

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

Sturgeon County honoured by Invest Alberta for Economic Development Leadership



By Haylee
Winger

Sturgeon County has been recognized by Invest Alberta for its leadership in advancing investment opportunities, receiving a special belt

buckle award during the Calgary Stampede on July 8.

The award celebrates organizations that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to promoting Alberta as an investment destination and building the

partnerships needed to attract new business and economic growth.

According to Invest Alberta, the belt buckle symbolizes hard work, earned respect and the pioneering spirit that has long defined the

province. The organization presents the award to partners that have gone above and beyond in championing Alberta while strengthening the relationships that help drive investment.

The recognition

highlights Sturgeon County's ongoing collaboration with municipal, provincial and industry partners to encourage business investment and create long-term economic opportunities for residents and

employers.

"Partnerships are essential to economic development, and this recognition reflects the collective efforts of the many organizations and

Continued on **page 7**

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Residents play a role in keeping Sturgeon County roads safe



Sturgeon County Photo. **SEE STORY ON PAGE 5**

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Sturgeon County Council highlights

Sturgeon County release

Federation of Canadian Municipalities Defence Task Force Appointment

Council appointed Mayor Hnatiw to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Defence Task Force, effective immediately. This Task Force brings together municipal and federal representatives to discuss defence policy, infrastructure priorities, and opportunities for collaboration.

Town of Gibbons Viability Review - Community Vote Outcome

Council received the Gibbons Viability Review update, including the results of the dissolution vote, known implications, and next steps, as information. On June

24 and 25, 2026, Gibbons residents voted 68.5% in favour of remaining a town.

Municipal Property Tax Relief - Tax Roll 3024001

Council cancelled property tax penalties for tax roll 3024001 in the amount of \$800.21.

Bylaw 1718/26 - Amendment to Bylaw 1696/25 - 2026 Fees and Charges Bylaw

Council approved Bylaw 1718/26, an amendment to increase the base hourly rate for electric vehicle charging from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per charging hour, achieving cost neutrality for the operation of Sturgeon County electric vehicle charging stations.

Waste Management Vision Statement

Adoption and Master Plan Development

Council approved the adoption of the Waste Vision Statement and funding of \$120,000 from the Municipal Tax Stabilization Reserve for the development of a Waste Management Master Plan.

This will provide clear direction to advance a coordinated, long-term approach to waste management.

Industrial Heartland Traffic Coordination Overview Update

Council directed Administration to carry out an integrated Traffic Impact Assessment of the Industrial Heartland in relation to current and upcoming development and growth projects. Funding will be provided through interim financing from the Tax

Stabilization Reserve in advance of collection of development fees.

Council also directed Administration to include cost estimates for the recommended Transportation Master Plan update and accompanying plans and studies for funding consideration as part of the 2027 Budget deliberations.

Additionally, Council approved an allocation of \$75,000 from the Network Reserves to fund a Traffic Impact Study of the Industrial Heartland Area.

Major Community Capital Grant Requests

Council approved grants with funding from the Community Enhancement Reserve, as recommended by the Sand and Gravel Advisory Committee, to the

Riviere Qui Barre Agricultural Society (\$450,000), West Sturgeon Agricultural Society (\$400,000) and West Sturgeon People Aging in Place (\$250,000).

Provincially Authorized Developments

Council directed Administration to prepare amendments to the Land Use Bylaw to add Provincially authorized developments as a discretionary use in all districts and add an enhanced notification level. This option would enhance communication with residents and add a "notification fee" to the discretionary use development permit.

Provincially authorized developments are developments where a licence, permit, approval or other form of authorization from a Provincial

body prevails over some elements of a municipality's land use authority. Recent legislative changes will increase the number of developments that are subject to these specialized processes.

Dark Sky Policy (Mayor Hnatiw)

Council directed Administration to bring forward a Terms of Reference for a Dark Sky Policy to the July 14, 2026 Regular Council Meeting.

Community Grant Program Review (Deputy Mayor McLennan)

Council postponed this item to the August 25, 2026 Regular Council Meeting.

Report on Employee Work Arrangements

Continued on page 7



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Chins up: Business confidence in Alberta

Rob Roach,
ATB Economics

From U.S. tariffs to inflation to slowing population growth, there is no shortage of negative economic news that could undermine business confidence in Alberta.

At the same time, strong oil prices, forward momentum on major projects, and resilient consumer spending are significant patches of blue sky amid the dark clouds.

Two surveys provide a sense of how Alberta businesses are feeling about all this.*

The first is the Business Council of Alberta's inaugural Alberta CEO Pulse Survey. Conducted from June 25 to July 7 with CEOs of companies that are members of the BCA, the survey found that "Alberta business leaders are **upbeat about the year ahead** and are preparing to invest, hire, and grow over the coming year."

About two-thirds (65%) of the business executives who responded expect economic conditions in Alberta to improve over the next 12 months; 28% expect them to stay the same; and only 8% expect them to deteriorate.

Given everything going on around the world, that is a strong vote of confidence regarding what's next for the Alberta economy.

The BCA points to improving business

conditions in the oil and gas sector as a key reason for the high level of optimism.

The confidence is spilling over to hiring plans, with 50% of respondents saying they are **planning to increase their workforce**; 39% planning to keep things as is; and just 11% expecting to cut jobs.

This finding comes despite the fact that over half (55%) of executives expect **input costs to rise** at a faster rate than over the previous 12 months.

As the BCA notes, "There are a number of new projects under construction or on the horizon, including the recent announcement of a major data centre north of Edmonton and the proposal to build a pipeline to the west coast. But, at the same time, debate over the October referendum on separation is intensifying. Amid it all, the mood among Alberta business leaders is remarkably positive."

The second survey is the Monthly Business Barometer from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

Conducted from July 7 to 13 with a random sample of CFIB members (who skew more toward the small business end of the continuum than BCA members), the results show that small business sentiment in Alberta dipped slightly in July, but remained **optimistic overall**

with a reading of 54.2. (Measured on a scale between 0 and 100, an index above 50 means owners expecting their business's performance to be stronger over the next 12 months outnumber those expecting weaker performance.)

The index for the 12-month outlook among Alberta small businesses has been hovering around 55-58 over the first half of the year, which is a significant improvement over last year's average of 49.2.

Sentiment was particularly low in the spring of 2025 when President Trump's tariff threats were in full swing.

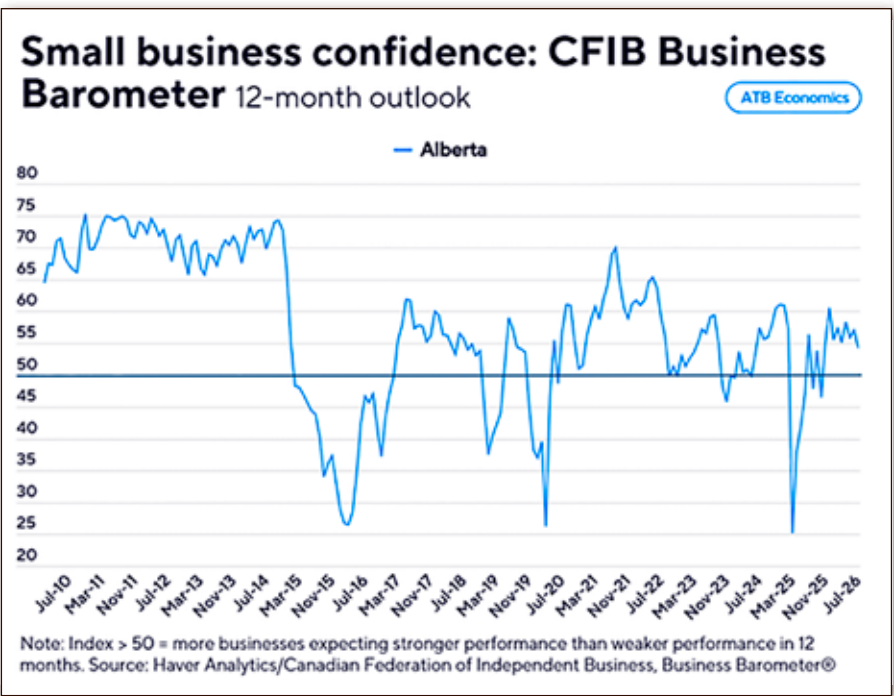
Just under half (48%) of the Alberta respondents cited insufficient demand as a factor limiting their ability to increase sales or production.

Second on the list at 44% was a shortage of skilled labour.

It's a different question, but there is some overlap here with the BCA results, which found that 47% of respondents were experiencing difficulty finding or retaining employees.

Almost three-quarters (73%) of small businesses in Alberta report that tax and regulatory costs are a problem, with 68% citing fuel costs as a difficulty for their business.

Hiring plans are not as robust among CFIB members in Alberta as they are in the BCA survey, though



the time frame is shorter, with 15% expecting employment levels outside normal seasonal variation to go up over the next 3 to 4 months.

Most small businesses expect employment levels to stay the same with only 8% expecting them to go down (an improvement over previous months).

Bottom line: While we have to be careful lumping two different surveys together, the general picture painted by both the BCA and CFIB is one in which business optimism in Alberta currently outweighs pessimism.

The results also point to continued employment growth in the province in the

months ahead.

At the same time, finding skilled workers remains a key challenge as does the cost of doing business.

*Both surveys were conducted before the latest round of U.S. tariff threats, so we will have to wait and see what effect that has on confidence going forward.



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**August Meetings
and Important Dates**

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Meeting schedule is subject to change. Members of the public are welcome to observe or listen in. For teleconference details and links to the livestream, click on the meetings notice in the following locations:

- Council Meetings:** SturgeonCounty.ca/CouncilMeetings
- Board and Committee Meetings:** SturgeonCounty.ca/Boards
- Public Hearings:** SturgeonCounty.ca/Notices

Holiday Closure - Heritage Day	Aug 3	Closed
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board	Aug 4	2:00 PM
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board	Aug 18	2:00 PM
Regular Council/Committee of the Whole	Aug 25	9:00 AM

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Photos by Lucie Roy



Wyatt Dribnenki wrote a note of remembrance in honour of his grandparents, who both served during the Second World War, as part of the "Don't Forget to Remember Kit" campaign.



Lillian and David Ziegler of Lethbridge were among the many visitors from Alberta and British Columbia who gathered in Barrhead on July 25. A photo of Lillian's father, who served during the Second World War, was also on display. A list of more than 100 soldiers who served from Morinville and the surrounding area, along with photos and information about local veterans, was featured at the event. Attendees also participated in the "Don't Forget to Remember Kit" campaign by writing messages on provided notepads. The kit, an initiative of Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Command celebrating its 100th anniversary, was mailed to Legions across Canada. The collected notes will become part of a large-scale national commemorative mural.



George Dribnenki, formerly of Morinville, displays a photo of his parents, both of whom served in the military. His mother, Ida, served in the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC), while his father, Peter, served in the Navy in Halifax.

PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTICE

PROPOSED ATLAS CARBON STORAGE HUB PROJECT

Atlas CCS General Partner Limited (Atlas), a joint venture between Shell Canada Limited and ATCO Next Energy Ltd., is planning the proposed Atlas Carbon Storage Hub Project in Strathcona County, Alberta.

The project represents an important step in advancing carbon management infrastructure in Alberta and is intended to provide long-term, secure storage for captured carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the Alberta's Industrial Heartland region.

Atlas is preparing an application in accordance with the requirements of Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) Directive 065 and the broader regulatory framework governing CO₂ sequestration projects in Alberta. The application will present an overview of the proposed storage hub, including the project area, planned infrastructure, and supporting technical and regulatory information.

As part of the AER regulatory application process, Atlas is preparing a seismicity Monitoring, Mitigation and Response Plan (MMR Plan). This plan will describe how Atlas would monitor, assess, and respond to area seismic activity in accordance with AER requirements. The plan is an important part of the project's overall safety and monitoring program.

This notice is being provided as part of Atlas' public engagement program, which aims to share information about the project and the regulatory planning work currently underway.

For more information about AER Directive 065, visit www.aer.ca. Information about the Atlas Carbon Storage Hub Project is available at www.atlascarbonhub.ca.

Questions can be sent to:
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Participants in Sturgeon County's Youth Emergency Services Academy visited RCMP Headquarters during the academy, held July 20-22, where they



took part in fitness testing, experienced a portion of the Physical Abilities Requirement Evaluation (PARE), toured the Real Time Operations Centre, and learned about specialized RCMP units. The hands-on program gave youth an inside look at careers in emergency services while emphasizing teamwork, leadership, and public safety. - **Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Alberta photos**



Residents play a role in keeping Sturgeon County roads safe



By Haylee Winger

Sturgeon County is reminding residents that reporting road concerns is an important way they can help support safe and reliable travel throughout the municipality.

County crews work year-round to maintain, repair and improve local roadways, but residents are often the first to notice changes or issues while travelling.

By sharing concerns with the County, residents can help staff identify areas that may require attention and determine where maintenance efforts are needed.

Through the County's online road concern reporting portal, residents can provide details about roadway issues they encounter.

The service is available without creating an account, making it quick and convenient for anyone wishing to submit a report.

Concerns reported by residents help provide Transportation crews with valuable information about road conditions across Sturgeon County's extensive network of paved and gravel roads.

Reports can assist staff in monitoring issues and planning future maintenance activities.

Sturgeon County

encourages residents to report concerns as they are noticed, helping the municipality respond to changing road conditions and continue improving transportation infrastructure.

Residents can submit a Road Concern through the Sturgeon County website by visiting the "Report a Road Concern" section under Roads and Transportation.

No account is required to make a submission.





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12:00PM - 8:00PM

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Sturgeon County continues Street-Level Imaging Program



By Haylee Winger

Residents in north-eastern Sturgeon County may notice camera-equipped County vehicles travelling local roads over the coming months as the municipality continues its street-level imaging program in the area.

The initiative,

which began last year, is designed to support the County's property assessment process by providing assessors with current images of roads, homes and neighbourhoods.

The updated imagery helps staff prepare for inspections, verify property information and better identify areas where in-person visits may be needed.

According to

Sturgeon County, the vehicles will operate on public roads during regular business hours and will be clearly marked.

Employees completing the imaging work will also carry official Sturgeon County identification.

Maintaining accurate property information is an important part of Alberta's assessment system.

Sturgeon County regularly reviews properties through inspections, permit follow-ups, property sales reviews and scheduled reinspection programs to help ensure assessments remain current and accurate.

The street-level imagery provides assessors with an additional resource to support this work.

The images will also benefit residents by providing updated views of roads and neighbourhoods through Google Maps' Street View, making it easier for people to view locations throughout the County.

Sturgeon County notes that street-level imaging does not replace in-person inspections when they

are required.

Property owners selected for an inspection or reinspection will continue to be contacted directly by Assessment Services.

Residents looking for more information about property inspections and the assessment process can visit the Sturgeon County website or contact Assessment Services.

Free summer program returns to Morinville parks

Families in Morinville can once again enjoy a summer of free outdoor activities as the popular Summer Travelling Adventure program returns for the season.

Designed for children ages 6 to 12, the drop-in program

offers a variety of games, crafts, and creative activities at different community parks from Monday to Thursday.

Sessions started on July 6 and run until August 20, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and no registration is required.

The weekly schedule includes Mondays at The Lakes Park, Tuesdays at South Glens Playground, Wednesdays at the Morinville Splash Park,

and Thursdays at the École Notre Dame Elementary School Playground.

Parents and guardians are welcome to attend with their

children.

Organizers encourage participants to follow the program's social media page for weather-related announcements and any

location changes.

If outdoor conditions are unsuitable, activities will be relocated indoors to the Morinville Leisure Centre.



Town of Morinville photos

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Sturgeon County Council highlights
Continued from page 2

(Deputy Mayor McLennan)

Council directed Administration to provide a report to Council at the November 10, 2026 Regular Council Meeting on employee remote and hybrid work arrangements, and known financial, legal and practical implications to any adjustment options.

County Funding for Signalization at the Provincial Intersection at Highways 643 and 38 (Councillor Berry)

Council approved an allocation of \$825,000 from the Municipal Tax Stabilization Reserve to fund the signalization at the intersection at Highways 643 and 38.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Sub-Regional Policy Development

Councillor Toms gave notice that she will introduce the

following motion at the August 25, 2026 Regular Council Meeting:

That Administration prepare a policy or policies, to be reviewed by the Governance and Council Services Committee and recommended to Council, that describes Sturgeon County's positions on intermunicipal efficiency, service and infrastructure delivery, cost sharing, sub-regional governance models, and specific commitments in the case of the future dissolution of a community within Sturgeon County.

Review of Small Business Incentives Policy

Deputy Mayor McLennan gave notice that he will introduce the following motion at the August 25, 2026 Regular Council Meeting: That Administration and the Economic Development Advisory Board review and

provide recommendations on potential amendments to the Small Business Incentives Policy that would increase program uptake, and report to Council in Q4 2026.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Realtors Association of Edmonton Presentation

The Committee received the Realtors Association of Edmonton presentation as information, regarding recent estate trends in the Edmonton metropolitan region.

CLOSED SESSION

Council received a confidential project update in closed session as information.

Fast facts about land use bylaw amendments and public hearings

- View our webpage about land use planning and community engagement.
 - View our interactive regulations map.
- At Sturgeon Council, before Council

gets public feedback on a proposed land use bylaw amendment, it gives the proposed bylaw first reading. This does not mean Council supports the bylaw; this allows the proposed bylaw to go to the next stage of the bylaw process, which is gathering public input.

Public hearings, along with other public notices, are promoted on the public notices page on the Sturgeon County website as well as in local newspapers, on social media, and on road

signs in accordance with the new Sturgeon County Public Notification Bylaw.

Public hearings are open to any members of the public to view or provide input.

• **Viewing the public hearing:** You can view the hearing in-person or via livestream at www.sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings

• **Making a written submission:** you can provide a written submission by email up to the close of the public hearing.

• **Speaking at the public hearing:** you can provide

a statement at the public hearing in person or via videoconference. You are encouraged to pre-register to speak in-person at the public hearing. If you wish to speak via videoconference, you must register at least 24 hours prior to the opening of the public hearing. Register by contacting Legislative Services at 780-939-8029.

When considering public input, Council considers how and to what degree the person is impacted by the proposed amendment.

Sturgeon County honoured

Continued from page 1

leaders working together to grow Alberta's economy," said Alanna Hnatiw, Mayor of Sturgeon County. "We are proud to work alongside partners who share our commitment to responsible investment and sustainable

prosperity in our region."

Invest Alberta noted that strong partnerships help showcase Alberta's competitive advantages, provide investors with confidence as they explore opportunities, and demonstrate a coordinated approach to supporting investment across the province.

Through its Economic Development team and the Invest Sturgeon program, Sturgeon County continues to work with regional, provincial and industry partners to attract investment, support business expansion and strengthen the region's position as a destination for economic opportunity.



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Staying tick-smart during Alberta's outdoor season



By Haylee Winger

Summer in Alberta brings plenty of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, whether it's hiking local trails, camping with family, walking the dog or spending time in the garden.

Along with those activities comes the possibility of encountering ticks, making awareness and prevention an important part of any outdoor adventure.

Ticks are tiny parasites that survive by feeding on the blood of animals and people. They are most commonly found in grassy areas, shrubs, forest edges and other places where they can latch onto a passing host.

Although they are small, ticks can transmit diseases, making it worthwhile to check for them after spending time outside.

The species residents are most likely to encounter in Alberta is the Rocky Mountain wood tick.

While blacklegged ticks – often called

deer ticks – are occasionally found in the province, Alberta Health says the overall risk of contracting Lyme disease within Alberta remains low because established populations of Lyme disease-carrying blacklegged ticks have not been confirmed.

Even so, health officials encourage people to take precautions and remove any attached tick promptly.

Reducing the chance of a tick bite starts before heading outdoors.

Wearing long sleeves, long pants and closed-toe footwear can help create a barrier between skin and ticks.

Light-coloured clothing also makes it easier to spot ticks before they attach. Insect repellents containing DEET or icaridin provide an added layer of protection when used according to the manufacturer's directions.

Once back indoors, a thorough tick check is one of the simplest and most effective prevention measures.

Ticks often attach



to warm, hidden areas of the body, including behind the knees, under the arms, around the waist, along the hairline and behind the ears.

Children should be checked carefully, and pets should also be inspected since they can carry ticks into homes and vehicles.

If an attached tick is discovered, experts recommend removing it with fine-tipped tweezers.

Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull upward slowly and steadily without twisting.

The bite area should then be washed with soap and water or cleaned with an antiseptic.

Folk remedies such as applying petroleum jelly, nail polish or heat are not recommended because they may make removal more difficult.

People should monitor their health in the weeks following a tick bite.

Anyone who develops symptoms such as fever, fatigue, muscle aches or an expanding rash should seek medical attention and tell their healthcare provider about the tick exposure.

When Lyme disease is diagnosed early, it is typically treated successfully with antibiotics.

Albertans can also help provincial surveillance efforts by submitting

photographs of ticks through the eTick program, which assists experts in identifying tick species and tracking where they are found across the province.

Ticks are a natural part of Alberta's environment, but they don't have to spoil a day outdoors.

By dressing appropriately, using insect repellent, checking for ticks after outdoor activities and removing them correctly, Albertans can continue to enjoy parks, trails and campsites with confidence.



The U15 AA Brewers celebrate after defeating the Lloydminster Twins 16-12 in the semifinal to earn a spot in the championship game. – Morinville Minor Baseball photo

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