

A sister publication to **The Review**, Redwater, Alberta

Music & Memories strikes a chord in Morinville's second year

By Shelley Winger



The dance floor was full, the laughter was loud, and the spirit of classic country filled the room as Music & Memories returned to Morinville for its second year.

Held February 6 at the Morinville Community Cultural

Centre, the 18+ evening welcomed 230 guests – a significant increase from 150 attendees in its inaugural year.

The growth reflects not only the popularity of the event, but also the strong desire for opportunities that bring neighbours together for a shared night out close to home.

From the moment the doors opened, the energy in the room was unmistakable. Long tables filled

quickly as guests enjoyed a catered buffet dinner, catching up with friends and neighbours.

In one corner of the hall, three men shared stories and smiles over their meals, clearly enjoying an evening out together.

As the Ryan Snow Band took the stage, the dance floor came to life. Couples stepped out confidently, moving in rhythm to familiar country tunes.

One pair swayed and laughed under the warm lights, completely absorbed in the music – a simple moment that captured the spirit of the night.

Guests enjoyed everything from toe-tapping favourites to heartfelt country classics, with the band keeping the dance floor lively throughout the evening.

“We’re thrilled with the response to Music & Memories this year,” said Kathleen Cesarin, FCSS Adult & Senior Programmer.

“It’s a perfect night out – great food, fantastic music and a welcoming atmosphere where people can relax, laugh and make meaningful memories together.”

The evening began with a popular happy

hour and continued with a full concert experience, complete with a bustling dance floor and a cash bar that kept the social

atmosphere buzzing. For many attendees, the event was more than entertainment – it was a chance to reconnect

with friends, meet new people and celebrate community spirit.

Continued on **page 2**



A couple takes to the dance floor during Music & Memories at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre on February 6, enjoying an evening of live country music and community. – **Town of Morinville photo**



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Morinville Community Library now fine-free

By Shelley Winger



Morinville Community Library has eliminated overdue fines for all borrowed items, making it easier for patrons to enjoy books, audiobooks, magazines, movies, music CDs, video games, and TV series without worrying about late fees.

The fine-free policy is part of the library's ongoing effort to make its services more accessible and to encourage reading, learning, and community engagement.

While overdue notices will continue to

be sent, items not returned within 35 days will be billed to the borrower.

Damaged items may still incur replacement charges, and patrons are asked to inform library staff if any damage occurs.

Books, audiobooks, and magazines can be borrowed for three weeks, with up to two renewals if there are no holds on the items.

Movies, music CDs, video games, and TV series also have a three-week loan period but cannot be renewed. There are no restrictions on the number of items a patron can borrow at one time.

Items can be renewed online through a patron account or by calling



the library during operating hours.

Renewals extend the loan period by the same length as the original loan, starting from the day the renewal takes place, but items on hold for

other patrons cannot be renewed.

Libraries across the country have been removing overdue fines to make reading more accessible and welcoming.

Fines can

discourage people, particularly children and families, from using library resources.

By eliminating fines, Morinville Community Library ensures everyone has the opportunity to borrow materials freely and return them without fear of penalty.

With the fine-free policy, patrons are encouraged to explore a wide variety of materials.

Whether trying a new genre of books, catching up on popular movies or TV series, or exploring music CDs and video games, the library offers resources for every interest.

Patrons can also take advantage of renewals to keep

materials longer when needed, as long as the items are not on hold for others.

The library invites all community members to visit and discover the wide range of materials available.

From classic literature and contemporary bestsellers to movies and educational resources, there is something for everyone.

Staff are available to provide recommendations and assist patrons in finding the perfect materials for any interest or age group.

Patrons who want more information can contact Morinville Community Library directly at 780-939-3292 or by email at info@morinvillelibrary.ca.

Music & Memories

Continued from page 1

Organizers credit the event's success to strong partnerships and enthusiastic community support.

Media partners 840 CFCW and New Country 97.9 helped spread the word across the region, drawing country music fans from Morinville and beyond.

Music & Memories is designed to strengthen community connection through shared experiences.

The combination of dinner, live entertainment and social time offers

something increasingly valued - a chance to step away from busy routines and simply enjoy an evening together.

With attendance growing and excitement high, organizers are already looking ahead to future events. If this year's

turnout is any indication, Music & Memories has firmly established itself as a highlight on Morinville's social calendar.



An overall view of the crowd at this year's Music & Memories shows a full house enjoying a catered meal, live entertainment and a lively social atmosphere.



Town of Morinville photos

Friends share smiles and conversation over dinner as 230 guests gathered for the second annual Music & Memories event in Morinville.

Three greener ways to manage snow removal

(NC) Snow-covered driveways and icy sidewalks are a fact of Canadian life, but the way we manage them can make a real difference to the environment.

According to polling, 54 per cent of Canadians clear snow at least once a day during snowfalls, with nearly one in four heading out multiple times a day to stay ahead of it.

This winter, try these three greener approaches to keep your property safe while reducing your carbon footprint.

1. Use less salt, and smarter alternatives

While salt is an easy go-to solution, it can be tough on plants, pets and waterways.

Cut back where you can by mixing in sand or gravel with salt to boost traction or by switching to eco-friendly de-icers made with natural ingredients - they're gentler and just as effective in moderate conditions.

Heated mats are another smart swap for high-traffic areas, melting snow without chemicals.

Tip: clear snow early and often to prevent ice from forming.

2. Switch to energy-efficient snow removal equipment

Traditional gas-powered tools get the job done, but newer options are both cleaner and quieter. Battery-powered snow blowers and shovels are now strong enough to handle most driveways while reducing emissions and fuel use. For larger properties, choose models

designed for efficiency to minimize both your carbon footprint and time outside in freezing weather.

Another way to lower your environmental impact is by opting for durable, long-lasting manual tools instead of disposable or short-lived options.

Some Canadian manufacturers, such as Garant, offer ergonomic shovels, pushers and snowblowers designed to last for years - helping reduce waste while keeping winter work

efficient.

3. Make it a community effort

Greener snow removal doesn't have to be a solo job. Consider teaming up with neighbours to clear common areas or take turns maintaining sidewalks.

It helps save energy, fosters connection, and can reduce overall emissions by avoiding multiple homes each running machines at once.

Some communities even organize shared snow blower

programs or coordinate local plow services to make cleanup more efficient and affordable.

It's a simple way to lighten the workload, shrink your environmental impact and build stronger neighbourhood connections along the way.

Learn more about eco-friendly snow removal at garant.com.



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Cupid spreads Valentines cheer at Valentines Night Market

By Haylee Winger



The Morinville Farmers Market hosted a festive and well-attended Date Night Market on Thursday evening at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre, welcoming guests from 6 to 10 p.m. for a special Valentine-themed

shopping experience. Visitors spent the evening sipping, shopping, and strolling through the market, which featured handmade goods, locally crafted treasures, and a variety of tasty treats.

Smooth saxophone music added to the cozy atmosphere, creating a warm and inviting setting for couples, friends, and families alike.

Adding to the charm of the evening was a special appearance by Cupid, who wandered

the aisles throughout the night.

The playful match-maker stopped for photos, shared smiles, and brought an extra touch of Valentine magic to shoppers enjoying the event.

The Date Night Market offered a unique opportunity for residents to celebrate the season of love while supporting local vendors, making it a memorable evening filled with community spirit and Valentine vibes.



Morinville Farmers' Market photos

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RCMP
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Morinville RCMP Weekly Round-Up

Morinville RCMP members responded to several calls for service throughout the past few days (February 6th to February 13th, 2026):

During this reporting period, the Morinville RCMP handled 156 new occurrences, including calls for service and traffic-related interactions with the public.

February 6, 2026: Morinville RCMP responded to several reports of an erratic driver on Highway 2. Multiple witnesses observed a vehicle speeding, swerving between lanes, and nearly colliding with several other motorists.

Police quickly located the suspect vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. Following an investigation, a 46-year-old male was determined to be impaired by alcohol. The individual has been charged with the following Criminal Code offences:

- Failure or refusal to comply with a demand
- Operation while prohibited
- Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle

The accused was released and is scheduled to appear in court on a later date.

February 9, 2026: On February 9, 2026, Morinville RCMP received a report of a stolen vehicle. A blue 2017 Dodge Ram, bearing Alberta licence plate CSP3380, was taken from the area of Range Road 235 in Sturgeon County. There are no suspects, and the vehicle has yet to be recovered.

February 10, 2026: An officer from the Morinville RCMP Detachment attended a local elementary school where they had the opportunity to interact with the kindergarten classes by reading stories and answering students' questions about the nature of policing.

Morinville RCMP remains committed to ensuring the safety of our communities through proactive patrols and enforcement.

Do not attempt to interrupt a crime in progress or approach any suspicious person(s) or vehicle(s). Call 911 for any activity in progress and mention the call is in response to a RAVE alert.

For events that are not in progress, call 1-833-547-RAVE. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), or online at www.P3Tips.com.

Morinville Public School celebrates unity through 2026 Winter Olympics Week

Morinville Public School press release

Morinville Public School recently wrapped up an unforgettable Winter Olympics Week, held February 9–12, 2026, and the energy throughout the building was nothing short of electric.

Inspired by the spirit of the global Winter Games, this year's theme, "Interlocked Unity," focused on

bringing students together through teamwork, movement, and global connection.

From Pre-K to Grade 4, the entire school participated in a week filled with Olympic-inspired events designed to build community and school pride.

The celebration began with a powerful Opening Ceremony featuring a school-wide torch relay.

The symbolic flame

traveled classroom to classroom before culminating in the lighting of the Olympic cauldron in the gym – a moment met with cheers and excitement from students and staff alike.

Each class proudly represented a country from an assigned continent, carrying student-designed flags that showcased creativity and cultural learning.

Throughout the week, students rotated through events including skeleton mat relays, speed skating challenges, bean bag curling, bobsled tracks, biathlon sled pulls, floor hockey, ribbon dance, and snow painting.

Classes earned points not just for participation, but for teamwork, encouragement, and perseverance.

One of the most

meaningful highlights was the collaborative Olympic Rings art installation.

Every student contributed a handprint in their designated ring color, creating a vibrant display symbolizing unity, belonging, and the strength of the Morinville Public School community.

The week concluded with a Closing Ceremony featuring a video recap of the events, capturing laughter, determination, teamwork, and school spirit in action.

"Our goal was for students to see us working cooperatively and to feel part of something bigger," said the organizing team. "It was incredible to watch the pride and encouragement across all grade levels."

With movement, collaboration, and celebration at its core, MPS Winter Olympics Week proved that the true spirit of the Games isn't just about competition – it's about connection.



Morinville Public School photos



Thinking of planting tree seedlings?

Sturgeon County residents can buy seedlings through a County program starting Feb. 18, 2026 at 9 a.m.

The County offers a wide range of tree and shrub varieties to encourage sustainable and diverse shelterbelts.

Purchase online, SturgeonCounty.ca/tree-program



Information on shelterbelt planting from AWES.



We Serve **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

Lions Club of Morinville is accepting nominations for CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2025

Your nomination should include:

- Community and/or group involvement.
- Years of volunteering in Morinville or Sturgeon County.
- Did it make a significant contribution to the community **in the past year?**
- Past years accomplishments (up to 10 years of service), past volunteering experiences that have made a difference in the community? Have you recruited others to volunteer? etc.).
- Community Commitment.
- What has the person done to receive a nomination for the past year(s)?

ANY INDIVIDUAL or FAMILY that has made a significant contribution in Morinville or Sturgeon County is eligible.

Please provide info on **LAST YEARS (2025) COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION** by **MONDAY, March 9, 2026**

NOMINATIONS CAN BE MAILED TO:

Lions Club of Morinville c/o 10117-102 Ave Morinville AB T8R 1A7

or EMAIL Bev Lussier at blussier@shaw.ca

All nominations are confidential and are judged by 3 Lion members. & the previous Citizen of the Year. If the previous Citizen of the Year is a Lions Member, the committee will select a citizen of Morinville to sit on the selection committee.

Any Questions about the citizen of the year award or nomination process please contact: Lion Bev Lussier at 780-920-5276 or email: blussier@shaw.ca

Cheerific Western Cheer Challenge returns to Morinville

By Haylee Winger



The Cheerific Western Cheer Challenge, Western Canada's premier cheerleading competition, returned to the Morinville Leisure Centre February 13 to 14 for its 2026 event, drawing teams from across the region in spirited competition.

The annual event features a wide range of divisions, including school teams, all-star programs and performance cheer, along with specialty categories such as individual

and duo events.

Athletes and supporters travelled from communities including Slave Lake, Grande Prairie, Whitecourt, Spruce Grove, St. Albert, Fort McMurray, Edmonton, Onoway and Rocky Mountain House to take part in the weekend's action. Morinville's own teams put in strong performances throughout the competition.

Georges H. Primeau Middle School saw multiple top finishes, with the GHP 8 team capturing first place in the Intermediate division.

The GHP 7 Junior High Novice squad earned third place, while GHP 6 Elementary Novice took first

in its category.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy's Elementary Novice team also competed well, earning a third-place finish.

The Morinville Community High School cheer team capped off the event with impressive results of its own, winning first place in both the Median and Game Day divisions.

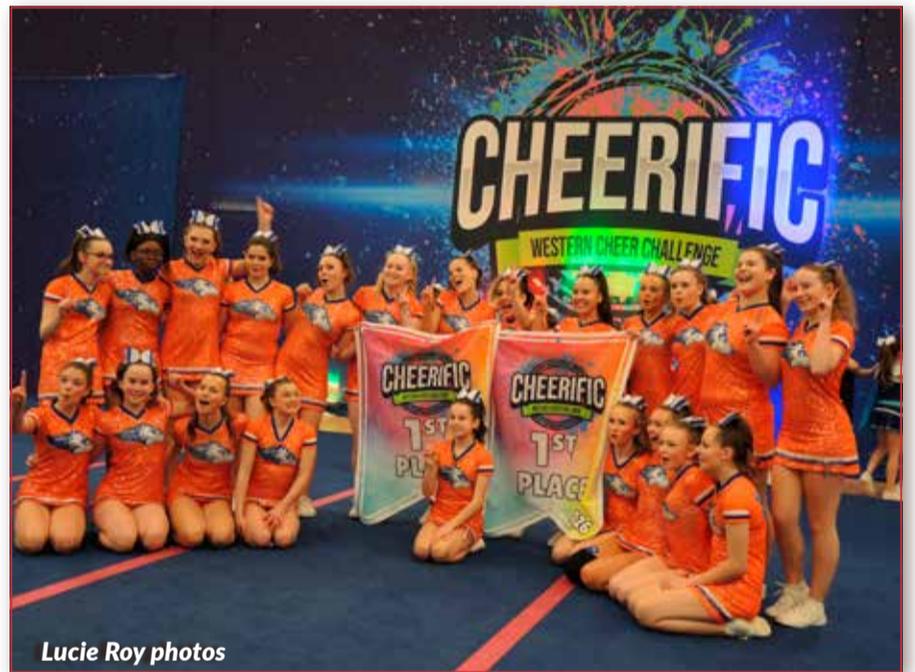
Their routines showcased athleticism, precision and school spirit in front of an enthusiastic hometown crowd.

The weekend's competition highlighted the dedication and hard work of cheerleaders from all levels, offering athletes an opportunity to demonstrate teamwork, skill and performance under pressure.

With a growing reputation and strong turnout, the Cheerific Western Cheer Challenge continues to be a standout event on the Western Canadian cheerleading calendar.



GHP 6 Coyotes Elementary Novice took first place.



Lucie Roy photos

MCHS Senior High Wolves Median and Game Day performance received first place in the Cheerific Cheer Challenge event held 13 & 14 February at the MLC.



Coyotes Junior High Novice at the Cheerific Cheer Challenge.



MCHS at the Cheerific Cheer Challenge. - Photo by Lucie Roy




 Musée Morinville Museum
 Société historique et culturelle de Morinville
 Ph: 780-572-5585, Email: morinvillemuseum@shaw.ca

The Morinville Historical and Cultural Society
 will hold their
Annual General Meeting
 Monday March 9th at 5:30 pm at the
Musée Morinville Museum, 10010-101 Street
 Refreshments will be served

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Sturgeon County Emergency Services recently received \$20,000 from the Enbridge Safe Community Grant. The funding helped purchase two new portable pumps as part of a project to update the structural protection trailer and enhance community safety. - Sturgeon County photos



How to recognize a controlling relationship

(NC) For many teens, figuring out what a healthy relationship looks like isn't easy, especially when they're just starting to explore dating and friendships.

Without much experience to draw from, it can be hard to tell the difference between care and control, respect and pressure.

Parents, guardians, and trusted adults all need to know how to recognize the signs of a controlling

relationship, and how to intervene safely when it's needed.

Identifying coercive and controlling behaviours

Coercive control can show up in many ways and is a form of gender-based violence (GBV) that youth and young adults can face in intimate relationships.

It's a type of abuse rooted in controlling, manipulative and fear-instilling behaviours.

There are four

common types of coercive controlling behaviours which include possessive behaviours, psychological abuse, sexual jealousy and stalking.

This may look like a partner making threats, breaking personal belongings, isolating someone from family and friends or monitoring where they go and who they talk to.

They may even threaten self-harm to pressure victims or survivors to comply and maintain power

over them.

The dangers of gaslighting

One particularly harmful tactic of coercive control and frequent type of GBV is gaslighting.

Gaslighting makes someone doubt their own memory, perception or sense of reality.

For example, a partner might deny their abusive actions, blame the victim for things they didn't do or twist events so the victim questions their

own judgement. Over time, gaslighting erodes confidence, instills doubt and makes it harder to leave relationships.

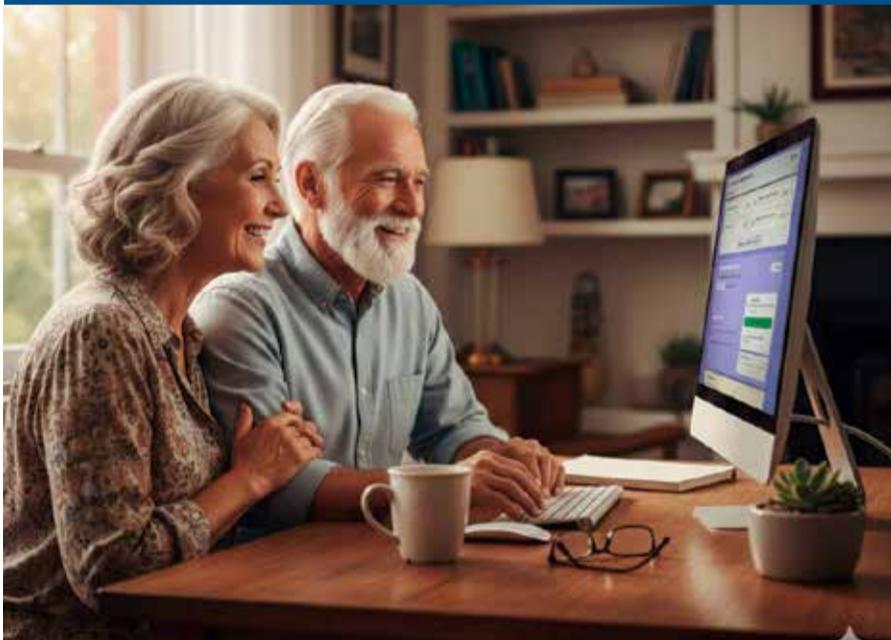
What you can do to help

It's important to be able to recognize when something isn't right. Look for signs like isolation, emotional manipulation and controlling acts, such as a victim has been made to give up autonomy over their phone, money or social life.

If a young person confides in you, the best things you can do is listen, believe them, label the behaviour for what it is and remind them that it's not their fault. This can help them connect with resources to support their safety and well-being.

Everyone deserves healthy relationships without abuse or control. You can learn more and find resources to support the youth in your life at canada.ca/itsnotjust.

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On the right track: Inflation edged down in January

By Rob Roach,
ATB ECONOMICS

The year-over-year (y/y) inflation rate in Canada was 2.3% in January, down slightly from December's reading of 2.4%.

Lower y/y gasoline prices (-16.7%), due in part to the removal of the consumer carbon tax in April 2025, kept the overall inflation rate in check.

Excluding gasoline, national inflation was running at 3.0% in January.

Some of this was due to the statistical noise created by the temporary GST/HST exemption on, among other things, restaurant meals, alcohol, and children's clothing and toys that was in effect in January

2025 but not in January 2026.

The y/y rates of price growth of food purchased from stores and rented accommodation, while down from earlier highs, were still more than double the 2% target at 4.8% and 4.3%, respectively.

Interest rate implications: Putting all this together, there is nothing in the January numbers that is likely to spook the Bank of Canada one way or the other.

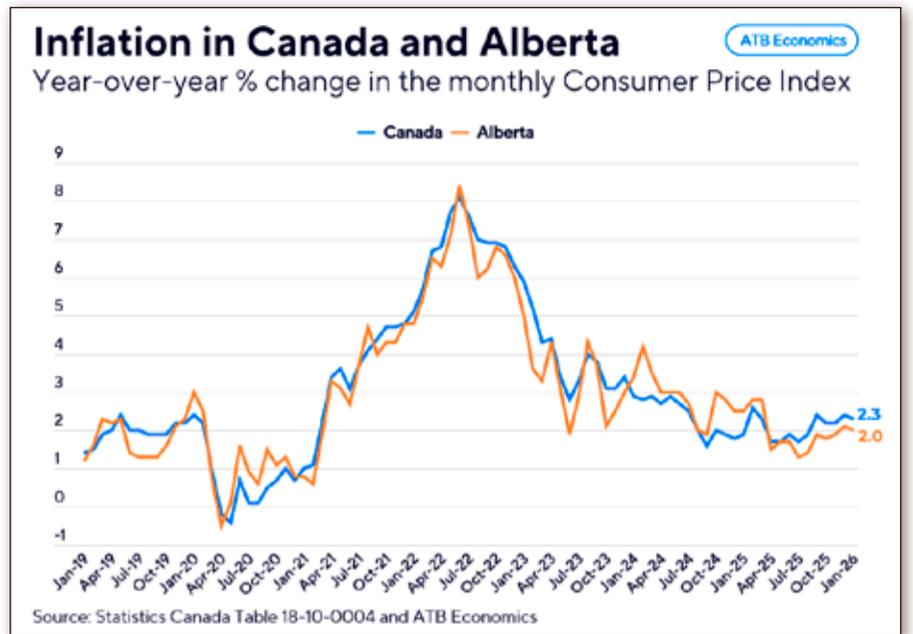
Although still above target, two key measures of underlying, or core, inflation (CPI-trim and CPI-median) both fell in January.

From that perspective, it's an encouraging inflation report.

As the Bank of Canada reminded us last week, its stance on interest rate remains dependent on the incoming data. As such, our call remains that the Bank will keep its trendsetting policy interest rate at its current 2.25% for the remainder of the year.

In Alberta, y/y inflation came in at 2%. The somewhat lower rate in Alberta was due in part to a smaller impact from the GST/HST exemption.

Because Alberta does not have a provincial sales tax, it was not removed in January 2025. As a result, the price increase this January from the reinstatement of the provincial sales tax on



restaurant meals and other items was not a factor in Alberta.

The price of food purchased from restaurants in Alberta was 6.9% higher y/y in January with the GST back in place, but

this was much lower than the 12.3% rise nationally with both GST and the provincial tax once again in effect.

A larger decrease in the price of natural gas and gasoline also

contributed to the lower overall inflation rate in Alberta.

A larger price bump in categories such as electricity, rent and clothing worked in the opposite direction.

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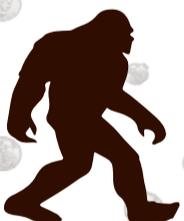
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PUBLIC HEARING – BYLAW 1698/25 MORINVILLE COLONY REDISTRICTING APPLICATION

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1698/25.

The applicant has requested that a section of land south of Alcomdale (at Highway 44 and Township Rd 564) be redistricted (rezoned) to bring the property into compliance with the County's Land Use Bylaw.

The proposed bylaw would redistrict a portion of Section 30-56-26-4:

- **Current land use district:** Agriculture (AG)
- **Proposed land use district:** DC25 – Direct Control District 25

A Direct Control (DC) District is a customized land-use designation within municipal zoning that allows for specific, site-unique rules. It offers detailed control over development where standard zones are inadequate. It is often used for unique sites or innovative projects needing precise regulation beyond typical zoning.

Learn more: sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1698-25



Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on:
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 1 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter) at Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville)

Questions? Contact us!

Rebecca Schapansky, RPP, MCIP; Planner, Current Planning
587-404-9866, rschapansky@sturgeoncounty.ca

Important information about Public Hearings

Requirements for speakers

All speakers have five minutes to speak and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission before the Public Hearing.

Speaking in person

To speak at the Public Hearing in person, contact Legislative Services at **780-939-0620** to register.

Speak via video conference (phone or video call-in)

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by **March 9, 2026 at 1 p.m.** by contacting Legislative Services at **780-939-0620**. This ensures you receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Written submissions

Email your written submission to Legislative Services at legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca.

Written submissions are accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing. If making a written submission, you must include your name, state your interest in the matter (such as a County resident directly impacted by the proposed bylaw), and indicate if you are in favour of or opposed to the proposed bylaw.

Watching the Public Hearing

You can view the Public Hearing in person or online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings.

To view the livestream, click on the meeting date on the calendar, then click on the video link.

By submitting comments on this bylaw, either orally or in writing, the personal information you provide may be recorded in the minutes of the public hearing or otherwise made public. This information is collected under section 4(c) of the Protection of Privacy Act (POPA). If you have any questions about the collection, use or disclosure of your personal information, please contact the Sturgeon County Access and Privacy Advisor at 780-939-1306 or accessandprivacy@sturgeoncounty.ca.



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