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January 28, 2026

WHITECOURT TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE

Submitted by Town of Whitecourt

Whitecourt Town Council will be hosting the 2026 Budget Information Open House from 3:00pm to 6:30pm on Thursday, March 5 at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre. The event will provide information to the public on the interim bud-

get, provide the opportunity for ratepayers to comment, and allow for two-way communication between the public and Whitecourt Town Council and staff. Residents are encouraged to attend and share their thoughts! Free childmind for children 7 and under will be provided for families attending the event, and

the Doors Open Youth Program will be running from 3:30pm to 5:30pm for those in grades 6-12 to try out. Watch for advertisements in the coming weeks!

Council has scheduled a series of workshops on a number of topics, including the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework

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PRIME MINISTER CARNEY ANNOUNCES NEW MEASURES TO MAKE GROCERIES AND OTHER ESSENTIALS MORE AFFORDABLE FOR CANADIANS

Submitted by Government of Canada

The global landscape is rapidly changing, leaving economies, businesses, and workers under a cloud of uncertainty. In response, Canada's new government is focused on what we can control: building a stronger economy to make life more

affordable for Canadians. To that end, we are securing new trade and investment partnerships abroad and building our strength at home - to create good career opportunities with higher wages for Canadians.

Our plan is moving Canada's economy from reliance to resilience, though some

of the biggest long-term payoffs of this transformation will take time to be felt. To ensure Canadians have the support they need right now, the government has introduced a series of new measures to bring down costs - including cutting taxes for 22 million Canadians, supercharging

Continued on Page 2

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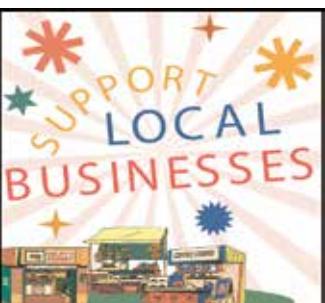
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Whitecourt Town Council Update

Continued from Page 1

and other master plans.

The 2025 Strategic Plan Project Status Report has been updated, and is available for download on www.whitecourt.ca. Council is hosting a strategic planning session next week, and will

be defining its priorities and areas of focus for the current Council term.

Councillor McAree has been appointed to serve as Deputy Mayor from February 1 to May 31, 2026. Members of Council will be attending the 2026 Federation of Canadian Munici-

palities annual conference in Edmonton this June.

Members of Council will also attend the 2026 Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus hosted by Alberta Municipalities this March in Edmonton.

Prime Minister Carney Announces New Measures To Make Groceries And Other Essentials More Affordable For Canadians

Continued from Page 1

homebuilding, and protecting and expanding vital social programs.

To build on that progress, the Prime Minister, Mark Carney, today introduced new measures to make groceries and other essentials

more affordable. To bring down your costs, Canada's new government is:

1. Putting more money back in Canadians' pockets

• The government is introducing the new Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit – formerly the Goods and Services Tax

(GST) Credit. We are increasing its amount by 25% for five years beginning in July 2026.

• In addition to that, we are providing a one-time payment, equivalent to a 50% increase this year.

o Combined, this

Continued on Page 3

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JOKE of the week

Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young engineer fresh out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "And what starting salary are you looking for?" The engineer replies, "In the region of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package." The interviewer inquires, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?" The engineer sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?" The interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it."

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Prime Minister Carney Announces New Measures To Make Groceries And Other Essentials More Affordable For Canadians

Continued from Page 2

means that a family of four will receive up to \$1,890 this year, and about \$1,400 a year for the next four years; and a single person will receive up to \$950 this year, and about \$700 a year for the next four years.

The new Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit will provide additional, significant support for more than 12 million Canadians.

2. Tackling food insecurity, supporting producers, and strengthening supply chains

The government is setting aside \$500 million from the Strategic Response Fund to help businesses address the costs of supply chain disruptions without passing those costs on to Canadians at the checkout line.

For the same purpose, the government will create a \$150 million Food Security Fund under the existing Regional Tariff Response Initiative for small and medium enterprises and the organisations that support them.

To lower the cost of food production, we are introducing immediate expensing for greenhouse buildings. This allows producers to fully write off greenhouses acquired on or after November 4, 2025, and that become available for use before 2030. This measure supports increased domestic supply and investment in food production over the medium-term.

To ease immediate pressures with food banks, the government is providing \$20 million to the Local Food Infrastructure Fund. This supports food banks

and other national, regional, and local organisations to deliver more nutritious food to families in need.

To tackle the root causes of food insecurity, we are developing a National Food Security Strategy – one that strengthens domestic food production and improves access to affordable, nutri-

tious food.

This strategy will also include measures to implement unit price labelling and support the work of the Competition Bureau in monitoring and enforcing competition in the market, including food supply chains.

Our government is fo-

cused on building a stronger economy – to create more career opportunities and higher wages. In parallel, we are bringing down costs to make life more affordable. That's how we'll empower more Canadians with greater certainty, security, and prosperity – now, and into the future.

The Onoway Facility Enhancement Association (OFEA), would like to Thank everyone who supported us over the years as we worked hard to keep the Onoway Community Hall up and running. Unfortunately, our time at the Community Hall has come to an end, and we will no longer be managing it for the Town.

OFEA was created after the Elks and The Royal Purple who built and maintained the hall for many years folded. At this point a group of volunteers formed a non-for-profit society called the OFEA in 1997. This society from then till present, have paid for all maintenance, inspections, upgrades and utilities to keep the facility open.

In 2019, there were rumours that the hall would be closed, but a New Executive and Board was elected, and the OFEA was able to lease the hall from the Town once again.

In the past 5 years, over \$100,000.00 was spent on upgrades, maintenance, inspections and utilities. This was accomplished through numerous fundraising events, rentals, working a Casino every 2.5 years, an annual recreation grant of \$5000.00 from the Town of Onoway (last 4 years), a matching government grant of \$28,000.00, and a few donations from businesses and groups in town.

After a meeting with the Town of Onoway representatives on Nov.17/25, to discuss the renewing of the lease, the OFEA Board on December 2/25 meeting, unanimously decided not to renew the lease and focus their efforts in supporting local organizations and projects within the Community, rather than paying for building upgrades, maintenance and utilities. Moneys that were spent on monthly maintenance, utility bills, etc. will be redirected to programs and events in the Community.

We will continue to raise funds for events such as The Kids Christmas Party, Kids Halloween, and the Seniors Tea, and possibly others if funds are available. We will apply for FCSS funding to help maximize event opportunities. We already started our New Year with a \$4000.00 donation to the Lac Ste Anne Food Bank East (Onoway).

The OFEA Board hopes that the Hall will continue to remain open for everyone to enjoy in the upcoming years. The Board can define the Community Hall as a labour of Love, to make it grow and the much needed upgrades. Change can be difficult, but sometimes necessary to make things better.

Please join our Facebook page, and watch for upcoming fundraisers, and hosting of Community Events. Our next event is our Seniors Tea (watch for posters) and of course our Beautiful Flower Basket Fundraiser in the Spring.

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU
OFEA BOARD



ALBERTA RCMP ISSUES 998 TICKETS OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Submitted by Alberta RCMP

From Dec. 24-31, 2025, the Alberta RCMP was busy conducting enhanced traffic safety enforcement throughout the province, resulting in 998 tickets being issued.

Of the 998 tickets issued, 242 were for speeding, 31 for distracted driving and 21 for seatbelt infractions.

As well, 121 drivers were removed from the roads for being impaired due to drugs and/or alcohol, including 80 Immediate Roadside Sanction (IRS) FAILs and 23

IRS WARNs.

Unfortunately, due to road-related incidents, there were 99 non-fatal injury collisions and six fatal collisions, resulting in seven fatalities.

"We are never happy to report fatal motor vehicle collisions," says Sgt. Dar-

rin Turnbull, Alberta RCMP Traffic. "Everyone should have been able to make it home safely for the holidays. I encourage everyone to look out for each other on the roads. If you suspect an impaired driver, call 911 immediately."

PARKLAND RCMP & PARKLAND RCMP CRIME REDUCTION UNIT ARREST MALE FOR FIREARMS OFFENCES

Submitted by Parkland RCMP & Parkland RCMP Crime Reduction Unit

On Jan. 19, 2026; Parkland RCMP received a complaint that a male opened his driver's side door and pointed a handgun at a youth pedestrian, near Jennifer Heil Rd

and Tri Leisure Way. Police were notified that the suspect vehicle was a white GMC truck and that it had left the scene.

Through investigation, police were able to locate the vehicle at the same area where the incident had occurred, a few days later.

Police approached the vehicle and arrested the male without incident. Police seized an imitation firearm (a handgun style pellet gun) from the driver's door pocket inside the vehicle.

Dai Suki Ryan Giovanni Kootenay, (19), a resident of Spruce Grove, has been

charged with multiple firearms related offences.

Dai Suki Kootenay was taken before a Justice of the Peace and release with his next court appearance on Feb. 18, 2026 at the Alberta Court of Justice in St. Albert.



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URBAN AGRICULTURE IS GROWING: BEEKEEPING AND HEN KEEPING TAKE FLIGHT IN STONY PLAIN

Submitted by Town of Stony Plain

The Town of Stony Plain is excited to announce residents can now apply for urban beekeeping and hen keeping licences, bringing a little more buzz and cluck to the community.

Urban beekeeping and hen keeping are permitted under the Non-Domestic Animal Bylaw approved by Council on June 23, 2025, following community interest and a review of best practices from other municipalities. The bylaw establishes clear standards for training, mentorship, animal care, and community impact to support responsible small-scale urban agriculture.

Expanding urban agriculture reflects the Town's commitment to environmental responsibility, a key pillar of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan. Beekeeping and hen keeping are also key actions from the Environmental Stewardship Strategy, which guides initiatives to protect local ecosystems and advance long-term sustainability goals.

"We've heard from residents who are eager to start beekeeping and hen keeping, and I'm excited to see their success," says Mayor William Choy. "Urban agriculture isn't just about food; it's about growing community. Keeping bees and hens helps create a healthier, more connected community by sharing knowledge, and supporting each other through sustainable practices."

Prospective keepers must complete relevant training and find an experienced mentor for at least their first year. Education and mentorship ensure new keepers are set up for success while safeguarding community interests and animal welfare. Applicants are also required to notify their neighbours before setting up their hives or coops.

Highlights

Beekeeping

- Maximum two hives per property
- Hives must meet location and care standards
- Keepers must follow best practices to support colony health and minimize impacts on neighbours

Hen keeping

- Minimum of two hens and a

maximum of six

- Coops must meet size, locations, cleanliness, and care standards
- No roosters

"By setting clear standards, the Town is empowering residents to act responsibly, respect their neighbours, promote animal welfare, and strengthen community well-being," says Mayor Choy.

"Urban agriculture opportunities like this spark curiosity and inspire lifelong learning," says Evan Joyes, Sustainability Planner. "Whether you're tending hens or managing hives, these activities help people learn about pollinators, sustainability, food production, and local food systems. It's a rewarding hobby that benefits the whole community."



County News Highlights

MEETINGS & HEARINGS

LSAC.ca/meetings

Meetings and public hearings are held at the County Administration Office near Sangudo, they are open to the public and available remotely. Explore the County's online calendar for agendas, minutes, and meeting details.

MPC Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 9:30 am

Governance & Priorities Meeting

Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 9:30 am

Council Meeting

Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 9:30 am

Council Meeting

Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 9:30 am

FIRE PERMITS ARE REQUIRED

YEAR-ROUND

LSAC.ca/services/fire-services

Lac Ste. Anne County Fire Services would like to remind all residents that a valid Fire Permit is required year-round for any open burning within the boundaries of the County. This includes burning brush, debris, or any other combustible materials, regardless of the season or weather conditions.

The implementation of year-round fire permitting (quite a few years ago) has resulted in a significant reduction in spring holdover fires, which are often caused by unregulated winter burning. These fires can smoulder undetected beneath snow for weeks or even months, only to re-emerge in the spring when conditions become dry and windy—posing serious risk to property and public safety.

Obtaining a fire permit helps ensure burns are conducted safely, responsibly, and under appropriate conditions. County Fire Guardians can provide guidance on safe burning practices, weather considerations, and any current restrictions that may be in place.

Residents planning a burn are encouraged to contact their local Fire Guardian in advance to arrange a Fire Permit. There is no cost to obtain the permit. A list of Fire Guardians is available on the county's website, or residents may contact the County Administration directly for further information or assistance.

Working together, we can help prevent unnecessary fire risk and keep our communities safe year-round.

LOCAL LEADERS DIG INTO OPPORTUNITIES AT ALBERTA SAND & GRAVEL CONVENTION

LSAC.ca/news

Representatives of County Council were on the ground in Edmonton last week to take part in the 2026 Alberta Sand & Gravel Association (ASGA) Convention, a two-day forum focussed on sustainable resource development, innovation, and economic opportunities in Alberta's aggregate sector. The event ran January 14-15 at the River Cree Resort and Casino, bringing together industry leaders, elected officials, and municipal staff for networking, workshops, and insights into the issues shaping communities and construction across the province.

Councillor Derksen, Councillor Stoney, and Councillor Voltner were among the delegates in attendance, meeting with peers, industry partners, and suppliers to share best practices on everything from pit regulation and reclamation efforts to infrastructure planning and environmental stewardship. For many local governments, attending the ASGA Convention is an opportunity to strengthen relations that support economic growth back home while also ensuring that municipal voices are part of the conversations about provincial policy and development.

With Alberta's sand and gravel sector playing a crucial role in local development, Council involvement at events like this underscores the cooperative spirit between local government and industry aimed at building stronger, more resilient communities.

Did you miss out on last week's COUNTY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS?

Visit LSAC.ca to catch up on the latest County updates and explore our dynamic website, packed with news, services, and information for residents that goes beyond this weekly newsletter.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM: Are you seeking before or after-school care?

Perhaps you need PD Day or holiday care for your Kindergarten-Grade 6 children? The program offers great rates, lots of fun, and is flexible for your needs!!

If your child is enrolled in a local school, contact Vivian at 780.284.9399 or email Childcare@LSAC.ca to inquire.

DISCRETIONARY DEVELOPMENT PERMITS**LSAC.ca/permits**

The development permits below have been conditionally approved under the provisions of the Land Use Bylaw (LUB). This list does not include permitted uses. Please contact County Planning & Development to request additional information on permits listed.

Anyone who claims to be affected and who wishes to lodge an appeal against any of these developments must do so in writing, using the applicable form on or before 4:30 pm on the noted date(s) to the appropriate appeal body.

Subdivision & Development Appeal Board (SDAB)

Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board
Box 219, Sangudo, AB T0E 2A0 Email: appeals@LSAC.ca

25-D0131

Lot 3, Block 1, Plan 0720418
NE 30-55-01 W5M, 55418 Rge Rd 15

New Primary Residence: 2007 Manufactured home on basement, main 20.0' x 64.0' (1280.0 sq. ft.) walls 8.0', basement 20.0' x 64.0' (1280.0 sq. ft.) walls 8.5'. Existing home to be listed as garden suite.

Appeal to SDAB by Feb 9, 2026

25-D0217

SW 10-55-01 W5M, 1225A Highway 37

Ground Mounted Solar Array 19.38 m x 4.76 m (92.3 m²) with a total height of 3.7 m
Appeal to SDAB by Feb 9, 2026

25-D0243

SW 05-56-02 W5M

New stick build home on cement foundation and attached garage, Main 30.0' x 50.0' (1500.0 sq. ft.) 10.0' walls, with Attached Garage 50.0' x 80.0' (4000.0 sq. ft.) 18' walls, Pump House 20.0' x 20.0' (400.0 sq ft) 12.0' walls
Appeal to SDAB by Feb 9, 2026

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN WORKSHOP:

Get your Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) ready for upcoming funding programs like AgriInvest, RALP, and other new 2026 opportunities.

Thursday, January 29, 1:00 pm, County Administration Office, Sangudo

Bring Your laptop! This is a free, hands-on workshop where an EFP technician will guide you step-by-step through creating or updating your plan.

It's free to attend—but registration is required—just visit FarmingForward.ca to register!

**REMINDER: COUNTY EQUIPMENT REGISTRATION DEADLINE JANUARY 31****LSAC.ca/roads**

In preparation for its upcoming winter graveling and construction season, the County's Public Works department is accepting registration from equipment and gravel truck owners who are located within the region. Registrants must hold a business licence in good standing with the County.

Registration forms and policy requirements are available on our website, at the County Administration Office during regular business hours, or by emailing PublicWorks@LSAC.ca to request a registration package. Completed registration forms must be submitted by 12:00 midnight on Saturday, January 31, 2026.

Once properly registered, all contractors working for the County must comply with safety requirements at all times while performing work on behalf of the County, including being equipped with approved reflective safety vests, hard hats, and CSA-approved steel-toed boots.

By registering with Lac Ste. Anne County, gravel truck and equipment owners agree to operate in a manner that reflects a professional partnership between the contractor, the County, and the community, with a focus on courtesy, efficiency, and safety.

Registration does not guarantee work; however, only registered contractors will be eligible to be contacted for County work.

For more information, please contact the County's Public Works department.

2026 BUSINESS LICENCE RENEWAL AND INVOICING:

Submit the required form and payment by February 28 to take advantage of a reduced Property Tax Rate related to your business.

Visit LSAC.ca/business-licences for more information and submit your renewal forms and payment to the Planning & Development department today.

**Want to Contact the
COUNTY'S ENFORCEMENT SERVICES?**

To report a situation that requires the help of a Community Peace Officer, please call 780.785.3630 or use our online Report-a-Concern tool available at LSAC.ca/report.

Please note – for emergencies, please dial 911.

Lac Ste. Anne County 56521 Range Road 65, Box 219 Sangudo AB T0E 2A0 Phone 780 785 3411 Toll-free 1866 880 5722 Email LSAC@LSAC.ca

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25-D0197

Lot 3, Block 2, Plan 8220404; Greentree Estates
SW 32-53-03 W5M; 3, 53513 Rge Rd 35
Garden Suite; 36.0' x 14.0' (504.0 sq. ft.) walls 92.0" with side yard variance
request regulation: 6.0 m requested: 5.56 m variance: 0.44 m

Appeal to SDAB by Feb 2, 2026

25-D0207

Lot 33, Block 2, Plan 7821410; Lakewood Estates
SE 32-53-02 W5M; 181, 53510 HWY 43
Garage detached 42.0' x 60.0' (2520.0 sq. ft.) 16.0' Walls with garage size
variance request to section 10.1.29 of LUB regulation: Required 1200 sq.ft.
Request 2520 sq.ft. Variance of 1320 sq.ft.

Appeal to SDAB by Feb 2, 2026

25-D0210

Lot 14, Block 11, Plan 8220730; Sunnyside Estates
NE 10-54-05 W5M; 27, 54126 RGE RD 52
Shipping Container, Main 8.0' x 40.0' (320.0 sq. ft.)

Appeal to SDAB by Feb 2, 2026

25-D0227

NW 28-54-02 W5M; 2327 Twp Rd 545
Detached Garage, Main 12.0' x 24.0' (288.0 sq. ft.) 8.0' walls

Appeal to SDAB by Feb 2, 2026

25-D0228

NW 28-54-02 W5M; 2327 TWP RD 545
Moved in home with deck, Main 25.0' x 30.0' (660.0 sq. ft.) 11.0' walls, Deck
(200.0 sq. ft.)

Appeal to SDAB by Feb 2, 2026

25-D0220

Lot 17, Block 1, Plan 0623018; Belle Vista Estates
SE 09-56-01 W5M; 17, 56110 RGE RD 13
2026 Manufactured Home on wood blocks and gravel pad 20.0' x 64.0'
(1280.0 sq. ft.)

Appeal to SDAB by Feb 2, 2026

25-D0232

SE 19-54-05 W5M
2 Shipping containers to be used for storage, Main 8.0' x 40.0' (320.0 sq. ft.)
96" walls

Appeal to SDAB by Feb 2, 2026

25-D0235

Lot 2, Block 1, Plan 2021831
NE 17-55-03 W5M; 3405 TWP RD 553
Micro Home with loft on metal skids, Main 14.0' x 32.0' (448.0 sq. ft.) 7.0' walls,
Loft 12.0' x 14.0' (168.0 sq. ft.)

Appeal to SDAB by Feb 2, 2026

25-D0240

Lot 14, Plan 6989AP; Lac Ste Anne Settlement
NE 19-54-03 W5M; 128, 3510 Ste Anne Trail
Detached Garage, Main 30.0' x 54.0' (1620.0 sq. ft.) 12.0' Walls

Appeal to SDAB by Feb 2, 2026

25-D0131

Lot 3, Block 1, Plan 0720418
NE 30-55-01 W5M, 55418 Rge Rd 15
New Primary Residence: 2007 Manufactured home on basement, main 20.0'
x 64.0' (1280.0 sq. ft.) walls 8.0', basement 20.0' x 64.0' (1280.0 sq. ft.) walls
8.5'. Existing home to be listed as garden suite.

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HOT STREAK: ALBERTA SETS ALL-TIME HOUSING RECORD

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Alberta is building homes faster than ever, shattering housing construction records for the second year in a row and driving down rents.

Alberta is getting shovels in the ground and roofs over Albertans' heads at record pace. In 2025, the province delivered a second record year for housing starts, breaking several all-time records along the way. For the first time in Alberta's history, more than 50,000 housing starts were reached in a single year, with more than 53,000 homes breaking ground in the past 12 months – 14 per cent higher than the previous record set in 2024.

Q2 2025 marked the strongest quarter for housing construction in provincial history, with more than 17,000 housing starts, eclipsing a record set almost 10 years ago.

"Once again, Alberta is punching above our weight. Our province is shattering housing records and building at unprecedented

rates, keeping pace as more people than ever before call our great province home."

Jason Nixon, Minister of Assist-ed Living and Social Services

Alberta is setting the pace for housing construction in Canada. For the second year in a row, the province led the country in housing starts per capita. Despite making up less than 12 per cent of Canada's population, Alberta built almost a quarter of housing starts across the country in 2025, and more than 80 per cent of all starts across the prairies.

These results show the province's plan is working. Alberta is slashing red tape through initiatives like the Stop Housing Delays portal, supporting innovative housing strategies and fostering an investment-friendly, low-tax environment that has incentivized housing construction provincewide as more people than ever before choose to call Alberta home. By removing barriers and enabling builders, Alberta has cemented its place as a heavyweight in the housing world.

"Alberta's record housing starts

show what's possible when barriers are reduced and regulatory systems evolve to support growth. These conditions have especially helped unlock record rental construction, easing pressure on renters and strengthening long-term affordability."

Scott Fash, chief executive officer, BILD Alberta

Increase in rental builds leads to rental asking prices going down

This year also brought good news for renters, with rents in Alberta decreasing almost double the national average. As we enter 2025, Alberta's average asking rent is about \$400 per month below the national average, and outside of the larger cities, Alberta communities made up six out of the top 10 most affordable small- and mid-size rental markets in Canada, including taking all four of the top spots. Notably, the number of purpose-built rentals being developed in the province soared in 2025 to nearly 20,000 starts – almost triple the levels seen a decade ago.

"The work of the provincial government to create a place with

well-paying jobs, predictable, market responsive regulatory framework and a focus on red tape reduction allows businesses like ours to focus on supplying housing. The business environment created by the provincial government keeps Maclab here, reinvesting in new projects."

Bill Blais, president and chief executive officer, Maclab Develop-ment Group

Building affordable housing for low-income Albertans

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAC STE. ANNE COUNTY LAC STE. ANNE COUNTY IMPROVES ENERGY EFFICIENCY THROUGH ROVING ENERGY MANAGER PROGRAM

Lac Ste. Anne County, AB — Monday, January 19, 2026

The County is pleased to announce the successful completion of an energy efficiency upgrade at the Lisburn Public Works Shop, made possible through the support and expertise of the Roving Energy Manager (REM) Program. This milestone represents another important step in the County's ongoing efforts to enhance operational efficiency, reduce long-term energy consumption, and advance municipal sustainability goals.

Under the guidance of the REM Program, the County replaced the aging Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system at the Public Works Shop. The project involved a like-for-like replacement of the existing water tank and furnace with modern, energy-efficient units. These upgrades will help to lower the facility's energy use, improve heating performance, and reduce overall maintenance needs.

The County received \$10,000 in grant funding to support this project and extends its sincere appreciation to the Roving Energy Manager Program for its guidance and support throughout this process.

"We're very grateful for the opportunity provided through the REM Program," said General Manager of Infrastructure, Brian Hartman. "Their expertise and the grant funding helped us move forward with an important infrastructure upgrade that directly supports our day-to-day operations."

The Roving Energy Manager Program is a free service offered by the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre that provides energy management expertise to small and rural municipalities in Alberta, helping them identify and implement energy-saving projects—including funding. The Municipal Climate Change Action Centre is a partnership of Alberta Municipalities, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and the Government of Alberta. Funding for the Roving Energy Manager Program is provided by the Government of Alberta.

For more information on the REM Program, please visit the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre: <https://mccac.ca/programs/>

Valentine's Day COLORING CONTEST



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PHONE: _____ TOWN: _____

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NOTE TO PARENTS: Please ensure that your phone number is legible.

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ALBERTA WORKING TO ELIMINATE CERVICAL CANCER: TRANSITION TO HPV SCREENING

Submitted by Government of Alberta

The cervical screening test is now being routinely offered to those aged 50 to 69 in Alberta to check for high-risk types of the human papillomavirus (HPV) that can cause cervical cancer.

The cervical screening test is the new standard for cervical cancer screening in the province. Cervical cancer is preventable and almost always caused by HPV. Scientific evidence indicates HPV testing is the more effective way to identify cervical cancer, and many provinces and territories are already transitioning to this approach instead of pap tests for routine cervical screening.

HPV infections are common and usually do not cause symptoms, so most people do not know they have it. A majority of HPV infections are cleared by the body. However, certain HPV types do not clear and can cause cell changes that can lead to cervical cancer.

"By testing for high-risk HPV types that cause cervical cancer, patients who are at risk can be identified earlier and more accurately," says Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Laboratory Officer, Alberta Precision Laboratories. "This change

strengthens the quality of cervical cancer screening across the province and supports better outcomes for patients through timely, evidence-based testing."

Planning is also underway to expand the cervical screening test to Albertans ages 25 to 49. This group is currently offered regular Pap tests, which check for abnormal cells in the cervix that can lead to cancer. Pap tests are recommended every three years, while the cervical cancer screening test is recommended every five years. Once the new cervical screening test has expanded to ages 25 to 49, Alberta will no longer offer routine Pap tests.

"Whether you're eligible for a Pap test or the cervical screening test, screening only takes a few minutes and can save lives. Getting screened regularly is the best way to find HPV or abnormal cervical cells early, before symptoms begin," says Dr. Jack Pang, Medical Lead, Alberta Cervical Cancer Screening Program. "This change reflects strong scientific evidence and supports the goal of eliminating cervical cancer while ensuring Albertans have access to high-quality cervical screening."

This cervical screening test was implemented in collabora-

tion between the Government of Alberta, Primary Care Alberta and Alberta Precision Laboratories.

"Alberta is proud to lead the way in adopting high-risk HPV testing as the new standard for cervical cancer screening. This transition reflects our commitment to evidence-based healthcare and ensures that Albertans receive the most accurate and timely screening available," Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services. "By identifying those at risk earlier, we are taking a significant step toward eliminating cervical cancer and supporting the lifelong health of our communities."

The cervical screening test is done by a healthcare provider and only takes a few minutes. A sample is collected in the same way as a Pap test and sent to the lab for testing.

Contact your healthcare provider's office or a women's health clinic to book an appointment to get screened. If you do not have a healthcare provider, such as a family doctor or nurse practitioner:

- Visit Alberta Find a Doctor, or
- Use the screeningforlife.ca locator tool and select "cervical" as the type of test to find screening options near you, or
- Call Health Link at 811.

It's important to continue to get screened, even if:

- You feel healthy and have no symptoms of cervical cancer.
- You've only had one sexual partner.
- You've had the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.
- You've been through menopause.
- You're no longer sexually active.

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. For more information on cervical cancer screening, visit screeningforlife.ca/cervical.

Primary Care Alberta is a made-in-Alberta solution to improve access to the primary care services Albertans rely on.

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Together, we are creating a future where compassionate, timely and effective healthcare is available to every Albertan at every stage of life.

SWAN HILLS RCMP ON SCENE OF SERIOUS MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION

Submitted by Swan Hills RCMP

On Jan. 20, 2026, around 4:20 p.m., Swan Hills RCMP, with assistance from Whitecourt RCMP and Whitecourt RCMP Traffic Unit, responded to a multi-vehicle collision on Highway 32 approximately 43 kilometres south of Swan Hills, near the Blue Ridge Haul Road. In total, 4 pickups, 2 semi-trucks and 1 sedan were involved in the collision.

Upon arrival, traffic control measures were implemented as the highway was fully blocked by vehicles and debris. RCMP, EMS and STARS were on scene, helping to extract several people, including a baby in a car seat and their mother, from various vehicles. Despite life-saving efforts by emergency crews, a 60-year-old male resident of Whitecourt, who was driving one of the pickups, was pronounced deceased on scene. Others involved in the colli-

sion reported a varying degree of injuries, but none were life-threatening. The mother and baby were transported by STARS and are reported to be in stable condition.

An RCMP Collision Analyst attended the scene and, once the investigation was complete, the highway was cleared of vehicles and debris. The highway has since reopened. Though the investigation is ongoing, initial reports suggest that an initial collision between a pickup

truck and a semi-truck occurred due to sun glare which was causing low visibility and varying speeds. As the vehicles were attempting to pull aside, traffic behind slowed down but, once again due to sun glare, a semi-truck did not note the slowing traffic and collided into multiple vehicles.

The Alberta RCMP sends their condolences to the family and friends of the deceased.

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Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box.

**ANSWER:
Last Weeks**

1	2	8	5	3	4	7	9	6
7	3	6	1	9	8	5	4	2
4	5	9	6	2	7	1	3	8
8	9	3	2	7	1	4	6	5
2	1	5	4	8	6	3	7	9
6	4	7	9	5	3	2	8	1
9	7	1	3	6	2	8	5	4
5	8	4	7	1	9	6	2	3
3	6	2	8	4	5	9	1	7

4			3					7
7	3	2	4			9		
						2		9
6	8							4
9						3	8	
						5		
						2	7	
					1			3
5						2		6

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