

Sturgeon County fire chief honoured with national award



By Haylee
Winger

Sturgeon County Fire Chief Chad Moore is being recognized among the

country's fire service leaders after receiving a national award for his work in the community.

Moore was named the **2026 Career/Composite Fire Chief of the Year** by

the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and Fire Underwriters Survey.

He is the first Sturgeon County fire chief to receive the national honour.

Moore accepted

the award during Fire-Rescue Canada, the annual national fire service conference held in Vancouver, B.C., from September 20 to 23.

The award recognizes fire chiefs who go beyond the expected responsibilities of their role and make meaningful contributions to public safety.

Nominations are submitted from across Canada and reviewed by an independent panel of judges.

For Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatiw, seeing Moore receive the award was a proud moment for the community.

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Sturgeon County Fire Chief Chad Moore accepts the 2026 Career/Composite Fire Chief of the Year award from the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and Fire Underwriters Survey during Fire-Rescue Canada in Vancouver, B.C. - **Sturgeon County photo**

Morinville Food Bank sees growing demand as food costs continue to rise



By Shelley
Winger

The need for assistance from the Morinville Food Bank continues to grow, with the organization seeing many new clients this year as rising grocery costs put increasing pressure

on local households.

Brenda Malychuk of the Morinville Food Bank said the organization has seen a variety of new clients, including larger families, single seniors, senior couples and single adults.

"The needs just keep growing," Malychuk said.

At the same time,

the food bank is facing many of the same financial pressures as the people it serves.

The cost of groceries purchased by the food bank continues to rise, while donations have been dropping consistently over the past several years as community

Continued on **page 6**

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Lac Ste. Anne–Parkland
Your Guide to Voting

Referendum

In this referendum, electors will be asked to vote on 10 questions. Nine questions require a “Yes” or “No” response. One question asks electors to choose between two options.

You have three ways to vote:

1. **Vote during Advance Voting** from October 13 to 17, 2026, at an advance voting place in your electoral division.
2. **Vote on Election Day, October 19, 2026** at your designated voting place.
3. **If you’ve already requested a special ballot**, it must be received by mail at Elections Alberta by 5:00pm on October 16. Canada Post recommends you mail it no later than October 9.

Advance Voting Tuesday, October 13 to Saturday, October 17

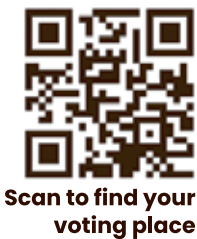
During advance voting, you must vote at a voting place in your electoral division.

Advance voting places in your electoral division are listed below. Or visit [elections.ab.ca](#) to find your voting place.

Advance Voting Places		Tuesday, October 13	Wednesday, October 14	Thursday, October 15	Friday, October 16	Saturday, October 17
Cedar Ridge Estates – Boardroom 53128 Rge Rd 21, Parkland County		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Cherhill Community Hall 401 Railway Ave, Cherhill				9am – 8pm		
Evansburg Seniors Heritage House 5009 49 St, Evansburg		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm			
Mayerthorpe Diamond Centre 4814 54 St, Mayerthorpe		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm			
Onoway Community Hall – Advance Poll 4920 49 Ave, Onoway		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Parkland Village Community Hall 60 Parkland Gate Rd, Parkland County		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Villeneuve Community Hall 61 54200 Rge Rd 265, Sturgeon County					9am – 8pm	
Wabamun Jubilee Hall 5132 53 Ave, Wabamun				9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	

Be referendum ready.

1. Save time by registering to vote before advance voting or Election Day.
Visit [Voterlink.ab.ca](#)
2. Review identification requirements before you vote.
3. View referendum questions at [elections.ab.ca/elections/referendum](#)



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Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland

Your Guide to Voting



Election Day Monday, October 19, 2026
Election Day voting hours are 9:00am to 8:00pm.

On Election Day you must vote at your assigned voting place, which will be one of the places listed below. To find your designated voting place, scan the QR code and enter your residential address.

ELECTION DAY VOTING PLACE: Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland

Alberta Beach 50 Plus Club 5012 49 Ave Alberta Beach	Darwell Centennial Hall 54219 Hwy 765 Lac Ste. Anne County	Muir Lake Community Alliance Church 53428 Hwy 779 Parkland County	Seba Beach Seniors Golden Age Club 109 1 St Seba Beach
Alcomdale Community Hall 400 - 57000 Hwy 44 Alcomdale	Duffield Community Hall 2 1 St Duffield	Muir Lake Community Hall 53422 Hwy 779 Parkland County	Smithfield Community Hall 53211 Rge Rd 34 Parkland County
Alexander Forestry Training Center Admin Rd Alexander No. 134	Evansburg Seniors Heritage House 5009 49 St Evansburg	Parkland Village Community Hall 60 Parkland Gate Rd Parkland County	Stettin-Nakamun Hall 1518 Twp Rd 562 Lac Ste. Anne County
Busby Community Hall 5108 50 Ave Busby	Fallis Community Hall 55303 Rge Rd 52 Parkland County	Rich Valley Agriplex 56216 Hwy 33 Rich Valley	Villeneuve Community Hall 61 54200 Rge Rd 265 Sturgeon County
Calahoo Community Centre 9 54500 Rge Rd 275 Sturgeon County	Glowing Embers RV Park And Travel Centre 26821 100 Ave Acheson	Rivière Qui Barre Recreation Centre 145A 26500 Hwy 44 Rivière Qui Barre	Wabamun Jubilee Hall 5132 53 Ave Wabamun
Carvel Hall 3A 52511 Hwy 770 Carvel	Gunn Area Hall 110 55022 Ste Anne Trail Gunn	Royal Canadian Legion Branch #132 - Onoway 4808 50 St Onoway	 Scan to find your voting place
Cedar Ridge Estates - Boardroom 53128 Rge Rd 21 Parkland County	Manly Hall 2320 Hwy 16 Parkland County	Sandy Beach-Myrna Noyes Community Hall 63 Lakeshore Dr Summer Village Of Sandy Beach	
Cherhill Community Hall 401 Railway Ave Cherhill	Mayerthorpe Diamond Centre 4814 54 St Mayerthorpe	Sangudo Community Hall 4920 50 St Sangudo	

Unofficial results will be posted after voting closes and ballots are counted at results.elections.ab.ca.
Official results will be posted October 29, 2026, at officialresults.elections.ab.ca.

Returning Offices

 **Main Office**

4920 49 Ave,
Onoway, AB T0E 1V0

Returning Officer:

Reanne Springer
Phone: 1-833-483-2822
Email: ed67@elections.ab.ca

Office Hours

Mon to Fri: 9am – 6pm
Saturday: 10am – 4pm
Voting Days: 9am – 8pm

Accessible Voting

 **Barrier-free Access**

All voting places are evaluated and modified, where possible, to provide barrier-free access to voters. Visit elections.ab.ca/accessibility to view accessibility information for each voting place.

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Morinville–St. Albert

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Bon Accord Jewel Box 4916 52 St, Bon Accord				9am – 8pm		
Cardiff Community Hall 55320 Rge Rd 251, Cardiff			9am – 8pm			
Gibbons Community Cultural Centre 5115 51 St, Gibbons		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Holiday Inn Express & Suites 1145 St Albert Trail, St Albert		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Legal ACFA Community Centre 5109 46 St, Legal		9am – 8pm				
Morinville Rendez Vous Centre 9913 104 St, Morinville		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Redwater & District Pioneer Club 4916 50 St, Redwater					9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm

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Morinville–St. Albert

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ELECTION DAY VOTING PLACE: Morinville–St. Albert

Bon Accord Community School Hwy 28 & 57 St, Bon Accord	Holiday Inn Express & Suites 1145 St Albert Trail, St Albert	Morinville Rendez Vous Centre 9913 104 St, Morinville	École Alexandre–Taché School 30 Erin Ridge Dr, St Albert
Cardiff Community Hall 55320 Rge Rd 251, Cardiff	Kinosayo Elementary School 40 Woodlands Rd, St Albert	Namao Community Hall 8–24400 Hwy 37, Namao	 Scan to find your voting place
Cattail Crossing Golf & Winter Club 24427 Twp Rd 542, Sturgeon County	Legal ACFA Community Centre 5109 46 St, Legal	Red Willow Community Church 15 Corriveau Ave, St Albert	
Christ Community Church 25230 Twp Rd 542, St Albert	Lois E. Hole Elementary School 120 Everitt Dr N, St Albert	Redwater & District Pioneer Club 4916 50 St, Redwater	
Gibbons Community Cultural Centre 5115 51 St, Gibbons	Morinville Community Cultural Centre 9502 100 Ave, Morinville	Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church 51 Woodlands Rd, St Albert	

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400 Campbell Rd,
St. Albert, AB T8N 0R8

Returning Officer:
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Morinville community prepares to mark Truth and Reconciliation



By Shelley Winger

Morinville residents are being encouraged to take time to learn, reflect and remember as the community marks National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30.

The Town of Morinville provided free transportation for community members attending an Orange Shirt Day event at Alexander First Nation on September 29.

A shuttle ran between the Morinville



Community Cultural Centre and Alexander First Nation, giving residents an opportunity to participate in Orange Shirt Day

alongside a neighbouring Indigenous community.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours

residential school Survivors, their families and communities, while remembering the children who never returned home. The

day also serves as an opportunity for Canadians to learn about the history and lasting impacts of the residential school system.

Orange Shirt Day is observed on September 30 and has become a symbol of remembrance and recognition of the experiences of Indigenous children who were taken from their families and communities and sent to residential schools.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was established following the Truth and Reconciliation

Commission of Canada's Call to Action 80, with September 30 becoming a federal statutory holiday in 2021.

Morinville is located on Treaty 6 Territory, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dene, Stony Nakoda Sioux, Saulteaux and Ojibwe First Nations, as well as the Métis.

Residents are encouraged to wear orange, learn about residential school history and take part in opportunities to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Morinville Food Bank
Continued from page 1

members and businesses also deal with increasing costs.

"We are constantly dipping into our reserves to purchase food," Malychuk said.

The food bank is always looking for basic food items, including jam, Cheez Whiz, canned meats such as ham, turkey, chicken and Spam, juice boxes, instant coffee and coffee grounds.

Other requested items include Stove Top stuffing and Hamburger Helper, along with toiletries such as deodorant,

toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner and body wash.

Household supplies, including dish soap, toilet paper and paper towels, are also needed.

As the fall and winter months approach, Malychuk encouraged residents to continue supporting the food bank through food and monetary donations.

She said the organization is grateful for the support it receives from the Morinville community, including local businesses that offer discounts, host

food drives, provide space for cash donation boxes and organize fundraising events such as golf tournaments.

School food drives and competitions are also a significant help.

"Every single can or package that comes from the community to the food bank makes a difference in helping to keep empty stomachs full," Malychuk said.

Residents can follow the Morinville Food Bank Facebook page for information about upcoming donation opportunities and updates on items

the organization is particularly in need of.

Malychuk also expressed her

appreciation to the community for its continued support.

"We would like to give a huge thank you

to our community as a whole for all food and monetary donations," Malychuk said.



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RCMP

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

New way for Albertans to receive cancer screening notifications

Primary Care Alberta's (PCA) Screening Programs is updating its communication methods to better serve Albertans.

Cancer screening notifications are moving towards becoming paperless.

Starting in the fall of 2026, mailed invitation and reminder notifications for cancer screening will be phased out when possible and patients will get notifications and information through MyHealthAlberta's MyChart online platform.

The Alberta Cervical Cancer Screening Program implemented this change first on September 15, 2026.

The Alberta Colorectal Cancer Screening Program and Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Program will follow in 2027.

"Albertans increasingly expect to access services and information digitally. Moving cancer screening notifications to MyChart is a practical step that improves access to personal health information, supports participation in life-saving screening programs, and ensures we are delivering services in a more efficient and sustainable way." – **Justin Wright, Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services**

Patients not enrolled in MyChart will continue to receive printed letters.

Normal screening results will be available via MyChart or communicated through the patient's appropriate care provider.

Abnormal test results will be mailed, available via MyChart or communicated through the patient's appropriate care provider.

"These changes are designed to make it easier to review messages, alerts and results, better keep track of your screenings and remind you when to book an appointment. Regular screening is the best way to find cancer early, before symptoms appear and when treatment is likely to be most effective." – **Kimberley Simmonds, CEO of Primary Care Alberta**

This shift ensures Albertans have improved access to their health information,

Continued on **page 8**

Morinville RCMP Weekly Round-Up

Morinville RCMP members responded to several calls for service throughout the past few days (**September 16th to September 24th, 2026**):

- During this reporting period, the Morinville RCMP handled 194 new occurrences, including calls for service and traffic-related interactions with the public.
- **September 19, 2026:** Morinville RCMP responded to a report of theft from a Circle K in Morinville. Three female suspects entered the store and stole several items of merchandise. The investigation remains ongoing as officers work to identify the suspects.
- **September 20, 2026:** Morinville RCMP received a report of an erratic driver. Although the vehicle was parked by the time officers arrived, police located the driver and investigated them for impaired operation of a motor vehicle. A 47-year-old female was arrested for impaired operation and was issued immediate roadside sanctions. The vehicle involved was towed.
- **September 24, 2026:** Morinville

RCMP responded to a single-vehicle collision involving a semi-truck. Witnesses reported seeing the semi-truck swerve into oncoming traffic before leaving the roadway and entering an open field. The male driver was found unconscious. Passersby and witnesses immediately began CPR and life-saving efforts, however, despite their efforts the male driver sadly succumbed to what is believed to have been a medical episode. There were no other injuries reported.

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), online at www.P3Tips.com.

PUBLIC HEARING – BYLAW 1721/26 OFF-ROAD VEHICLE TRACK

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1721/26. The property owner would like to operate an off-road vehicle track on their land at 57508 Lily Lake Road. This land is zoned as AG-Agriculture, which does not allow this type of activity.

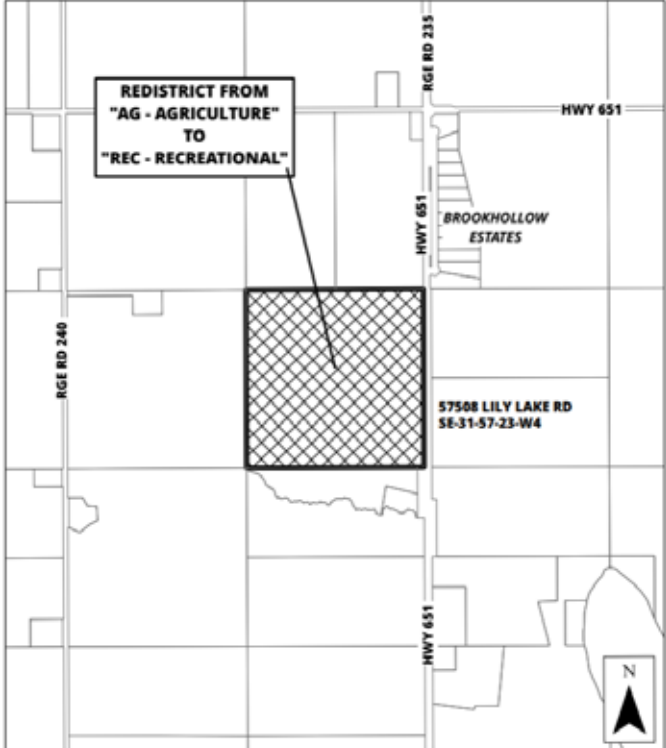
The applicant is requesting the land be rezoned to REC – Recreational District to allow them to apply for a 'Recreation, outdoor motorized vehicle facility' development permit.

Each time land is rezoned, a bylaw is needed to amend the Land Use Bylaw, and a public hearing must be held.

Legal land description: SE-31-57-23-4

Learn more:
sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1721-26

Questions? Contact us!
Kimberly Mickelson
Planner, Current Planning
(587) 200-4322
kmickelson@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 **780-939-8029** to register.

Speak via videoconference (phone or video call-in)
To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by **October 9, 2026 at 1 p.m.** by contacting Legislative Services at **780-939-8029**. 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.



Homes (still) wanted: An update on Canada's housing supply gap

Carol Kamel,
ATB Economics

Key points

- Canada's housing supply gap is largely unchanged from last year according to the CMHC. However, this masks variations across major cities.
- Alberta leads the supply recovery, with Calgary estimated to have cut its gap in half and Edmonton showing no measurable gap.
- Despite moderating demand, failing to build enough homes during today's softer market will leave Canada short on supply when demand rebounds.

Supply gap has narrowed unevenly across Canada

Last fall, I wrote about the housing supply gap and how, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) estimates, Alberta would have to build approximately 14,000 more homes per year out to 2035 than it was – mostly in Calgary – to bring housing affordability back

to pre-pandemic levels*.

Nationally, housing starts needed to nearly double to close the supply gap. The country currently faces a long-term housing supply gap of 187,000 to 238,000 homes per year over the next decade.

The CMHC has updated its estimates in a newly issued report, finding that Canada's supply gap is broadly unchanged from last year.

The report highlights that the supply gap narrowed in Toronto and Calgary, stayed the same in Vancouver, and widened in Ottawa and Montreal.

Canada's housing market is entering a period of normalization, on the back of slower population growth and more balanced rental markets.

However, the key risk the report highlights is that Canada does not build enough during today's market softening and falls short of housing when demand strengthens again.

That being said,

there are some common themes across Canada's largest markets.

Purpose-built rentals – residential buildings designed and constructed to be rented out by a single owner or management company, rather than sold off as individual condo units – now account for two thirds of all apartment starts in key markets.

Compared to last year, some of the key markets facing relatively larger supply gaps have seen their rental market conditions move towards a more balanced market, in large part due to purpose-built rentals adding much-needed supply and slowing rent growth.

However, the report highlights another emerging trend, owner-occupied housing faces supply challenges, indicating a changing housing supply mix and a market for prospective homeowners that is less balanced than it is for renters benefiting from increased supply.

The Alberta story

While it only lists Calgary and Edmonton, the CMHC report largely echoes what we've been observing in the broader housing market in Alberta.

As we expected, housing starts have fallen below last year's record highs and are down about 15% year-to-date.

However, the level remains well above the 10 year average of about 34,000 units, with August posting a strong reading of 53,400 units (seasonally adjusted at annual rate).

According to the report, Calgary is one of the few major cities to narrow the housing supply gap. Back-to-back years of record housing starts allowed supply to catch up and inventories to build, leading to a softer rental market.

Edmonton's housing market continues to show no measurable supply gap, meaning the expected level of homebuilding is expected to keep affordability in check. Developers have continued to launch new projects – mainly condominiums – adding to supply.

Bottom line: Despite progress in some major markets, there is still work to be done to continue

to bridge the gap between today's softer market conditions and the longer-term journey of returning to pre-pandemic affordability levels and preparing for the next wave of demand.

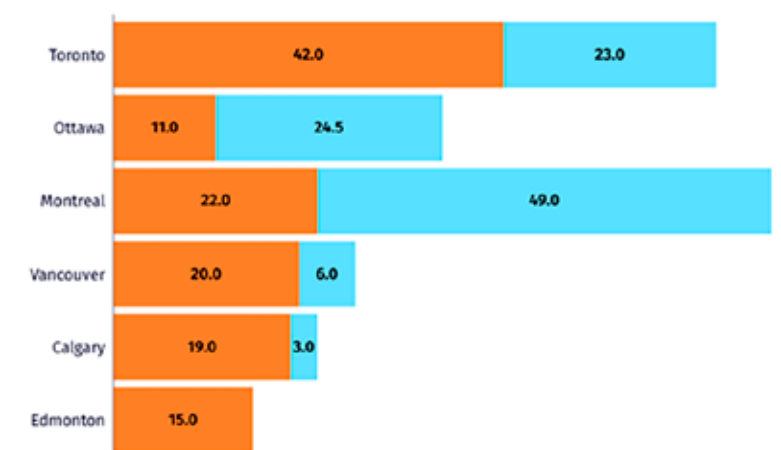
Tomorrow we'll dive into the current makeup of Alberta's housing supply and some of the emerging trends in the market, as well as how it compares to national trends.

**CMHC defines affordability as adjusted house prices (home-buying affordability ratios) being no higher than 30% of gross household income, or in particularly unaffordable regions, they should remain at or below 2019 levels.*

Projected annual housing starts needed to restore pre-pandemic affordability by 2036

Thousand units

Business as usual Average additional supply needed



Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (Sept 2026) and ATB Economics

ATB Economics

Cancer screening notifications

Continued from page 7

when and where they want it. Albertans who are able and not already signed up are encouraged to set up a MyChart account

by visiting myhealth.alberta.ca/help/KB/setting-up-my-health-records.

If you still receive paper letters and are concerned your mailing address is incorrect, call Primary and Preventative Health

Services at 310-0000 (toll free) then dial 780-427-1432. If you'd prefer to make these changes by mail or in person, please visit Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan to find out how: alberta.ca/ahcip.

For additional information about screening, talk to your primary care provider or visit screeningfor-life.ca.

Care is a lifelong commitment for Primary Care Alberta. We plan, fund

and support primary healthcare across the province, improving access to care providers and offering front-line services through Health Link 811 and public health teams. Throughout the health journey,

we are by your side – managing, preventing and reducing illness.

Along with our partners, we nurture the connections our communities need to thrive and strengthen the health of all Albertans.

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REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE

Sturgeon County Council Recap - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Northern Lights Estates Water and Storm Water Infrastructure Concerns

Council received the Northern Lights Estates Water and Storm Water Infrastructure Concerns presentation and directed Administration to present information and a recommendation at a future Council meeting.

Undeveloped Road Allowance Adjacent to NW-25-57-20-W4

Council received the presentation requesting additional enforcement measures, surveying, marking, and clearing of the undeveloped road allowance adjacent to NW-25-57-20-W4 and directed Administration to present a recommendation to Council at a future Council Meeting.

Variable or Permanent Speed Limit Reduction on Lily Lake Road (Range Road 235)

Council received the Prairie Gardens request for variable or permanent

speed limit reduction on Lily Lake Road presentation as information.

Council approved a permanent maximum variable speed limit of 80 kilometres per hour on Lily Lake Road (Range Road 235) in front of Prairie Gardens and Adventure Farm, from August 31 to October 31 of each calendar year, with the limits of the reduced-speed zone and placement of regulatory signage to be determined by Administration in accordance with engineering best practices. Permanent regulatory signage will be installed at Prairie Gardens' cost.

Rescission of Cheque Signing Authority Policy and Tangible Capital Assets Policy

Council rescinded the Cheque Signing Authority Policy and the Tangible Capital Assets Policy as these are better suited as Administrative Directives that will be reviewed and updated by the

Chief Administrative Officer.

Bylaw 1721/26 - 2026 Off-Road Vehicle Track Redistricting - First Reading

Council gave first reading of Bylaw 1721/26, a bylaw amendment that would allow for the redistricting of this section of land from Agriculture (AG) to Recreational District (REC) to allow the landowner to proceed with a development permit application for an outdoor motorized vehicle facility. The bylaw will proceed to a public hearing for Council to receive input from the public.

Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Resolution - Review of Provincial Regulatory Framework and Engagement Framework for Large Scale Data Centre Development

Council approved the resolution for a Review of Provincial Regulatory and Engagement Framework for Large Scale Data Centre

Development to be submitted to the Rural Municipalities of Alberta for advocacy consideration and debate.

Greenspace Maintenance Agreement Framework

Council approved the Greenspace Maintenance Agreement Framework and the approach to the Greenspace Maintenance Agreement Engagement Plan.

Major Development Interim Resourcing

Council approved interim funding of \$300,000 from the Heartland Infrastructure Attraction Reserve to address a funding gap related to temporary administrative staffing costs, consisting of \$156,000 in 2026 and \$144,000 from January to May 2027, with the full amount to be repaid upon receipt of development administration fees in 2027.

Resource Requirement to Support Current and Expected Development

Council approved the addition of four

permanent staff positions to support development approval, development planning, current planning, and engineering management capacities at an estimated cost of \$691,000, with 2026 staffing costs funded through forecasted surplus, 2027 and 2028 costs funded through permit revenue, and 2029 and future year costs being funded with revenue growth and incorporated into the County's operating budget.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Hamlet Strategy Scope of Work

The Committee received the Hamlet Strategy Scope of Work presentation as information (including a profile sample), with the Committee's input incorporated into the final scope of work.

2026 Triage Business Retention and Expansion Study Report

The Committee

received the 2026 Triage Business Retention and Expansion Study Report as information.

Morinville RCMP Detachment Quarterly Update

The Committee received the Morinville RCMP Detachment Quarterly Update as information.

Redwater RCMP Detachment Quarterly Update

The Committee received the Redwater RCMP Detachment Quarterly Update as information.

Fort Saskatchewan RCMP Detachment Quarterly Update

The Committee received the Fort Saskatchewan RCMP Detachment Quarterly update as information.

Letter from City of Cold Lake Re: Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Concerns

The Committee received correspondence from the City of Cold Lake regarding payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) concerns.



GET ON BOARD!

Applications are open, join a board or committee.

SturgeonCounty.ca/boards

Sturgeon County's boards and committees bring together people from diverse backgrounds to provide advice, share ideas, and help identify opportunities that benefit our community.

Whether your interests are community services, economic development, transportation, agriculture, youth initiatives, or resource stewardship, there's an opportunity to make your voice heard.

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- Learn more about local government
- Influence the future of your community
- Develop leadership and collaboration skills
- Build valuable experience

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El Niño strengthens as Alberta heads toward winter



By Haylee Winger

As Alberta heads into fall, a climate pattern developing in the Pacific Ocean could have an influence on the province's weather during the coming winter.

El Niño is strengthening in the tropical Pacific, with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reporting a greater than 90 per cent chance of a very strong El Niño during the Northern Hemisphere fall and winter of 2026-27.

NOAA's Climate

Prediction Center is also forecasting a 75 per cent chance that the October through December 2026 period will reach what it classifies as a historic-strength El Niño.

That would mean the three-month Relative Oceanic Niño Index, or RONI, reaches at least 2.5 C, exceeding the strength of previous El Niño events in NOAA's record dating back to 1950.

El Niño is part of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation, commonly known as ENSO. It occurs when ocean temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific

become warmer than usual, affecting atmospheric circulation and shifting weather patterns in other parts of the world.

According to Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada is mostly affected by El Niño during the winter and spring.

El Niño often brings milder weather to western, northwestern and central Canada, although the effects can vary depending on the location and the individual El Niño event.

For Alberta, that means El Niño could contribute to milder overall winter conditions. However, it

does not mean the province will avoid cold weather or major snowstorms. Short-term weather patterns are influenced by many factors, and conditions can vary considerably from one community to another.

NOAA reported in September that sea surface temperature anomalies in the eastern equatorial Pacific had exceeded 3 C above average in some areas. The August Niño-3.4 index was 1.8 C above average, while NOAA's Sept. 17 outlook reported a weekly Niño-3.4 value of 2.0 C.

NOAA's current

outlook calls for El Niño to continue strengthening through the end of 2026. The agency notes that with an event of this magnitude, the chances of experiencing impacts consistent with El Niño are larger, but those impacts are not guaranteed.

For northern Alberta communities such as Whitecourt, the broader climate pattern can provide some indication of what the season could look like, but it cannot predict individual storms or determine exactly how much snow a community will receive.

Seasonal forecasts are updated as new observations and model information become available. Environment and Climate Change Canada uses its Canadian Seasonal to Interannual Prediction System, known as CanSIPS, as part of its seasonal forecasting.

As winter approaches, El Niño will remain one of several factors meteorologists will be watching. While the current event is expected to be unusually strong, its effects on Alberta will depend on how the larger atmospheric pattern develops over the coming months.



Sturgeon Composite High School student Danika Pickell receives the 2026 Future Leaders Scholarship cheque from the Rotary Club of Morinville. Pickell was recognized for her leadership and contributions, with the club congratulating her on the achievement. – Rotary Club of Morinville photo



Morinville Community High School students take part in the school's first-ever Colour Me MCHS Fun Run, walking, jogging and running the course with classmates while colourful powder added to the fun. Students were treated to hamburgers and games when they returned to the school. Staff, Aspen House and the local Fire Hall helped support the event along the route. – Morinville Community High School photos

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Sturgeon County Fire Chief Chad Moore

Continued from page 1

“This is a tremendous and well-deserved honour for Chief Moore, and a proud moment for our entire County,” said Hnatiw. “Our fire service is built on a deep commitment to protecting our residents and supporting one another when it matters most. To see Chief

Moore recognized nationally is a reflection not only of his exceptional leadership, but also of the dedication, professionalism and care demonstrated every day by our entire fire service.”

Sturgeon County Chief Administrative Officer Travis Peter said Moore has continued to look for ways to strengthen emergency and protective services while preparing the County

for future challenges. “Chief Moore is a leader who cares deeply about our community, our partners, and the team he leads,” said Peter. “He is always looking for ways to strengthen our emergency and protective services and to prepare us for risks and opportunities into the future. This national recognition reflects his leadership and the outstanding success

it has realized.” Moore was quick to turn the attention back to the firefighters and staff he works alongside. “I’m truly honoured to receive this award, but no fire chief earns recognition like this alone,” said Moore. “I’m proud of what our team has accomplished together and grateful for the support of Council, administration, and our residents.”

“This recognition belongs to our entire team, and it motivates us to keep learning, growing and providing the best service we can,” he added. The Career/Composite Fire Chief of the Year is one of two annual fire chief awards presented by the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and Fire Underwriters Survey. The other recognizes a chief

from a volunteer department. Nominations for the awards come from across the country and are considered by an independent judging panel. For Sturgeon County, Moore’s award marks a first for the municipality and puts a national spotlight on the work being done by its fire service and the people who serve local communities.

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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

Subdivision and Development Appeal Board	Oct 6	2:00 PM
Youth Advisory Committee	Oct 7	6:00 PM
<i>Holiday Closure - Thanksgiving</i>	<i>Oct 12</i>	<i>Closed</i>
Regular Council/Committee of the Whole	Oct 13	9:00 AM
ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee	Oct 19	9:00 AM
Agricultural Service Board	Oct 19	10:30 AM
Transportation Advisory Committee	Oct 20	6:00 PM
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board	Oct 22	2:00 PM
Regular Council/Committee of the Whole	Oct 27	9:00 AM
Budget Meeting	Oct 28	9:00 AM

EVENT CALENDAR

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