
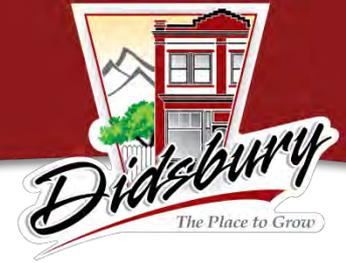
Meters

Proposal Location Bylaw 2026-07



To Redesignate from C2 to C1

MDP Compliance

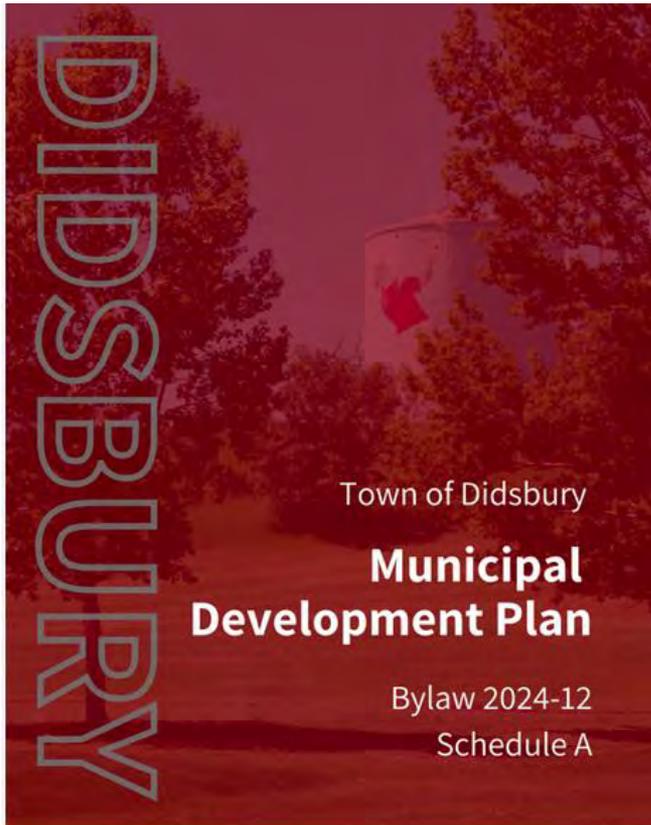


4.2 Economic Development

Goal: To foster a vibrant, diverse, inclusive, resilient and sustainable economic growth that provides opportunities for prosperity and advancement for all, while also safeguarding the natural environment and enhancing the overall quality of life and well-being within the community.

- *The redesignation proposals support continued growth within the Town.*

MDP Compliance



5.1 Mature Neighbourhoods

Goal: Implement a flexible and incremental approach to growth and development to preserve and enhance the Town's assets, infrastructure, community character, fiscal health and environmental resilience. (Bylaws 2026-03, -04, -06 & -07)

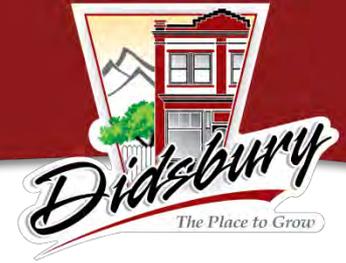
5.3 Live Work Neighbourhood

Goal: Strengthen the tax base through efficient non-residential growth that contributes to fiscal stability. Strengthen the perception of Didsbury as a business-friendly community.

(Bylaw 2026-03)

- *The redesignation proposals should not detract from the unique character within their respective neighborhoods*

Recommendation



- Administration is satisfied that the proposed redesignation complies with the MDP and the purposes of the Land Use District. No concerns or objections were received resulting from the circulation and advertisement of this proposal.
- If Council is satisfied with the Public Hearing, Administration is recommending that Council grant second and third reading to the Bylaws during the *Bylaws and Policies* portion of the Agenda.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: CAO Report
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services
ITEM: 6.0

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Please find attached the Chief Administrative Officer's (CAO) Report for March 24, 2026 which includes the following:

- Development Permits Issued as of March 18, 2026

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

During the CAO Report, Council will have the opportunity to ask questions to the CAO and to make motions for information they would like Administration to bring back to a future Council meeting.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION

To accept the Chief Administrative Officer Report for March 24, 2026 as information.

CAO Report: Developments as of March 18, 2026

The Town of Didsbury has authorized the conditional issuance of the following permits:

Development Officer (Permitted Use) Decisions

PERMIT #	ADDRESS	TYPE	APPLICANT/OWNER	DECISION DATE
DP 26-010	512, 500 Valarosa Place	Dwelling, Single Detached w/ Attached Garage & Covered Deck	Poffenroth, Ron (a) JB NDT Services Inc. (o)	Mar 11, 2026
DP 26-011	2014 – 18 Avenue	Signage – Freestanding & Fascia	Wang Li o/a Castle Putt (a/o)	Mar 11, 2026
DP 26-012	2023 – 19 Avenue	Retail (Personal Services)	The Prairie Empath Inc. (a) Brassard Enterprises Ltd. (o)	Mar 18, 2026
DP 26-013	7 Co-op Road	Industrial (Services)	Lepah Holdings Inc. o/a Icon Plumbing & Heating (a/o)	Mar 18, 2026
DP 26-014	7 Co-op Road	Signage – Fascia (x3) and Signage - Freestanding	Lepah Holdings Inc. o/a Icon Plumbing & Heating (a/o)	Mar 18, 2026

DP 26-010: New Construction in Valarosa Phase 1 for a Dwelling, Single Detached w/ Attached Garage & Covered Deck



DP 26-012: The Prairie Empath is a new business (located at 2023 – 19 Avenue) offering the following services:

Reiki; Sound Baths; Creative Workshops; Yoga; Grief Support; Death Education; End of Life Planning & Meditation

DP 26-013 Icon Plumbing & Heating Ltd. will be moving to their new location on 7 Co-op Road

DP 20-014 Icon Plumbing & Heating Ltd. Signage Fascia & Freestanding



Municipal Planning Commission (Discretionary Use) Decisions:

PERMIT	ADDRESS	TYPE	APPLICANT/OWNER	DECISION DATE	APPEAL PERIOD ENDS
DP 26-006	1516 – 25 Street	Secondary Suite (Internal)	Meadowlark Lane Holdings Inc. (a/o)	Mar 11, 2026	Apr 1, 2026 (at 430 pm)
DP 26-007	1518 – 25 Street	Secondary Suite (Internal)	Meadowlark Lane Holdings Inc. (a/o)	Mar 11, 2026	Apr 1, 2026 (at 430 pm)



DP 26-006: Development of a one (1) bedroom Secondary Suite (Internal) at 1516 – 25 Street



DP 26-007: Development of a one (1) bedroom Secondary Suite (Internal) at 1518 – 25 Street

The next MPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2026 for a subdivision file



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-03
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Planning & Development
ITEM: 7.1

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The properties noted within the Bylaw are currently a combination of two types of Direct Control Districts within the Land Use Bylaw. This proposal will bring the properties within one Direct Control District.

The Land Use Bylaw map shows Direct Control District as one color so the map does not require an amendment.

	Legal	Civic
a)	Plan 2484JK, Block J, Lot 5	1213 – 20 Street
b)	Plan 2484JK, Block J, Lot 6	1209 – 20 Street
c)	Plan 2484JK, Block J, Lot 7	1205 – 20 Street
d)	Meridian 5; Range 1; Township 31; Section 19; NW	3001 – 23 Street

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

If Council is satisfied with the outcome of the public hearing, they may grant second and third reading to Bylaw 2026-03.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

- 3. Strong & Resilient Local Economy
- 5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION *(two motions)*

That Council grant second reading to Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-03.

AND

That Council grant third and final reading to Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-06.

TOWN OF DIDSBURY
Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-03

BEING A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF DIDSBURY, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO AMEND THE LAND USE BYLAW 2019-04.

WHEREAS, section 640(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A 2000 c. M-26, and any amendment thereto, requires that every municipality pass a land use bylaw; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Didsbury deems it necessary to amend Land Use Bylaw 2019-04;

NOW, THEREFORE, the municipal Council of the Town of Didsbury, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

Short Title

1. This Bylaw may be cited and referred to as “Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-03”

General Provisions

2. Bylaw 2019-04, being the Land Use Bylaw of the Town of Didsbury, is hereby amended as follows:

- 2.1. All of the following properties subject to the DC-IND: Direct Control District – Industrial or DC-01 – Direct Control District – Industrial designation shall be redesignated to DC: Direct Control:

	Legal	Civic
a)	Plan 2484JK, Block J, Lot 5	1213 – 20 Street
b)	Plan 2484JK, Block J, Lot 6	1209 – 20 Street
c)	Plan 2484JK, Block J, Lot 7	1205 – 20 Street
d)	Meridian 5; Range 1; Township 31; Section 19; NW	3001 – 23 Street

- 2.2. The DC-01: Direct Control District – Industrial District is hereby repealed.

Transitional

3. This Bylaw comes into full force and effect upon third reading of the bylaw and being duly signed.

Read a first time this 24th day of February, 2026

Read a second time this ___ day of _____, 2026

Read a third and final time this ___ day of _____, 2026

Mayor – Chris Little

Chief Administrative Officer – Michael Simpson



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: February 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-04
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services
ITEM: 7.2

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

This is a proposal to redesignate properties from DC-IND: Direct Control District – Industrial to I2: Industrial District – Heavy. Furthermore, this bylaw would remove the use of DC-IND from the Land Use Bylaw.

The uses within these properties will comply with the Land Use Bylaw.

	Legal	Civic
a)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 1	2825 – 19 Street
b)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 2	2837 – 19 Street
c)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 3	2849– 19 Street
d)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 4	2861– 19 Street
e)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 5	2873– 19 Street
f)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 6	1801– 29 Avenue (Valarosa Drive)
g)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 7	2901– 19 Street

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

If Council is satisfied with the outcome of the public hearing, they may grant second and third reading to Bylaw 2026-04.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

- 3. Strong & Resilient Local Economy
- 5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION *(two motions)*

That Council grant second reading to Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-04.

AND

That Council grant third and final reading to Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-04.

TOWN OF DIDSBURY
Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-04

BEING A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF DIDSBURY, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO AMEND THE LAND USE BYLAW 2019-04.

WHEREAS, section 640(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A 2000 c. M-26, and any amendment thereto, requires that every municipality pass a land use bylaw; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Didsbury deems it necessary to amend Land Use Bylaw 2019-04;

NOW, THEREFORE, the municipal Council of the Town of Didsbury, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

Short Title

1. This Bylaw may be cited and referred to as “Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-04”

General Provisions

2. Bylaw 2019-04, being the Land Use Bylaw of the Town of Didsbury, is hereby amended as follows:
 - 2.1. Schedule A of this bylaw shall amend Appendix A of Land Use Bylaw 2019-04 to redesignate all of the following properties subject to the DC-IND: Direct Control District – Industrial to I2: Industrial District - Heavy.

	Legal	Civic
a)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 1	2825 – 19 Street
b)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 2	2837 – 19 Street
c)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 3	2849– 19 Street
d)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 4	2861– 19 Street
e)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 5	2873– 19 Street
f)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 6	1801– 29 Avenue (Valarosa Drive)
g)	Plan 0714629, Block 5, Lot 7	2901– 19 Street

- 2.2. The DC-IND: Direct Control District – Industrial is hereby repealed.

Transitional

3. This Bylaw comes into full force and effect upon third reading of the bylaw and being duly signed.

Read a first time this 24th day of February, 2026

Read a second time this ___ day of _____, 2026

Read a third and final time this ___ day of _____, 2026

Mayor – Chris Little

Chief Administrative Officer – Michael Simpson

Schedule A



Town of Didsbury

**Land Use Amending Bylaw
Bylaw 2026-04**

Legend

Direct Control - Industrial
Industrial District - Heavy

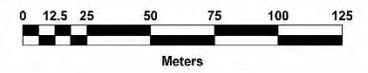
Land Use Zone

- | | |
|----|----------|
| DC | R1 |
| C2 | R2 |
| I2 | REC |
| UR | MR (REC) |

Date: February 2026
 Author: SC
 Scale: 1:800
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 3TM 114
 Data Sources: Town of Didsbury & Altalis



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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-05
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services
ITEM: 7.3

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The intent of the proposed amendment is to update Land Use Bylaw 2019-04 (“LUB”) to better reflect the planning principles of the Municipal Development Plan Bylaw 2024-12 (“MDP”). These amendments propose changes to the LUB that reinforce the direction to eliminate unnecessary regulatory barriers to development that has already been supported through existing plans and policy.

While there are additional amendments that are ultimately required within the LUB as its continued use identifies necessary changes, these amendments have been prioritized to facilitate new development that is compatible with the direction of the MDP. Initiating these changes now will help to “reduce red tape” for potential future developments.

1. Administration recommends that Land Use Bylaw 2019-04 be amended as follows:
 - a) **Amend definition of “Retail (General)” to the following:**
Retail (General) – means a Development used for the sale of goods or services, including off-sales and personal services to an individual, in a small or medium building.
 - b) **Amend definition and use of Retail (Large) to the following:**
Retail (Box Store) – means a Development used for the sale of goods or services in a large-sized Building (with a Gross Floor Area greater than 4,000.0 metres² (43,055.64 feet²)).
 - c) **Amend definition and use of Dwelling, Townhouse to the following:**
Dwelling, Townhouse – means Dwellings that are side-by-side and share a common wall, where each unit has a separate entrance from the outside.
 - d) **Amend definition and use of Dwelling, Stacked Townhouse to the following:**
Dwelling, Stacked Townhouse – means Dwellings where the Townhouses are stacked on top of each other, each with their own separate entrance from the outside.
 - e) **Removal of definition and use for:**
Retail (Personal Services) – means a Development used for the provision of personal services to an individual.
Retail (Vice) – means a development permit where potentially controversial goods and services are offered to the public for sale for use or consumption off-site. Typical uses include liquor stores and adult goods stores.
Retail (Small) – means a Development used for the sale of goods and services in a physically small Building (with a Gross Floor Area less than 1,000.0 metres² (10,763.91 feet²)). Typical uses include a convenience store or sandwich shop.
 - f) **Amend Retail (Vice), Retail (Personal Services), and Retail (Small) to Retail (General).**
 - g) **Amend s.3-60, Parking Requirements, to reflect the proposed “Retail (General)” amendments.**
 - h) **Amend all references and uses of “Cannabis Retail Sales” to “Retail (Cannabis)”.**
2. Rescind the C1: Commercial District – General and replace as attached in *Schedule “A”*.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

3. Establish the RC2: Residential/Commercial District – High Density as attached in *Schedule “B”*.
4. Repeal the DC-IND: Direct Control District – Industrial and DC-01: Direct Control District – Industrial.
5. Repeal the C2: Commercial District – Highway and all references therein.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

If Council is satisfied with the outcome of the public hearing, they may grant first and second reading to the bylaw.

Administration is recommending the addition of Retail (Groceries) as a permitted use in the RC2 District. If Council is amendable to this proposal, it is recommended that Council amend the bylaw on second reading.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

3. Strong & Resilient Local Economy

RECOMMENDATION *(two motions)*

That Council grant second reading to Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-05 as amended.

AND

That Council grant third and final reading to Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-05.

TOWN OF DIDSBURY
Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-05

BEING A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF DIDSBURY, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO AMEND THE LAND USE BYLAW 2019-04.

WHEREAS, section 640(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A 2000 c. M-26, and any amendment thereto, requires that every municipality pass a land use bylaw; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Didsbury deems it necessary to amend Land Use Bylaw 2019-04;

NOW, THEREFORE, the municipal Council of the Town of Didsbury, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

Short Title

1. This Bylaw may be cited and referred to as “Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-05”

General Provisions

2. Bylaw 2019-04, being the Land Use Bylaw of the Town of Didsbury, is hereby amended as follows:

2.1. The definitions and uses for the following are hereby amended as follows:

- a) Amend definition of “Retail (General)” to the following:

Retail (General) – means a Development used for the sale of goods or services, including off sales and personal services to an individual, in a small or medium building.

- b) Amend definition and use of “Retail (Large)” to the following:

Retail (Box Store) – means a Development used for the sale of goods or services in a large-sized Building (with a Gross Floor Area greater than 4,000.0 metres² (43,055.64 feet²)).

- c) Amend definition and use of “Dwelling, Townhouse” to the following:

Dwelling, Townhouse – means Dwellings that are side-by-side and share a common wall, where each unit has a separate entrance from the outside.

- d) Amend definition and use of “Dwelling, Stacked Townhouse” to the following:

Dwelling, Stacked Townhouse – means Dwellings where the Townhouses are stacked on top of each other, each with their own separate entrance from the outside.

- e) Removal of definition and use for the following:

- i. Retail (Personal Services) – means a Development used for the provision of personal services to an individual.

- ii. Retail (Vice) – means a development permit where potentially controversial goods and services are offered to the public for sale for use or consumption off-site. Typical uses include liquor stores and adult goods stores.

- iii. Retail (Small) – means a Development used for the sale of goods and services in a physically small Building (with a Gross Floor Area less than 1,000.0 metres² (10,763.91 feet²)). Typical uses include a convenience store or sandwich shop.

- f) Amend all districts with the uses Retail (Vice), Retail (Personal Services), and Retail (Small) to Retail (General).
 - g) Amend s. 3-60, Parking Requirements, to reflect the proposed “Retail (General)” amendments.
 - h) Amend all references and uses of “Cannabis Retail Sales” to “Retail (Cannabis)”
- 2.2. Schedule A, forming part of this bylaw, shall rescind and replace the C1: Commercial District – General.
- 2.3. Schedule B, forming part of this bylaw, of this bylaw shall establish the RC2: Residential Commercial District – High Density.

Transitional

- 3. This Bylaw comes into full force and effect upon third reading of the bylaw and being duly signed.

Read a first time this 24th day of February, 2026

Read a second time this ___ day of _____, 2026

Read a third and final time this ___ day of _____, 2026

Mayor – Chris Little

Chief Administrative Officer – Michael Simpson

Schedule “A”

C1: COMMERCIAL DISTRICT – GENERAL

General Purpose

To provide for a variety of commercial uses which are accessible to pedestrians and motor vehicles. New commercial development must connect to municipal sewer and water systems, if municipal services are within a right of way directly adjacent the property. Existing commercial is authorised to continue to utilize onsite water and sewer systems.

Permitted Uses

- a) Accessory Building
- b) Accessory Structure
- c) Establishment (Eating or Drinking Class 1)
- d) Hotel/Motel
- e) Market (Indoor)
- f) Office
- g) Public Utility
- h) Retail (General)
- i) Shopping Centre

Discretionary Uses

- a) Animal Services
- b) Automotive Services (Minor/Major)
- c) Bus Depot
- d) Car Wash
- e) Care Facility (Child/Clinic)
- f) Drive-Through
- g) Dwelling Unit, Occupancy of Owner, Operator or Caretaker
- h) Establishment (Eating or Drinking Class 2/Entertainment)
- i) Funeral Home
- j) Gas Station
- k) Industrial (Services)
- l) Market (Outdoor)
- m) Park
- n) Recreation (Private)
- o) Retail (Box Store/Groceries)
- p) Retail (Cannabis)
- q) Shipping Container (Small/Large)
- r) Any uses that are, in the opinion of the Development Authority, similar to the Permitted or Discretionary Uses, and which conform to the general purpose and intent of the District.

Site Requirements

Minimum Parcel Size	At the discretion of the Development Authority
Maximum Building Height	10.0 metres (32.81 feet)
Min. Landscaping Parcel Coverage	At the discretion of the Development Authority

Minimum Setback Requirements

Front Yard	0 metres (0 feet)
Side Yard w/Lane	0 metres (0 feet)
Side Yard w/o Lane	3.0 metres (9.84 feet)*
Rear Yard	Shall be provided for parking and loading

*Where there is no provision for access to the rear of the lot, the setback on one side shall be 6.0 metres (19.68 feet)

Additional Regulations

- a) Outdoor storage may be permitted at the discretion of the Development Authority where fencing and/or vegetative screening has been provided;
- b) A buffer strip of ten (10) metres should be provided along any boundary of a General Commercial District that is immediately adjacent to any Land Use District other than Future Urban District, Light Industrial or Heavy Industrial Districts;
- c) The buffer strip shall be provided on private lands unless an alternative has been provided as part of a multi-lot subdivision, and is acceptable to the Development Authority;
- d) Dwelling units shall have an entrance separate to any entrances to a commercial portion of the building;
- e) Outdoor commercial patios shall not be detrimental to the surrounding area by way of noise, lighting, odours, access or any other means as determined by the Development Authority;
- f) Additional setbacks may be required adjacent to a residential district as determined by the Development Authority;
- g) Addition of Parking Regulations to the C1: Commercial District – General for Market (Indoor) and Market (Outdoor) at the discretion of the Approving Authority.

Schedule “B”

RC2: RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL DISTRICT-HIGH DENSITY

General Purpose

To provide for the development of moderate to high density multi-unit dwellings with a mix of residential and commercial uses intended to provide a transition between commercial and adjacent residential districts. New residential/commercial development must connect to municipal sewer and water systems.

Permitted Uses

- a) Dwelling, Multi-Unit (Apartment)
- b) Dwelling, Row House
- c) Dwelling, Stacked Townhouse
- d) Dwelling, Townhouse
- e) Establishment (Eating or Drinking Class 1)
- f) Group Use Facility
- g) Retail (Box Store/**Groceries**)
- h) Retail (General)

Discretionary Uses

- a) Care Facility (Child/Clinic/Group)
- b) Dwelling Unit, Occupancy of Owner, Operator or Caretaker
- c) Hotel/Motel
- d) Office
- e) Secondary Suite (Internal) **not allowed in stacked townhouse**
- f) Any uses that are, in the opinion of the Development Authority, similar to the Permitted or Discretionary Uses, and which conform to the general purpose and intent of the District.

Site Requirements

Minimum Parcel Size	At the discretion of the Development Authority
Minimum Parcel Size (Townhouse)	Interior Units: 180.0 metres ² (1,937.50 feet ²) Exterior Units: 220.0 metres ² (2,368.06 feet ²)
Maximum Building Height	At the discretion of the Development Authority
Min. Landscaping Parcel Coverage	At the discretion of the Development Authority

Minimum Setback Requirements

Front Yard	At the discretion of the Development Authority
Side Yard w/Lane	1.5 metres (4.92 feet)
Side Yard w/o Lane	1.5 metres (4.92 feet)
Rear Yard	At the discretion of the Development Officer

Additional Regulations

- a) Outdoor storage may be permitted at the discretion of the Development Authority where fencing and/or vegetative screening has been provided;
- b) Outdoor commercial patios shall not be detrimental to the surrounding area by way of noise, lighting, odours, access or any other means as determined by the Development Authority.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-06
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services
ITEM: 7.4

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Upon approval of Bylaw 2026-05, this is a proposal to redesignate one parcel, 1000 Shantz Drive, from the current R5: Residential District – High Density to the newly established RC2:Residential/Commercial District – High Density.

The redesignation of this property will provide for a mix of residential-high density & commercial uses that will blend with the surrounding neighborhood.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

If Council is satisfied with the outcome of the public hearing, they may grant first and second reading to the bylaw.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

- 3. Strong & Resilient Local Economy
- 5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION *(two motions)*

That Council grant second reading to Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-06.

AND

That Council grant third and final reading to Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-06.

TOWN OF DIDSBURY
Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-06

BEING A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF DIDSBURY, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO AMEND THE LAND USE BYLAW 2019-04.

WHEREAS, section 640(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A 2000 c. M-26, and any amendment thereto, requires that every municipality pass a land use bylaw; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Didsbury deems it necessary to amend Land Use Bylaw 2019-04;

NOW, THEREFORE, the municipal Council of the Town of Didsbury, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

Short Title

1. This Bylaw may be cited and referred to as “Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-06”

General Provisions

2. Bylaw 2019-04, being the Land Use Bylaw of the Town of Didsbury, is hereby amended as follows:

- 2.1. Schedule A of this bylaw shall amend Appendix A of Land Use Bylaw 2019-04 to redesignate the following property subject to the R5: Residential District – High Density to RC2: Residential/Commercial – High Density.

	Legal	Civic
a)	Plan 1310247, Block 1, Lot 10	1000 Shantz Drive

Transitional

3. This Bylaw comes into full force and effect upon third reading of the bylaw and being duly signed.

Read a first time this 24th day of February, 2026

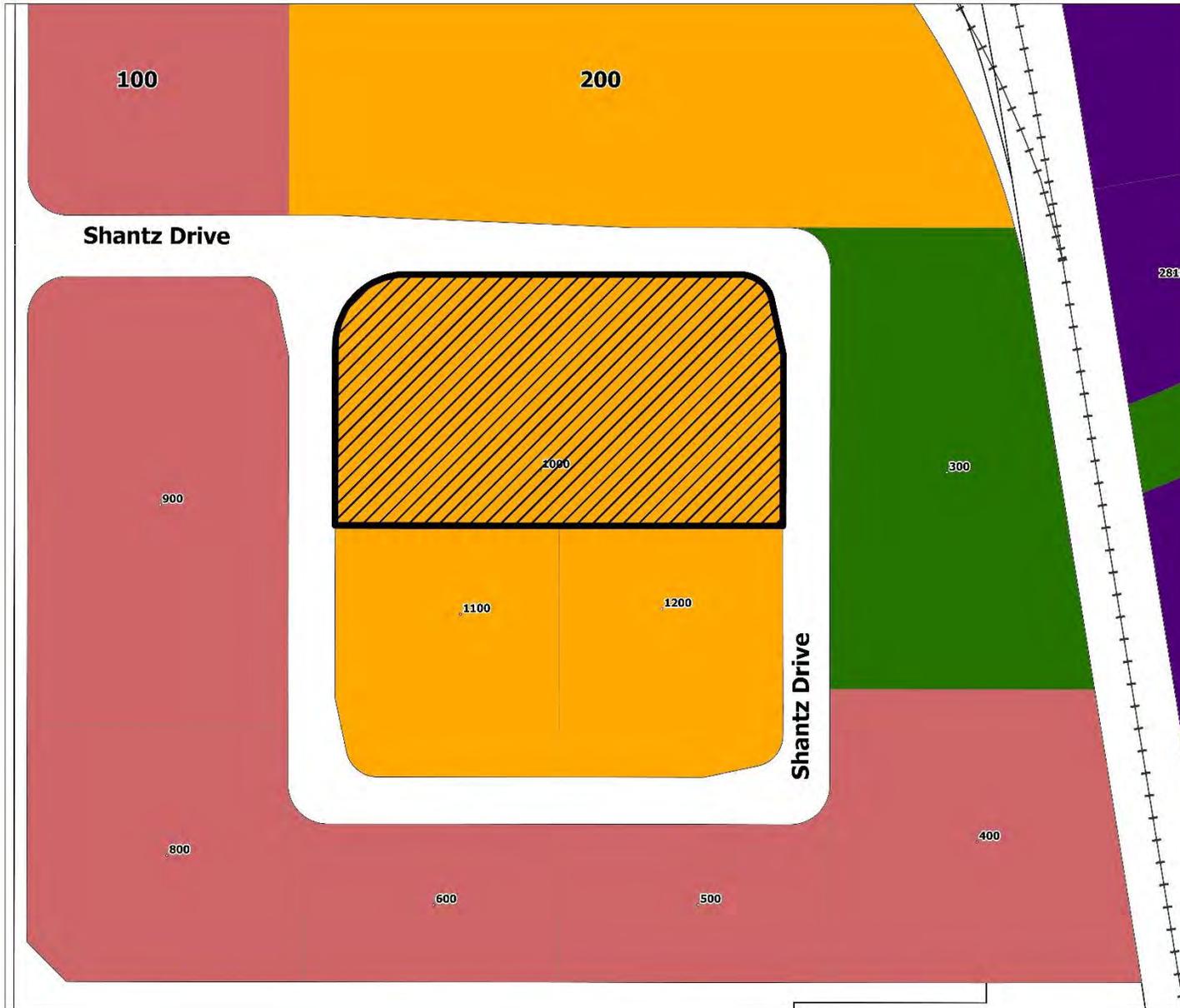
Read a second time this ___ day of _____, 2026

Read a third and final time this ___ day of _____, 2026

Mayor – Chris Little

Chief Administrative Officer – Michael Simpson

Schedule A



Town of Didsbury

**Land Use
Amending Bylaw
Bylaw 2026-06**

Legend

- Residential District - High Density →
- Residential Commercial - High Density

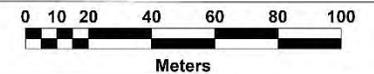
Land Use Zone

- C1
- I2
- MR (REC)
- R5

Date: February 2026
 Author: SC
 Scale: 1:648
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 3TM 114
 Data Sources: Town of Didsbury & Altalis



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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-07
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services
ITEM: 7.5

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

This is a proposal to redesignate properties that contain development and some undeveloped area from the current C2: Commercial District – Highway to C1: Commercial District General.

Upon approval of Bylaw 2026-05, which would amend the Land Use Bylaw (by merging two existing commercial districts, the C2: Commercial District – Highway and C1: Commercial District – General) to create a newly blended C1: Commercial District – General.

The following properties are being considered for this redesignation:

	Legal	Civic
a)	Condo Plan 1311141 Unit 1	2409 - 16 Street, Unit 1
b)	Condo Plan 1311141 Unit 2	2409 - 16 Street, Unit 2
c)	Condo Plan 1311141 Unit 3	2409 - 16 Street, Unit 3
d)	Condo Plan 1311141 Unit 4	2409 - 16 Street, Unit 4
e)	Condo Plan 1311141 Unit 5	2409 - 16 Street, Unit 5

This redesignation of the properties to the newly merged C1: Commercial District General will comply with the Land Use Bylaw.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

If Council is satisfied with the outcome of the public hearing, they may grant second and third reading to Bylaw 2026-07.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

- 3. Strong & Resilient Local Economy
- 5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION *(two motions)*

That Council grant second reading to Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-07.

AND

That Council grant third and final reading to Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-07.

TOWN OF DIDSBURY
Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-07

BEING A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF DIDSBURY, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO AMEND THE LAND USE BYLAW 2019-04.

WHEREAS, section 640(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A 2000 c. M-26, and any amendment thereto, requires that every municipality pass a land use bylaw; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Didsbury deems it necessary to amend Land Use Bylaw 2019-04;

NOW, THEREFORE, the municipal Council of the Town of Didsbury, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

Short Title

1. This Bylaw may be cited and referred to as “Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-07”

General Provisions

2. Bylaw 2019-04, being the Land Use Bylaw of the Town of Didsbury, is hereby amended as follows:

- 2.1. Schedule A of this bylaw shall amend Appendix A of Land Use Bylaw 2019-04 to redesignate the following property subject to the C2: Commercial District – Highway to C1: Commercial District – General.

	Legal	Civic
a)	Condo Plan 1311141 Unit 1	2409 - 16 Street, Unit 1
b)	Condo Plan 1311141 Unit 2	2409 - 16 Street, Unit 2
c)	Condo Plan 1311141 Unit 3	2409 - 16 Street, Unit 3
d)	Condo Plan 1311141 Unit 4	2409 - 16 Street, Unit 4
e)	Condo Plan 1311141 Unit 5	2409 - 16 Street, Unit 5

- 2.2. The C2: Commercial District - Highway is hereby repealed.

Transitional

3. This Bylaw comes into full force and effect upon third reading of the bylaw and being duly signed.

Read a first time this 24th day of February, 2026

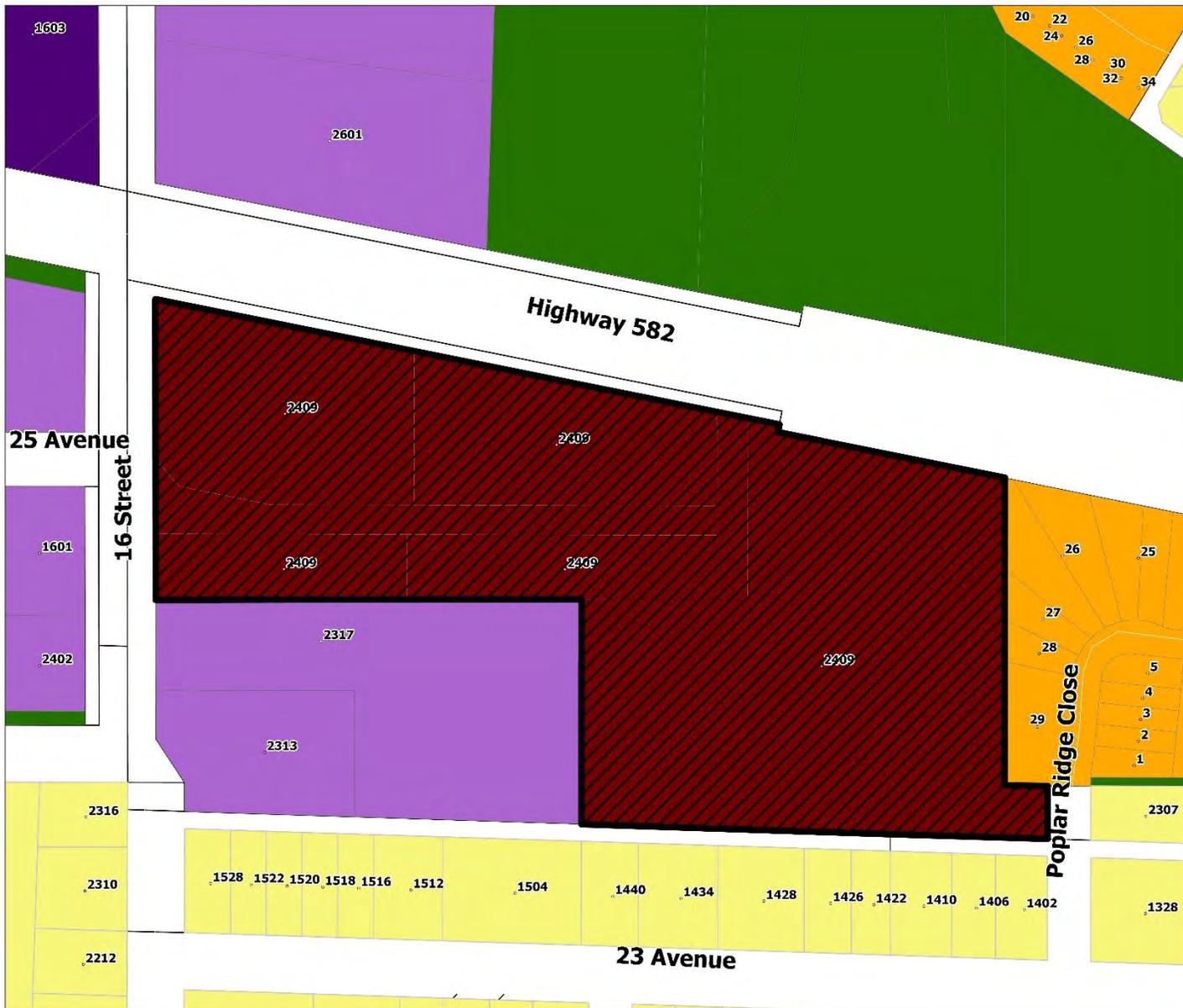
Read a second time this ___ day of _____, 2026

Read a third and final time this ___ day of _____, 2026

Mayor – Chris Little

Chief Administrative Officer – Michael Simpson

Schedule A



Town of Didsbury

**Land Use Amending Bylaw
Bylaw 2026-07**

Legend

Commercial District - Highway →
 Commercial District - General

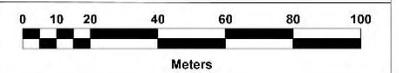
Land Use Zone

- R2
- R5
- I1
- I2
- C2
- REC
- MR (REC)
- ER (REC)

Date: February 2026
 Author: SC
 Scale: 1:600
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 3TM 114
 Data Sources: Town of Didsbury & Altalis



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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-09
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Planning & Development
ITEM: 7.6

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

This is consideration for redesignation of the northern portion of 100 Shantz Drive.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The redesignation of this property will provide for a mix of residential high density & commercial uses that will blend with the surrounding neighborhood.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

- 3. Strong & Resilient Local Economy
- 5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION *(two motions)*

That Council grant first reading to Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-09.

AND

To set **Tuesday, April 28, 2026** as the public hearing for Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-09.

TOWN OF DIDSBURY
Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-09

BEING A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF DIDSBURY, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO AMEND THE LAND USE BYLAW 2019-04.

WHEREAS, section 640(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A 2000 c. M-26, and any amendment thereto, requires that every municipality pass a land use bylaw; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Didsbury deems it necessary to amend Land Use Bylaw 2019-09;

NOW, THEREFORE, the municipal Council of the Town of Didsbury, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

Short Title

1. This Bylaw may be cited and referred to as “Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-09”

General Provisions

2. Bylaw 2019-04, being the Land Use Bylaw of the Town of Didsbury, is hereby amended as follows:
 - 2.1. Schedule A of this bylaw shall amend Appendix A of Land Use Bylaw 2019-04 to redesignate the northern portion of 100 Shantz Drive from C1: Commercial District – General to RC2: Residential/Commercial District – High Density

Transitional

3. This Bylaw comes into full force and effect upon third reading of the bylaw and being duly signed.

Read a first time this __ day of _____, 2026

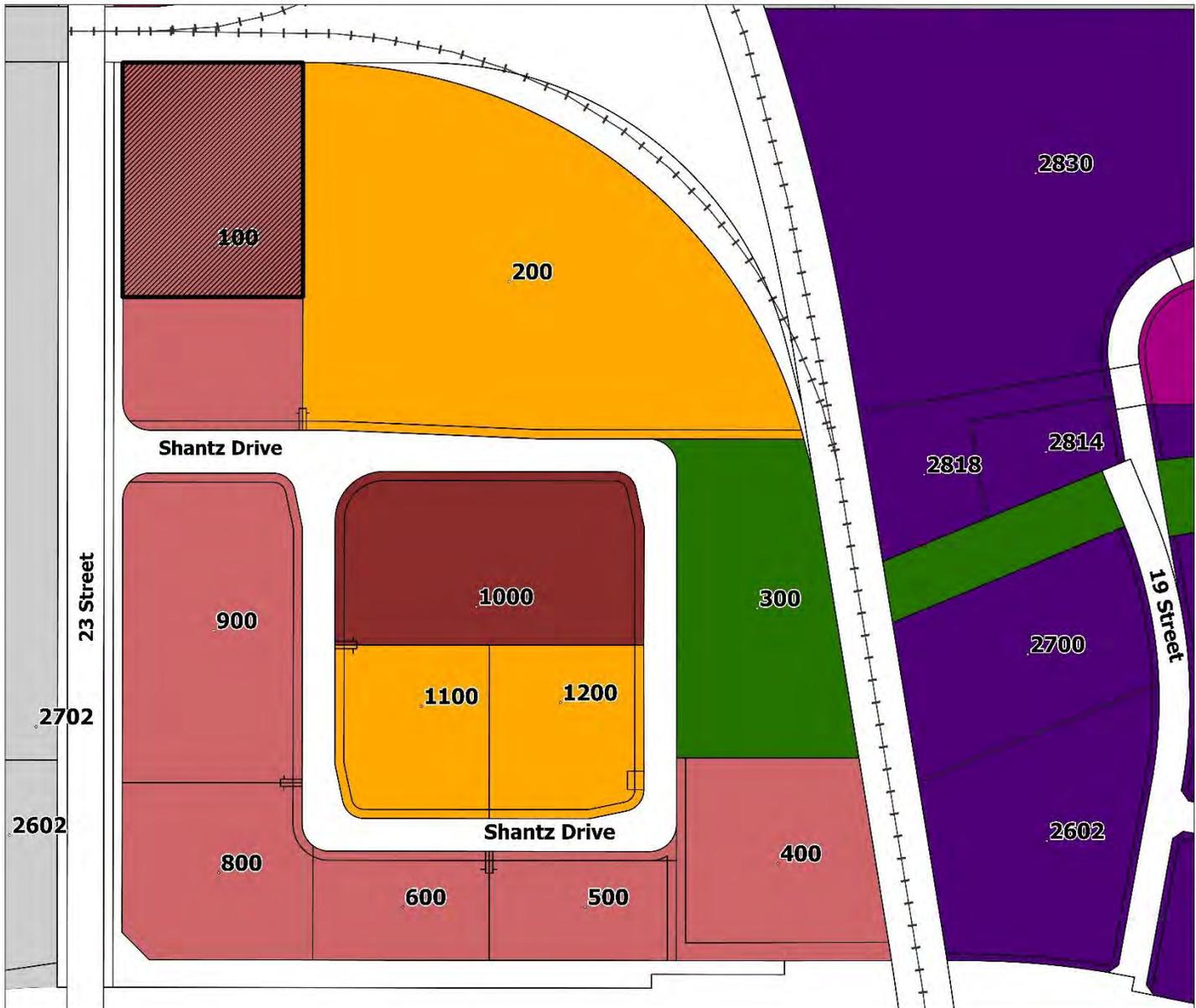
Read a second time this __ day of _____, 2026

Read a third and final time this __ day of _____, 2026

Mayor – Chris Little

Chief Administrative Officer – Michael Simpson

Schedule A



Town of Didsbury

**Land Use Amending Bylaw
Bylaw 2026-09**

Legend

C1 to RC2
Bylaw 2026-09

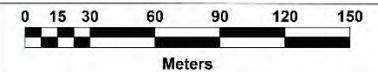
Land Use Zone

- C1
- R5
- DC
- RC2
- I2
- UR
- MR (REC)

Date: March 2026
 Author: SC
 Scale: 1:938
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 3TM 114
 Data Sources: Town of Didsbury & Altalis



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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Public Space Neutrality Bylaw 2026-08
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services
ITEM: 7.7

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Upon consultation with the community throughout the 2025 General Municipal Election and the beginning of the Council term, the attached bylaw was requested to be presented to Council.

The bylaw, as written, would apply to the flagpoles and crosswalks on Town of Didsbury-owned property. The bylaw would require that all crosswalks be painted in the continental or ladder pattern with white paint, and that the flags to be raised on Town property be the national flag of Canada, provincial flag of Alberta, or any of the Town of Didsbury flags.

Failure to comply with the bylaw will result in the removal of the non-complaint items and the costs-incurred to do so becoming a debt owing to the Town of Didsbury by the person contravening the bylaw.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

Council granted first and second reading to Bylaw 2026-08 on March 10, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council grant third and final reading to Public Space Neutrality Bylaw 2026-08.

TOWN OF DIDSBURY
Public Space Neutrality
Bylaw 2026-08

BEING A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF DIDSBURY, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO ENSURE THAT FLAGPOLES AND CROSSWALKS WITHIN PUBLIC SPACES WITHIN THE TOWN OF DIDSBURY REMAIN NEUTRAL.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Part 2, Division 1 of the *Municipal Government Act*, being the Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26, as amended, a Council may pass bylaws for purposes respecting people, activities and things in, on or near a public space that is open to the public;

WHEREAS, Council for the Town of Didsbury wishes to enact a bylaw ensuring that flagpoles and crosswalks within public spaces within the Town of Didsbury remain neutral.

NOW, THEREFORE, the municipal Council of the Town of Didsbury, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

1. SHORT TITLE

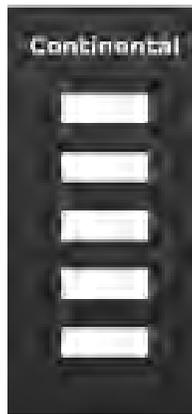
1.1 This Bylaw may be cited as the “Neutral Space Bylaw.”

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 **Act** means the *Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter M-26* as amended.

2.2 **Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)** means the person appointed as chief administrative officer of the Town of Didsbury or designate.

2.3 **Continental** means the pattern drawn or illustrated on Crosswalks as set out in the following image:



2.4 **Council** means the municipal Council for the Town of Didsbury.

2.5 **Crosswalk** means

- (a) that part of a Municipal Road at an intersection included within the lateral line of the sidewalks on opposite sides of the Municipal Road measured from the curbs or in the absence of curbs, from the edges of the Municipal Road; or
- (b) any part of a Municipal Road at an intersection or elsewhere distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by signs, by lines or by other markings on the road surface.

- 2.6 **Ladder** means the pattern drawn or illustrated on Crosswalks as set out in the following image:



- 2.7 **Municipal Road** means a road as defined in the Act which is under the direction, control and management of the Town.
- 2.8 **Public Property** means land located within the Town of Didsbury for which the Town is the sole registered owner, and that the Town owns and utilizes for the benefit and use of the public.
- 2.9 **Town** means the municipal corporation of the Town of Didsbury or the geographical area within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Didsbury, as the context may require.

3 CROSSWALKS

- 3.1 No person shall paint or colour any Crosswalks within the Town with any colours or patterns other than the standard Continental or Ladder patterns.

4 FLAGS

- 4.1 No person shall raise any flag on any flagpoles on Public Property other than:

- 4.1.1 The national flag of Canada;
- 4.1.2 The provincial flag of Alberta; or
- 4.1.3 Town of Didsbury flags.

5 ENFORCEMENT

- 5.1 In the event of a contravention of this bylaw, the CAO or designate, is authorized to remove any non-compliant items from Public Property, with any costs incurred by the Town in removing the items constituting a debt owing to the Town by the person who placed the non-compliant flag or Crosswalk colors or pattern.

6 SEVERABILITY

- 6.1 If any part of this bylaw is deemed invalid, the invalid portion shall be severed, and the remaining parts of the bylaw will continue to be in force.

7 **EFFECTIVE**

7.1 This Bylaw shall take come into force and effect upon third and final reading.

7.2 Any Crosswalks or flags located on Town property that contravene sections 3.1 or 4.1 of this Bylaw shall be removed within thirty (30) days of this Bylaw coming into force and effect.

Read a first time this 10th day of March, 2026.

Read a second time this 10th day of March, 2026.

Read a third time this _____ day of _____, 2026 and passed.

Chris Little, Mayor

Michael Simpson, Chief Administrative Officer



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Solid Waste Contract Extension
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Engineering & Infrastructure
ITEM: 8.1

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Administration entered into a service contract with E360 in 2021. The contract was initially for a 3-year term with a built in clause to allow two – 2-year contract extensions. Council extended the contract for two years in 2024. The contract for solid waste, compost and recycling is set to expire April 30, 2026.

The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for recycling is anticipated to begin October 2026.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

Administration has confirmed with E360 they are committed to providing our collection needs in alignment with the existing contract for the 2-year term. When the EPR service begins, Administration would amend the service contract to remove the recycling services aspects of the agreement.

	2026	2027
Solid Waste Service	\$ 78,800.00	\$ 80,770.00
Compost Collection	\$ 56,000.00	\$ 57,400.00
Recycling Collection	\$ 119,900.00	\$ -
Annual Budget Amount	\$ 254,700.00	\$ 138,170.00

The service delivery continues to remain high and residents frequently comment on the high level of service E360 delivers.

Administration recommends Council extend the service contract for the final 2-year period.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Strategically Managed Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

To approve a 2-year contract extension with Environmental 360 Solutions (E360S) for the provision of solid waste, compost and recycling services as required.

[REDACTED],

Red Deer, AB T4P-1H2

Town of Didsbury

Attn: Craig Fox

Re: Contract Extension – Solid Waste, Recycling, Organics & Commercial Services

Dear Craig,

Further to our recent discussions, Environmental 360 Solutions Ltd. (E360S) is pleased to provide this letter in support of the Town of Didsbury's consideration to approve a two (2) year extension of our existing agreement.

E360S is committed to continuing to provide reliable and efficient waste management services to the Town, including residential solid waste, recycling, and organics collection, as well as ongoing commercial front-load waste and recycling services within the community.

We value the strong working relationship we have established with the Town of Didsbury and remain focused on delivering consistent service levels, operational reliability, and responsive customer support throughout the proposed extension term.

In recognition of the upcoming transition to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) through Circular Materials, E360S confirms that should we not be the successful proponent for the residential recycling portion under the EPR program, we would support removing that portion of the services from the agreement without penalty to the Town. This approach is intended to provide the Town with flexibility and ensure alignment with provincial program changes.

All other terms and conditions of the current agreement would remain in effect for the duration of the extension, including applicable annual adjustments as outlined within the existing contract.

We appreciate the opportunity to continue supporting the Town of Didsbury and would be pleased to assist with any additional information required as Council considers this extension.

Sincerely,

Mark Dyer - Business Development Manager – Alberta Solids
Environmental 360 Solutions Ltd.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
 SUBJECT: Municipal Enforcement Vehicle Replacement Budget Amendment
 ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Corporate Services
 ITEM: 8.2

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

As part of the 2025 Capital Budget, Council approved the replacement of one Municipal Enforcement Vehicle for \$80,000 to be funded from the Municipal Enforcement Reserve. Included in this replacement is the vehicle plus outfitting for it to be appropriate for use by a Community Peace Officer (CPO) and meet the regulations set out by the Government of Alberta. These additional outfitting costs include decaling, emergency lighting, new RADAR, laptop and a console to mount all the associated CPO equipment, such as the laptop docking station and ticket printer.

It has been determined that the cost estimate provided during the 2025 budget meetings is not adequate to complete this project. Administration has received quotes for the replacement outlined as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
Vehicle Cost	\$55,000
Outfitting	\$35,000
	\$90,000

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The vehicle portion of the project was purchased several months ago and arrived in January. The department has been working during this time to secure pricing on the outfitting and it was determined when the final pricing came back that the budgeted amount is insufficient. The vehicle outfitting is required to ensure the standards and regulations set in place regarding CPO vehicles can be met and for efficient processing of files while in the vehicle.

The original budget was approved to be funded from the Municipal Enforcement Reserve. The reserve currently has \$164,000 available, leaving approximately \$74,000 should this project budget of \$90,000 be approved.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Strategically Managed Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

To amend the 2025 Capital Budget to increase the Municipal Enforcement Vehicle Replacement budget by \$10,000, for a project total of \$90,000 to be funded from the Municipal Enforcement Reserve.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Request for Decision (RFD)

Vision: The Place to Grow.

Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Utility Departments 2025 Year End Reconciliation
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Corporate Services
ITEM: 8.3

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The Utility Charges Bylaw sets out the framework for the Town's self-supported utility departments, outlining that revenues collected for utility services will offset operating expenses, while stipulating that taxes will not fund these departments. The budgetary surplus is considered before amortization is applied due to the fact that amortization is not budgeted for.

Water Department

The Water Department experienced revenues of \$2,456,573 and expenses of \$2,076,502, resulting in a net departmental surplus of \$380,071. Of this budgetary surplus, \$35,765 was generated from stronger than expected revenues. The remaining \$225,802 was generated from lower than budgeted expenses. Some of this was related to the timing of the new loan's first payment which occurred in early 2026, rather than in 2025. Two main areas include repairs and maintenance and cost of water which were lower than budget, in part due to a reducing unmetered water percentage.

Wastewater Department

The Wastewater Department experienced revenues of \$813,492 and expenses of \$712,173 resulting in a net departmental surplus of \$101,319. The revenues in this department contributed to most of the budgetary surplus (approximately \$62,000) due to higher consumption of water. The year end surplus was a result of cumulative efficiencies. Along with higher revenues, small favorable variances in a number of expense categories aggregated to create a net positive position for the department.

Solid Waste Department

The Solid Waste Department experienced revenues of \$527,364 and expenses of \$491,407 resulting in a surplus of \$35,957. Revenues in this department were within 1% of budget, or less than \$5,000. Lower than budgeted expenses resulted in the remainder of the budgetary surplus. The tipping fees related to garbage and compost were lower than budget, therefore the estimated tonnage of those waste products was less than budgeted for.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

In accordance with the Town's Reserve Policy Fin 007-24, year-end Water and Wastewater Department budgetary surpluses are to be committed to the relevant reserve funds. Therefore it is recommended that the water surplus of \$380,071 be committed to the Water Reserve and the Wastewater surplus of \$101,319 be committed to the Wastewater Reserve.

The Solid Waste Department surplus in accordance with the Policy is to be allocated to the Solid Waste Reserve only up to a maximum of \$50,000. The reserve is already fully allocated, therefore no reserve transfer is recommended.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

Important to note that municipal cash flows are being managed strategically, and reserving the funds to the Water and Wastewater reserves does not necessarily equal the restriction of cash into those reserves. Equity exists in the departments overall, but depending on the availability of cash flow overall will determine whether cash can be restricted for that use.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION

To approve the allocation of the 2025 year-end Water Department surplus of \$380,071 to the Water Reserve.

AND

To approve the allocation of the 2025 year-end Wastewater Department surplus of \$101,319 to the Wastewater Reserve.

AND

To approve the allocation of 2025 year-end Solid Waste surplus of \$35,957 to Unrestricted Surplus to assist with municipal cash flows.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: 2025 Year-end Budgetary Surplus Reconciliation
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Corporate Services
ITEM: 8.4

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

In accordance with the Town’s Policy FIN 008-26 – Year-end Reserve Allocations, Council is responsible for approving the allocation of operating surplus for tax purposes and unbudgeted revenues on an annual basis. The annual operating surplus for tax purposes is the excess of revenues over expenditures, including reserve transfers and debt payments. Unbudgeted revenues are new and/or one-time revenues for which no budget amount was included in the approved budget. Each year, after all revenues and expenditures have been recorded, Administration prepares an analysis of the year-end actual balance after adjustments for non-cash items, compared to the approved budget.

Reserve allocations shall follow FIN 007-24 – Reserve Policy. When determining what amount to reserve at year-end, Council must also take into account the excess cash flow available, otherwise it may not be feasible to cash fund the reserve transfer.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

Subdivision

Each year, the Subdivision Department incurs costs that are only recouped if there have been sales of lots in the Shantz Crossing subdivision. In 2025, there were no lot sales, causing the department to experience a deficit of \$197,686. Because taxes are not used to pay for these expenditures, when no lot sales occur the Town’s cash flow suffers.

Balance January 1, 2025	\$ 1,871,339
2025 increase	197,686
Balance, December 31, 2025	\$ 2,069,025
Future Loan Expenditures Remaining	74,498
Total Expected Loan Balance	\$ 2,143,523

Administration is recommending Council continue to fund the subdivision costs through its internal loan. The net proceeds from the sales of remaining lots 1, 2, 10, 11 and 12 will then go back towards the internal loan. The costs related to the subdivision have resulted reduced cash flow by approximately \$2.1M over the last several years.

Unbudgeted Revenues

Unbudgeted revenues are defined as revenues from new and/or one-time occurrences for which no budget amount was included in the corresponding years approved budget. These revenues form part of the budgetary surplus.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

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In 2025, unbudgeted revenue included \$12,775 related to supplementary tax revenue; \$3,654 related to Alberta Health Services funding for the Fire Department to participate in medical related training; sale of surplus equipment of \$4,680; and, FCSS program revenues of \$14,938 to offset certain costs related to FCSS programming.

Year-end Surplus

The year-end budgetary surplus is a comparison of the annual budget approved by Council, plus any changes approved through motion of Council, compared to the actual revenues and expenses that were experienced in the year. This analysis does not include the utility department, subdivision or DOSCA revenues and expenses as those departments are expected to break even during the year. However the overall deficit experienced by DOSCA and Subdivision departments are included as they directly impact cash flows.

	Budget	Actual	Budgetary (Surplus) Deficit for Tax Purposes	
Taxation Revenue	5,445,950	5,458,725	(12,775)	surplus
Interest Income, Franchise Fees and Penalties	1,103,000	1,142,768	(39,768)	surplus
User fees	1,240,532	1,232,045	8,487	deficit
Permit fees	155,500	140,122	15,378	deficit
Fines	25,000	69,463	(44,463)	surplus
All other revenues	1,606,428	1,626,002	(19,574)	surplus
Wages and benefits	(4,149,416)	(4,037,485)	(111,931)	surplus
Municipal Policing Contract costs	(701,873)	(479,526)	(222,347)	surplus
Utilities	(828,880)	(697,720)	(131,160)	surplus
All other expenses	(3,896,241)	(3,830,093)	(66,148)	surplus
	-	624,301	(624,301)	surplus
LESS SUBDIVISION			197,686	deficit
LESS DOSCA			42,487	deficit
			(384,128)	

While the Town achieved a budgetary surplus of \$384,128, it also requires a certain level of cash flow to meet its obligations. Getting to a level of at least 2 months of expenditures is an important goal. This would ensure the Town does not need to borrow for short-term operations during low-revenue months, in the months leading up to the tax rate bylaw being approved.

Even so, it is still recommended that the proceeds from disposal of assets be reserved. In the 2025 year, a surplus lawn mower was sold for net proceeds of \$4,680. It is recommended that these proceeds be returned to the O&M Vehicle and Equipment Reserve.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

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In addition Council may decide to commit funds to the Council Community Grant program in accordance with Policy CS 003-24, up to a maximum of \$30,000. The fund currently holds \$5,130, therefore \$24,870 is required to top out the available funds for 2026.

Net Proceeds from Sale of Property

Not included in the analysis above are the funds from sale of property located at 2101/2109 19 Avenue with net proceeds of \$272,937 and the sale of 2128 21 Avenue with net proceeds of \$119,598. It is recommended the net proceeds from these sales also remain in unrestricted surplus.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION (two motions)

To approve funding the 2025 subdivision deficit of \$197,686 to internal borrowings due from Subdivision, the balance of which is to be repaid from future land sales of Shantz lots 1, 2, 10, 11 and 12.

AND

To approve the allocation of the 2025 year-end surplus as follows:

1. \$4,680 from the proceeds of sale of equipment to the O&M Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Reserve;
2. \$24,870 from the overall surplus to the Council Community Grants Reserve;
3. The remaining surplus and proceeds from sale of property in 2025 to Unrestricted Surplus to assist with municipal cash flows.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Joint Use and Planning Agreement – Town of Didsbury & CESD
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Community Services
ITEM: 8.5

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* requires Joint Use and Planning Agreements (JUPAs) between Alberta municipalities and schools boards to “enable the integrated and long-term planning and use of school sites on municipal reserve (MR), school reserve (SR) and municipal and school reserve (MSR) land.” MGA: s670.1, s.672, s673

Initially, JUPAs were required to be in effect on June 10, 2023, however after multiple extensions by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the final deadline is now **June 10, 2026**.

A JUPA Fact Sheet from the Province of Alberta is **attached** for Council’s information.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The **attached** proposed JUPA is the standard agreement that has been entered into with most schools located with the Chinook’s Edge School Division (CESD) boundary and meets all requirements under the MGA.

Key areas addressed within the proposed JUPA include:

- Process for planning for future schools within Didsbury
- Process for transfer of lands related to school sites, both future and past
- Process for joint facility use of both school and municipal amenities
- Dispute resolution process

It is expected that JUPAs be reviewed every 10 years for updates, or as required by the municipality and school division.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION

To enter into the Joint Use and Planning Agreement with Chinook’s Edge School Division as presented.

Implementation Fact Sheet

Municipal Government Act (MGA)

Joint Use and Planning Agreements

Relevant Legislation

MGA: s.670.1, s.672, s.673
Education Act: s.53.1

MGA requirements

Joint use and planning agreements (JUPAs) are a formal partnership between a municipality and a school board to enable the integrated and long-term planning and use of school sites on municipal reserve (MR), school reserve (SR) and municipal and school reserve (MSR) land. More than one municipality or school board may be a party to a JUPA.

On June 10, 2020 the MGA was amended to require municipalities to enter into JUPAs with school boards. These agreements must be in place by June 10, 2023.

What do municipalities need to know?

Municipalities are required to enter into JUPAs with school boards operating within their municipal boundaries. This requirement also applies to any other school board that may commence operations in the future. s.670.1(1),(2)

A JUPA must establish a process for discussing:

- the planning, development and use of school sites on MR, SR and MSR land in the municipality;
- the transferring of MR, SR and MSR land between a municipality and a school board (s.672, s.673 of the MGA);
- the disposal of school sites;
- the servicing of school sites on MR, SR and MSR land; and
- the use of school facilities, municipal facilities and playing fields on MR, SR and MSR land,

including the maintenance of facilities and fields and the payment of fees and other liabilities associated with them. s.670.1(3)(a)(i)-(v)

A JUPA must also:

- outline how a municipality and school board will work collaboratively;
- establish a dispute resolution procedure; and
- establish a timeframe for regular review of the agreement. s.670.1(b)-(d)

Municipalities and school boards who have existing Joint Use Agreements in place should review their agreements to ensure that they meet the JUPA requirements set out in the MGA.

JUPAs will be reported on as part of the municipal Statistical Information Return.

The Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Education have the authority to extend the three-year timeline requirement for entering into a JUPA.

What resources are available to assist?

To learn more about the MGA or *Education Act* visit: Alberta Queen's Printer at: <https://www.qp.alberta.ca/>

Questions:

Phone: 780-427-2225
Toll-free in Alberta: 310-0000
Email: lqsmail@gov.ab.ca

To learn more about the MGA or *Education Act* visit: Alberta Queen's Printers at: <https://www.qp.alberta.ca/>

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JOINT USE AND PLANNING AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made this _____ day of _____, 2026

BETWEEN:

TOWN OF DIDSBURY

AND

THE CHINOOK’S EDGE SCHOOL DIVISION

WHEREAS:

The *Municipal Government Act* and the *Education Act* require a municipality and any school board operating within the boundaries of the municipality to enter into and maintain a joint use and planning agreement; and

It is the responsibility of the municipality to plan, develop, operate and maintain park and recreational land and facilities within the boundaries of the municipality for recreational purposes and to organize and administer public recreational programs; and

It is the responsibility of the school board to develop and deliver educational programs and to provide the necessary facilities and sites for these programs; and

The joint use of municipal facilities and school board facilities is an important tool in providing educational, cultural and recreational opportunities for residents in a manner that reduces or eliminates the need to duplicate facilities thereby making the most effective use of the limited economic resources of the municipality and school board; and

This agreement replaces any previous agreements between the parties; and

The *Municipal Government Act* allows the municipality to obtain municipal reserve (MR), school reserve (SR) or municipal and school reserve (MSR) as lands within the municipality are subdivided to meet the open space and site needs of the municipality and school board; and

The *Municipal Government Act* and the *Education Act* require that a joint use and planning agreement address matters relating to the acquisition, servicing, development, use, transfer and disposal of municipal reserve, school reserve and municipal and school reserve lands;

NOW THEREFORE IN CONSIDERATION of their mutual commitment to the joint use of facilities and planning of municipal reserve, school reserve and municipal and school reserve lands the parties agree as follows:

1) DEFINITIONS

In this Agreement, the following terms shall be interpreted as having the following meanings:

- a) "Agreement" means this Agreement, as amended from time to time, and any Schedules which are attached hereto and which also may be amended from time to time.
- b) "Arbitration Act" means the *Arbitration Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter A-43, and any regulations made thereunder, as amended from time to time.
- c) "Area Structure Plan" means an area structure plan adopted pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act* and providing direction for land uses for a defined area within the Municipality.
- d) "Board" means the Public Board.
- e) "Calendar Day" means any one of the seven (7) days in a week.
- f) "CAO" means the Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipality.
- g) "Community Use" means use by members of the general public and not a User Group.
- h) "Council" means the municipal council of the Town of Didsbury
- i) "Education Act" means the *Education Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2012, Chapter E-0.3, and any regulations made thereunder, as amended from time to time.
- j) "Effective Date" means _____ (insert date).
- k) "Facility Plans" means the capital plan and facility plan prepared the Board for approval by the Alberta Government.
- l) "Facility Scheduling Coordinator" means for the Municipality the individual or individuals responsible for coordinating the booking of Joint Use Space provided by the Municipality and for the Board the individual or individuals responsible for coordinating the booking of Joint Use Space provided by the Board.
- m) "Governing Committee" means the committee which includes elected officials as established under this Agreement.

- n) "Hazardous Substance(s)" means the same as hazardous substance defined in the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter E-12, and any regulations thereunder, as amended.
- o) "Joint Use Space" means those portions of a Municipal Facility or School identified in Schedules "A" and "B" as being available for booking by the Parties or User Groups or for Community Use.
- p) "Municipality" means the municipal corporation of the Town of Didsbury, its predecessor, or, where the context so requires, the area contained within the boundaries of the Municipality.
- q) "Municipal Development Plan" means a municipal development plan adopted pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act* and providing direction for future land uses within the Municipality.
- r) "Municipal Facility" means a park, playground, playing field, building or part of a building owned, maintained and operated by the Municipality and includes those facilities identified in Schedule "A".
- s) "Municipal Government Act" means the *Municipal Government Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26, and any regulations made thereunder, as amended from time to time.
- t) "Operating Committee" means the committee which is comprised of the CAO and Superintendent as established under this Agreement.
- u) "Parties" means the entities signing this Agreement collectively and Party shall mean one (1) of the signatories.
- v) "Public Board" means The Chinook's Edge School Division and any successor board or authority.
- w) "Reserve Land" means municipal reserve, school reserve, or municipal and school reserve, as defined in the *Municipal Government Act*.
- x) "School" means a building which is designed to accommodate students for instructional or educational purposes that is owned or controlled by a Board and includes those facilities identified in Schedules "B".
- y) "School Portion" means the portion of Reserve Land identified for transfer to a Board that includes the school building footprint, any parking, loading or drop off facilities, any landscaped yards around the building, land for a playground equipment site, and land needed for future expansion of the school building based on the ultimate design capacity of the school.
- z) "Superintendent" means the chief executive officer the Board.
- aa) "User Group" means any School or community group that fits within the eligibility criteria set out in the Operating Guidelines and books the use of Joint Use Space during Joint Use Hours.

bb) Written Notice means the formal receipt of papers that provide specific information by an individual or organization. Such information may be mailed, emailed, or sent un some other form of electronic transmission, I.e. facsimile.

2) SCHEDULES

The following is the list of Schedules to this Agreement:

Schedule “A” – Municipal Facilities available for Joint Use

Schedule “B” – School Board Facilities available for Joint Use

Schedule “C” – Joint Use Times

Schedule “D” – Operating Guidelines

Schedule “E” – School Site Planning Guidelines

Schedule “F” – Dispute Resolution Process

3) TERM, REVIEW AND AMENDMENT OF AGREEMENT

- a) This Agreement shall be in force and effect as of the Effective Date and shall continue to be in effect until such time as it is terminated by the Parties.
- b) The terms and conditions of this agreement shall be reviewed every five (5) years with the first such review scheduled in 2027. The review shall be undertaken by the Operating and Governance Committees. Following the review, the Governance Committee shall recommend how the agreement should be amended.
- c) Except as provided otherwise herein, this Agreement shall not be modified, varied or amended except by the written agreement of all of the Parties.

4) WITHDRAWAL AND TERMINATION

- a) No party to this Agreement shall unilaterally withdraw or terminate this Agreement.
- b) Where one or more Parties view this Agreement as no longer meeting their interests, they shall give all Parties written notice of their request to review and/or amend all or parts of this Agreement.

- c) If written notice requesting a review is received, all Parties shall commence a review of this Agreement within 30 calendar days of the date the last Party received the written notice and shall seek consensus on the updates and amendments.
- d) Until such time as an amended agreement or replacement agreement has been created and agreed upon by all Parties, the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall remain in effect.

5) PRINCIPLES

The Parties agree that in entering into this Agreement they are committing to the following Principles with respect to the joint use of municipal and school board facilities:

Respect for Autonomy - Each of the Parties is an independent, autonomous entity and has the right to determine which of their facilities shall be made available as Joint Use Space based on what the Board and Municipal Council believe to be in the best interests of the people they serve.

Cooperation and Partnership - The Parties shall work together as partners, recognizing that the needs of the public for educational, cultural and recreational opportunities can best be achieved through a combination of their respective resources and by the Parties working in conjunction with each other.

Efficiency and Effectiveness - The joint use of Municipal Facilities and Schools is an important tool in providing a high standard of educational, cultural and recreational opportunities for residents in a manner that reduces or eliminates the need to duplicate facilities thereby saving costs and making the most effective use of the limited economic resources of the Parties.

Fairness and Equity - The costs of providing joint use space are to be borne fairly and equitably by the Parties with the intent of keeping costs charged to the other Parties or public users of Joint Use Space to a minimum.

Transparency and Openness - The Parties shall make available to each other such information as is necessary to make this agreement successful.

6) CONSULTATION WITH OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

- a) The Parties acknowledge that the Schools that are available as Joint Use Space may be accessed by community groups, residents and user groups that are located or reside outside the Municipality in accordance with a Joint Use and Planning Agreement with other municipalities.

- b) The Parties further acknowledge that the Schools that are currently located within the Municipality have been designed, built and funded for and by ratepayers within the Municipality's boundaries and ratepayers beyond the Municipality's boundaries.
- c) In lieu of a single agreement involving participation by all of the municipalities in which the Board operates, the Parties agree to consult and involve other municipalities that are served by the Board on an issue by issue basis as needed to share access to the Schools and to plan for and acquire future School sites. One or more separate agreements between the Parties and these other municipalities may be created as needed.
- d) When consultation with one or more municipalities is required, the consultations shall begin with a meeting, held in person or by electronic means, of the members of the Operating Committee and the equivalent or similar committee established between the Board and the other municipalities.

7) MEETING OF COUNCIL AND BOARD

- a) Council of the Municipality and the members of the Boards shall meet at least every four (4) years to discuss issues of mutual interest.
- b) Each meeting shall be chaired by the Mayor or the Chairperson of the Board on a rotational basis. Secretarial support shall be arranged for the meeting by the Party that is chairing that meeting.
- c) Any Party can submit an item to be included on the agenda for the meeting provided it is given to the Party chairing the meeting at least 5 calendar days prior to the date of the meeting. It is intended that the topics explore high level considerations to assist the Governing Committee in more detailed discussions.
- d) Minutes shall be kept for all meetings of Council and the Board. Copies of the minutes of a meeting shall be provided to all Parties within 14 calendar days of the date of the meeting.

8) GOVERNING COMMITTEE

- a) The Governing Committee shall consist of two (2) Council members and the CAO or their designate and two (2) Board members and the Superintendent or their designate from the Board. The Governing Committee shall meet on an "as needed" basis.

- b) The role of the Governing Committee shall be to provide recommendations to the Council and Board regarding:
 - i) Reviews of this Agreement and proposed amendments to this Agreement from time to time; and
 - ii) Resolution of any issues or matters of disagreement that arise.
- c) Quorum of the Governing Committee shall consist of at least two representatives from each Party attending each agreed upon meeting. The Governing Committee may adopt such rules of procedure as may be agreed upon by its members.
- d) The CAO and Superintendent may be accompanied by administration, staff and/or resource personnel as deemed necessary by the CAO or the Superintendent.
- e) Meetings of the Governing Committee shall be considered in-camera to encourage and facilitate frank and open discussion. All decisions of the Governance Committee shall require consensus of its members.

9) OPERATING COMMITTEE

- a) The Operating Committee shall consist of the CAO (or designate) of the Municipality and the Superintendent (or their designate) of the Board.
- b) The Operating Committee shall oversee the operation of this Agreement.
- c) The role of the Operating Committee shall be to:
 - i) formulate policy recommendations related to joint use of Municipal and School Facilities for consideration by Council and the Board;
 - ii) provide a forum to discuss issues of mutual interest related to joint use and formulate recommendations regarding amendments to this Agreement, including the Operating Guidelines, for consideration by Council and the Board;
 - iii) formulate and approve Operating Directives, based on the Operating Guidelines, for specific facilities and types of use as needed;
 - iv) review any approved Operating Directives on an annual basis;
 - v) provide a forum for the operational concerns of the Parties to be discussed;

- vi) consult with and provide a forum through which the public can express concerns or opinions with respect to the operation or use of Joint Use Space, the Operating Guidelines and Operating Directives;
 - vii) where possible, resolve or recommend solutions to resolve day to day operational concerns or difficulties related to the use of Joint Use Space by the Parties or the public;
 - viii) review the Facility Plans of the Board annually;
 - ix) review any proposed amendments or updates of the Municipality's Municipal Development Plan and Area Structure Plans and Concept Plans to ensure the proposed plans or amendments reflect the identified and projected needs of the Parties;
 - x) determine how available or proposed school sites are allocated based on the annual review of the updated Facility Plans of the Board;
 - xi) develop a draft agenda for any meeting of the Council and the Board or the Governing Committee; and
 - xii) undertake a formal review of this Agreement as and when required and communicate their findings of the review to the Governing Committee.
- d) The Operating Committee shall meet at least once a year and may meet more frequently if required. Meetings of the Operating Committee may be in person or conducted by telephone or video conferencing.
 - e) The meetings shall be chaired by the CAO or their designate. Secretarial support for each meeting shall be arranged by the CAO.
 - f) The Operating Committee shall adopt such rules of procedure as may be agreed upon by its members.
 - g) All decisions of the Operating Committee shall require the consensus of its members. In the event that the Operating Committee cannot reach a consensus on the issue, the matter shall be referred to the Governance Committee for resolution or direction as to how the matter should be resolved.
 - h) Minutes shall be kept for all meetings of the Operating Committee. Copies of the minutes of the meetings shall be provided to all Parties.
 - i) Members of the Operating Committee may bring to the meetings of the Operating Committee additional staff from the Municipality and/or the Board or resource personnel, as necessary, to

provide assistance to the members of the Operating Committee in the carrying out of their responsibilities under this Agreement.

- j) The Operating Committee may delegate any of its responsibilities to a subcommittee or subcommittees.

10) JOINT USE SPACE

- a) The Municipality shall make available, to the Board, those Municipal Facilities identified as Joint Use Space in Schedule "A". The Municipality shall not charge fees for the use of Joint Use Space except as allowed by the Operating Guidelines and any applicable Operating Directive(s).
- b) The Board shall make available, to the Municipality and community groups, those portions of Schools identified as Joint Use Space in Schedules "B" respectively. The Board shall not charge fees for the use of Joint Use Space except as allowed by the Operating Guidelines and any applicable Operating Directive(s).
- c) The Parties shall not allow Joint Use Space to be used by groups or individuals during the Joint Use Hours identified in Schedule "C" unless such use respects the Operating Guidelines, and any applicable Operating Directive(s), in effect from time to time.
- d) The CAO may, upon six (6) months written notice to the Board, amend Schedule "A" to either add to or remove from the list of Joint Use Space provided by the Municipality, all or any portion of a Municipal Facility.
- e) The Superintendent of the Board may, upon six (6) months written notice to the Municipality, add to or remove from the list of Joint Use Space provided by the Board, all or any portion of one or more of their Schools.
- f) Notice of the removal of all or any portion of a Joint Use Space from the list of Joint Use Space available shall include a written explanation as to why the specific Joint Use Space will no longer be available for use. The Parties agree that the written explanation shall be shared with the public.
- g) Notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement or its Schedules, the Principal of a School or the respective manager of a Municipal Facility, shall be able to determine if a particular use will be allowed to occur in their School or Facility.

- h) Appeals from a refusal by a Principal or manager of a Municipal Facility to allow a particular use within their School or Municipal Facility shall be made:
 - i) in the case of a School, first to the Principal's Superintendent and thereafter to the Board; and
 - ii) in the case of a Municipal Facility, first to the CAO and thereafter to Council.
- i) Notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement, the Municipality and/or the Board may remove from the list of Joint Use Space any facility or portion of a facility, either on a permanent or temporary basis, if the facility or portion of a facility is needed by the Party to meet its responsibilities or to provide services or programs to its constituents.

11) OPERATING GUIDELINES FOR JOINT USE SPACE

The Parties hereby agree to be bound by and comply with the Operating Guidelines which are attached to this Agreement as Schedule "D".

12) ACQUISITION AND ALLOCATION OF FUTURE SCHOOL SITES

- a) The Board shall communicate their need to construct a new school that is to be located within the Municipality or intended to serve residents of the Municipality, to the Municipality as early as possible.
- b) The decision of where and when to propose construction of a new school and the identification of the area to be served by that school shall be at the sole discretion of the respective Board.
- c) Where construction of a school that will serve two or more Municipalities is proposed, the Board shall notify all of the involved Municipalities to enable early consultation on the availability and acquisition of a site.
- d) The Municipality shall, to the best of their ability given the constraints of the *Municipal Government Act*, the evolving nature of information as to the needs of the Parties, and the demographics of the community, plan for a sufficient number of school sites to meet the anticipated needs of the Board.
- e) The Municipality shall use their Municipal Development Plan to identify the number, general size and location of existing and future school sites.

- f) In determining the number, location and size of school sites to be identified, the Municipality shall follow the School Site Planning Guidelines outlined in Schedule "G". The number of school sites to be identified shall be based on the existing and projected future number of students that will reside in the area covered by the Municipal Development Plan, Area Structure Plan or Concept Plan once the area is fully developed and based on the best information available at the time that the Plan is prepared or amended.
- g) There shall be no pre-allocation of School sites to the Board nor shall School sites be identified as available to only one Board (if multiple Boards operate within the Municipality) in the Municipal Development Plan, Area Structure Plan or Concept Plan.
- h) Allocation of an available school site shall be made by the Operating Committee once the need to construct a new school has been identified. If construction on an allocated site has not commenced within three (3) years of the site being allocated to a Board.
- i) If there are competing claims between two (2) or more Boards for one available school site, the Boards shall, at their own cost, resolve the question of site allocation between themselves.
- j) The Municipality shall use its ability under the *Municipal Government Act* to require Reserve Land to be dedicated as lands within the Municipality are subdivided to provide School sites in accordance with the Municipal Development Plan or Area Structure Plan or Concept Plan. The Municipality shall not be obligated to acquire lands for School sites using any other resources at the Municipality's disposal. The decision to commit the use other resources at its disposal to acquire a School site shall be at the sole discretion of the Municipality.
- k) The Board acknowledge that Reserve Land dedication at the time of subdivision is also used to address the open space needs of the Municipality and the amount of land or money-in-lieu of land dedication shall be divided between the need for School sites and the open space plans of the Municipality.
- l) The Municipality may collect money-in-lieu of land dedication at time of subdivision in accordance with the policies of the Municipality. All money-in-lieu of land dedication shall be paid to the Municipality. All money-in-lieu of land dedication shall be allocated as allowed under the *Municipal Government Act* at the sole discretion of the Municipality.
- m) In the event that a School site is required prior to a planned site being created through the subdivision process, the Municipality shall approach the owner of the land containing the planned School site about providing the site earlier than originally expected through a pre-dedication process. The Board may assist the Municipality; however, in all dealings with the owner(s) of the land, the Municipality shall be present and lead the discussions.

13) SERVICING AND DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL SITES

- a) All School sites shall be serviced to the property line prior to transfer to a Board.
- b) The services to be provided include, but are not limited to: water, wastewater, storm drainage, power, natural gas, telecommunications, roads and sidewalks.
- c) Where one or more services are not available at the property line of the School site, the Municipality shall provide the services subject to the legal and financial ability of the Municipality to do so.
- d) Offsite levies or any similar charges for municipal infrastructure shall not be charged against development on any School site. This restriction does not apply to capital costs that may be included in a utility rate structure for use of the utility.

14) FACILITY AND SITE SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS

- a) When two or more of the Parties decide to create a shared site and/or facility, a separate agreement shall be prepared specific to that site and/or facility.
- b) The agreement shall address:
 - i) The broad purpose and parameters of the partnership that is being created;
 - ii) The nature of the site and/or facilities that are involved;
 - iii) The financial or in kind contributions to be made by each of the Parties;
 - iv) Operating Guidelines and Operating Directives specific to the site and/or facility for ongoing operations;
 - v) Capital cost and operating cost sharing arrangements and responsibilities between the Parties; and
 - vi) A process for dissolving the partnership, disposing of the site or retiring the facility.

15) TRANSFER OF SCHOOL SITE

- a) All Reserve Land intended to accommodate a School shall initially be dedicated as municipal reserve and be owned by the Municipality.

- b) The Municipality shall only transfer the School Portion of Reserve Lands intended to accommodate a School to a Board.
- c) The School Portion shall be transferred to a Board once:
 - i) The Board has an identified need for the School site;
 - ii) The Board has approval of the funding for the design of the School on the site;
 - iii) The Board has applied for a development permit for the School and has submitted a site plan and building plans to the Municipality; and
 - iv) The School Portion has been or is in the process of being subdivided from the other Reserve Land for registration as school reserve with Land Titles.
- d) All costs associated with the transfer of the School Portion to a Board shall be paid by the Municipality. This shall include the costs of any required subdivision and registration of required plans and documents at Land Titles.

16) DISPOSAL OF UNNEEDED SCHOOL SITES

- a) In the event that Reserve Land is not needed by the Board, the Board shall first offer to transfer the Reserve Land back to the Municipality unless the Board is prohibited from so doing by the Education Act or other legislation.
- b) The Municipality shall have one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days from the Board notifying the Municipality in writing of its intention to cease use of the Reserve Land to confirm whether it agrees to take back the Reserve Lands. The School Board shall provide to the Municipality all available information regarding the Reserve Land and facilities on the Reserve Land, including any potential presence and nature of any Hazardous Substances, at the time that the offer to the Municipality is made. The Municipality shall have the right to enter the Reserve Land and any facilities on the Reserve Land for the purposes of carrying out any required assessments, tests and studies.
- c) If the Municipality opts to acquire the Reserve Land, and there are no Board owned facilities on it, the Municipality shall take the Reserve Land as is, where is. The Reserve Land shall be transferred to the Municipality at no cost to the Municipality except for the cost of registering the transfer of land document.
- d) If the Municipality opts to acquire the Reserve Land, and the land has Board facilities on it, the Municipality shall take the Reserve Land as is, where is, including all buildings and improvements on the Reserve Land, at a cost that is agreed upon between the Municipality and the Board.

e) In the event that the Municipality elects not to assume ownership or the Board is prohibited from transferring the Reserve Land by the Education Act or other legislation, the Parties agree to meet and discuss alternative means of disposing of the site. This may include:

- i) Redevelopment of the entire site for a different use that is compatible with existing and future uses on lands near the site, including any environmental remediation that may be required, or
- ii) Subdividing the play fields or open space portion of the site from the School Portion to enable the Municipality to acquire the non-School Portion and the Board to sell the School Portion.

17) DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- a) Operational issues shall be addressed initially by administrative staff of the respective facilities. In the event that the administrative staff is unable to resolve an operational issue then such issue shall be brought forward to the Operating Committee in a timely manner. The decision of the Operating Committee regarding operational issues shall be final and binding.
- b) The Parties agree to follow the Dispute Resolution Process outlined in Schedule "F" for non-operational disputes.

18) APPLICABLE LAWS

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the Province of Alberta.

19) INTERPRETATION

- a) Words expressed in the singular shall, where the context requires, be construed in the plural, and vice versa.
- b) The insertion of headings and sub-headings is for convenience of reference only and shall not be construed so as to affect the interpretation or construction of this Agreement.

20) TIME OF THE ESSENCE

Time is to be considered of the essence of this Agreement and therefore, whenever in this Agreement either the Municipality or the Board is required to do something by a particular date, the time for the doing of the particular thing shall only be amended by written agreement of the Municipality and the Board.

21) NON-WAIVER

The waiver of any covenants, condition or provision hereof must be in writing. The failure of any Party, at any time, to require strict performance by the other Party of any covenant, condition or provision hereof shall in no way affect such Party's right thereafter to enforce such covenant, condition or provision, nor shall the waiver by any Party of any breach of any covenant, condition or provision hereof be taken or held to be a waiver of any subsequent breach of the same or any covenant, condition or provision.

22) NON-STATUTORY WAIVER

The Municipality in entering into this Agreement is doing so in its capacity as a municipal corporation and not in its capacity as a regulatory, statutory or approving body pursuant to any law of the Province of Alberta and nothing in this Agreement shall constitute the granting by the Municipality of any approval or permit as may be required pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act* and any other Act in force in the Province of Alberta. The Municipality, as far as it can legally do so, shall only be bound to comply with and carry out the terms and conditions stated in this Agreement, and nothing in this Agreement restricts the Municipality, its Council, its officers, servants or agents in the full exercise of any and all powers and duties vested in them in their respective capacities as a municipal government, as a municipal council and as the officers, servants and agents of a municipal government.

The Board in entering into this Agreement is doing so in its capacity as a school board and not in its capacity as a regulatory, statutory or approving body pursuant to any law of the Province of Alberta and nothing in this Agreement shall constitute the granting by the Board of any approval or permit as may be required pursuant to the *Education Act* and any other Act in force in the Province of Alberta. The Board, as far as it can legally do so, shall only be bound to comply with and carry out the terms and conditions stated in this Agreement, and nothing in this Agreement restricts the Board, its Board of Trustees, its officers, servants or agents in the full exercise of any and all powers and duties vested in them in their respective capacities as a school board and as the officers, servants and agents of a school board.

23) SEVERABILITY

If any of the terms and conditions as contained in this Agreement are at any time during the continuance of this Agreement held by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable in the manner contemplated herein, then such terms and conditions shall be severed from the rest of the said terms and conditions, and such severance shall not affect the enforceability of the remaining terms and conditions in accordance with the intent of these presents.

24) FORCE MAJEURE

- a) Force majeure shall mean any event causing a *bona fide* delay in the performance of any obligations under this Agreement (other than as a result of financial incapacity) and not caused by an act, or omission, of either party, or a person not at arm's length with such party, resulting from:
 - i) an inability to obtain materials, goods, equipment, services, utilities or labour;
 - ii) any statute, law, bylaw, regulation, order in Council, or order of any competent authority other than one of the parties;
 - iii) an inability to procure any license, permit, permission, or authority necessary for the performance of such obligations, after every reasonable effort has been made to do so;
 - iv) a strike, lockout, slowdown, or other combined action of works;
 - v) an act of god.
- b) No Party shall be liable to the other Parties for any failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement if such failure arises due to force majeure.

25) INSURANCE

In addition to any other form of insurance, as the Parties may reasonably require against risks, which a prudent owner under similar circumstances and risk would insure, the Parties shall at all times carry and continue to carry comprehensive general liability insurance in the amount of not less than FIVE MILLION (\$5,000,000) DOLLARS per occurrence in respect to bodily injury, personal injury or

death, and when applicable, course of construction insurance in an amount to be determined based on the value of the anticipated construction project, as would be placed by a prudent contractor. The comprehensive general liability insurance shall have an endorsement for occurrence property damage, contingent employer's liability and broad form property damage. The insurance to be maintained by each Party herein shall list each of the other Parties as an additional named insured. The amount and type of insurance to be carried by the Parties pursuant to clause may be varied from time to time by written agreement of the Parties. The insurance carried by the Parties pursuant to this clause shall contain, where appropriate, a severability of interests' clause or a cross liability clause.

26) INDEMNIFICATION

Each Party (the "Indemnifying Party") to this Agreement shall indemnify and hold harmless the other Parties (the "Non-Indemnifying Parties"), their employees, servants, volunteers, and agents from any and all claims, actions and costs whatsoever that may arise directly or indirectly out of any act of omission of the Indemnifying Party, its employees, servants, volunteers or agents in the performance and implementation of this Agreement, except for claims arising out of the sole negligence of one or more of the Non-Indemnifying Parties, its employees, servants, volunteers or agents.

27) NON-ASSIGNMENT OR TRANSFER

No Party may assign, pledge, mortgage or otherwise encumber its interest under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other Parties hereto, which consent may be arbitrarily withheld. Any assignment, pledge or encumbrance contrary to the provisions hereof is void.

28) SUCCESSORS

The terms and conditions contained in this Agreement shall extend to and be binding upon the respective heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns of the Municipality and the Board.

29) NOTICES

All and any required written notices in the performance and implementation of this Agreement shall be directed to the CAO and the Superintendent using the mailing address for their respective offices as shown below:

The Chinook’s Edge School Division
4904 50 Street
Innisfail, AB T4G1W4

The Town of Didsbury
Box 790
Didsbury, AB T0M 0W0

Email notification to the CAO or Superintendent may also be used to provide written notices required or described in this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties execute this Agreement by the hands of their respective, duly authorized signatories:

TOWN OF DIDSBURY

PER: _____

PER: _____

THE CHINOOK’S EDGE SCHOOL DIVISION

PER: _____

PER: _____

Schedule "A" – Municipal Facilities Available for Joint Use

Name of Facility	Legal Description of Parcel(s) Containing Facility	Description of Facility and Amenities
Didsbury Memorial Complex	1702 21 Avenue, Plan 9310170; Lot 1 in the Town of Didsbury	Didsbury Aquatic Centre – pool, waterslide, hot tub, steam room Didsbury Arena – regulation ice surface plus leisure ice surface Didsbury Curling Rink – four sheets of curling ice
Didsbury Jets Ball Diamond	1702 21 Avenue, Plan 9310170; Lot 2 in the Town of Didsbury	Ball diamond
Didsbury Memorial Park	Off 16 Avenue & Highway 582 Plan 0210674; Block 1, Lot 4 in the Town of Didsbury	Three ball diamonds, walking path

Schedule “B” – School Board Facilities Available for Joint Use

Name of School	Legal Description of Parcel(s) Containing School	Description of Facility and Amenities
Ross Ford Elementary School	Plan 1414HU Blk A in the Town of Didsbury	Gym, playground and field
Westglen School	Plan 2835FS Parcel G, Plan 3779 JK Portion of lot "R", NE 5-2-31-131SR in the Town of Didsbury	Gym, playground and field
Didsbury High School	Plan 0412360 Block 1 lot 2MSR, Plan 0412360 Block1, Lot 1, SE 5-2-31-24 in the Town of Didsbury	Gym, playground and field

Unless specifically noted otherwise, Joint Use Space shall only include gymnasiums. regular classrooms, library space, music rooms, drama rooms, technology rooms and other specialized classrooms shall not be included as Joint Use Space unless listed in the table above, unless agreed upon by the Parties on a case-by-case basis.

Schedule “C” – Joint Use Times

Facility Type	Available Times
Ross Ford Elementary School	Monday through Friday between 17:30 and 21:00 and Saturdays and Sundays between 08:00 and 17:00
Westglen School	Monday through Friday between 17:30 and 21:00 and Saturdays and Sundays between 08:00 and 17:00
Didsbury High School	Monday through Friday between 17:30 and 21:00 and Saturdays and Sundays between 08:00 and 17:00
Didsbury Memorial Complex	Monday through Friday between 08:30 and 15:30, on days that classes are in session
Jets Ball Diamond	Monday through Friday between 08:30 and 15:30, on days that classes are in session
Memorial Park Ball Diamonds	Monday through Friday between 08:30 and 15:30, on days that classes are in session

School Buildings shall not be available on Statutory Holidays, School breaks (including the months of July and August), District closures and annual maintenance shutdowns. Board use of Municipal Facilities is limited to Monday through Friday between September and June inclusively.

Community use of School Facilities outside of Joint Use Hours may be considered through special request.

School use of Municipal Facilities during July and August for Summer School Sessions shall be considered based upon the availability of the facility.

From time to time it is understood the Schools will be unavailable due to them becoming polling stations for provincial or federal elections.

Schedule “D” – Operating Guidelines for Joint Use Space

User Group Eligibility

To be eligible to use a Joint Use Space in a School, a user group must:

- Provide a current membership roster to the Facility Scheduling Coordinator
- Satisfy the Facility Scheduling Coordinator that at least seventy-five (75) percent of the members of the group or participants are residents of the Municipality or another Municipality served by the School Board that owns the facility to be booked
- Engage in activities that are recreational, cultural or educational in nature
- If it is a political group, be a locally based affiliate of a registered provincial or federal party or be for the purpose of local government
- Be non-profit
- Undertake, in writing, to have their members and participants uphold the rules and regulations of these Operating Guidelines

To be eligible to use a Municipal Facility that is a Joint Use Space, a User Group must be affiliated with a school or a program or event offered by a school that is located within the geographic boundary of the Municipality and their Board must be party to this agreement.

A User Group may be barred from using Joint Use Space if:

- The group has failed to pay fees related to the group’s prior use of any Joint Use Space
- The group has failed to provide the required insurance
- The group has failed to pay for damages which occurred as a result of the group’s prior use of any Joint Use Space
- The past conduct of the group, or members of the group or invited participants, during the use of Joint Use Space was, in the opinion of the Principal, Facility Manager, or Facility Scheduling Coordinator inappropriate, or not in keeping with the rules and regulations of the Joint Use Space that was booked, or, if repeated, would be likely to cause damage to the Joint Use Space

In the case of a School, any user group that is barred from the use of Joint Use Space may appeal the decision first to the Principal’s Superintendent and thereafter to the appropriate Board. In the case of a Municipal Facility, a barred User Group may appeal first to the CAO and thereafter to Council.

Insurance Coverage

In addition to any other form of insurance a User Group may reasonably require for risks against which a prudent user under similar circumstances and risk would insure, a User Group shall be required to carry General Liability Insurance naming the Municipality and the Board in whose building or on whose land they are conducting their activities as additional insureds.

The minimum insurance requirement shall be \$2 Million.

Booking Joint Use Space

Booking the use of Joint Use Space within Schools by User Groups shall be made through the Facility Scheduling Coordinator for the School.

Booking School use of Municipal Facilities identified as Joint Use Space shall be made through the Municipality's Facility Scheduling Coordinator.

Cancellation of Bookings

A booking for use of Joint Use Space within a School may be cancelled at any time by the School principal. The principal shall provide as much notice as reasonably possible to the Facility Scheduling Coordinator of the cancellation. The Facility Scheduling Coordinator shall notify the scheduled User Group.

A User Group may cancel their booking for the use of Joint Use Space within a School at any time with notice to the Facility Scheduling Coordinator of the respective Board.

A booking for use of Joint Use Space within Municipal Facilities may be cancelled at any time by the Facility Scheduling Coordinator. The Facility Scheduling Coordinator shall provide as much notice as reasonably possible to the scheduled User Group.

A User Group may cancel their booking for the use of Joint Use Space within Municipal Facilities at any time with notice to the Facility Scheduling Coordinator.

If the scheduled use required specially trained or technical staff to be available, the User Group may still be charged for such services if the cancellation is made by the User Group less than seventy-two (72) hours before the scheduled booking.

Fees for Joint Use Space

Fees charged to any Party to this Agreement or to any User Group for the use of Joint Use Space within Joint Use Hours shall be limited to:

- The use of specialized equipment
- Wear and tear on the facility and/or equipment
- The provision of specially trained or technical staff (e.g. swimming lesson instructors, lifeguards, theatre technicians,
- Computer lab technicians necessary for the use of the Joint Use Space
- Any additional janitorial or custodial services related to the use of the Joint Use Space
- The provision of supervisory staff or hosts related to the use of the Joint Use Space

A fee schedule will be updated annually by the Board for the use of space within schools.

Equipment

The right to use Joint Use Space includes the right to, within a gymnasium space, make use of badminton and volleyball posts and basketball hoops. The right to use Joint Use Space does not include the right to use score clocks or other specialized equipment. Any and all equipment required by a User Group must be requested at the time of booking.

Custodial Responsibility and Building/Facility Maintenance Responsibility

The respective School Board shall be responsible for custodial and janitorial services and building/facility maintenance for any Joint Use Space owned by that Board.

The Municipality shall be responsible for custodial and janitorial services and building/facility maintenance for any Joint Use Space owned by the Municipality.

Damages to Joint Use Space

For Joint Use Space in a School, the Municipality shall be responsible for the recovery of costs to repair damage that occurred in Joint Use Space during the use of that space by a User Group that is not affiliated with the respective Board that owns the facility that was damaged.

For Joint Use Space in a Municipal Facility, each Board shall be responsible for damage occurring in Joint Use Space during the use of that space by their respective Schools.

Playing Fields and Playgrounds

For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

“Playfield or Playing Field” means a designated outdoor playing area designed for various sports and includes rectangular turf fields and ball diamonds.

“Playfield Maintenance” means the regular mowing, fertilizing and lining of playfields.

“Playground” means an area designed for outdoor play or recreation, especially by children, and often containing recreational equipment such as slides and swings.

“Refurbishment” means to aerate, top dress and over seed taking the playfield off line for a 12 month period.

“Re-development” means the stripping and grading of the playfield to reshape the grade and/or the complete replacement of the top soil, finished surface (seed/sod/shale) and the replacing of goal posts or back fields. Redevelopment would anticipate the closure of the playfield for up to two years.

Maintenance of playing fields on Municipal lands shall be the responsibility of the Municipality and maintenance of playing fields on School lands shall be the responsibility of the respective Board. The Parties agree to ensure that field markings are in place at the commencement of the spring/summer season. The Board will not be responsible for field markings that are not required for the School to perform its function. Additional field markings will not be provided by the School.

Each Party shall perform regular assessments on playfield conditions to determine short term and long term maintenance, or as appropriate, refurbishment required for each playfield. The Parties shall advise each other of any major refurbishment or redevelopment of playfields.

Each Party shall be responsible for the development of playing fields, including the construction of soccer pitches and softball or baseball diamonds, located on their respective lands.

Upgrades to playing fields located on Municipal lands that are desired or required by a Board shall be the responsibility of the Board. All costs of such upgrades shall be paid by the Board requiring the upgrade. If a playing field has been upgraded by a Board, the responsibility for maintaining that playing field shall pass to the Board and all costs of maintaining the upgraded playing field shall be paid by the Board.

Maintenance of playgrounds shall be the responsibility of the Party upon whose lands the playground is located. Maintenance of playgrounds does not include or guarantee replacement of the playground.

Despite the identity of the Party that funded or installed a playground, the Party upon whose land it is located shall at all times have the right to remove the playground if ongoing maintenance of the

playground is unwarranted due to safety concerns, or because of costs associated with ongoing maintenance. The replacement of the playground is at the sole discretion of the Party upon whose land it is located.

Schedule “E” – School Site Guidelines

The parameters contained in this Schedule shall be applied when planning future school sites in a Municipality’s Municipal Development Plan, Area Structure Plan or Concept Plan.

Size of Site

The size of school sites to be included in the Municipality’s plan shall be based on the types of schools needed over the long term and the grade configurations and minimum design for student capacity per school used the Board.

For the Public Board the following guidelines apply:

School Type	Grade Configuration	Design Capacity (Number of Students)	Land for School Portion	Land for Playing Fields	Total Land Needed
Elementary	K-3, K-4, K-5	400 to 600	4 to 5 acres	6 to 7 acres	10 to 12 acres
Elementary/Middle	K-8	500 to 800	5 to 6 acres	7 to 8 acres	12 to 14 acres
Middle	6-8	500 to 600	5 to 6 acres	7 to 8 acres	12 to 14 acres
Junior/Senior High	7-12	500 to 800	6 to 7 acres	7 to 8 acres	13 to 15 acres
High School	10-12	400 to 1000	7 to 8 acres	13 to 14 acres	20 to 22 acres
K to 12 School	K-12	600 to 800	6 to 7 acres	7 to 8 acres	13 to 15 acres

The acreage guidelines outlined in the tables above are approximate acreages. The land required may vary depending on site configuration, topography, natural vegetation, special site conditions, or shared facilities adjacent to the school site.

Each school site shall be of adequate size to meet the initial and future expansion needs of the school.

Where possible, school sites shall be located across quarter section lines to make use of reserve dedication from two quarter sections to create a larger, shared site for two schools. For example, two elementary schools may share a set of playing fields requiring a total site area of 15 to 18 acres rather than 20 to 24 acres for two separate sites.

Where possible sites for high schools shall be created using reserve dedication; however, acquisition of additional land will likely be needed to create the size of site required. In these circumstances, a separate agreement shall be negotiated between the Parties involved in the acquisition of the site.

The following design consideration will be applied during the preparation of a statutory plan or the review of subdivision applications, where applicable:

Site Shape and Configuration

Each school site shall have a core area that is generally rectangular in shape with proportions of 2 to 3 units of width and 3 to 5 units of length (e.g. 160m width and 240m length). The core area must account for 80 to 90 percent of the total site area.

Site shapes that consist of curves, triangular areas or narrow spaces shall be avoided.

Frontage along a Public Street

Where possible, each school site shall have frontage along two public streets that intersect at a corner of the site.

Where frontage along only one public street is available, it shall be a continuous frontage along the entire length of one side of the site.

Accessible to Several Modes of Travel

Each school site shall be located on a road capable of accommodating school bus traffic and private automobile traffic related to the school.

Each school site shall have onsite pedestrian connections and connections to any pedestrian network linking the site to surrounding community.

Each site shall accommodate bicycle access and on-site bicycle parking facilities.

Site Topography and Soil Conditions

Each school site shall have geo-technical and topographic conditions that are suitable for the construction of a large building. This includes suitable soil conditions for foundations, no known contaminants and generally level terrain.

Flexibility for Design

Each school site shall not be encumbered with utilities and utility rights of way that divide the site or otherwise reduce the options for the placement of buildings and improvements.

No storm water management ponds shall be incorporated into the school site or the playing fields adjacent to a school.

Access to Services

Each school site shall be located where access to a sewage collection and disposal system, water system, storm drainage services and three phase power is available or can be made available.

Schedule “F” – Dispute Resolution Process

Step 1: Notice of Dispute

1. When any Party believes there is a dispute under this Agreement and wishes to engage in dispute resolution, the Party alleging the dispute must give written notice of the matter(s) under dispute to the other Parties.
2. During a dispute, the Parties must continue to perform their obligations under this Agreement.

Step 2: Negotiation

3. Within 14 calendar days after the notice of dispute is given, each Party must appoint representatives to the Governing Committee to participate in one or more meetings, in person or by electronic means, to attempt to negotiate a resolution of the dispute.
4. Each Party shall identify the appropriate representatives who are knowledgeable about the issue(s) under dispute and the representatives shall work to find a mutually acceptable solution through negotiation. In preparing for negotiations, the Parties shall also clarify their expectations related to the process and schedule of meetings, addressing media inquiries, and the need to obtain Council and Board ratification of any resolution that is proposed.
5. Representatives shall negotiate in good faith and shall work together, combining their resources, originality and expertise to find solutions. Representatives shall attempt to craft a solution to the identified issue(s) by seeking to advance the interests of all Parties. Representatives shall fully explore the issue with a view to seeking an outcome that accommodates, rather than compromises, the interests of all concerned.

Step 3: Mediation

6. In the event that negotiation does not successfully resolve the dispute, the Parties agree to attempt mediation. The representatives must appoint a mutually acceptable mediator to attempt to resolve the dispute by mediation, within 14 calendar days of one Party’s indication that negotiation has not resolved matters, nor be likely to. The Party giving such notice shall include the names of three mediators. The recipient Party shall select one name from the short list and advise the other Party of their selection within 10 calendar days of receipt of the list. The Parties shall thereafter co-operate in engaging the selected mediator in a timely manner.

7. The Party that initiated the dispute resolution process, must provide the mediator with an outline of the dispute and any agreed statement of facts within 14 calendar days of the mediator's engagement. The Parties must give the mediator access to all records, documents and information that the mediator may reasonably request.
8. The mediator shall be responsible for the governance of the mediation process. The Parties must meet with the mediator at such reasonable times as may be required and must, through the intervention of the mediator, negotiate in good faith to resolve their dispute. Time shall remain of the essence in pursuing mediation, and mediation shall not exceed ninety (90) calendar days from the date the mediator is engaged, without further written agreement of the parties.
9. All proceedings involving a mediator are without prejudice, and, unless the Parties agree otherwise, the cost of the mediator must be shared equally between the Parties.
10. If a resolution is reached through mediation, the mediator shall provide a report documenting the nature and terms of the agreement and solutions that have been reached. The mediator report will be provided to each Party.
11. If after ninety (90) calendar days from engagement of the mediator, or longer as agreed in writing by the Parties, resolution has not been reached, the mediator shall provide a report to the Parties detailing the nature of apparent impasse and/or consensus.

Step 4: Arbitration

12. In the event that Mediation does not successfully resolve the dispute, the Parties agree to move to Arbitration within 30 calendar days of receipt of the mediator's report, including appointing an arbitrator within that time. If the representatives can agree upon a mutually acceptable arbitrator, arbitration shall proceed using that arbitrator. If the representatives cannot agree on a mutually acceptable arbitrator, each Party shall produce a list of three candidate arbitrators. In the event there is agreement on an arbitrator evident from the candidate lists, arbitration shall proceed using that arbitrator.
13. If the representatives cannot agree on an arbitrator, the Party that initiated the dispute resolution process must forward a request to the Minister of Education to appoint an arbitrator within 30 calendar days of the expiry of the time period in clause 12. Should the Minister of Education agree to appoint an arbitrator, the Parties agree to proceed using that arbitrator. Should the Minister of Education decline to appoint an arbitrator, then a request to appoint an arbitrator shall be made to the Court of Queen's Bench.

14. Where arbitration is used to resolve a dispute, the arbitration and arbitrator's powers, duties, functions, practices and procedures shall be the same as those in the *Arbitration Act*.
15. Subject to an order of the arbitrator or an agreement by the Parties, the costs of the arbitrator and arbitration process must be shared equally between the Parties.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Organizational Chart Amendment – Operations
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Engineering & Infrastructure
ITEM: 8.6

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Administration is proposing an amendment to the organizational chart related to the Operations department in which the Foreman/Utility Operator position becomes solely a Utility Operator position reporting to the Manager of Operations and responsible for water and wastewater system operations, monitoring and maintenance. In addition a second change to create a position of Lead Hand responsible for the daily coordination of the Operations team while spending a large percentage of time assisting the team in completing their duties. With this change, one full-time operator position will be reclassified to Lead Hand. The job descriptions related to these two positions are attached for Council’s review.

The proposed amendments to the organizational chart are budget-neutral. Funding for these positions is contained within the existing Operations budget. This is a functional realignment of approved resources to better meet the service demands, therefore there are no additional full-time equivalents required, and it does not require a budget amendment.

These roles have been evaluated against the existing municipal pay scale and compared to peer municipalities to ensure the proposed grids are competitive and internally equitable. **The proposed grids based on 2080 hours per year are as follows:**

Position	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7
Utility Operator (hourly)	33.00	33.99	35.01	36.06	37.14	38.25	39.40
Lead Hand (hourly)	34.58	35.62	36.69	37.79	38.92	40.09	41.29

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The amended organizational chart is attached for Council’s review.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

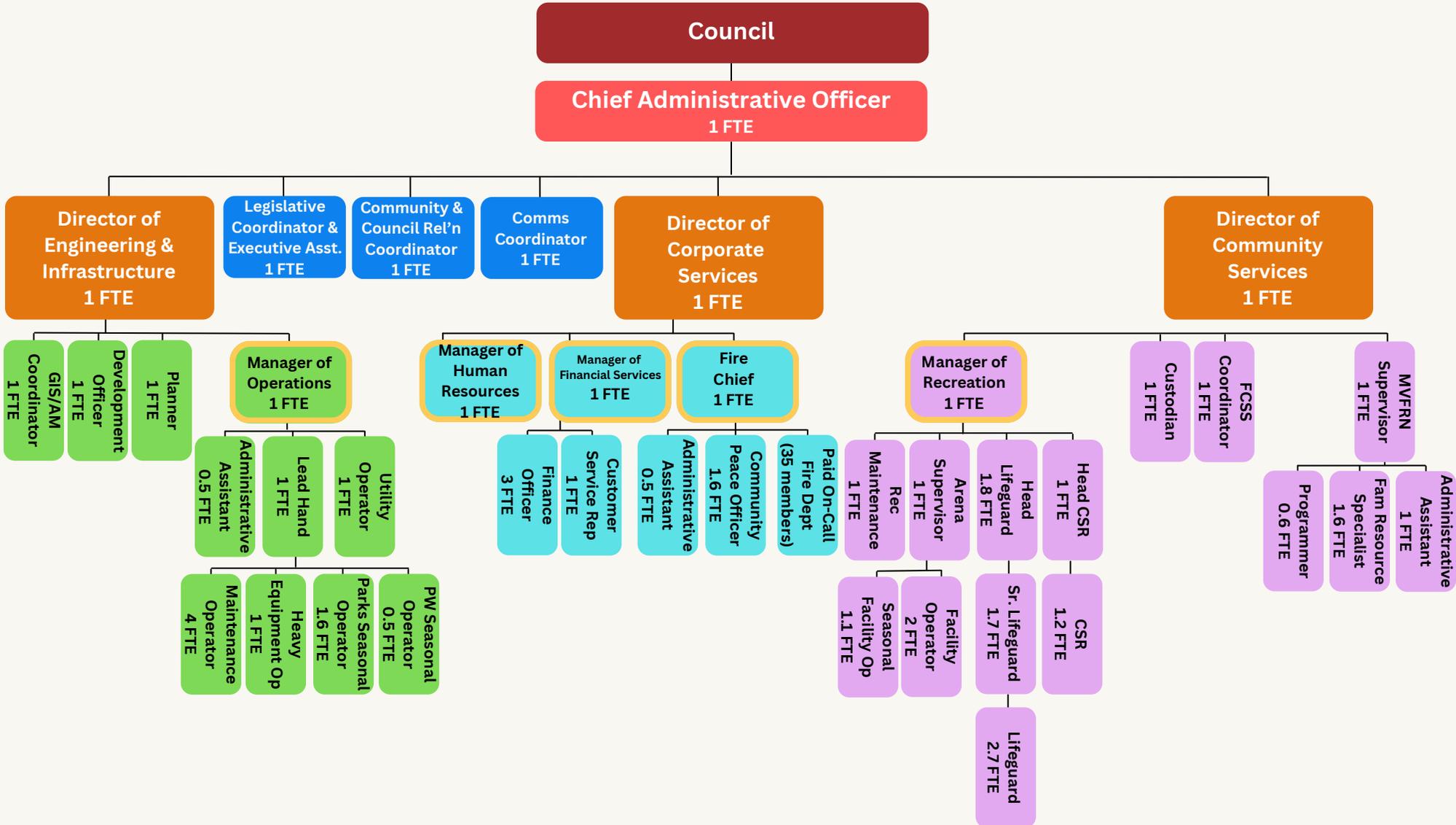
RECOMMENDATION

To approve the following amendments to the Organizational Chart, and related job descriptions and associated wage grids as presented:

1. Reclassify the position of Foreman/Utility Operator to Utility Operator;
2. Reclassify one Heavy Equipment Operator position to Lead Hand.



2026 FTE Organizational Structure



TOWN OF DIDSBURY

JOB DESCRIPTION



Public Works Lead Hand

DEPARTMENT: Engineering & Infrastructure
REPORTS TO: Manager of Public Works
ESTABLISHED: March 2026
REVISED:

POSITION SUMMARY

Reporting to the Manager of Public Works, the Lead Hand assists with the supervision and coordination of work performed by staff engaged in various operational activities. As a working Lead Hand, this position is required to perform tasks directly alongside staff to ensure the successful completion of projects and daily operations. These activities may include building maintenance; vehicle repair and maintenance; street and walkway maintenance and repair; water treatment and distribution; wastewater collection and treatment; solid waste management; storm water management; parks; and land improvement projects. This position includes rotational standby duties and may require working day, night, and weekend shifts.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work directly alongside the crew to perform manual labor and technical tasks related to water, roads, and facility maintenance; operate heavy equipment and tools
- Plans and schedules daily work assignments and establishes work priorities; requisition supplies and equipment; and periodically inspects tools and equipment to ensure that proper care and maintenance is being performed
- Provides on-site direction and guidance to employees during assignments, and inspects work in progress and upon completion to ensure compliance with work standards and local codes, and proper safety techniques
- Analyzes and troubleshoots problems such as street and sidewalk damage or obstructions; water and sewer main leaks and breaks, malfunctioning or inoperative water system pumps, motors, controls, and water systems overload or misuse
- Ability to efficiently and effectively supervise and coordinate the activities of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled employees performing a wide variety of maintenance, repair, and service functions
- Participation in rotational stand-by periods
- Other duties as requested

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- Ability to efficiently and effectively supervise and coordinate the activities of employees performing a wide variety of maintenance, repair, and service functions
- Ability to make sound and timely recommendations for projects implementation, and/or modification based upon established department plans and results of personal observations and needs analysis
- Software acumen, Analytical and problem solving skills
- Ability to communicate orally and in writing and establish and maintain effective working relationships with management, employees, and the general public
- Ability to operate and service a variety of construction and maintenance equipment such as, but not limited to, backhoe, loader, grader, skid steer, sweeper, and truck.
- Knowledge of the Occupational Health and Safety standards and practices applicable to the work being supervised
- Knowledge of Federal, Provincial and local regulations and standards of Town policies and procedures
- Knowledge of materials, methods, and techniques commonly used in construction, maintenance, and repair activities as relates to assigned areas of specialization

QUALIFICATIONS

Required

- 5 years working experience in a public works, construction or environmental services environment with 2 years in a supervisor role
- Knowledge of municipal construction, maintenance and on-going operations
- Familiar with the City of Calgary construction specifications
- Knowledge in the operation and maintenance of public works and fleet equipment

Desired

- Alberta Environment and Parks Level 1 water distribution and Level 1 waste water collection and treatment certification
- Willing to attend training courses
- Familiar with GIS and Asset Management programs

POTENTIAL POSITION HAZARDS

- Slips, Trips, Falls, Impacts
- Verbal Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Communicable Diseases
- Equipment related injuries

The Town is COR Certified. Refer to your Standard Operating Procedures, Field Level Hazard Assessments and the Health and Safety binder for a more detailed hazard identification and risk assessments.

DECLARATION:

As the present incumbent of this position, I hereby certify that I have read this description and that I accept it as being a true representation of the typical duties and level of responsibilities assigned to the position of Public Works Lead Hand.

Employee Name (Print)

Employee Signature

Date

TOWN OF DIDSBURY

JOB DESCRIPTION



Utility Operator

DEPARTMENT: Engineering & Infrastructure
REPORTS TO: Manager of Public Works
ESTABLISHED: March 2026
REVISED:

POSITION SUMMARY

Reporting to the Manager of Public Works, this position will be responsible for performing a variety of repair, installation and maintenance activities in support of water and wastewater systems. Other duties will include the maintenance and repair of water mains, pumps, motors, main line valves, installation and testing of water meters and monitoring of storage tanks; maintenance and repair of sewer lines, pumps, lagoons and related operating facilities. The Utility Operator will also assist with other Public Works-related functions as required. This position has rotational stand-by requirements and can include daytime, evening, weekend and holiday shifts.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- Perform necessary analysis required by Alberta Environment and Parks
- Control, maintain, and monitor all equipment at the reservoir pump stations and sewage lift stations
- Maintenance and repair of water mains, pumps, motors, water valves, installation and maintenance of water meters and related utility equipment
- Maintain a daily recording system of all necessary operations
- Repairing streets, guiderails and sidewalks, installing and repairing street and traffic control signs & pavement markings
- Winter maintenance duties including snow removal and clearing snow and ice debris from streets and walkways
- Maintenance of buildings, grounds & upkeep of Town parks
- Cleaning roadside ditches, culverts and catch basins
- Participation in rotational stand-by periods
- Other duties as required

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- Knowledge of materials, methods, and techniques commonly used in construction, maintenance, and repair activities as relates to assigned areas of specialization
- Familiar with the City of Calgary construction specifications
- Software acumen, Analytical and problem solving skills
- Attention to detail
- Knowledge of Federal, Provincial and local regulations and standards for your job requirements

- Knowledge of the occupational hazards and safety standards and practices applicable to the work being supervised
- Knowledge of the properties, utilization, and care of the materials, tools, and equipment used
- Ability to make sound and timely recommendations for projects implementation, and/or modification based upon established department plans and results of personal observations and needs analysis
- Ability to read charts, diagrams, and blueprints
- Ability to communicate orally and in writing and establish and maintain effective working relationships with management, employees, and the general public in a professional manor

QUALIFICATIONS

Required

- Alberta Environment Level 1 Water Distribution and Level 1 Waste Water Collection and Treatment Certification. Must be working toward a Level II Certification.
- Five (5) years working experience in a public works, construction or environmental services environment
- Class 5 Alberta driver’s license
- Ground Disturbance & Confined Space Entry

Desired

- Experience operating equipment
- Be willing to attend training courses

POTENTIAL POSITION HAZARDS

- Slips, Trips, Falls, Impacts,
- Communicable Diseases
- Equipment related injuries

The Town is COR Certified. Refer to your Standard Operating Procedures, Field Level Hazard Assessments and the Health and Safety binder for a more detailed hazard identification and risk assessments.

DECLARATION:

As the present incumbent of this position, I hereby certify that I have read this description and that I accept it as being a true representation of the typical duties and level of responsibilities assigned to the position of a Utility Operator.

Employee Name (Print)

Employee Signature

Date



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Request for Decision (RFD)**

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Stirling Rock Project – Committee
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Community Services
ITEM: 8.7

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

At the March 10, 2026 Regular Council Meeting, Council heard a delegation from the Didsbury Curling Club and Mr. Gord Leeson regarding a proposed Community Partnership Project for the installation of a sturling rock display in the community. A complete Community Partnership application was received at the same time.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

As per Policy CS002 – Community Partnership Projects, once a completed application is received, a committee of three members of Council and two members of Administration shall be formed to review the application against evaluation criteria within the policy.

Administration will be represented by the Director of Community Services and Director of Engineering and Infrastructure on the committee.

Administration is seeking Council’s decision regarding Council representation on this committee.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Strategically Managed Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

To strike a Community Partnership Project Ad Hoc Committee to make a recommendation to Council on the proposed sturling rock display application and to appoint Councillors _____, _____ and _____ to the committee.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Library Board Member Appointment
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services
ITEM: 8.8

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

In accordance with the *Libraries Act*, The Didsbury Municipal Library Board is established by bylaw and sets out that the board consists of between five and ten members appointed by Council. The term of a board member is up to three years.

At their March 17, 2026 meeting, the Town of Didsbury Library Board accepted the resignation of David McWhiney and are recommending Trudy Woodlands be appointed to the board.

The library board prepared the following information informing their recommendation:

“Trudy is a long-time Alberta resident and a lifelong library advocate who has a deep appreciation for the role libraries play in community life. She grew up participating in public library programs and continues to see libraries as essential places for learning, connection, and exploration.

After attending several recent board meetings as a guest and meeting with our staff and chair, Trudy has demonstrated a clear commitment to volunteering her time and expertise. We are confident that her strong financial background and passion for literacy will be significant assets to the Board as we continue to ensure the library remains a vibrant resource for Didsbury.”

Currently the board consists of the following:

Name	Start of Term	End of Term
Jaimee Reese	October 24, 2023	October 24, 2026
Diane Arbuckle	October 24, 2023	October 24, 2026
Bill Windsor	March 26, 2024	March 26, 2027
Jennifer Bommarito	October 22, 2024	November 1, 2027
Brittany Stevens	October 22, 2024	November 1, 2027
Aimee Hunter	November 1, 2025	November 1, 2028
Angela Look	November 10, 2025	November 1, 2026
Troy Lambert	November 10, 2025	November 1, 2026
Pat Harty	January 14, 2026	November 1, 2028

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The appointment of an additional library board member would max out the number of board members, meaning that council would be unable to appoint another councillor or member to the board until a vacancy arises.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

If Council were to accept the recommendation from the Library Board, Administration would advise that the term of appointment be from March 25, 2026 to November 1, 2028, nearly three years, to better align the term of appointments. Council may also appoint a member to the Board for a term of less than three years, or accept the request as information.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION

To appoint Trudy Woodlands to the Town of Didsbury Library Board for a term commencing March 25, 2026 and ceasing on November 1, 2028.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE:	March 24, 2026
SUBJECT:	Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission Request
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:	Legislative Services
ITEM:	8.9

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission (MVRWSC) has sent the attached letter to member municipalities.

The letter is asking Town Council and administration to prepare questions regarding the financial operation or position of the Commission for them to address at their Annual General Meeting in April whereby they will present the audited financial statements.

As a regional service commission, the MVRWSC has to annually prepare audited financial statements, similar to a municipality. The Commission is responsible for critical infrastructure that is vital to the provision of treated water to the Town of Didsbury. The infrastructure that they oversee, manage, fund, replace, and repair includes the Anthony Henday Water Treatment Facility at the Red Deer River as well as the water supply infrastructure that transports water from the Treatment facility to the Town’s reservoirs. The infrastructure maintained by the Town includes the distribution network from the reservoir to residents.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The MVRWSC’s AGM is on April 8, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Innisfail Legion. If members of council would like to attend, Administration would like to opportunity to RSVP on Council’s behalf with the names of the attendees in advance of the meeting if possible.

Administration is asking Council if they have any question that they may wish to pose to the Commission regarding their financial operations or position that they would like addressed at the AGM.

Administration would also request a copy of the responses provided to the Town for distribution back to Council as information.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION

To pose the following questions to the Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission:

-
-
-

Request for Questions from Towns – Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission

Background

The Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission (MVRWSC) holds an Annual Meeting each April to present the **Audited Financial Statement** for the previous year's operations. This statement outlines the Commission's operational activities and financial position in the government-approved reporting format.

At the Annual Meeting, the Commission's Auditor presents the financial statements to the Board of Directors. The Chair then invites questions from the Board and those in attendance regarding the Commission's financial position and operations.

This year, the Commission would like to extend the opportunity for **Town administrations to submit financial questions in advance of the meeting.**

Directors are asked to bring this request to their respective Town's and ask that any questions be submitted to the Commission **by April 1, 2026**. Submitted questions will be presented to the Commission Board during the Annual Meeting.

Question to Town Council

Does the Town Council have any **financial questions regarding the operations or financial position of the Commission** that it would like addressed at the **Commission Annual General Meeting on April 8, 2026**?

Commission Contact for Questions

Samantha Lafontaine
sl@mountainviewwater.com

or

John Van Doesburg
jv.mtn@mountainviewwater.com



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.
Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: 2026 Rosebud Health Foundation Spring Fling
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services
ITEM: 8.10

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The Rosebud Health Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve health outcomes by providing funding support for equipment and programs that enhance the delivery of healthcare for the people of the communities in Mountain View County.

The Rosebud Health Foundation is holding their 30th Birthday Gala “Spring Fling” event which is being held at the Didsbury Memorial Complex on April 25, 2026 from 5:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The Rosebud Health Foundation Board recognizes and appreciates the financial contribution of the MPR facility waver approved for \$905.00 to host the 2026 fundraiser. If Council would like to attend the event, tickets for the Spring Fling are \$75.00 each and Sponsored table of 8 is \$1000.00.

Council approved \$9,500.00 for Public Relations and Promotions as part of 2026 budget approval process, however the Gala was not included the budget at that time.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

2. Vibrant & Connected Character Community

RECOMMENDATION

To accept the 2026 Rosebud Health Foundation Spring Fling as information.

Rosebud
Spring Fling



30th Birthday Gala

5:30PM COCKTAILS

6:30PM DINNER

7:30PM VOLUNTEER TRIBUTE

7:45PM ENTERTAINMENT

WITH FRAID KNOT

SILENT AUCTION

SATURDAY | DOORS OPEN
APR. 25 | 5:15 PM

DIDSBURY MEMORIAL COMPLEX
MULTI PURPOSE ROOM

TICKETS: \$75 EACH

SPONSORED TABLE OF 8: \$1000

COORDINATOR@ROSEBUDHEALTH.CA

OR TEXT 403.660.5432



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

Vision: The Place to Grow.

Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Council Reports
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services
ITEM: 9.0

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Council members will each provide a verbal or written report on any business, committee activity, or professional development opportunities that they have undertaken.

Please see the attached the summary from the last Parkland Regional Library Systems board meeting as well as a written report from Councillor Quantz.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION

To accept the March 24, 2026 Council Reports as information.



PRLS BOARD TALK

Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Vacant Seat on the Executive Committee

At the November organizational board meeting, seat 7 on Parkland's Executive Committee was not filled. After sending out invitations to PRLS board members for Area 7, staff found two volunteers, Dana Kreil of Lacombe Country and Cory Twerdoclib from Blackfalds. Twerdoclib was appointed.

Parkland Annual Report

Each year Parkland is required to submit an annual report to the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) at Municipal Affairs.

An annual report infographic with highlights from 2025 will be prepared and distributed to member municipalities in the coming weeks.

Outlet Annual Reports

The Parkland Board is the governing board for three library service points. Highlights from their annual reports are included below:

Brownfield Community Library Accomplishments

This year we really focused on programs/clubs. We successfully run a monthly Adult Book Club, which has been going for more than 15 years. We also ran a Junior High Book Club this year, participation was more than expected. We held a Summer Reading Program every week with the kids. For fundraisers we held a successful Rummage Sale in the spring and an online spring auction. We continue to be passionate about keeping our little library open!

Spruce View Community Library Accomplishments

We have partnered with Red Deer County to bring programs into our library. We are doing more outreach to get our name in the community. In 2025 we celebrated 25 years bringing library services to Spruce View and area.

Water Valley Public Library Accomplishments

We are really happy that we have been able to continue to offer a wide variety of programming for our community. Being a rural community, it can be challenging to find programming locally. Finding instructors can be very challenging, but luckily, we have been able to find some amazing people to help keep our programs running.

Advocacy & Marketing Report

Article on Library Funding

Relating to the library funding resolutions passed at RMA and Alberta Municipalities last November, Parkland's Director was interviewed for an article by CBC.

Radio Interview

On January 6th with very short notice, Sheppard was interviewed live by Edmonton's radio station 880 CHED to discuss library funding in rural communities.

Budget Summary Report

There is an updated version of Parkland's *Budget Summary Report* showing the cost of library service within Parkland for the year 2025. The number of libraries within Parkland that deficit budgeted remained at 35%, the same as 2024.

Provincial Advocacy Steering Committee

Parkland's representation on a steering committee coordinating a provincial advocacy effort has been making significant progress. In addition to Parkland's Director, the committee is composed of the CEOs for Calgary and Edmonton public libraries, and the CEO for Strathcona County Library.

Due to the urgent nature of these issues, Sheppard has met both with members of the steering committee and the broader library community on many occasions.

Parkland's Director and Chair have been meeting with MLAs to ask for an increase in provincial funding for libraries and support the principles of intellectual freedom given that there are strong indications that the

Next Meeting: May 21, 2026 (in-Person) FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR FOR A COPY OF THE DRAFT MINUTES, PLEASE CONTACT PRLS

provincial government will almost certainly involve itself in the curation of public library collections.

Marketing for Libraries

Parkland Marketing Specialist, Hailey Halberg, has recently done work for Innisfail, Rimbey, and Big Valley libraries. In Innisfail, she helped create a marketing plan for their new space and took photos at their sneak peek event for sponsors. In Rimbey, Halberg planned, filmed, and edited 10 Instagram Reels for them to use on social media, and created a social media strategy for them. Big Valley Library requested help planning a contest to get more patrons in the door and circulate some of their new materials. Halberg created some social media content and collected some swag for a small giveaway prize.

LinkedIn Presence

You may have noticed a new follow from Parkland Regional Library System on your LinkedIn profile. We are using the platform more regularly, and hope to use it to reach the PRLS board, member library boards, and any member library staff that are on the platform.

County Forums Update

In 2025, Parkland Regional Library System decided to facilitate in-person County Forum interviews with its member libraries for the first time. The aim of the forums was to collect direct feedback from participants and encourage an environment of open dialogue and communication. In fall of 2025, Parkland staff began travelling throughout the region, meeting with library managers in all ten member counties.

Overall, 39 of Parkland's 49 member libraries took part in this project and both their positive and their constructive feedback has been important to Parkland's planning.

Audit Service Plan

Each year the Executive Committee reviews the MNP Draft Audit Service Plan prior to the preparation of the Parkland audit.

After reviewing the plan, the Executive Committee approved it at their January meeting and the auditors conducted their field work at Parkland on February 3-4.

Staff Recognition

Parkland employees are recognized with a monetary reward and pin for long service with PRLS. For 2026, long service award recipients were:

Hailey Halberg – 5 years
Bob Schiltz – 5 years
Olya Korolchuk – 5 years

Committee News from Trustees

Penhold & District Public Library has created Strategic Plan and Annual Report brochures that are being given to MLAs, Penhold Council, and Red Deer County Council, among others. Also, their library manager Myra Binnendyk is retiring after 24 years. Penhold Library appreciates Parkland's support in helping them navigate this retirement and future help for hiring their new library manager.

Camrose Public Library's manager has returned after maternity leave. The *Fellowship of the Camrose Library* started a very successful social media campaign to get funding matched from the province to purchase new children's furniture for their children's reading area. In addition, Carissa Halton who wrote *Revolution Songs* held an event at a local restaurant with the theme of the "Dirty 30's".

Hughenden Public Library is holding a book folding event on February 27th.

Board Members Present

Barb Gilliat (Board Chair), **(Zoom)** Janet Adam, Jackie Almberg, Skyla Attfield, Alison Barker-Jevne, Laureen Clark-Rennie, Curtis Cook, Teresa Cunningham, Lana Curle, Sarah Fahey, Les Fee, Richard Forsberg, Elaine Fossen, Shaleah Fox, Dwayne Fulton, Dustin Gillespie, Matthew Goudy, Kathy Hall, Pam Hansen, Ryanna Hansen, Lindsay Holmen, Kimberlee Hunter, Alt. Haley Amendt for Joe Iwanicki, Dana Kreil, Troy Lambert, Hazen Letwin, Bryce Liddle, Lori Lindseth, Paul Looser, Julie Maplethorpe, Ricci Matthews, Lyle McKellar, Joy-Anne Murphy, Leah Nelson, Cindy Orom, Amanda Peffers, Scott Pfeiffer, Maxine Steil, Matthew Sumegi, Leona Thorogood, Cory Twerdoclib, Teri Underhill, Carlene Wetthuhn, Shannon Wilcox **Absent:** Delijah Antaloczy, Denise Boniface, Shelley Cook, Todd Dalke, Victor Kelly, Darryl Motley, Marc Mousseau, Bill Rock, Sandy Shipton, Naomi Tercier, Stephen Wyse

Next Meeting: May 21, 2026 (in-Person) FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR FOR A COPY OF THE DRAFT MINUTES, PLEASE CONTACT PRLS

Councillor Report from Norm Quantz for March 24th, 2026

The MVRWSC (Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission) is working with Didsbury installing the lateral lines to our new east reservoir by the arena. You probably noticed the construction activity by 19th Street.

Also, residents are invited to attend the Commission's AGM (Annual General Meeting) to be held at 9:00 am, April 8th, 2026 at the Innisfail Legion, 5108-49th Ave #1, and are invited to stay for the monthly meeting which follows.

I will provide a verbal report on the RDRMUG (Red Deer River Municipal Users Group) that was just held on Thursday.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

Vision: The Place to Grow.

Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Correspondence & Information
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services
ITEM: 10.0

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Correspondence received from other agencies, which may be of importance and of interest, is being provided for Council's review and information.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The following correspondence items can be found attached in order of date that they were received

- Emails related to Bylaw 2026-08*
- Thank You Card – Didsbury Minor Hockey Association

*Only those emails that specifically requested to be added to the public record or agenda package were included.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Governance & Organizational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION

To accept the correspondence for March 24, 2026 as information.

colt k q h o Oriah Logan
Tripten Alison

Go Gordon
con Len
Jay Liam

Town of Didsbury,

Thank you for your continued support of DMHA. We know Council, Town staff and arena staff all help in different ways to make our season run smoothly.

Thank you,

U7 Black team on behalf of DMHA

U7 Black team

Jennifer Bommarito

[REDACTED]. Didsbury, AB T0M 0W0

[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

March 16, 2026

To: Michael Simpson, CAO CC: Didsbury Town Council

Subject: Formal Letter for the Public Record – I do not support the proposed Neutrality Bylaw

Dear Mr. Simpson and Didsbury Town Council,

Please include this letter in the public record and the meeting package for March 24. I also ask that you make sure all letters and emails from people who disagree with this bylaw are counted and shown in that meeting package.

I am writing because I do not support the new "neutrality" bylaw. Here is why:

- **Transparency:** When you ran for council, you promised to be open and transparent. No one mentioned this bylaw during the election. Trying to push it through so quickly makes it feel like the community isn't being given a real say, which hurts the trust we have in our local government.
- **Bad for Business:** Organizations like Alberta Municipalities have warned that these kinds of laws can hurt local businesses and tourism. Our town has a great relationship with the film industry, and if we start looking like a place that is divided or unwelcoming, we risk losing that support and the money it brings to our town.
- **Creating a Problem We Don't Have:** Right now, there is no conflict in Didsbury over things like rainbow crosswalks. This bylaw feels like it's trying to "fix" something that isn't broken. Instead of keeping things neutral, it's actually creating a divide that wasn't there before.
- **Our Kids and Our Future:** As a teacher, I know that many kids already feel like they don't quite fit in or feel safe here. This law tells our LGBTQ+ youth that they aren't fully welcome. If we want Didsbury to grow, we need our kids to want to stay here. My own son is 20 and away at university; when he heard about this bylaw, he told me he doesn't want to move back home. We are losing our future residents because of moves like this.

I moved to Canada from the United States 20 years ago specifically because I valued Canadian ideals of inclusion, kindness, and diversity. It is disheartening to see our local government move toward a path that feels so contrary to the values that make this country a place people want to live. This bylaw makes me seriously consider whether Didsbury is still a place that reflects the Canadian identity I chose two decades ago, or if I need to look for a community that actually stands by these principles.

Please consider voting against this bylaw. Didsbury should be a town that includes everyone and works together, not one that passes laws that push people apart.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bommarito



Jocelyn Baxter <jbaxter@didsbury.ca>

Concerns Regarding the Proposed Neutrality Bylaw

2 messages

R Byiers [REDACTED]

Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 12:35 PM

To: "msimpson@didsbury.ca" <msimpson@didsbury.ca>, clittle@didsbury.ca, bmurray@didsbury.ca, nquantz@didsbury.ca, rmurray@didsbury.ca, cengel@didsbury.ca, wstevens@didsbury.ca, imahon@didsbury.ca, tlambert@didsbury.ca, Commrelations@didsbury.ca

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing regarding the proposed neutrality bylaw that received first and second reading on March 10. I appreciate the time and effort Council puts into governing our community, however I would like to express my concerns about this bylaw and respectfully ask Council to reconsider moving it forward.

I would like begin by mentioning that I have been a resident of Didsbury for the last 35 years. I was an active volunteer for years and also a business owner for 6. I have raised my family in this community and proudly have called Didsbury my home.

First, the bylaw appears to create controversy around a problem that does not currently exist in Didsbury. Introducing legislation to address an issue that has not been demonstrated locally risks generating division rather than solving a tangible concern.

Second, I am concerned about the broader impact this could have on Didsbury's reputation. Our community sits within the competitive Calgary–Red Deer corridor, where towns often compete to attract visitors, residents, and investment. A policy like this, particularly if it gains wider attention, may unintentionally portray Didsbury as a place where symbolic issues are prioritized over growth and community development.

Related to that, council time and municipal resources are limited. In my view, those resources would be better focused on priorities that produce measurable benefits for residents, such as housing availability, economic growth, and long-term community development.

Experiences in other municipalities suggest that policies framed around "neutrality" often lead to ongoing debates about what qualifies as neutral, which can invite complaints, disputes, and administrative costs. The definition of neutrality can be highly subjective, and enforcing it may ultimately require continued interpretation and staff involvement.

I would also suggest that preventing inclusion is still a choice, even when framed as neutrality. Policies that restrict expression inevitably send a message, whether intended or not, and that message can outlast the original debate.

From an economic perspective, this type of bylaw could also have unintended consequences for industries such as film and television production. Location managers often prioritize communities that appear welcoming and low-controversy in order to minimize reputational risk for productions. Alberta already offers many filming alternatives, and a bylaw that trends nationally could make Didsbury appear more complicated or "high-maintenance" to work with.

Creative industries value flexibility and visual storytelling, which can conflict with restrictive symbolic policies. Film productions also bring short-term local spending to communities through accommodations, food services, and local hiring. Even small uncertainties can shift that economic activity to neighboring communities.

Once a town develops a reputation as politically charged or restrictive, it can become more difficult to promote itself as film-friendly or open for creative industry opportunities.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage Council to reconsider advancing this bylaw and instead focus on initiatives that strengthen Didsbury's reputation as a welcoming, forward-looking community that prioritizes growth, opportunity, and practical outcomes for its residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please consider this letter to be added to the public records.

Sincerely,

Rochelle

 Didsbury AB

R Byiers 

Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 12:46 PM

To: msimpson@didsbury.ca, clittle@didsbury.ca, bmurray@didsbury.ca, nquantz@didsbury.ca, rmurray@didsbury.ca, cengel@didsbury.ca, wstevens@didsbury.ca, imahon@didsbury.ca, tlambert@didsbury.ca, Commrelations@didsbury.ca

I do want to make sure it is understood that I do NOT want to advance this bylaw...I want it to NOT be advanced. It just occurred to me I mis wrote that line.

However it is obvious I do think this bylaw is not a positive forward for our community

Thank you Rochelle

Rochelle

[Quoted text hidden]



Jocelyn Baxter <jbaxter@didsbury.ca>

Concerns regarding proposed bylaw

1 message

Mike Crampton [REDACTED]

Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 10:55 AM

To: "msimpson@didsbury.ca" <msimpson@didsbury.ca>

Cc: "commrelations@didsbury.ca" <commrelations@didsbury.ca>

Good morning,

I am sending this letter to Didsbury town council, care of CAO Michael Simpson. I would like it added to the public record, and the meeting package for March 24, if possible. I live in Didsbury and have for nearly 17 years.

This proposed bylaw raises serious concerns about the focus and priorities of Didsbury town council. Far from focusing on areas of actual concern for our town, such as infrastructure and road maintenance, business growth, and creating a welcoming and vibrant community, this bylaw immerses our town into a culture war for no good reason. The fact that council is choosing to legislate things that they already have the power to allow or deny makes me wonder where this direction is coming from.

This bylaw would do more harm than good in a myriad of ways. First of all, we are already facing an exodus of young people from small towns. Specifically, I have heard from several community members with queer youth off at post-secondary that this bylaw makes it even less likely that they would consider returning in the future. Second of all, businesses in small towns already face enough challenges. Making it less likely that tourists visit and people choose to move to Didsbury because of a regressive bylaw is not a pro-business move. Thirdly, whether or not the original intent of this bylaw was to exclude symbols of pride and such, that is how it is being viewed by the anti-queer members of our community.

A quote, to give some context of how the anti-LGBTQ members of our community see this bylaw.

"These are all stories, ideas, narratives. There is no scientific evidence to support any of it, regardless of the claims being made and attributed to so-called scientific or medical organizations. There are only two genders. That is a fact. To suggest otherwise is based on the ideology of relativism, which must be an accepted premise in order to come up with the idea of multiple genders and sexual identities. People are free to believe that if they wish. But it is not science and does not stand up to the scientific method. People with phd's who postulate, proclaim, and hide behind their garrisoned institutional walls and place themselves above truth and reality are promoting a form of religion known as relativism and constructivism. This type of ideology, which rejects the premise that our laws and moral codes are based on biblical principles, was and is weaponized by individuals such as Carl Marx and later, individuals of the Frankfurt School who then infiltrated Columbia University and eventually post secondary schools across the west.

Therein lies a real danger of these anti-knowledge and anti-social ideologies, the destruction of the family structure and sexualization of children. Every teacher (not just teachers, but every post secondary discipline) who receives training at post secondary school is introduced to and in many cases indoctrinated into this post-modern Frankfurt School, Marxist ideology rooted in relativism and constructivist ideology. Out with the old and in with the new is their mantra.

But it is not new. It is ancient. A struggle for power and control over humanity. Good versus evil. A spiritual war for souls. Enslavement versus liberty. And there is a re-awakening to this ancient struggle. That is where we are today. The post-modern, self proclaimed progressives, who place self and self indulgence above all

else, led astray by the religion and deception of relativism, versus those who recognize that there is an authority greater than themselves, truths and values that remain and stand through tests and trials of time. That trusting and having faith in the Creator and his word, and the mystery of His creation will reveal truth and light, standing as a beacon when darkness is present.

The awakened are not enemies of the post-modern progressives, view them as such they may. No. The Word leaves no room for the awakened to hate their neighbours. However, the the Word clearly instructs the awakened to participate in the public square. To represent and speak the truth with grace, mercy, and humility, yet also boldly and with the authority of Jesus Christ. We are your neighbours and friends, and we are sinners also. Hate the sin, love the sinner.

So, the push back on signage and symbols in the public square, and the notion of neutrality is an attempt at good faith bargaining. To keep topics of sexuality appropriately contained and out of sight for children so that parents can prepare them and guide them when the time is right and without undue influence.

Secondly, to recognize that all are welcome and free to participate in public spaces without preference or coercion, neither supportive or non-supportive, of any person or group." - Mike [REDACTED] Didsbury Alberta Discussion Topics, Mar 14, 2026.

I highlighted relevant sections above to make it easier to parse. As council can clearly see from the above quote, this person, who lives in Didsbury, and is vocally supportive of the bylaw, believes that gender science is made up, he believes that LGBTQ folks are members of an 'anti-knowledge and anti-social ideology', and he believes that symbols of support for a recognized and protected class of people is 'coercion'. Once again, whether or not that was the intent of this proposed bylaw, THAT is what Didsbury community members who believe the above nonsense think it is. In fact, gender expression and sexuality are protected against discrimination by the Canadian Human Rights Act, so once again I am forced to wonder why Council is kowtowing to members of the community who have discriminatory beliefs such as the above?

For the final time, I ask council members to consider the mandate they were elected upon and turn their focus to the areas where Didsbury actually needs them. Vote this bylaw down, govern for all citizens, and stop pandering to vocal special interest groups which are pushing this bylaw.

Thanks, Mike Crampton
Didsbury, AB

MIKE CRAMPTON Principal Consultant





Jocelyn Baxter <jbaxter@didsbury.ca>

Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw - Letter to Council

2 messages

f [redacted]
To: commrelations@didsbury.ca

Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 12:39 PM

For Council review and consideration of my opposition to the bylaw to be included in the Council package for the March 24, 2026 Council Meeting.

Thank you,

Val Facey



Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw - letter to Council - March 16 2026.docx

19K

[redacted]
To: commrelations@didsbury.ca

Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 12:43 PM

My apologies, I have revised my letter with the correct address – [redacted] not [redacted]

[Quoted text hidden]



Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw - letter to Council - March 16 2026.docx

19K

March 16, 2026

To: Didsbury Town Council and CAO: **From:** Valerie (Val) Facey, [REDACTED] Didsbury, AB T0M 0W0
Subject: Opposition to the Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw

I am a 45+ year resident of Didsbury and a citizen who has always been proud of what it means to make my family home in Didsbury, a community that promotes itself as being friendly, welcoming, kind, diverse, and inclusive to all who live or visit here. With the introduction of the Public Space Neutrality Bylaw, I now question if current citizens, people who are considering moving to our town, or Didsbury's visitors will view us differently should the current council pass a bylaw that takes away the same characters and inviting community endorsement that we have long been so proud to promote. Didsbury will be in the very small minority (two towns in Alberta) whose Councils have adopted such bylaws that promote ideologies that are everything that diversity and inclusion are not.

At the March 10 council meeting, a resident spoke to say that this bylaw was not necessary, that it was dividing council and the community. I agree. Council appears to have created a bylaw that they hope will shield them from supporting diversity and inclusion in our community and protects them from having what they apparently feel are uncomfortable (for certain council members) discussions with residents (shut them down before they can ask). To hear a council member claim that flying a flag for a specific group suggests the Town "agrees with all of their lifestyle choices" highlights the ignorance (and bigotry) of what it means to be a welcoming and inclusive community. Is this bylaw meant to stop Veteran crosswalks that are commonly painted in municipalities across Canada, is it meant to stop Pride crosswalks that are commonly painted in municipalities across Canada, or to stop our Treaty flag or Metis flag from flying in Didsbury? Any of these reasons would be wrong. I believe this is the wrong direction and statement that council is taking and stating with this bylaw. Information presented in a Press Release that presented a very inappropriate endorsement by the mayor of a bylaw, before the final vote on the third reading has been taken, was also out of line and undermined "neutrality" of the process of what this bylaw is supposedly addressing – nonpartisanship and impartiality.

Of note, the term nonpartisan focuses on neutral, evidence-based approaches rather than political agendas. This bylaw appears to address political agendas, not only of some members of council but also of a single presentation by a resident at a council meeting that council acted on. Acting on a single (or even one or two) request for such a bylaw, is not democratic nor does it represent objectivity by the council members who requested the bylaw be created. Nonpartisan research is a study conducted without prompting a specific ideological agenda, in this case a study appears to have not taken place, is presenting a specific ideological agenda, and demonstrates that certain council members are listening to only a small number of residents, and this is not thorough research, which our community deserves and is entitled to. The nonpartisan approach seeks fair, balanced, and evidence-based solutions, and again, it does appear that no evidence-based information and solutions have been presented.

Impartiality refers to actions or viewpoints driven by a structured belief system rather than practical or impartial considerations. This bylaw is not impartial; it is only hiding behind the term to help the four councillors move this bylaw forward at the request of one, two or three citizens.

This bylaw should not pass if, indeed, Council is listening to residents and representing a diverse and inclusive Didsbury. Please let this letter express my opposition to the passing of this bylaw.



Jocelyn Baxter <jbaxter@didsbury.ca>

"Neutrality" bylaw March 2026 Joelle Fournier

1 message

Joelle Fournier [redacted]
To: "commrelations@didsbury.ca" <commrelations@didsbury.ca>

Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 2:02 PM

Please see my attached letter that relays my disappointed in the short-sightedness of this bylaw & have entered into public records.

Joelle Fournier

Res [redacted]
[redacted]

In the spirit of respect, collaboration and truth we honour & acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3 within the historical Northwest Métis homeland. I want to also acknowledge that this is Treaty 7 territory; the ancestral & traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy: Kainai, Piikani & Siksika as well as the Tsuu T'ina First Nation & Stoney Nakoda First Nation. I acknowledge the many First Nations, Metis & Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for generations. We are grateful for the traditional Knowledge Keepers & Elders who are still with us today & those who have gone before us. I would like to acknowledge all Nations, indigenous and non, who live, work and play and help us steward this land, honour and celebrate this territory. This sacred gathering place provides us with an opportunity to engage in and demonstrate leadership on reconciliation.

 **Neutrality bylaw.pdf**
29K

March 16, 2026

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing regarding the proposed neutrality bylaw that received first and second reading on March 10. I appreciate the time and effort that anyone willing to serve in public office puts into governing our community, however I would like to express my concerns about this bylaw and respectfully ask Council to reconsider moving it forward.

I would like to begin by mentioning that I have been a resident of Didsbury for the last 27 years & I am an active volunteer in our community.

This bylaw appears to create controversy. Introducing legislation to address an issue that has not been demonstrated locally risks generating division rather than solving a tangible concern. This has been proven in a lot of groups on social media those advocating for different sides of Alberta. Have you taken the time to read some of the comments? These comments have made me sick to my stomach! Most of them going right to the LGBTQ2+ demographic but this also applies to veterans, to the Indigenous Community. Imagine our young residents reading these comments on line. A bylaw that I don't think Council realized would get not only 2A corridor attention but all of Alberta and national and internationally. And I can't say for the good.

I see the Town of Didsbury has endorsed the banners for the grads. I acknowledge banners and flags are two different things, but the lamp posts are on public, Town property, are they not? Will you allow the grads to continue their banner program? How about the Veterans Program? If someone wanted to hang pink banners for Pink Shirt, Be Kind Day, would you let them? How about Every Child Matters Orange banners? This neutrality law is anything but neutral. It is discrimination dressed up as inclusivity.

I am concerned about the impact this could have on Didsbury's citizens. I guess the upside to all the comments on social media is we can determine which residents are considered "safe".

Experiences in other municipalities suggest that policies framed around "neutrality" often lead to ongoing debates about the definition of neutral, which can invite complaints, disputes, and administrative costs. The definition of neutrality can be highly subjective and enforcing it may ultimately require continued interpretation and an increase in staff involvement.

I would also suggest that preventing inclusion is still a choice, even when framed as neutrality. Policies that restrict expression inevitably send a message, whether intended or not, and that message can outlast the original debate & it is now forever on social media.

This type of bylaw could also have unintended consequences for industries such as film and television production. Location managers often prioritize communities that appear welcoming and low-controversy in order to minimize reputational risk for productions. Alberta already offers many filming alternatives, and a bylaw that trends nationally could make Didsbury appear more complicated or "high-maintenance" to work with.

Once a town develops a reputation as politically charged or restrictive, it can become more difficult to promote itself as film-friendly or open for creative industry opportunities.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage Council to reconsider advancing this bylaw and instead focus on initiatives that strengthen Didsbury's reputation as a welcoming, forward-looking community that prioritizes growth, opportunity, and practical outcomes for its residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please consider this letter to be added to the public records.

Sincerely,

Joelle Fournier

 Didsbury, AB



Jocelyn Baxter <jbaxter@didsbury.ca>

Regarding Proposed Neutrality Bylaw

1 message

To: [REDACTED]

Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 9:45 PM

To: commrelations@didsbury.ca

Cc: msimpson@didsbury.ca, clittle@didsbury.ca, cengel@didsbury.ca, nquantz@didsbury.ca, wstevens@didsbury.ca, tlambert@didsbury.ca, imahon@didsbury.ca, "bmurray@didsbury.ca" <bmurray@didsbury.ca>

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to follow up on my previous correspondence now that the neutrality bylaw has passed its first and second readings. I found Councillor Lambert's comments concerning and Mayor Little's prepared remarks to be naive.

I want this letter to be publicly included in the official package as I do not trust the narrative or transparency currently at play.

Mayor Little's assertion that this bylaw is a proactive measure to reduce conflict is remarkably naive. One only needs to look at the aggressive, rude, hateful, and exclusionary comments on the town's own social media to see the reality. The fact that the town had to turn off comments on its own press release proves that this bylaw has not fostered neutrality or respect. Instead, it has provided a platform for the very divisiveness you claim to be avoiding, and that was with your best possible spin.

Councillor Lambert's suggestion that a flag denotes agreement with all lifestyle choices or political positions is equally problematic. It treats simple visibility as a forced ideological endorsement, which is false. This is not neutrality. It is a fear of association that is telling.

This bylaw remains confusing. There are no rainbow crosswalks or Pride flags in Didsbury. Fortunately delegations are not held in private sessions, so we also know that no one has asked for any decorative crosswalks or flags. Spending municipal time and resources to legislate against things that do not exist is performative politics, not governance.

I urge you (again) to vote no at the third reading and put this matter to rest.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Innes



Jocelyn Baxter <jbaxter@didsbury.ca>

Town meeting Tuesday, March 24th

1 message

Candice Ivarson [REDACTED]

Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 5:08 PM

To: Commrelations@didsbury.ca, "msimpson@didsbury.ca" <msimpson@didsbury.ca>

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing regarding the proposed neutrality bylaw.

As a resident of Didsbury for the past 19 years, I would like to share my thoughts and concerns on this matter. My husband and I were married in this town. We purchased our first home here, welcomed our four children here, and are now raising them in this community. We have also been fortunate enough to purchase a second home here. Didsbury is the only home our family has ever known.

Over these 19 years, our family has experienced both challenges and joys, and throughout that time this town has provided a strong sense of community, support, and reassurance in our decision to build our lives here. For that reason, it is difficult to see a proposal that feels both unnecessary and potentially divisive. This is the first time our confidence in our place within this community has wavered.

I respectfully encourage Council to reconsider this proposed bylaw. In many ways, it appears performative in nature. The Town already has existing policies and bylaws such as the Community Standards Bylaw and related policies that address the use of public spaces and community conduct. Because of this, the necessity of an additional neutrality bylaw is unclear.

Additionally, neutrality bylaws adopted in other Alberta communities, such as Barrhead and Westlock, were introduced in response to discussions around pride crosswalks and similar expressions of community recognition. As a result, such bylaws have become widely associated with opposition to LGBTQIA+ inclusion. Whether this association is intended or not, the proposed bylaw risks carrying that same stigma and creating unnecessary division within our community.

It is also important to note that, as of March 16, 2026, the Town of Didsbury has never painted a rainbow crosswalk or flown other symbolic flags. This further raises questions about the need for a bylaw addressing an issue that has not arisen within our community.

A plebiscite on this matter could cost the town tens of thousands of dollars and place additional strain on a small community with limited resources. However, if community concerns are not carefully considered, I worry that this may be the direction we are headed. I have also attached several diversity and inclusivity policies from businesses that play an important role in supporting and sustaining our local economy.

Additionally, Didsbury serves as a corridor community for travelers moving between Calgary and Edmonton, particularly during the busy summer months. I am concerned that a bylaw perceived as exclusionary or narrow-minded could discourage people from stopping in our town. With many other communities along this corridor actively promoting themselves as welcoming and inclusive, there is a risk that businesses in Didsbury could lose valuable tourism and traveler support.

Didsbury has long been a place where families feel supported and welcome. I hope Council will carefully consider how this proposal may affect that sense of belonging and reconsider moving forward with a bylaw that may unintentionally create division where none currently exists. As community leaders, the decisions you make help shape how both residents and visitors experience our town, and I hope those decisions continue to reflect the welcoming community many of us have been proud to call home.

Didsbury has also experienced a consistent population decline in recent years. I believe our focus should be on policies that help protect and attract new families, ensuring that our town remains a vibrant and thriving community for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please include this letter in the March 24th meeting package.

Candice Ivarson
[REDACTED]

Please also consider these local business policies on Diversity and inclusion:

Alberta film industry- The Alberta film industry, supported by organizations like ACTRA Alberta, is actively working to address systemic biases and improve representation for BIPOC, indigenous, and marginalized groups.

Dollarama - Canadian owned - has an extensive diversity and inclusion policy- <https://stg.dollarama.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Board-Diversity-Policy-2018-03-28.pdf>

Pet valu- Canadian owned - Pet Valu prohibits discrimination or harassment against any employees, customers, or partners based on gender, race, ethnic background, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.

A and w- Canadian owned and operated out of Vancouver -

Save on Foods- Canadian owned and operated - extensive diversity and inclusion policy - World Class Culture | Save-On-Foods : Save-On-Foods CSR <https://share.google/OihNBmLJL1hfBFwR>, as well partners with UFCW local 1518 to promote diversity and diversity education.

Subway- We require all employees and franchisees to adhere to ethical principles and employment standards to ensure that everyone is treated with fairness and respect. Subway® is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. Subway® does not tolerate discrimination of any kind on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, religion, colour or national origin. We value diversity and inclusion.

Tim Horton's- "We respect all life experiences and backgrounds, and are committed to providing equal opportunity for employees, volunteers, sponsors and talent, whatever their race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, education or ability."

Dairy queen- "Inclusive & Diverse" is a core company value aimed at creating an environment where everyone feels comfortable bringing their authentic selves to work. DQ's policy prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color, ancestry, national origin, gender, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, age, disability, or veteran status.





Jocelyn Baxter <jbaxter@didsbury.ca>

Neutrality Bylaw

1 message

Greg Norris [REDACTED]

Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 3:55 PM

To: "commrelations@didsbury.ca" <commrelations@didsbury.ca>, "bmurray@didsbury.ca" <bmurray@didsbury.ca>, CAO- <msimpson@didsbury.ca>, Mayor - <clittle@didsbury.ca>, Curt Engel - <cengel@didsbury.ca>, Norm Quantz - <nquantz@didsbury.ca>, Will Stevens - <wstevens@didsbury.ca>, Troy Lambert - <tlambert@didsbury.ca>, Irwin Mahon - <imahon@didsbury.ca>, "rmurray@didsbury.ca" <rmurray@didsbury.ca>

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am sending this letter to Didsbury town council, care of CAO Michael Simpson. I would like it added to the public record, and the meeting package for March 24, if possible.

I wanted to share my concern about the proposed "Neutrality Bylaw" related to flags and crosswalks. This bylaw appears to be addressing a problem that does not currently exist in Didsbury. It risks creating unnecessary controversy while also taking council time and staff resources away from higher-impact priorities like housing, growth, and strengthening the community.

I'm also concerned about the reputational side of this. Didsbury sits in a competitive Calgary–Red Deer corridor where towns are constantly trying to attract residents, visitors, and investment. A bylaw like this could easily become part of a wider conversation beyond Didsbury, and once that happens the narrative is largely out of our control. Even if the intention is neutrality, many people will read between the lines and interpret it differently. Policies like this in other places have also shown how difficult it is to define "neutral" in practice. The definition is subjective, which can lead to ongoing arguments about what counts and what doesn't. Instead of reducing controversy, these bylaws often end up creating more complaints, more debate, and more administrative work.

There are also some practical economic considerations. Film and television productions tend to prioritize communities that feel welcoming and low-controversy because they want to avoid reputational risk. Location managers usually have many Alberta communities to choose from, and policies that feel restrictive or politically charged can make a town look "high-maintenance." When productions choose other communities, that short-term local spending goes with them. Once a place develops a reputation for being politically contentious, it becomes harder to market it as film-friendly or broadly welcoming. That's not a reputation I think most residents want for Didsbury.

I also recognize that Council has limited time and many important issues to focus on. From housing and economic development to infrastructure and community growth, there are a number of priorities that will have a tangible impact on residents' day-to-day lives. I would hate to see time and energy spent on a policy that ultimately does little to improve those outcomes.

More broadly, preventing inclusion is still a choice, even when framed as neutrality. A policy like this sends a message whether intended or not, and that message tends to outlive the debate that created it. Given that this issue was not a major concern raised during the recent election campaign, I believe this bylaw risks becoming a distraction from the work of helping Didsbury grow and prosper.

For these reasons, I encourage Council to reconsider pursuing the bylaw and instead focus on initiatives that build community, strengthen trust, and help Didsbury continue moving forward.

I would welcome the opportunity to hear more about Council's thinking on the issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Greg Norris

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



Jocelyn Baxter <jbaxter@didsbury.ca>

Proposed Public Space Neutrality Bylaw, Citizen Concerns

1 message

Marcus Riedner [REDACTED]

Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 9:18 AM

To: commrelations@didsbury.ca

Cc: legislative@didsbury.ca, ecdev@mvcountry.com

Please include this letter as correspondence to Council in the next available Council agenda package.

Didsbury Town Council,

I am writing to formally express my concerns regarding the proposed "Public Space Neutrality Bylaw." This seems like a poorly considered bit of legislation, and the fact it is being rushed through the legislative process says a lot about the level of transparency this council is operating with.

One glaring issue is the flag restriction does not include First Nations recognition, and would block First Nations members of our community - or their supporters - from flying tribal flags on public buildings and in public spaces. Part of the Truth and Reconciliation report included visible recognition of our treaty partners in government spaces. Each of the Treaty 7 and Metis region 3 communities have flags and banners that represent their heritage. This legislation would prevent them from being flown on public facilities that are, in spirit and practice, supposed to engage in the reconciliation process. We have a legal and constitutional requirement around this issue, ignoring this could result in financial impacts from provincial and federal dollars and opening the town up to litigation under the treaties.

Currently there are First Nations and Metis banners hung at the pool and ice rinks. These are publicly owned government buildings, and this bylaw, as written, would require these banners removed from hanging in the building. They are also present at all the schools in town, and would need to be removed there as well. It would be tragic to disrespect our treaty partners with such an act.

In terms of the LGBTQ+ community, having their flag banned from public use in public buildings is simply a sign of ignorance and fear. These flags are present in multiple municipal buildings in the form of wall hangings, stickers, and flags that are flown during Pride events. Banning them makes our community look ignorant and unwelcoming. My small farm outside of town relies on customers in Calgary, and those customers increasingly care about not only how I raise my livestock, but the social responsibility of my business and the community I live in. Being seen as an ignorant homophobic community banning rainbow flags and sidewalks makes it harder for my business to operate.

It also drives talented people away from our community. It pushes younger people out who don't want to associate with closet bigotry, leaving Didsbury as an aging and elderly demographic. Film and Television will avoid us, not wanting to risk association with unwelcoming communities. Tech and social enterprises - which represent industries 2 and 3 times the size of Oil and Gas in Canada - take openness of a community into consideration when looking where to set up data centres, shipping warehouses, and remote workers.

The town already has a problem with people flying hateful banners that say F [REDACTED] Carney or F [REDACTED] Trudeau, or represent racist dog whistles like the Confederate Flag. I get to see that garbage daily on cars, houses, and businesses. Now the town wants to remove welcoming flags - Metis 3, Pride, Treaty 7 members - from our public spaces. It is ridiculous. I want Didsbury to be a welcoming, open, friendly place and policies like this one, and the sidewalk colours restrictions, do exactly the opposite. It is part of the council's job to lift up the community and its members and counter the hateful acts of a few members of our community. This policy does the exact opposite. It just makes the whole town seem unwelcoming, bigoted, and ignorant. It also gives license to people flying hate flags to get more public, more aggressive, and more vocal. Is that really what the council wants? More F [REDACTED] this and F [REDACTED] that flags? Less rainbows, less friendship, less respect?

As a member of this community I urge Council to dump these policy plans as the waste of time and negative impact they are. Focus on issues that really matter here, like the lack of sidewalks, abundance of potholes, shrinking small businesses, and our local economy.

Regards,

Marcus Riedner

[REDACTED] Didsbury Alberta



Jocelyn Baxter <jbaxter@didsbury.ca>

Concerns Regarding Didsbury Public Space Neutrality Bylaw For Public Submission to Council

1 message

Sarah Riedner [REDACTED]

Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 7:07 AM

To: commrelations@didsbury.ca, legislative@didsbury.ca

Cc: ecdev@mvcountry.com

Please include this letter as correspondence to Council in the next available Council agenda package.

Didsbury Town Council,

I am writing to formally express my concerns regarding the proposed "Public Space Neutrality Bylaw." While there are many issues with both the substance of this proposal and the way it has been advanced, I would like to focus particularly on the potential economic consequences for Didsbury and its local businesses.

Didsbury has spent years promoting itself as a welcoming community and an attractive destination for visitors, small business investment, and film and television production. Policies adopted by Council should support these efforts, not undermine them. Unfortunately, this proposed bylaw risks doing exactly that.

As a local business owner, I am particularly concerned about the impact on visitor perception and local commerce. Communities thrive when they are seen as welcoming and inclusive. Policies that limit visible recognition of cultural groups, Indigenous nations, or marginalized communities can create the perception that Didsbury is less open and inclusive. That perception could reduce foot traffic to local businesses, resulting in lost revenue for shops, restaurants, and service providers. Small businesses operate on tight margins, and even modest reductions in visitor traffic can have significant consequences.

The proposed bylaw also poses a serious risk to one of the industries that Didsbury has actively worked to attract: film and television production. Productions frequently select locations based on practicality and flexibility, including the ability to modify public spaces temporarily, such as displaying different flags to represent fictional or alternate locations. Limiting flags on municipal property to only Canada, Alberta, and Didsbury would remove that flexibility. Productions operate on tight schedules and budgets; if a community introduces restrictions that complicate filming, location managers often choose another town. Losing even a single production can represent thousands of dollars in lost local spending. Communities known for being easy to work with tend to see repeat productions, while those with unnecessary restrictions are bypassed in the future.

Attempting to create exceptions for filming would also weaken the internal logic of the bylaw and raise questions about fairness if challenged. Film and television productions bring significant economic activity to Didsbury, including hotel bookings & private Air BnBs, restaurant spending, location fees, construction materials, equipment rental, and local hiring. Policies that create uncertainty for these productions threaten this important source of revenue.

Beyond economic considerations, the process used to advance this bylaw raises concerns. It has moved through first and second readings so quickly that a majority of residents have been left completely unaware of this proposed bylaw or have only learned of it in the last week. This limits meaningful participation from

residents and raises concerns about the trust I have in this council. Transparency is a fundamental principle of local governance. It was also one of the promises many of the current council members ran on during the election. Citizens cannot provide informed input if they do not know exactly what is being proposed.

Municipal bylaws are typically introduced to address a clear, demonstrated problem. In this case, it is not evident what issue the bylaw is intended to *so/ve*. Without evidence of incidents that require intervention, the Town risks investing time, energy, and public funds in a restriction that introduces new economic and reputational risks. Good governance requires that new policies be supported by clear evidence of necessity and that their benefits outweigh potential costs. The division of residents arising in the limited discussions that have happened in just the last several days, shows how this bylaw is already causing more harm than good. I want to live in a town where our governance is truly building up the community, not tearing it down or making residents feel unsafe and unheard. A town where Council is content to plant seeds of division does not have a future. It will quickly see young families considering other less restrictive places to buy a home and our youth leave for work & life elsewhere.

For all these reasons, I strongly encourage the Didsbury Town Council to reconsider this bylaw. Passing a policy that imposes new restrictions without clear evidence of a problem, while potentially harming local businesses and economic activity, risks creating more challenges than it solves and could be remembered as a decision that undermined rather than strengthened our community.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

A concerned Didsbury Resident and Small Business Owner,

Sarah Riedner

 [Didsbury Alberta TOM OWO](#)



Jocelyn Baxter <jbaxter@didsbury.ca>

Public Correspondence for Council Package: Concerns regarding the Neutrality Bylaw

Brittany Prime [REDACTED]

Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 5:24 PM

To: "msimpson@didsbury.ca" <msimpson@didsbury.ca>, Commrelations@didsbury.ca

Dear Mr. Simpson, Mayor Little, Deputy Mayor Murray, Councillor Engel, Councillor Mahon, Councillor Stevens, Councillor Lambert and Councillor Quantz,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this email. I know each of you to be passionate individuals with good intentions, and I know you to care deeply about family, both your own and those of the residents you serve. I have believed you to be rational and thoughtful elected officials who possess the integrity required to set aside personal agendas and private beliefs in order to fulfill your roles to the highest honour. To that, on the surface, I can see the potential for good intentions with this bylaw. However, I think the discourse surrounding it over the last week proves that the perception of this action feels very different from its stated purpose. Perception outweighs intention.

We live in a small town, and while we should not be deemed guilty by association, the company we keep inevitably reflects upon us. Public statements from some notable company can not be seen as neutral, and I fear that certain statements made by councillors can not either. I am deeply concerned by the majority rules mentality that seems to be embraced here. Alberta is not a two-party system, and we never govern solely for the majority. Which means it is your constitutional and ethical duty to protect the social fabric of the entire town, not just to satisfy the most vocal or numerous group of supporters. As most of you stated during the election process, municipal politics should be non-partisan. I paid very close attention to the statements and brochures put out by each of you during that time, and this was not a platform item. It feels disingenuous that before addressing roads, underground infrastructure, or business development, this bylaw has become your first priority.

I struggle to see the logic behind this decision. We are moving from a situation where no decorative crosswalks or unauthorized flags existed to a situation where that remains the case, yet council time and taxpayer money have been expended for the outcome to remain exactly the same, but our town is paying the price socially as well. The choice to bring this forward has created unnecessary division and animosity. I understand the intention was neutrality rather than an us-versus-them dynamic, but you must understand that by bringing this forward, and championing it you have created a binary of for or against. While we should all have the right to disagree with policies, this is not as benign as a business license. This is a proposal that makes some people feel emboldened to attack others. No matter what language is used, we are talking about people rather than ideologies. You simply have the power to vote no if a decorative crosswalk is ever proposed. I don't believe it to be an opinion that this is unnecessary, it is a fact.

Neutral statements rarely require comments to be turned off. Yet that is what happened. The community has interpreted this action as a statement in itself. I do not wish for you to feel the way that some of the teenagers in our community have confided in me that they do, nor do I wish for you to feel the way some of our neighbors now feel. But I do want you to consider them, and to acknowledge that every comment shared in support of this bylaw, whether neutral, polite, or vitriolic, resonates very differently for those who already feel vulnerable. I hope that rather than taking satisfaction in watching people be attacked or silenced

by those in defense of a decision you supported, you feel a sense of responsibility for the fact that free speech now feels unsafe for some people you are meant to represent. Regardless of the language used in this bylaw, it is not being experienced as neutral by many of the people you serve, and their presence in this community is not up for debate. You are elected public servants, public being the key word. In Canadian law, the "public" is not a monolith. It is made up of diverse groups with competing interests.

I do fear the precedent that those with whom you may not agree are not worthy of your time. As someone happily intending to be part of the curling community, I am happy you took the time for that special interest group. However, it does not show neutrality when one group is heard with an open mind while another is not even afforded the opportunity. The juxtaposition between openly hearing out one delegation and then immediately championing a bylaw to take that option away from others is very concerning. I do not expect any change from my letter, but I would like it included publicly on the record and in the council package. I want it known that there are people who are very active in this community, who volunteer their time, invest and spend their money and pay their taxes, who are willing to speak up against what they believe is wrong, especially as there are now those who feel unable to.

Thank you for your time. Brittany Stevens PS. If there is another avenue I need to take to make this public correspondence, please advise.



Jocelyn Baxter <jbaxter@didsbury.ca>

Public Submission – Support for Public Space Neutrality Bylaw (Proposed 2026)

1 message

Debby Pelletier [REDACTED]

Tue, Mar 17, 2026 at 11:23 AM

To: commrelations@didsbury.ca, inquiries@didsbury.ca

To: Mayor and Council, Town of Didsbury**Cc:** Chief Administrative Officer

Please include this correspondence in the official public record, distribute it to all members of Council and the CAO, and include it in the agenda package for the next Council meeting regarding the Public Space Neutrality Bylaw.

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am submitting this letter in support of the proposed Public Space Neutrality Bylaw currently under consideration in Didsbury.

From my understanding, this bylaw is intended to keep municipal spaces free from ideological messaging, including limiting flags on public buildings and maintaining neutral public infrastructure such as crosswalks. This approach reinforces that shared municipal spaces belong equally to all residents.

I am increasingly concerned by the tone of the public response to this proposal.

Council has been called discriminatory and bigoted for considering a bylaw rooted in neutrality. At the same time, some of the behaviour being directed at others in the community reflects the very exclusion and intolerance that is being claimed.

I experienced this first hand at a recent open house. A fellow resident said to me that "small towns are full of rednecks" who do not support the LGBTQ+ community. When I asked for any factual basis for that statement, I was dismissed and told, "you know it's true." I was then called a "redneck" and another referred to me as a "f'n homeschool mom" for expressing a different perspective.

I do not accept or use labels. At that moment, I felt "shamed" for not sharing the same viewpoint, pressured to support it. I felt persecuted in my own community, it only reinforced for me why neutrality matters.

Neutrality is not about diminishing any group, belief, or identity. It is about ensuring that public spaces and municipal resources remain fair and accessible to all, without elevating one perspective over another. This is essential to maintaining trust that local government serves and represents everyone equally.

Public spaces should remain neutral, without favoritism, so all residents are viewed, represented, and treated equally. I believe this is the most fair and consistent approach.

A neutral municipal platform does not erase expression—it ensures that our elected officials do not take side or give preference to groups that may be applying pressure.

As Council moves toward final consideration, I encourage clear communication that this bylaw:

- Does not restrict personal expression

- Does not target any specific group
- Is grounded in fairness, not exclusion

Didsbury is strongest when we can hold different perspectives while still respecting one another. That standard should apply to everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Debby Pelletier

Resident, Didsbury AB



Jess Rohl,

██████████ Didsbury

██████████
March 16, 2026

To: Michael Simpson, CAO CC: Didsbury Town Council

Subject: Formal Letter for the Public Record – A Student’s Perspective on the Proposed Neutrality Bylaw

Dear Mr. Simpson and Didsbury Town Council,

Please include this letter in the public record and the official meeting package for March 24. I am writing to you as a 21-year-old university student who grew up in Didsbury, specifically to express my opposition to the proposed "neutrality" bylaw.

Until recently, I had every intention of moving back home after finishing my degree to start my career and eventually raise a family in the community that raised me. However, this proposed bylaw has made me seriously reconsider whether Didsbury is still the right place for my future. Here is why:

- **A Question of Trust:** Growing up here, I was taught to value honesty and transparency. Seeing this bylaw brought forward so suddenly—without it ever being mentioned during the election—makes it feel like the community's voice is being bypassed. For a young person looking for a stable, open-minded place to live, this lack of transparency is a major red flag.
- **Economic Opportunity:** As a student, I am looking for a town with a healthy economy. I know how important the film industry and tourism are to Didsbury. If our town passes laws that make us look exclusionary or "politically charged," we risk losing the very industries that provide jobs for people my age. We should be inviting growth, not pushing it away.
- **Community Safety and Inclusion:** I have many friends and former classmates who are part of the LGBTQ+ community. This bylaw sends a clear message that they are "different" and that their visibility is a problem to be solved. A "neutral" law shouldn't make people feel unwelcome. I want to live in a town that celebrates everyone, not one that creates new divides where there weren't any before.
- **The "Brain Drain":** Many of my peers are currently away at school, deciding where they will settle down. When news of this bylaw reached me, it became a topic of conversation among us. The consensus is clear: if the town we grew up in doesn't feel safe or welcoming for everyone, we will take our degrees, our skills, and our future tax dollars elsewhere.

I am asking you to vote against this bylaw. Please choose to keep Didsbury a place where the next generation actually wants to return. We want to come home, but we need to know that home is a place that values progress and inclusion.

Thank you for considering the future of Didsbury's youth.

Sincerely,

Jess Rohl



Jocelyn Baxter <jbaxter@didsbury.ca>

Formal Opposition to the "Neutrality" Bylaw – Concerns from a New Resident

1 message

Paulette Morck [REDACTED]
To: "Commrelations@didsbury.ca" <Commrelations@didsbury.ca>

Wed, Mar 18, 2026 at 8:13 PM

To Mayor Little, Members of Council, and CAO Michael Simpson,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen and homeowner in Didsbury. I moved to this town from Calgary 20 months ago, believing I had found a community that lived up to its reputation. However, the recent "Neutrality" Bylaw has caused me to deeply question that choice.

I would like to remind the Council of the Town's official guiding principles:

- OUR VISION: *The Place to Grow.*
- OUR MISSION: *Creating The Place to Grow.*

To be perfectly honest, had this bylaw been in place prior to my move, Didsbury would not have been "The Place to Grow" for me. I do not align myself with spaces that are not welcoming to all people, and I worry that this bylaw is creating a "line in the sand" that brandishes our town as closed-off and exclusionary.

A community cannot truly be "The Place to Grow" if it creates barriers that make people feel unwelcome or unseen. This bylaw threatens our growth in several critical ways:

- Economic Impact and Small Business: Our local businesses and restaurants rely on visitors and "day-trippers" to survive. A reputation for exclusion creates a "black mark" that discourages people from spending their time and money here.
- Film and Arts Industry: Didsbury has gained incredible positive national attention through the film and television industry. This industry values inclusivity; an "undesirable" national reputation may lead production companies to choose alternative locations, taking significant revenue with them.
- Future Growth: As a relatively new resident, I worry that we are discouraging the next generation of families and professionals from settling here. We risk losing the very people who would help our community thrive. This community needs to continue to be attractive to young families or it will die along with the older residents. Didsbury will risk becoming a ghost town if folks are not interested in moving out here.

The people I have met in Didsbury are kind, helpful neighbours. This bylaw does not represent the welcoming heart of this community. Instead, it paints us with a negative lens that will make it harder for our town to thrive.

I urge the Council to think long and hard about how this bylaw impacts our future. If we want to truly be "The Place to Grow," we must be a place where everyone—regardless of their background or identity—feels they have the space to do so.

I request that this letter be included in the formal public correspondence for the upcoming Council Meeting.

Sincerely,

Paulette Morck
[REDACTED]
Disbury, Alberta
[REDACTED]



Jocelyn Baxter <jbaxter@didsbury.ca>

Letter - Opposition to Public Space Neutrality Bylaw

1 message

'Rhonda Hunter' via !Community Relations <commrelations@didsbury.ca>

Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 9:58 PM

Reply-To: Rhonda Hunter [REDACTED]

To: "commrelations@didsbury.ca" <commrelations@didsbury.ca>, Michael Simpson <msimpson@didsbury.ca>

Cc: "clittle@didsbury.ca" <clittle@didsbury.ca>, "cengel@didsbury.ca" <cengel@didsbury.ca>, "nquantz@didsbury.ca"

<nquantz@didsbury.ca>, "wstevens@didsbury.ca" <wstevens@didsbury.ca>, "bmurray@didsbury.ca"

<bmurray@didsbury.ca>, "imahon@didsbury.ca" <imahon@didsbury.ca>, "tlambert@didsbury.ca" <tlambert@didsbury.ca>,

"naasen@didsbury.ca" <naasen@didsbury.ca>, "ariley@didsbury.ca" <ariley@didsbury.ca>, "cfox@didsbury.ca"

<cfox@didsbury.ca>, "lbastarache@didsbury.ca" <lbastarache@didsbury.ca>

Good evening CAO Simpson and Town Council.

Please find attached my letter that expresses my opposition to the proposed Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw.

I approve that this letter can be added to the March 24, 2026, Council Agenda package with all appropriate redactions should it be that letters are being added to the agenda package on this topic.

I am available to answer any questions at your convenience.

Respectfully,

Rhonda Hunter

**Letter to Council - RHunter - March 18 2026 - Opposition to Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw.docx**

17K

March 18, 2026

Attention: Didsbury Town Council

As a lifelong resident, an advocate of all things good for Didsbury, and as a proud two-term mayor of Didsbury, I support and endorse that Didsbury will continue to thrive and succeed through positive and meaningful initiatives and projects that will continue to build on and add to all that is good in our community. I believe that it is vital that Town Council endorse the initiatives and projects that will continue to make their citizens proud to call Didsbury home and, as well, invite new Didsburians, businesses, and visitors into our community.

In reading the Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw that Council has introduced (and passed two readings at the March 10 Council meeting), I am not reading that this bylaw will bring anything positive and meaningful to our community or to our citizens or businesses.

I have heard from many citizens that this bylaw was a surprise to them, that Council gave no notice to citizens that such a bylaw was in the works or that there was even a need for one or a problem that led to its creation. To serve citizens best, it my hope is that Council will defeat third reading of this bylaw. There is much more input that is needed from citizens and much more research to be done regarding the negative and detrimental impacts that are realized by municipalities from the implementation of such a bylaw. I believe this bylaw has the wording, intent, and potential to have a very negative impact on many of Didsbury's citizens who are valued members of our community.

This bylaw has created much community discussion and has proven to be a very divisive topic. Thus, by defeating the third reading of this bylaw, citizens can be assured that discrimination and divisiveness do not prevail at the Council table and that human rights are Council's priority in finding a path forward that our community can support.

I support that all Councils must endorse bylaws that are rational and reasonable and address real problems. I support that Councils should be wary of and averse to approving bylaws that do otherwise.

I do write this letter to request that you record my opposition to the Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw.

Respectfully,

Rhonda A. Hunter

Rhonda Hunter

██████████ Didsbury AB ToM oWo

cc Michael Simpson, Town of Didsbury CAO
Nicole Aasen, Town of Didsbury Community Services Director
Amanda Riley, Town of Didsbury Chief Financial Officer
Craig Fox, Town of Didsbury Director of Engineering and Infrastructure
Lisa Bastarache, Town of Didsbury Communications



Jocelyn Baxter <jbaxter@didsbury.ca>

Letter to Mayor and Council

1 message

Gerry and Melody Knutson [REDACTED]
To: "jbaxter@didsbury.ca" <jbaxter@didsbury.ca>

Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 7:38 PM

I would like to ask that this letter be included in the Council Package for the March 24, 2026 meeting. I have filled out a request through the town's website to speak to the Mayor and Council prior to any bylaws being addressed.

Thank you,
Melody Knutson
[REDACTED]

 **Town of Didsbury letter to council March 19 2026.odt**
39K

Melody Knutson

██████████
Didsbury, Ab
T0M 0W0

Mayor and Council
Town of Didsbury
1606 14 Street
Didsbury AB
T0M 0W0

March 19, 2026

Mayor and Council,

I would like this letter added to the Council's package for the Council Meeting on March 24, 2026

First off, I'm confused as to why the public is unable to speak to council until after the bylaws have been passed. At any meeting I would think the public has a right to come forward with their concerns before any decisions are made.

I am writing with concerns about certain actions with regard to the Public Space Neutrality Bylaw proposed. I think this needs to be considered much more deeply. We need to take into account "That everyone is a human being and deserves respect." I have concerns about the bylaw negatively effecting many groups if the sidewalks and crosswalks are town property, and a bylaw is passed. I feel this bylaw should be tabled or turned down to protect all citizens.

If this bylaw gets third reading does that mean that if we wanted to honor our legion members and paint a sidewalk/crosswalk to honor them that they wouldn't be able to, after all they gave of themselves in a war so that we have rights and freedoms? Or, if the school children that paint our sidewalks with their positive messages are not allowed because the messages are on town sidewalks? Or is this bylaw only to address the concern that someone might want to paint a rainbow on a crosswalk?

If this bylaw is only to prevent the rainbow then I would like to know what self righteous, prejudiced, and homophobic individual or group brought this forward? However biased this group may be Council needs to consider the rights of others, Whatever happened to "love thy neighbour" and "Everyone matters and deserves respect?"

If this bylaw goes ahead would that mean the radical groups such as the Alberta Separatists, whom are currently campaigning on public land, would no longer be allowed to?

I also question why the public forum/question period was held at a private business instead of having a second meeting at the train station or library or other neutral space? I wanted to speak to all the councilors however people stayed at the tables and didn't move so it was difficult to access the councilor. I think everyone should have an opportunity to speak to each councilor. This would allow all voices to be heard.

I know this is a lot! However, I believe this all connects to the Public Space Neutrality Bylaw. This is effecting the rights of everyone. I am a proud Didsburian and I have liked living here the past 20 years.. I feel that the bylaw is dividing our town and creating a negative controversy when none existed other than in the minds of a few! The officials of our community need to consider ALL of our community members when considering bylaws such as Public Space Neutrality Bylaw. I am requesting that this bylaw be tabled or voted against at this time to protect all of our community members.

Thank you,

Melody Knutson