



In what is likely a year for the most tornadoes to have occurred in recorded Alberta history, the two tornadoes that touched down last Saturday in Rocky Mountain House and adjacent Clearwater County did a fair amount of damage.

Storm watchers and tornado researchers point out that August is usually the time of most twisters in Alberta and that most usually occur in southern Alberta, whereas, in June there were at least

More details about tornadoes start Page 3

Northern Alberta News | Features | Commentary \$1.90

The FEVER

Volume 27, Issue 26

Thursday, July 23, 2026

MD government changes as two council seats eliminated as Peerless/Trout Lakes are dropped as MD 17 wards

See notice of changes on Page 6

Prejudice does not stop wildfires' threats to communities

See Page 10 & 11



Working on cleaning our forests to help the tariff king breathe easier



Lyle Cardinal must have figured on one of Wabasca's rainiest days last Friday that a little relaxing on the shores of new local bodies of water might be okay.



Once he settled into his chair, the first pick-up truck came by and he got a real spraying. So he decided, bathing might be the best way to take advantage of the water. So when the next pick-up came by he offered both his body and clothes to a good washing. Elsewheres in the community. People were watching how manhole covers were dancing up and down from the water pressure in the storm water system.

Pembina Institute says no private interest in pipeline, plan for west coast is for political purposes

By Pembina Institute

Despite extraordinary efforts by both the federal and provincial governments to clear the way for a pipeline to move ahead, companies recognize the near-term reality of peaking global oil demand

Janetta McKenzie, director of the oil and gas program at the Pembina Institute, made the following statement with regards to announcement from the province of Alberta, and the prime minister's confirmation that there is still no private proponent for the west coast oil pipeline:

"We don't know exactly what is going to be announced later today, but one thing has already been confirmed: there is still no private company willing to invest dollars in a brand new west coast oil pipeline. It's time to have an honest conversation about this project, and the different – conflicting – motivations that various parties have around it.

"Firstly, the prime minister has been clear that he is focused on opportunities to reduce Canada's economic dependence on the United States by

attracting private investment in big, nation-building projects.

This is a noble goal, but the continued lack of private sector interest in this pipeline should ring alarm bells in Ottawa. The federal government needs to focus on commercially viable ways to diversify Canada's exports.

"Secondly, the premier of Alberta has said she regards this pipeline as a question of "whether Canada works as a country". For the Government of Alberta, this pipeline is about appeasing the separatist sentiment that continues to rock the province and its economy. Mixing long-term economic decision making with these sorts of political motivations is something we must guard against as Canadians.

"Thirdly, the oil and gas sector is, quite understandably, only motivated by the possibility of generating returns to their shareholders - and this is where things come unstuck. A brand new oil pipeline to the west coast is an expensive, high-risk venture; one that is particularly unappealing given the other lower-risk options available to oilsands companies to increase their export capacity.

As we have seen over the last year, companies are more interested in optimizing the existing pipelines they have – maximizing the volume of oil that can be put through TMX going west, but also the expansion of the Enbridge mainline going south. Put together, these would offer an additional one million barrels per day of capacity at a much lower cost to both shippers and pipeline companies. Regardless of their words and public statements about a new west coast pipeline, this is where the pipeline industry continues to focus its actions and its dollars.

There is not a "business case" for a new pipeline

"In short, though these three different parties say they want a west coast pipeline to be built, if the business case were there, a private proponent would have stepped forward by now. For Canadians, this should speak volumes. It's been more than a year since Premier Danielle Smith said she could secure a private proponent 'within weeks.' Since then, the provincial and federal governments have worked to remove any possible obstacle that the industry has suggested exists: dropping the planned oil and gas sector emissions cap, weakening industrial carbon pricing, streamlining regulatory and environmental approvals processes, opening a Major Projects Office; the list goes on.

"Meanwhile, the Government of Alberta has gone to extraordinary lengths to manifest the business case for this pipeline. This includes the unprecedented steps of taking barrels of oil as "in-kind" payments from oilsands companies (as opposed to cash royalties); providing the Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission a loan of almost a billion dollars to go to Asia in search of buyers for those barrels; and finally contemplating using Albertans' tax dollars to re-tool refineries in Japan to process the oilsands' variety of heavy crude. These are all examples of Alberta taxpayer dollars and royalty revenue being used to artificially create market demand for Alberta's oil, instead of being spent on vital public services.

"At this point, after all of this government effort and public resources being spent, and still with no private dollars forthcoming, Canadians have to conclude that investors simply do not believe the idea is good business. On this point, industry's skepticism is well-founded. International oil supermajors like Shell and BP expect global oil demand to enter permanent decline within the next decade, and the price shock of the Iran war has only hastened this by prompting explosive growth in sales of electric vehicles around the world – particularly in Asia."



WDHA/Keekenow Senior Facility Employment Opportunities



Job Title	: Health Care Aide
Appointment Type	: Permanent Full-time
Schedule	: 88 hours bi-weekly; including evening, night and weekend shifts
Salary	: \$28.64 per hour depending on education and experience
Evening Shift Differential	: \$3.00 per hour
Night Shift Differential.	: \$4.00 per hour
Weekend Shift Differential	: \$4.00 per hour
Benefits.	: Medical, Dental, Extended Health, Disability and Life Insurance, Pension Plan & Paid Annual Vacation

Who we are looking for:

WDHA/KSF is seeking compassionate individuals to join our team as Health Care Aides. As a Health Care Aide, you will play a crucial role in providing essential care and support to Elders/Residents requiring assistance with activities of daily living within the HCA scope of practice.

Some Key Duties:

- ♦ Provides physical care and comfort for the residents by assisting with activities of daily living including personal hygiene activities, as well as feeding, mobility and exercise as needed in a manner that maximizes their independence and well-being.
- ♦ Observes, reports and records accurately, clearly, concisely and promptly regarding the condition of residents and changes that occur from day to day.
- ♦ Work with the LPN to follow the personal care plan developed for each resident.

Essential Qualifications and Skills:

- ♦ Health Care Aide Certificate
- ♦ CLHA Active Registration
- ♦ Vulnerable Sector Check (Required prior to start date.)
- ♦ Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation or Basic Life Support.
- ♦ Hepatitis B, tetanus vaccinations and TB testing required.
- ♦ Experience in relevant position.
- ♦ Speaking and understanding Cree would be an asset.

Interested individuals are asked to submit a cover letter and resume to:
hr@wdha-ksf.ca

WDHA/KSF prefers the most qualified person for hire based on credentials, experience, availability and other skills and preference will be given to current residents of Wabasca, Sandy Lake or Calling Lake, Alberta.

The personal information submitted pursuant to this advertisement will be utilized for this Employment Opportunity only and is subject to compliance with the Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act. Applicants are thanked in advance for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Drowning of man in Ponoka comes during Drowning Prevention Week

Unfortunately, just days prior to the start of National Drowning Prevention Week starting on July 19, the drowning of a 62-year-old man occurred in a park pond in Ponoka.

RCMP report that just before 10 p.m. on Thursday, July 16, a call came to them from people who heard a man calling from held from the middle of Centennial Pond in the town.

Police officers, Ponoka Fire Department and local EMS personnel rushed to the pond, but was told by other witnesses that the male had gone under the water surface and had not come up.

More searching was done but was unsuccessful.

The following morning a search and rescue team recovered the body of the older man, a resident of Ponoka, from the pond.

Led by the Lifesaving Society of Canada, National Drowning Prevention Week (NDPW) ends this Saturday which is also World Drowning Prevention Day.

The theme of the week is "Safety starts with being Water Smart."

According to the Lifesaving Society, over 400 Canadians die in preventable water-related incidents annually.

Prepare to be Water Smart with the below safety tips:

- Wear a lifejacket. Wear a lifejacket while boating, doing water sports, and if you can't swim.

- Supervise children and non-swimmers. Keep chil-

dren and non-swimmers within arms' reach when in and around bodies of water.

- Stay sober around water. Never operate a boat, or go swimming, when tired or impaired.

- Be aware. Be mindful of water conditions, such as strong currents. Rivers can have risks like undercurrents, changing depth, and entrapment hazards.

- Never go alone. Do not operate a boat or go swimming alone, and don't overestimate your swimming abilities.

- Always have a spotter in the boat when towing someone on skis or boards.

- Learn to swim. Many drownings occur when a person unexpectedly falls into a body of water.

- Protect your neck. Never dive into shallow water. If you're unsure of depth..



Notification of Intent to Apply Herbicides on Harvested Areas August / September 2026

What: Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. have received approval from Forestry and Parks to apply herbicides on **65 hectares** of harvested areas within the M.D. of Opportunity No. 17.

Where: In the following Townships within the Wabasca area:

TWP/RGE/M
TWP-071 RGE-23 MER-4
TWP-072 RGE-23 MER-4
TWP-073 RGE-20 MER-4
TWP-074 RGE-19 MER-4

When: Applications will start on August 4, 2026 and conclude by September 15, 2026

How: Application of glyphosate using aerial methods.

Al-Pac has received an Environmental and Social Risk Assessment (ESRA) that was developed collaboratively by the FSC. The ESRA is available upon request.

Should you have any questions or wish to provide input to the above-mentioned project please contact:

Silviculture Forester
Tree Time Services Inc.
 260 - 2121 Premier Way
 Sherwood Park, AB T8H 0B8
 Phone: 780-472-8878



FireSmart Project Tenders

Tender Packages named:

1. FFP-24-64 FFP-25-18 Wabasca
2. FFP-24-66 FFP-25-19 Sandy Lake
3. FFP-24-65 Red Earth
4. FFP-24-63 Calling Lake Maintenance

are available on our website: www.mdopportunity.ab.ca

Sealed Tenders clearly marked with the Project Name(s) will be accepted at the Wabasca Main Office. Closing date/time is 12:00 pm Noon (MST) on July 28, 2026.

Project scope is detailed in the tender packages and contractor pre-qualifications include MD business licence, \$2 million commercial liability insurance, WCB, and COR or SECOR.

Inquiries pertaining to technical matters of the projects can be directed to: **Kevin Kuhn, Mistik Environmental**, Cell: (780) 843 5846 or office (780) 849 9386 or email: k.kuhn@mistikenvironmental.com

All other inquiries can be directed to: Chris Carew (Manager of Safety & Emergency Management), Office: 780 891 3778 or email: christopher.carew@mdopportunity.ab.ca

Best e-mail to reach The FEVER: bruce.thomas@thefever.online

Rural properties got hit hardest by tornadoes hitting Rocky Mountain House area

With 27 so far, Alberta may have new record for twisters; but luckily no fatalities

A tornado hit a small commercial part of the Town of Rocky Mountain House and then roared into populated rural areas of Clearwater County early Saturday evening.

They destroyed or damaged about 50 homes and many other structures, vehicles, farm equipment and other items.

And lots of trees were snapped apart or uprooted.

The initial crisis faced by residents, emer-

gency responders, and utility companies were roads being blocked by fallen trees, downed power lines and other things blown from properties adjacent to roadways.

This was the 26th and 27th reported tornado in what is proving to be a very extreme weather year in Alberta, perhaps a record one for tornadoes. It was not determined and announced on Wednesday that there were actually two twisters.

Weather forecasters and tornado researchers

say this year's twisters have come unusually early and many of them have occurred in northern Alberta when southern Alberta normally has most of them every year.

Particularly odd were the tornadoes that hit northwest Alberta the evening of June 15.

The main tornado was classified officially as an EF2 event, meaning wind speed might have been as high as 200 kilometres per hour, reported the Northern Tornado Project which is operated by researchers from Western University in London, Ontario.

Girouxville, southeast of Peace River, took a real beating from the main tornado while up to six other tornadoes that evening were less harmful. The next strongest twister on June 15 was rated as an EF1 event that occurred in the High Prairie/Enilda area. EF1 tornadoes could produce winds as high as 150 km/hr. The other ones are thought to have been no higher than 100 km/hr.

Members of the Project who gather as much information about each confirmed tornado so people and communities can better prepare for them and perhaps be safer, say that the highest number of twisters for one year in Alberta they know of is 23.

Other persons who have been involved with tornadoes in past decades in Alberta, recall that the 1980's were known for having had a lot of tornado activity, and July 31, 1987 was the date of Canada's biggest-ever tornado disaster occurring in Edmonton.

On what became known as "Black Friday" a giant F4 twister roared northwards through the east side of the city, wiping out most of Evergreen Trailer Park where most of the event's 27 fatalities occurred. At least 300 people were injured and about the same number of homes destroyed, along with scores of commercial and industrial buildings.

**West Central Alberta
on July 18, 2026**

Saturday morning, Environment Canada meteorologists posted severe thunderstorm warnings which might have a potential to create tornadoes, for regions east of Edmonton. However, by late in the afternoon it was the sky 200 kilometres away to the southwest that was looking dark and foreboding.

Media reports coming out of both Rocky Mountain House and Clearwater County indicate that the town had only a

Tornadoes ... continued on Fever Page 6



Heroin
Bigstone Community Wellness

Presents:

LUNCH & LEARN

Heroin Addiction

Dates:
Tuesday July 28, 2026
(BCW Foyer Wabasca)

Online option: Zoom
Meeting ID# 89359267505
Password# 584014

Thursday July 30, 2026
(Calling Lake Library)

Lunch will be provided

Door Prizes!!

Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

For more Information, please contact Mental Wellness Response Team @ 780-891-3777 or Toll Free 1-877-767-7060

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!!! www.bigstonehealth.ca

MD #17 recognized as Friends of Education



Scott Meunier, Deputy Superintendent of Northland School Division presented the award in Wabasca with Marcel Auger, Reeve of MD of Opportunity, accepting it on behalf of the District.

The Fever welcomes photos of any civic, sporting or other types of awards involving people and organizations in our readership area!

Northland School Division (NSD) celebrated the Municipal District (MD) of Opportunity's strong commitment to education on July 15, in Wabasca at a council meeting.

Presented to the M.D. was the Alberta School Boards Association Zone 1 Friends of Education Award which recognizes individuals and organizations making a special contribution to education in Alberta.

A valued partner of Northland, the MD of Opportunity has supported students and the communities the division serves in many ways. Its assistance was especially important during the Chipewyan Lake wildfire last year, helping NSD respond to the emergency and prepare for evacuated students and staff to return to the community.

Support included the evacuations, the restoration of power and internet services, debris removal and as-

sistance in moving teacher housing back into Chipewyan Lake.

These efforts played an important role in helping Chipewyan Lake School re-open safely and welcome students back to learning.

Over the years, the MD has also provided funding for student programming connected to Northland School Division's Education Plan. This continued partnership has helped create more opportunities for students and reflects a strong commitment to supporting families and communities.

The MD of Opportunity was Northland School Division's nominee at the ASBA Edwin Parr and Friends of Education Awards Banquet for Zone 1, held May 13, in Peace River. Since representatives were unable to attend the banquet, Northland came to Wabasca for the presentation.

ONE CARD. THAT'S IT.

No more flimsy paper health cards or juggling multiple IDs.

As of July 2, Alberta's driver's licences and ID cards will include your health number and a Canadian citizenship marker. Just one safe, secure card for the services you rely on.

Bring your Alberta health card, proof of Canadian citizenship or legal entitlement to be in Canada to the registry to renew your card. First-time applicants must also bring proof of Alberta residency.

Learn more. [Alberta.ca/OneCard](https://alberta.ca/OneCard)



Alberta

Saturday's tornadoes ...

Continued from Page 4

small amount of damages while it was the rural homes and farms which suffered the most with some homes and other farm structures completely destroyed.

The good news has been that no one was killed or seriously injured in the Rocky Mountain House/Clearwater County event.

The Alberta Government has pledged assistance and urged people suffering property damage to immediately get in touch with their property insurers. All damages should be photographed, if possible, where and as they were after the tornado passed.

As usual in these types of natural disasters, there was already praise and thank-yous flowing on Monday from residents, local leaders and other parties about how the affected people along with those who escaped damages, were all pitching in together to help each other.

Survey on Tuesday revealed there were two twisters

It was not announced until Wednesday morning by the Northern Tornadoes Project researchers and Environment and Climate Change Canada that there were actually two tornadoes on Saturday. Both were rated as EF2 events which would mean they each has wind speeds that could have been in excess of 190 kilometers per hour.

A ground inspection, along with use of drones by teams of tornado investigators also determined that the combined distance the two tornadoes covered was about 20 kilometers. Apparently, both tornadoes were briefly joined.

The first tornado formed southwest of Rocky Mountain House and was the one which caused the damages in the town site while the second and probably biggest one was responsible for damage to bigger and heavier objects it met as it hit houses, farms, vehicles, grain bins and other objects in its path.



MD OF
OPPORTUNITY
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MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY

The following Development Permits were processed on July 20, 2026

26-DP-034 – NE 8-82-22 W4M- Crown

Development: Storage & Maintenance Facility
Zoned as E – Resources District – **Approved**

26-DP-035 – 7921556;15;4 – Calling Lake

Development: Dwelling and Garden Suite
Zoned as R1C – Residential District – **Approved**

Any person affected by this decision may submit a written "statement of concern" on the grounds of appeal to: **Terah Yellowknee, Subdivision and Development of Appeal Board Clerk, MD of Opportunity, P.O. Box 60 Wabasca, Alberta T0G 2K0**, within 21 days of publication. Please quote the appropriate application number when submitting a statement of concern. The residential appeal fee is \$100.00, and the commercial appeal fee is \$400.00.



NOTICE - BYLAW 2026-08

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY Municipal Ward Boundaries, Number of Wards and Names and/or Numbers for each Ward

As per Section 606(2) of the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c-M-26, as amended (the Municipal Government Act), notice is hereby given to the residents of the Municipal District of Opportunity that Bylaw 2026-08 was given **FIRST READING** on June 8, 2026.

Bylaw 2026-08 is a bylaw of the Municipal District of Opportunity authorizing a Council to specify the number of Councillors to serve on the Council of the Municipal District of Opportunity, to establish Ward Boundaries for its Municipality, including the number of Wards and Names and/or Numbers for each Ward as follows:

Ward #	Hamlet/Community	Number of Councillors to be Elected
# 1	Wabasca	4
# 2	Calling Lake	2
# 3	Sandy Lake	1
# 4	Red Earth Creek	1
# 5	Chipewyan Lake	1
Total:		9

A copy of the proposed Bylaw 2026-08 may be obtained and inspected at any of the following offices:

M.D. of Opportunity	M.D. of Opportunity	MD Of Opportunity
Box 60	Box 22	Box 50
Wabasca, Alberta	Calling Lake, Alberta.	Red Earth Creek, Alberta
T0G 2K0	T0G 0K0	T0G 1X0
780-891-3778	780-331-3860.	780-649-3427
2077	2024 Central Drive.	249 Red Earth Drive
Mistassiniy Road North		

Pursuant to Section 231(1) of the Municipal Government Act when a Bylaw has been advertised, the ELECTORS of a municipality may submit a petition for a vote of the electors to determine whether the proposed bylaw resolution should be passed. **Procedure to File a Petition:**

1. A petition under this section for a vote of the electors on a proposed bylaw required to be advertised by another Part of this Act or another enactment is not sufficient unless it is filed with the chief administrative officer within 60 days after the last date on which the proposed bylaw is advertised.
2. A petition must be signed by the required number of petitioners. In the case of a municipality, other than a summer village, by electors of the municipality equal in number to at least 10% of the population.
3. A petition must consist of one or more pages, each of which must contain an identical statement of the purpose of the petition.
4. The petition must include, for each petitioner,
 - a. the printed surname and printed given names or initials of the petitioner,
 - b. the petitioner's signature
 - c. the street address of the petitioner or the legal description of the land on which the petitioner lives, and the petitioner's telephone number or email address if any;
 - d. the date on which the petitioner signs the petition.
5. Each signature must be witnessed by an adult person who must:
 - a. sign opposite the signature of the petitioner, and
 - b. take an affidavit that to the best of the person's knowledge the signature witnessed are those of persons entitled to sign the petition.
6. The petition must have attached to it the affidavits referred to in part 5 above.
7. The petition must have attached to it a signed statement of a person stating that:
 - a. the person is the representative of the petitioners, and
 - b. the municipality or the Minister, as the case may be, may direct any inquiries about the petition to the representative.

This Notice is dated June 8, 2026.

Chief Administrative Officer,

BIGSTONE COMMUNITY WELLNESS PRESENT

MASSAGE THERAPY



DATES AVAILABLE

- AUGUST 4-6
- AUGUST 18-20
- AUGUST 25-27
- SEPTEMBER 1-3
- SEPTEMBER 8-10
- SEPTEMBER 15-17



DAYS & TIMES

- TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
12:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- THURSDAY 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM



OPEN TO ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS!
DIRECT BILLING PROVIDED; HOWEVER
SERVICES WILL BE COVERED BY BIGSTONE
COMMUNITY WELLNESS FOR BAND MEMBERS
WITHOUT INSURANCE.

MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF STATUS

NON-BAND MEMBERS MUST PROVIDE
INSURANCE OR PAY OUT OF POCKET.



BOOK WITH OUR RECEPTIONIST

@ 780-891-3777 OR 1-877-767-7060

Bigstone Cree voting on proposed constitution, also membership law, amendments to election code

OneFeather Mobile Technologies Ltd.

Online voting by members of Bigstone Cree Nation continues until July 27, with in-person polling offered in six communities.

Bigstone members are being asked to vote on whether to ratify a proposed Bigstone Cree Nation Constitution.

Digital voting began at 9 a.m. Monday, July 20, and will remain open until 7 p.m. July 27.

Members may vote online using a cell phone, tablet or computer through the OneFeather voting system. A personal email address and a OneFeather account are required to participate online.

In-person voting will also be available on Monday, July 27, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at locations in Wa-

basca, Chipewyan Lake, Calling Lake, Fort St. John, Slave Lake and Edmonton.

The ratification vote gives eligible members an opportunity to decide whether the proposed constitution should become a foundational governing document of Bigstone Cree Nation.

A Nation's constitution can establish principles concerning governance, leadership responsibilities, accountability and the relationship between the Nation's government and its citizens.

Members are encouraged to review the official Bigstone Cree Nation information and proposed constitutional documents before casting their ballots.

The constitution vote is one of

three Bigstone Cree Nation ratification processes taking place from July 20 to July 27.

Members are also voting separately on a proposed Membership Law and proposed amendments to the Nation's Election Code.

In-person voting locations

Wabasca

George D. Auger Community Hall

Chipewyan Lake

Community Hall

Calling Lake

Calling Lake Community Hall
2824 Central Drive, Calling Lake

Fort St. John

Holiday Inn
9504 Alaska Road, Fort St. John,

Slave Lake

Slave Lake Inn
Main Street South, Slave Lake,

Edmonton

Chateau Nova Kingsway
159 Airport Road NW, Edmonton,

BIGSTONE COMMUNITY WELLNESS PRESENTS:



CHIPEWYAN LAKE

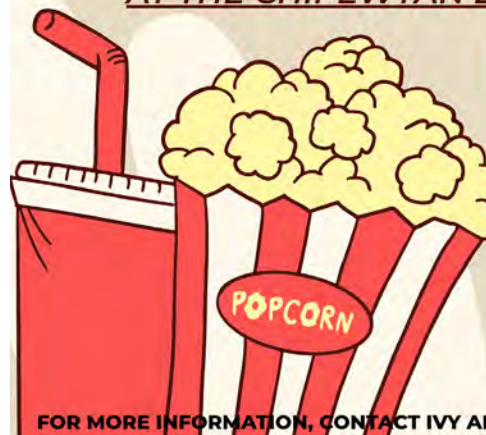
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Come and enjoy a movie that will delight young and old.

Free popcorn and lots of surprises.

JULY 30TH - 5PM TO 7PM

AT THE CHIPEWYAN LAKE HALL



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT IVY ALOOK @ (780)-891-8569

Bigstone Community Wellness Presents:



When: July 20th, 2026
Where: Bcw Foyer
Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm
Ages: 8-17
For more information contact Emery Orr at 780-891-3777

Bigstone Community Wellness Presents:



When: July 21st, 2026
Where: BCW Foyer
Time: 5:00pm-7:00pm
Ages: 8-17
For more information contact Emery Orr at 780-891-3777



M. D. of Opportunity No. 17 Wabasca, AB

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL 2026

NOTICE is hereby given that the assessment roll for the tax year 2026, of the said Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17 made under the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, Part 9, has been prepared;

And the assessment roll will be open for inspection at the municipal offices in Calling Lake, Red Earth Creek and Wabasca from Monday to Friday during regular business hours - 8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.;

And if you have any questions concerning your property assessment, please contact the municipal office in Wabasca;

And that any person who chooses to dispute the assessed value placed upon any property must lodge his/her complaint(s) to the Assessment Review Board Clerk, at Box 60, Wabasca, AB T0G 2K0. The Assessment Review Board has no jurisdiction to hear complaints about the designated industrial properties as the Municipal Government Board has the exclusive jurisdiction to hear complaints about the designated industrial properties;

The complaint must be in writing and postmarked by September 1, 2026. The appropriate complaint fees must be submitted at the time of the complaint prior to processing - \$25 for Residential complaints, \$150 for Non-Residential complaints;

And that any person who chooses to object to the entry of any information except the assessment value on the said assessment roll must contact the Finance Department for correction and/or review at 780-891-3778.

The Combined Assessment and Tax notices have been mailed on June 25, 2026. If any person did not receive a Combined Assessment & Tax Notice, please contact us to receive your notice. Failure to receive a tax notice is not a reason for non-payment of taxes. The due date to pay the property taxes prior to penalties is August 4, 2026.

All assessed persons within the municipality are deemed, as a result of this publication, to have received their Combined Assessment & Tax notice 2026.

Dated this 26th day of June 2026.

Chad Tullis,
Chief Administrative Officer

Wildfire smoke is threatening a lot of North Americans, Trump as usual is adding verbal pollution, blaming and threatening Canadians for it

At times on Wednesday, wildfire smoke was covering almost all of western Canada and even invading areas north of the Arctic Circle in the Northwest Territories.

Some central areas of British Columbia where fires were threatening communities, people's lungs were under threat with some of the worst levels of air quality.

All of Alberta was also smoky at times Tuesday and Wednesday, although weather forecasters and firesmoke watchers were expecting changes in wind directions and other factors were likely to lessen the health risk level as the weekend nears.

If a person watches the flows of smoke on the screens of fire-smoke.ca forecasts, a good amount of less dangerous smoke does flow from Canada into midwest states, closer to the western shores, more dangerous smoke from fires in Washington State, Oregon and northern California is making it across the border, invading Canada.

On Wednesday morning, after some lessening of smoke Tuesday night from all the out of control fires in Ontario, the smoke in central Canada was generally moving east and not flowing into major U.S. cities in eastern coastal regions.

Frequently, Canadian smoke can reach as far south as Houston Texas, but usually doesn't get over the southern Appalachian Mountains to invade southeast states along the Gulf of Mexico.

If those states have heavy smoke pollution, it is mostly from wildfires in the eastern American forest areas,

For both Canada and the U.S., it likely will be a long smoky summer and possibly fall, too.



PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Slave Lake Veneer & High Prairie Forest Products - Divisions of West Fraser Mills Ltd. and S11 Logging Corporation have received approval of their 2026 vegetation management program from Alberta Forestry and Parks. This program is intended to control vegetative competition which inhibits conifer reforestation efforts. Application by helicopter will occur on portions of 765 cut blocks over approximately 8,536.1 hectares. The program is expected to be carried out between August 10th and September 20th, 2026.

Treatment Locations:

Legal Township Areas	Rough Name Location			Legal Township Areas	Rough Name Location
TWP 69 RGE 17 W5M	Blue Lake			TWP 88 RGE 3 W5M	Quitting Lake
TWP 69 RGE 8 W5M	Boulder Creek			TWP 81 RGE 7 W5M	Randall Lake
TWP 69 RGE 13 W5M	Bruce Creek			TWP 77 RGE 23 W4M	Sandy Lake
TWP 88 RGE 19 W5M	Cadotte River			TWP 83 RGE 7 W5M	Shoal Lake
TWP 88 RGE 20 W5M				TWP 83 RGE 17 W5M	
TWP 88 RGE 17 W5M				TWP 84 RGE 15 W5M	
TWP 89 RGE 17 W5M				TWP 84 RGE 14 W5M	
TWP 88 RGE 18 W5M				TWP 83 RGE 13 W5M	Snipe Lake
TWP 89 RGE 18 W5M				TWP 69 RGE 18 W5M	
TWP 88 RGE 2 W5M	Driftpile River			TWP 70 RGE 17 W5M	
TWP 89 RGE 19 W5M				TWP 70 RGE 18 W5M	South Heart River
TWP 70 RGE 12 W5M				TWP 79 RGE 16 W5M	
TWP 70 RGE 11 W5M				TWP 79 RGE 17 W5M	Spring Burn
TWP 71 RGE 11 W5M				TWP 80 RGE 17 W5M	
TWP 71 RGE 12 W5M				TWP 79 RGE 18 W5M	
TWP 70 RGE 8 W5M	East Prairie River			TWP 80 RGE 18 W5M	Swan River
TWP 71 RGE 8 W5M				TWP 69 RGE 9 W5M	
TWP 69 RGE 14 W5M				TWP 70 RGE 9 W5M	
TWP 70 RGE 14 W5M				TWP 71 RGE 9 W5M	
TWP 73 RGE 15 W5M				TWP 70 RGE 13 W5M	
TWP 73 RGE 14 W5M				TWP 71 RGE 13 W5M	Utikuma Lake
TWP 79 RGE 19 W5M	Frank Lake			TWP 72 RGE 11 W5M	
TWP 68 RGE 17 W5M	Green Lake			TWP 78 RGE 11 W5M	
TWP 69 RGE 10 W5M	Inverness River			TWP 80 RGE 8 W5M	
TWP 69 RGE 11 W5M				TWP 77 RGE 22 W4M	Vandersteene Lake
TWP 80 RGE 23 W4M	Island Lake			TWP 81 RGE 8 W5M	
TWP 80 RGE 22 W4M				TWP 81 RGE 16 W5M	
TWP 75 RGE 10 W5M	Lesser Slave Lake			TWP 81 RGE 15 W5M	Wabasca River
TWP 68 RGE 16 W5M	Lightbulb Lake			TWP 87 RGE 3 W5M	
TWP 69 RGE 16 W5M	Little Blue Lake			TWP 87 RGE 2 W5M	
TWP 76 RGE 5 W5M	Marten Lakes			TWP 86 RGE 1 W5M	
TWP 76 RGE 10 W5M				TWP 87 RGE 1 W5M	Wallace River
TWP 77 RGE 5 W5M				TWP 93 RGE 6 W5M	
TWP 77 RGE 4 W5M				TWP 94 RGE 7 W5M	
TWP 76 RGE 9 W5M				TWP 95 RGE 8 W5M	
TWP 76 RGE 11 W5M				TWP 96 RGE 8 W5M	West Prairie Rd
TWP 68 RGE 10 W5M	Moosehorn River			TWP 92 RGE 17 W5M	
TWP 74 RGE 25 W5M	Muddyshore Lake			TWP 96 RGE 6 W5M	
TWP 83 RGE 16 W5M	Muskwa Lake			TWP 92 RGE 6 W5M	
TWP 82 RGE 2 W5M				TWP 90 RGE 1 W5M	Whitemud
TWP 82 RGE 3 W5M				TWP 92 RGE 18 W5M	
TWP 82 RGE 4 W5M				TWP 68 RGE 15 W5M	
TWP 82 RGE 17 W5M				TWP 68 RGE 18 W5M	West Prairie Rd
TWP 82 RGE 7 W5M				TWP 67 RGE 16 W5M	
TWP 82 RGE 8 W5M				TWP 67 RGE 15 W5M	
TWP 82 RGE 13 W5M				TWP 69 RGE 15 W5M	
TWP 78 RGE 22 W4M	Pelican Lake			TWP 74 RGE 24 W5M	

If you wish more information about our program and/or have information specific to our Vegetation Management Program, please contact us by email at SLV-Woodlands-Tending@westfraser.com

Commentary

Facts, Not Prejudice: Truth about Wildfires and Double Standards

Debra Maas in a recent Facebook post, wrote, “What’s crazy to me is every year around fair season here all the reserves burn down, they all get sent to Thunder Bay to party up while the government pays to rebuild each res from the ground up” (Facebook post, July 15, 2026).

That comment says far more about prejudice than it does about wildfires.

When the 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire forced nearly 90,000 people to evacuate, Canadians came together. Governments committed billions of dollars to recovery. Homes were rebuilt. Businesses reopened. Entire neighbourhoods were restored. Donations poured in from across the country, volunteers stepped up, and people understood that a natural disaster was exactly that, a natural disaster.

Very few people looked at Fort McMurray and said, “Well, that’s what

they deserve because they spend all their money on booze, drugs and prostitutes!”

Nobody argued that because Fort McMurray had crime, social problems, or addiction issues, it shouldn’t receive public assistance.

Yet somehow, when First Nations communities are devastated by wildfire, there is always someone ready to imply that Indigenous people are exploiting the system or somehow benefiting from tragedy. I find that double standard impossible to ignore.

Let’s talk about Fort McMurray

For years, the city has struggled with issues that have been well documented by law enforcement and journalists. Police have investigated organized crime groups operating in the region. Large-scale drug trafficking networks have been dismantled. Human trafficking investigations have taken place. The city has dealt with addiction, illicit drug markets, sexual exploitation and prostitution, gang violence, firearms offences, and the unique social pressures that often accompany rapid resource-boom communities.

None of that is an opinion. Those are documented realities that RCMP and Alberta law enforcement have addressed for years.

But here’s the important part.

Those facts do not define Fort McMurray.

They don’t define the thousands of parents working overtime to support their children. They don’t define the teachers, nurses, firefighters, Indigenous residents, oil sands workers, business owners, or volunteers who call the city home.

It would be ridiculous to suggest that because criminal organizations exist there, every resident is involved in gangs, prostitution, drugs, or human trafficking.

We instinctively understand that distinction. So why does that same logic disappear the moment the community is Indigenous?

When a First Nation burns, some people immediately reach for conspiracy theories instead of compassion. They ignore the realities of climate change, drought, lightning strikes, forest fuel conditions, and increasingly severe wildfire seasons. Instead, they reduce entire communities to racist stereotypes about “partying,” government handouts, or rebuilding costs.

That’s not evidence. That’s prejudice.

If someone were to argue that Fort McMurray should never have received disaster assistance because the city has struggled with organized crime, prostitution, drug trafficking, addiction, and human trafficking, most Canadians would immediately recognize how unfair and irrational that argument is.

The existence of crime in a community has absolutely nothing to do with whether families deserve to lose their homes in a wildfire.

The same principle applies to First Nations.

Natural disasters do not discriminate based on race, culture, or postal code.

Governments don’t rebuild communities because every resident is perfect. They rebuild them because people have lost homes, businesses, schools, and essential infrastructure.

Conclusion on Page 11

Bigstone Community Wellness
Presents **Calling Lake Women’s Group**

July 27th, 2026
Ages 18+
snacks provided
10 max and must register
Bigstone Health Centre Boardroom
For more info and to register call Charmaine
Cardinal 780-331-3810

Connect • Share • Grow



Are having these homes destroyed by a wildfire any less tragic to their owners whether or not they are located on a reserve or in a town or city with many more resources including fire protection?

Fort McMurray 2016

Wildfire season heats up in B.C.; Ontario still burning

While Ontario has been having the worst wildfire situations in the past three weeks, things are now heating up in other provinces including British Columbia, and to a lesser extent rainy Alberta.

On Wednesday, Ontario had a few less fires, but it was still around the 200 mark, and still mostly in the northern part of the province where fires have completely wiped out one Indigenous community, damaged and threatened several others.

BC had about 90 fires burning with several of them causing evacuations or evacuation alerts.

Alberta is still benefiting from a lot of rain except in the northwest corner of the province where the High Level Forest continues to be hot and dry and has the most active fires.

Alberta's situation is slow enough with only 13 current fires that some firefighters and even aircraft are now working in Ontario. Altogether on Wednesday, the wildfire count across the country was estimated to be between 850 and 900.

Firefighting resources and firefighters were being shared between provinces and there were more calls for the federal government

to do more on helping provinces in regards to manpower.

With extreme weather events occurring so often almost everywhere in Canada, and often being a factor in the start and intensity of fires, there are worries about what may happen the rest of this summer.

That's what happened in Fort McMurray.

That's what is happening right now in First Nations communities being damaged and destroyed in Ontario.

The real issue isn't whether communities face social problems. Every city, town, and reserve in Canada has challenges of its own. Some struggle with organized crime. Others with addiction, homelessness, poverty, or violence. None of those issues erase the humanity of the majority of the people who live there.

What concerns me most isn't that these comments exist. It's how quickly some people abandon empathy when Indigenous people are the victims.

Compassion should never depend on race.

It shouldn't depend on whether someone lives in downtown Calgary, Fort McMurray, or a remote First Nation.

If we refuse to judge Fort McMurray by its worst headlines (and rightly so) we should extend that same fairness to every Indigenous community facing the devastation of wildfire.

Because facts matter.

And prejudice has never extinguished a single fire.

Cherry Nyx

Writer Cherry Nyx was born and raised in Winnipeg and has Indigenous links in eastern Canada. At age 43, she is currently living in Calgary and calls herself a "Proud Afro Indigenous."

BIGSTONE COMMUNITY WELLNESS PRESENTS:

CHIPEWYAN LAKE




WELLNESS WALK



WEATHER PERMITTING

EVERY WEDNESDAY 5:30PM-6:30PM

From the band office to the Lagoon and back.

- ✓ Boost your energy
- ✓ Refresh your mind
- ✓ Connect with community
- ✓ Refreshments provided

Step Into Health.

Step Into Happiness.

Let's walk together toward better health!

Ages 12+ and community members welcome to join!

For more information, contact Ivy Alook @ (780)891-8569

SAVE THE DATE

BIGSTONE COMMUNITY WELLNESS PRESENTS

ORAL HISTORIES

AUGUST 4, 2026 CHIPEWYAN LAKE COMMUNITY HALL 1:00PM-4:00PM

AUGUST 5, 2026 WABASCA GEORGE D AUGER HALL 4:30 PM-9:00 PM

AUGUST 6, 2026 CALLING LAKE COMMUNITY COMPLEX 4:30 PM-9:00 PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT PHILIP NANIMAHOO: 780 891-3777
TODD GLADEAU: 780 331-3810 EXT 4491



M.D. OF
OPPORTUNITY
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2026 Property Assessment & Tax Information

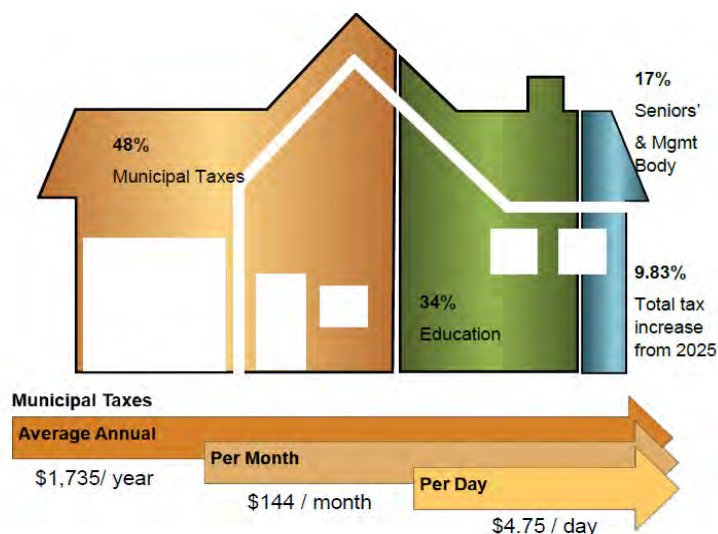
2077 Mistassiniy Road N. | Box 60 Wabasca, AB T0G 2K0
Phone: 780-891-3778
mdopportunity.ab.ca

Tax Payment Deadline:
August 4, 2026

2026 Tax Notices

The 2026 Tax Notices were mailed on June 25, 2026.

A typical detached home, assessed at \$200,000, will pay \$144 per month in property taxes in 2026. Roughly 48% of this amount — or \$70 — will help pay for M.D. services, 34% — or \$50 — will go to the Government of Alberta to support education, and the remaining 17% — or \$24 — will pay for the Senior's and Management Body Requisitions.



Your tax dollars build our community through the following services:

- Arena & Recreation Facilities
- Bylaw Services
- Capital Projects
- Community Beautification
- Community & Family Programs
- Development & Planning
- Emergency & Disaster Recovery
- Family & Community Support Services
- Fire Response & Prevention
- Library Facilities
- Pool & Parks Facilities
- Road & Sidewalk Maintenance

M.D. of Opportunity 2026 Budget & Split Rates

Operating Budget

Recognizing ongoing pressures related to inflation on maintaining service levels in addition to M.D. capital project requirements in future years, M.D. Council finalized the 2026 Budget to reflect a 9.00% budget increase over 2025.

Capital Budget

Some exciting capital projects included in the 2026 budget include:

- Recreation facility repairs, including tennis court surfacing, pool maintenance and other facility improvements
- Community Signage and Metal Decorative Signs—ongoing
- Park Improvements & Expansions—ongoing
- Fire truck vehicle replacement/upgrades

Split Rates

The M.D. of Opportunity has made several steps towards MGA compliance in reducing the split rate for Non-Residential mill rates vs Residential mill rates down to the required 5:1 ratio. In 2025, we were able to reduce this ratio down to 5.3:1 from 5.5:1, and we have taken a further step this year to reduce down to 5.2:1.

Each year we have made it a goal to balance inflation and rising costs requiring increases to the budget, with the MGA requirements to reduce the split rate. We will continue making steps in future years to getting this split rate down to 5:1.



Bigstone Community Wellness presents **RECOVERY CARE DROP IN SCHEDULE**

July 21

**10am - 3pm
Land Based Recovery/Medicine picking**

July 23

**10am-3pm
Recovery Care Drop-in/Sharing
Circle**

July 28

**10am-3pm
Land Based Recovery/Medicine picking**

July 30

**10am-3pm
Recovery Care Drop-In/Sharing Circle**

Aug 4

**10am-3pm
Landbased Recovery/Medicine Picking**

Contact Recovery Care Staff to Register

Robert Zabot

robert.zabot@bigstonehealth.ca

780-891-8252

or

Carla Johnson

carla.johnson@bigstonehealth.ca

780-891-3777



Transportation must be requested one day in advance. Lunch and Snacks will be provided



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Payroll Analyst Temporary Full Time

The Municipal District of Opportunity is seeking a highly organized, self-motivated individual possessing sound payroll knowledge to fill a temporary full-time position as Payroll Analyst. This position is a maternity leave cover. Working in payroll, the successful applicant will be under the supervision of the Assistant Manager of Financial Reporting and will be responsible for assisting in the following areas:

Responsibilities:

- ◆ Calculation & reporting of entitlements for employees (vacation, personal leave, sick leave, special leave, including retro payments)
- ◆ Employee setups in Great Plains, and with benefit providers: Alberta Municipalities - Sunlife, LAPP, and RRSP/TFSA.
- ◆ Termination processes of employees as required from time to time.
- ◆ Bi-weekly time summary entries for permanent, temporary, and special project employees; semi-monthly entries for Council and monthly entries for firefighters.
- ◆ Prepare online submissions for benefit payments and records of employment.
- ◆ Prepare bank transactions for our benefit carrier and ensure accuracy of payments.
- ◆ Prepare and remit statutory payments to Canada Revenue Agency.
- ◆ Ensure that the policies and procedures related to the payroll function are adhered to.
- ◆ Prepare submissions for annual payroll reporting for T4's, LAPP and WCB.
- ◆ Other duties that may be assigned.
- ◆ Conduct the required year-end reconciliations and prepare the associated reports.

Qualifications:

- ◆ High School Diploma, Business Administrative Diploma and Canadian Payroll Compliance Practitioner Certificate are desired or a minimum of two years of payroll experience may be considered
- ◆ Knowledge of general office procedures, Payroll and benefit plans.
- ◆ Computer skills a definite asset (Microsoft Environment – Word/Excel and Great Plains Dynamics)
- ◆ A team-oriented person with good public relations, analytical and interpersonal skills.
- ◆ A satisfactory Criminal Record Check will be required at time of hire.

Salary will commensurate with experience and qualifications. For further information, please contact Omar Khalil at 780-891-3778. Interested individuals are asked to submit their resumes with 3 work related references to the attention of the:

**Human Resources Department
Municipal District of Opportunity No.17**

Box 60, Wabasca, AB T0G-2K0 Phone : (780) 891-3778 Fax : 891-4283

Email: hr@mdopportunity.ab.ca

This advertisement will remain open until Suitable Candidate is found.

The personal information submitted pursuant to this advertisement will be utilized for this Employment Opportunity only and is subject to compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Community Peace Officers Wabasca – Permanent Full Time

The Municipal District of Opportunity is hiring Community Peace Officers (CPO's), to be based out of the Wabasca MD Office. Community Peace Officers will be enrolled in the 12-week CPO Induction Program in Lac La Biche, AB. Upon completion of the required training, CPO's will enforce Municipal Bylaws, Animal Control Services and approved Provincial Statutes, within MD of Opportunity No. 17 boundaries. The individuals must possess a strong work ethic, maintain confidentiality, and can interact with diverse social, economic, and cultural backgrounds. Liaise with other Enforcement Agencies. Successful candidates will receive conditional Training Allowance.

Required Qualifications:

- ◆ Grade 12 Diploma/Certificate
- ◆ Minimum age 18.
- ◆ Valid Driver's License and Drivers Abstract.
- ◆ Pass Physical Abilities Evaluation and obtain Medical Clearance.
- ◆ Pass or have completed the 12-week CPO Induction Program
- ◆ Ability to speak and understand Cree is an asset.
- ◆ Ability to obtain clean criminal record check and Child Youth Intervention Check upon hire.

Duties/responsibilities are but not limited to:

- ◆ Daily administrative duties including report writing.
- ◆ Ability to multi-task and work within a team-oriented workplace.
- ◆ Document and keep accurate records/stats.
- ◆ Serving Documents.
- ◆ Animal Control duties.
- ◆ Ensure effective resolution on all investigative files.
- ◆ Polite and professional radio communications with the public and agencies.
- ◆ Assist in other duties required with the direction of the Bylaw Enforcement Manager.
- ◆ Ensure adherence to operational health and safety policies and procedures.
- ◆ Shift and evening work is required.

Inquiries about our CPO program or a detailed job description can be directed to the Manager of Bylaw Enforcement, Bill Auger @ 780-891-0988.

Interested persons are invited to submit their Resume, along with three (3) work related references to:

**Human Resources Department
Municipal District of Opportunity**

Box 60, Wabasca, AB. T0G 2K0

Tele (780) 891-3778 or Fax (780) 891-4283

Email hr@mdopportunity.ab.ca

This advertisement will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

The personal information submitted pursuant to this advertisement will be utilized for this Employment Opportunity only and is subject to compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Applicants are thanked in advance for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

