

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

Morinville community rallies behind food bank with more than 8,600 pounds of donations



By Shelley
Winger

More than 8,600 pounds of food collected during a community food drive September 19 will make a significant

difference for the Morinville Food Bank and the families it serves.

The annual drive, organized by volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, brought together church and food bank

volunteers to collect donations from Morinville and surrounding communities.

Church volunteers gathered bags of food throughout the area and delivered them to the food bank, where 12 to 14 food bank volunteers were ready to

unload and weigh the donations before beginning the sorting process.

Food arrived throughout the day by trucks, cars and vans.

By the end of the collection, the food bank was filled with bags waiting to be sorted, along with numerous milk crates of overflow that could not fit on the shelves.

Volunteers continued working over the following several days to organize the remaining donations and place them on shelves or in crates, where they could be used to replenish supplies as food is distributed to clients.

The sizeable donation comes at an important time for the organization, which has been purchasing food over the past six months to help provide balanced hampers.

"The donation of 8600+ pounds of food makes a phenomenal difference when we fill hampers for our clients," said Elaine Tufts of the Morinville Food Bank.

"It means more choice, maybe a



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Free community barbecue planned for Morinville



By Shelley Winger

Morinville residents will have an opportunity to enjoy a free barbecue and afternoon of activities when Smoky Oak Barbecue hosts a community event October 25.

The Morinville Community BBQ will take place from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre.

Allan, owner of Smoky Oak Barbecue, said the idea came from his enjoyment of serving people and his desire to bring the community together.

"I enjoy serving people and wanted to organize something where the community could come and enjoy some food and

activities together," Allan said.

Rather than relying on traditional event sponsorships, Allan has been reaching out to businesses in and around Morinville and inviting them to support the event by purchasing a meal for a community member.

The contributions will help cover the cost of providing barbecue meals at no charge to residents attending the event.

"Local businesses are the ones who will make this event possible," Allan said.

Allan said the approach gives local businesses a way to support members of the community while helping make the barbecue accessible to residents without the cost of a meal.

He has been visit-

ing local businesses in recent weeks to explain the event and encourage as many businesses as possible to take part.

For Allan, the barbecue is about more than providing food. He hopes the afternoon will give residents an opportunity to get out, socialize and spend time with others in the community.

He said there is no catch for people who attend.

"Just come out, enjoy some free BBQ, socialize, engage in some activities and support our local businesses," he said.

Residents are invited to come out, enjoy the free barbecue, take part in the activities and show their support for the local businesses helping make the event possible.

Fire Prevention Week highlights lithium-ion battery safety



By Haylee Winger

Fire Prevention Week highlighted the importance of safe charging practices this year, reminding residents that everyday actions can help reduce the risk of lithium-ion battery fires.

Sturgeon County Emergency Services promoted the annual campaign from Oct. 4 to 10 in partnership with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). This year's theme was "Charge into Fire Safety™: Safe Charging Is a Superpower."

Lithium-ion batteries are used in many of the devices people rely on every day, making safe charging an important part of fire prevention.

Residents were encouraged to use the charger that came with their device or one approved by the manufacturer. Devices should be charged on a hard, flat surface rather than on beds, couches or pillows.

The campaign also reminded residents to unplug devices once they are fully charged.

People were encouraged to watch for signs that a battery may be damaged

or malfunctioning. A battery that becomes unusually hot, swells, leaks, develops an unusual smell or makes unusual sounds should no longer be used.

Extra care is needed when charging larger battery-powered items, including e-bikes, scooters and power tools. Residents were advised to charge these items outside when possible and to make sure they do not block an exit while charging.

Although Fire Prevention Week has ended, residents can continue using these simple precautions whenever they charge rechargeable devices at home.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION FOR TAX SALE

Friday, October 30, 2026, at 3 p.m.

Notice is hereby given that, under the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*, Morinville will offer for sale, by public auction, on Friday, October 30, 2026, at 3 p.m., at Morinville Civic Hall, Council Chambers, St. Germain Place, 10125 100 Avenue, Morinville, AB, the following land:

Single Family Home			
Lot	Block	Plan	Address
7	9A	7722338	10002 96 Avenue

The properties will be offered for sale, subject to a reserve bid and to the reservations and conditions contained in the existing certificate of title.

Morinville may, after the public auction, become the owner of any property not sold at the public auction.

Terms: Cash, Bank Draft or Certified Cheque.

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Michelle Hay
Chief Administrative Officer



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Morinville fire hall opens doors to community



By Shelley Winger

The Morinville Fire Hall opened its doors to the community October 3, giving residents an opportunity to meet local emergency responders, tour fire trucks and learn more about the services working to keep the community safe.

Approximately 250 people attended the open house, according to Daryn Duliba, a member of the newly formed Morinville Policing Committee.

Duliba said he hoped residents left the event with a greater appreciation for the local firefighters and RCMP members who serve the community.

"I would like residents to take away that we have some great folks in the fire department and local RCMP that help to keep them safe," he

said. The event also attracted many children, something Duliba said he was particularly pleased to see.

"I love how many kids we had and hope that they had fun but also had a seed planted about a potential future career choice," he said.

Touring the fire trucks was one of the biggest attractions, with long line-ups throughout the event.

Hands-on activities, including the opportunity to use a fire hose, were also popular, as were the hot dogs provided for attendees.

Duliba attended the event as a representative of the Morinville Policing Committee, which serves as a liaison between the RCMP and local residents.

As a member of the new committee, he also used the event as an opportunity to



Daryn Duliba photos

A vintage Morinville fire truck was among the displays residents could see during the Morinville Fire Hall open house October 3.

introduce residents to the committee and share information about its role.

The committee is communicating the RCMP's 2026 policing priorities to residents and will be seeking public input on priorities for 2027.

Duliba also encouraged residents to sign up for the RCMP's RAVE Mobile Safety app, which provides information about

RCMP activity locally and, for those who choose, across Alberta.

Duliba said events such as the open house are an important opportunity for residents to connect with the people who serve them.

"Our emergency services teams are local heroes and events like this give the public a chance to meet them," he said.



Residents touring the Morinville Fire Hall during the October 3 open house got a look at the gear used by local volunteer firefighters.

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Seniors gather in Morinville for annual workshop



By Haylee Winger

About 200 people gathered at the MCCC on Thursday, October 1, for the Sturgeon County Annual Seniors Workshop, which featured a trade show, guest speakers and afternoon activities.

The day began with a trade show featuring a variety of local organizations, community groups and services. Among those represented were the Town of Legal, Town of Gibbons, Sturgeon County Safe Communities Protective Services, RCMP, Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), St. Albert Sturgeon Community Foundation and Storytelling Alberta.

FCSS also used the workshop to call on local crocheters to help with a Family Violence Prevention Month display planned for November.

Residents are being asked to make small purple crocheted elephants, approximately two to three inches in size.

FCSS is providing a pattern, and completed elephants can be dropped off at the FCSS office.

The “Elephant in the Room” display will use the crocheted elephants to bring attention to family violence and show support for those affected.

Mark Boisvert served as emcee for the workshop and introduced the guests before Sturgeon County Deputy Mayor Matthew McLennan gave remarks.

The keynote

presentation was given by Ryan Fraser, a Vancouver-based technology executive with more than 20 years of experience in the software industry.

Fraser spoke about artificial intelligence, using live demonstrations and real-life examples to show how tools such as ChatGPT can be used in everyday situations.

His presentation covered practical applications including restoring photographs, finding recipes, identifying objects in photos and planning trips.

He also explained the difference between artificial intelligence and generative AI.

Fraser addressed four AI-related scams that can target seniors and shared three key things to remember when using ChatGPT.

During the break, Fraser stayed to speak with attendees and answer questions.

The afternoon session featured storyteller Pearl-Ann Gooding and Storytelling Alberta, who presented “Passing the Story Forward,” an oral literary workshop.

Participants had the opportunity to share personal experiences and talk about what has helped shape who they are today.

Lunch was provided by Merry Folks Catering, with refreshments and snacks available throughout the workshop.



Sturgeon County Family and Community Services (FCSS) was among the organizations with a display table at the Sturgeon County Annual Seniors Workshop trade show. FCSS is asking local crocheters to make small purple elephants, approximately two to three inches in size, for its “Elephant in the Room” display during Family Violence Prevention Month in November. A crochet pattern is available through FCSS, and completed elephants can be dropped off at the FCSS office. - Lucie Roy Photo

Food bank

Continued from page 1

source of fresh garden produce and suitable snacks for our school aged clients.”

Tufts said the donation is expected to allow the food bank to avoid purchasing additional food for several months.

“With this gift of food we will probably

not have to make any purchases for the next 4-6 months,” she said.

The church has been organizing the food drive for a number of years, with volunteers returning each year to help collect and deliver donations.

“We are so thankful that this group of concerned residents

plan and carry out this event each year,” Tufts said.

The food bank also receives support throughout the year from local schools, clubs, businesses, hockey teams and other community groups that organize smaller food drives.

“We are very thankful for their support as well,” Tufts said.



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A new bridge carries on a 90-year legacy



Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatiw and Ron Dorton of Sil Industrial Minerals cut the ribbon to officially open the new Victoria Trail Bridge on October 8.

Sturgeon County press release

The new Victoria Trail Bridge is officially open, marking a new chapter in the story of a crossing that has connected early settlers and generations of residents for nearly a century.

On October 8, representatives from Sturgeon County, Sil Industrial Minerals, and special guests gathered at the south end of the bridge to officially mark the opening and announce a new heritage marker.

Sil, which operates

on the north side of the bridge, covered about 70 per cent of the project costs under a cost-sharing agreement.

The total project budget was \$3.4 million, with Sturgeon County contributing \$1.02 million.

“This new bridge is an investment in safe, reliable infrastructure that will serve our community for years to come. This crossing is part of the historic Victoria-Carlton Trail, with a history that reaches back long before the original bridge and

includes First Nations, Métis, and generations of residents. By preserving a piece of the old bridge, we are honouring that history while building the future. It’s a great example of what the County and industry can achieve together,” said Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatiw.

“Projects like this show what is possible when there is a shared commitment to our community. This new bridge will provide a safe and dependable crossing for many years.

It’s an investment in both our future and our past,” said Ron Dorton, Edmonton Branch Manager, Sil Industrial Minerals.

For more than 90

years, the Victoria Trail Bridge was a vital Redwater River crossing.

Built in 1931, the 38.1-metre steel bridge was made by the Dominion Bridge

Company of Winnipeg. Part of the old bridge has been set aside and will be used in a new sculpture at the south end of the bridge.



PUBLIC HEARING – Proposed 2027 Budget

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on the proposed 2027 Budget.

Have your say! Public engagement is an important part of the budget process. Tell us your thoughts about the proposed 2027 Budget.

Learn more about the proposed 2027 Budget at sturgeoncounty.ca/Budget

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on:

Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter)

Sturgeon County Council Chambers
(9613 100 St. in Morinville)

Questions? Contact us!

Legislative and Legal Services
780-939-8029
legislativeservices@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** or legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca to pre-register.

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

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by **October 27 at 1:00 pm.** 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 will be accepted until November 15, 2026.

Please note that when 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 budget), and indicate what aspects of the proposed budget you are in favour of or against. This information will be included in the public record (see privacy note below).

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 your comments on the proposed budget, 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 in accordance with 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 accessandprivacy@sturgeoncounty.ca or call **780-939-1306**.

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The Public Works team is seeking a dependable, safety minded operator to join our team and help maintain the essential services our community relies on.

Our preferred candidate is a qualified Gas Utility Operator or Gas Fitter. We also welcome applications from candidates with municipal utility or Public Works experience, including relevant certifications, training or practical knowledge in water distribution, wastewater collection, equipment operation and municipal maintenance.

About the role:

This position supports the operation and maintenance of the Town’s utilities and Public Works infrastructure. Duties will be assigned according to the successful candidate’s qualifications, demonstrated competency and training.

Depending on experience and qualifications, responsibilities may include:

- Operating, inspecting and maintaining natural gas distribution infrastructure.
- Supporting water distribution and wastewater collection operations.
- Completing utility inspections, maintenance, locates and operating records.
- Responding to service requests and participating in an assigned on-call rotation.
- Operating municipal equipment, including sander trucks, small equipment such as Toolcat and, blowers and grader, for winter road maintenance.
- Supporting road maintenance, drainage, repairs and other Public Works activities.
- Working safely with staff and contractors while providing courteous service to residents.

What we are looking for:

We are interested in candidates who bring one or more of the following:

- Gas Utility Operator certification, Gas Fitter certification or progress toward certification.
- Relevant FedGas training, such as fusion, regulator and meter operations, leak detection or emergency response.
- Water or wastewater operator certification, or practical experience with municipal utility systems.
- Experience operating heavy equipment, particularly graders, sander trucks, loader, backhoe or similar municipal equipment.
- Experience in snow clearing, road maintenance and general Public Works operations.

The successful candidate will also demonstrate sound judgment, a strong commitment to safety, reliable work habits and the ability to work independently within their assigned responsibilities and as part of a team. A willingness to complete required training and contribute across the Public Works operations is essential.

Candidates who do not currently hold Gas Utility Operator certification are encouraged to apply. Depending on the successful candidate’s background and the Town’s operational needs, the position may focus initially on municipal utilities, equipment operation and Public Works duties, with opportunities for further utility training.

A detailed position description is available on our website: www.redwater.ca

This position is within the Town’s bargaining unit LiUNA! Local 92. Compensation will follow the applicable Town wage structure, with placement based on relevant experience, qualifications and certifications. Please forward your resume and three work related references to:

Danielle Lapierre, Operations Assistant
dlapierre@redwater.ca
Ph. (780) 942-3519

Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found.

The Town of Redwater thanks all applicants for their interest, however only those who have been selected for an interview will be contacted.

Minimum wage increases can't keep pace with rising cost of living

For low-wage workers, a few extra cents an hour won't close the growing affordability gap

Opinion by
Simon Enoch

On Oct. 1, five provinces will see their minimum wages increase.

Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan will all see their respective minimum wages rise from a low of \$0.25 per hour in Nova Scotia to a high of \$0.40 per hour in Manitoba.

While any increase

is no doubt welcome for the well over a million workers in Canada who receive the minimum wage, the brute fact is that these incremental wage bumps simply cannot keep pace with the acute affordability crisis that disproportionately impacts low-wage working families.

With very little room to manoeuvre, cost increases in non-negotiable

expenses like shelter, groceries, or transportation may require families to make the difficult choice to cut expenses in other areas.

For working families, rent is often one of the most significant monthly expenses.

We can see what kind of hourly wage is required to afford rent in Canada's cities by consulting the rental wage – the hourly wage needed to afford

a one- or two-bedroom apartment while working a standard 40-hour week and spending 30 per cent of income on housing. Despite being based on 2024 rental costs, none of the Oct. 1 minimum wage increases will come close to matching the rental wage required to afford a rental unit in the major cities of these provinces.

For example, Saskatchewan's newly minted minimum wage of \$15.70 falls almost \$7 per hour short of what is required to afford a one-bedroom in Regina or Saskatoon.

Similarly, Nova Scotia's increased minimum wage of \$17 falls almost \$10 per hour shy of what it would cost to rent in Halifax.

Of course, the gap between these minimum wages and rent for a two-bedroom

apartment is even higher.

We can see the same gap between what the minimum wage delivers versus what is actually required to afford a decent living by viewing the discrepancy between the minimum wage and the living wage in these provinces.

The living wage is the hourly rate that each of two parents working full-time must earn to support a family of four in a particular town or city.

For working families in Hamilton, that hourly living wage rate is \$22.60 per hour, \$4.70 higher than Ontario's new minimum wage rate.

Unsurprisingly, the gap in Toronto is even higher, with a living wage rate of \$27.20 required – \$9.30 per hour higher than the minimum wage.

Increasing shelter

costs and higher food prices have been the primary driver of higher living wage rates.

In Saskatoon, rising rents and grocery bills saw that city's living wage increase from \$18.50 per hour to \$21.50 per hour in the space of two years.

In addition to increased expenses, reduced government transfers are also burdening working families.

In particular, the loss of the much-maligned Climate Action Incentive payment (CAIP), or carbon tax rebate, has meant the loss of over \$1,500 in annual rebates for eligible families.

As expenses grow and transfers are reduced, employment earnings become all the more important for making ends meet.

Continued on page 8



HIGHWAY 2 INTERCHANGE CONSTRUCTION – CARDIFF ROAD OVER HWY 2 NEAR MORINVILLE

- Construction starting October 5th, 2026 with anticipated completion in August 2029.
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Feeling the squeeze: Inside the latest quarterly Small Business Pulse

By Carol Kamel,
ATB Economics

Key points

- Despite Alberta's strong overall economic performance, small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) are facing a profitability squeeze due to shifting consumer demand, rising commercial rents, and rising raw material and input costs.

- To deal with these pressures, business owners say they are taking a number of measures, including raising prices, absorbing margin hits, slowing or halting capital expansions, and prioritizing workforce retention over headcount growth.

Alberta is outperforming the rest of the country on a number of economic indicators: population growth, employment growth, and consumer spending.

However, headline numbers often mask sentiment in the economy, including that of small businesses.

Alberta small businesses are navigating

rising input costs, shifting consumer demand, and difficult hiring decisions.

Our second edition of The Quarterly Small Business Pulse aims to bridge the gap between the macro and micro by combining economic data and the on-the-ground experiences shared by the business community in Alberta.

In this edition of the Pulse, which features a client interview and a survey of 78 Alberta business owners, we unpack how entrepreneurs are adapting to an environment where uncertainty is no longer a temporary headwind, but a baseline condition for operating.

Key themes explored in this quarter's Pulse:

- **The squeeze on profitability:** We break down the top three pressure points SMEs are facing right now: shifting consumer demand, rising and volatile upstream raw material/input costs, and higher commercial retail rents.

- **The strategic**

trade-off: How are businesses adapting to these operational bottlenecks? We look at the breakdown of how Alberta SMEs are splitting the burden of rising costs – from raising end-user prices to absorbing margin hits.

We also explore why some are putting capital expansions on hold, and what that cautious holding pattern means for hiring intentions over the next six months.

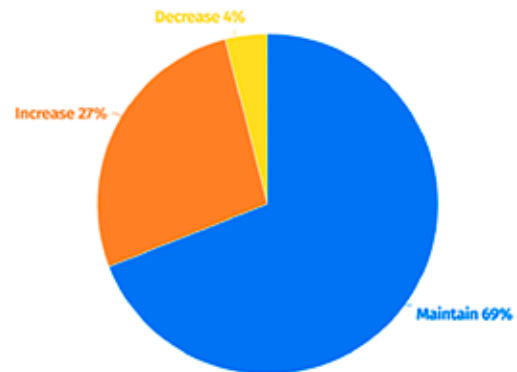
A look at some of the findings:

- Despite a 7.6% surge in year-to-date retail sales in Alberta, 30% of business owners cited weak consumer demand as a top challenge. Rising household costs for food and energy are leaving less room for discretionary purchases.

- While U.S. tariffs make headlines, the Alberta SMEs we surveyed remain largely insulated – 82% generate zero revenue from U.S. customers and over 50% have no direct U.S.-sourced inputs. However,

Over the next 3 to 6 months, how do you expect your employee headcount to change?

ATB Economics



Source: ATB Economics

businesses continue to face heightened uncertainty and indirect supply chain impacts from tariffs and other geopolitical events.

- To manage the squeeze, business owners are splitting the burden: 40% are raising end-user prices, 30% are absorbing the margin impact, and 28% are delaying or canceling capital expansions. With regard to employee headcount, businesses seem to be focused on retention, with nearly 70% planning to maintain their current

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Alone angler takes advantage of the early morning light on Heritage Lake, just outside Morinville, on Tuesday, October 6. – Stephen Dafoe Photo

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Students from Morinville Community High School's Leadership 9 class recently helped at Sturgeon County's seniors luncheon at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre. The students assisted with serving food, clearing dishes and visiting with guests. Leadership student Keaton also provided live music on the venue's grand piano during the luncheon. – **Morinville Community High School Photos**

Cost of living

Continued from page 6

Unfortunately, the meagre increase that minimum wage earners will receive on Oct. 1 is nowhere near what is required to keep up with the accelerating cost of living.

Governments that are serious about addressing the crisis of affordability must confront the

gap between what the current minimum wage delivers versus what families actually require.

That could include accelerating minimum wage increases, holding down shelter costs through rent regulation, improving and expanding \$10 per day childcare access and increasing the size and scope of government income

transfers.

Tackling the affordability crisis will require a multi-pronged approach that increases income and stabilizes expenses. Incrementally raising the minimum wage by a few cents every year while non-negotiable expenses like rent rise unchecked will only leave working families further and further behind.

Small Business Pulse

Continued from page 7

employee headcount over the next three to six months.

At the same time, 27% are planning to expand headcounts, a higher rate than observed in national surveys.

The bottom line

While Alberta's economy continues

to prove its resilience, the cost of doing business has increased.

Alberta SMEs have also proven resilient, but the road ahead will be littered with the direct and indirect fallout of supply chain friction and uncertainty.

Looking to the future, businesses appear to be taking a disciplined approach – safeguarding profit

margins, maintaining strong cash reserves, and holding onto the team that drives their operations.



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