



**AGENDA**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, May 6, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**  
**Council Chambers, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore AB**

Page

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1. Traditional Land Acknowledgement for the First Meeting in May (Litainsimopi)

**2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

**3. PUBLIC HEARING**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Members of the public are welcome to provide comments regarding items on the agenda in person during the Council meeting, virtually, or in writing. Should you wish to provide public comments virtually or in writing, please fill out the Request to Speak at a Council Meeting form that can be located on the Town's website and submit it to: [LSAdmin@strathmore.ca](mailto:LSAdmin@strathmore.ca) by the end of the day on the Sunday before the Council meeting. In order to ensure procedural fairness, Council requests that the public refrain from speaking on items that have been or will be heard through a public hearing process.

- 4.1. Registered Speakers – Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw:

Peter Jenner  
Mandy Gillespie  
Sarah Thornton  
Marlow Lovelace

- 4.2. Written Submissions – Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw

[Written Submissions – Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw](#)

3 - 110

**5. DELEGATIONS**

Members of the public and community organizations are welcome to attend a Regular Council Meeting as a delegation to present an item to Town Council for consideration. If you are interested in attending as a delegation please fill out the Delegation Request form that can be located on the Town's website and submit it to: [LSAdmin@strathmore.ca](mailto:LSAdmin@strathmore.ca) by noon, seven (7) days before a Regular Council Meeting.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 7.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2026  
11.2.1 Strathmore Library Regular Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2026  
11.2.2 WADEMSA Report – April 20 2026  
12.1 Thank you from Mainsprings Pregnancy and Family Support

**7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- 7.1. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2026

[Agenda Item - AIR-26-106 - Pdf](#)

111 - 127

**8. NOTICES OF MOTION**

- 8.1. Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw – Councillor Wiley

[Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw – Councillor Wiley](#)

128

**9. BYLAWS**

9.1.	2026 Property Tax Rate Bylaw No. 26-12 <a href="#">Agenda Item - AIR-26-110 - Pdf</a>	129 - 146
<b>10.</b>	<b>BUSINESS</b>	
10.1.	911 Fire Dispatch Options <a href="#">Agenda Item - AIR-26-105 - Pdf</a>	147 - 156
10.2.	Post Secondary Fire School Partnership <a href="#">Agenda Item - AIR-26-104 - Pdf</a>	157 - 162
<b>11.</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR INFORMATION &amp; INQUIRIES</b>	
11.1.	QUESTIONS BETWEEN COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL STATEMENTS	
11.2.	BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS	
11.2.1.	Strathmore Library Regular Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2026 <a href="#">Strathmore Library Regular Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2026</a>	163 - 165
11.2.2.	WADEMSA Report – April 20 2026 <a href="#">WADEMSA Report – April 20 2026</a>	166
11.3.	QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD	
11.4.	ADMINISTRATIVE INQUIRIES	
<b>12.</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
12.1.	Thank you from Mainsprings Pregnancy and Family Support <a href="#">Thank you from Mainsprings Pregnancy and Family Support</a>	167
<b>13.</b>	<b>CLOSED MEETING</b>	
13.1.	Land Item – Advice from officials – ATIA S. 29(1)(a)	
13.2.	Council CAO Dialogue – Advice from officials – ATIA S. 29(1)(b)(iii)	
<b>14.</b>	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	

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**From:** smlavoie5 [ATIA Sec. 20(1)]  
**Sent:** April 24, 2026 1:54 PM  
**To:** Pat Fule; Melissa Langmaid; Claude Brown; James Chisholm; Matt Hyde; Richard Wegener; Brent Wiley; LegServ Admin  
**Cc:** premier@gov.ab.ca; PSES.minister@gov.ab.ca; minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca  
**Subject:** RE: It is time for Neutrality in Public Spaces!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Attn: Mayor and Council,

**PLEASE MAKE THIS COMMUNICATION A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD.**

I am writing to address the Town of Strathmore Councillor Brent Wiley’s proposed Motion, scheduled for debate on May 6 during a regular council meeting, which urges the administration to develop a “Public Space Neutrality Bylaw”

(<https://civi.action4canada.com/civicrm/?civiwp=CiviCRM&q=civicrm/mailling/url&u=31858&qid=45886981>).

I am in full agreement with Councillor Wiley’s stated position:

*“I’m contesting that neutrality is the ultimate form of inclusion...Neutrality ensures that every resident feels welcome and represented by their town...[and] would allow my council to focus their time, and our administration to focus their resources, on issues that are really important, like fiscal and operational matters, instead of divisive and contentious issues.”* Cllr Brent Wiley

The installation of special-interest group road markings on public property, and the display of their flags—or those of foreign nations—signals presence, authority, and control, serving as a visible declaration of allegiance and support and reflecting a perception of shared values or a common cause. This is a blatant misuse of public resources to advance particular beliefs or ideologies not necessarily widely shared. As Councillor Wiley aptly noted, *“It announces that we endorse a particular viewpoint and have chosen a side in a debate. It excludes all our residents that don’t share a council’s politics or opinions or ideas.”*

As the creator of the Pride flag, Gilbert Baker, declared:

*“That’s what flags are for. Flags are about proclaiming power... that visibility is Key to our success and to our justice.”*

The Pride flag and foreign flags are not benign or innocuous symbols, they are strategically political and are meant to assert power and influence. Facilitating this constitutes taxpayer-funded, government-sanctioned activism and is not the function of Council. A neutrality bylaw would ensure

that municipal property and resources are not used to promote or endorse specific political, ideological, or foreign interests.

Therefore, I urge the Mayor and Council to develop and enforce the Public Space Neutrality Bylaw proposed by Cllr. Wiley. This will create a truly inclusive public space that respects all citizens, allowing Council to focus on *“fiscal and operational matters, instead of divisive and contentious issues.”* Strathmore residents deserve to be united under our shared **‘Canadian’ heritage** as we shape our town into a place we can all call home.

<https://action4canada.com/ban-non-government-and-special-interest-group-flags/>

God bless,  
Sondra Lavoie  
FAITH, FAMILY & FREEDOM!

*Romans 1:16-17 ESV*

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek [Gentile]. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith'."*

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

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**From:** Jeanne Moerman [ATIA Sec. 20(1)]  
**Sent:** April 24, 2026 3:19 PM  
**To:** Pat Fule; Melissa Langmaid; Claude Brown; James Chisholm; Matt Hyde; Richard Wegener; Brent Wiley; LegServ Admin  
**Cc:** premier@gov.ab.ca; minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca; nathan.neudorf@gov.ab.ca; rob.miyashiro@gov.ab.ca  
**Subject:** Public Space Neutrality

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Attn: Mayor and Council,

**RE: It is time for Neutrality in Public Spaces!**

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Respectfully,

Jeanne Moerman

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**From:** Sherri Martin [ATIA Sec. 20(1)]  
**Sent:** April 24, 2026 3:25 PM  
**To:** Pat Fule; Melissa Langmaid; Claude Brown; James Chisholm; Matt Hyde; Richard Wegener; Brent Wiley; LegServ Admin  
**Cc:** premier@gov.ab.ca; minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca  
**Subject:** Public Space Neutrality Bylaw

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Respectfully,

Sherri Martin

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

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**From:** Noelle Brown [REDACTED] ATIA Sec. 20(1)  
**Sent:** April 24, 2026 3:47 PM  
**To:** Pat Fule; Melissa Langmaid; Claude Brown; James Chisholm; Matt Hyde; Richard Wegener; Brent Wiley; LegServ Admin; Ric Mclver; Todd Loewen; Mickey Amery; Rajan Sawhney; Rick Wilson; Tanya Fir; Nathan Neudorf; Rebecca Shultz; Martin Long; Adriana LaGrange; RJ Sigurdson; Devin Dreesen; Dan Williams; Brian Jean; Jason Copping; info@unitedconservative.ca; Jason Nixon; Nate Glubish; Danielle Smith; Mike Ellis; Dale Nally; Searle Turton  
**Subject:** It is time for Neutrality in Public Spaces! Or allow everyone to add their flags. I am sure the communists would love a place to hang their flags and all terrorist groups too. Stop the nonsense and move on.  
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Respectfully,

Noelle

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**From:** Karen Brown ATIA Sec. 20(1)  
**Sent:** April 24, 2026 4:45 PM  
**To:** Pat Fule; Melissa Langmaid; Claude Brown; James Chisholm; Matt Hyde; Richard Wegener; Brent Wiley; LegServ Admin  
**Cc:** premier@gov.ab.ca; minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca; Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin@unitedconservative.ca  
**Subject:** It is time for Neutrality in Public Spaces!

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Respectfully,

Karen Brown

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

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**From:** Olga Krzhipova ATIA Sec. 20(1)  
**Sent:** April 24, 2026 6:56 PM  
**To:** Pat Fule; Melissa Langmaid; Claude Brown; James Chisholm; Matt Hyde; Richard Wegener; Brent Wiley; LegServ Admin  
**Cc:** premier@gov.ab.ca; minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca; Calgary.Northwest@assembly.ab.ca  
**Subject:** It is time for Neutrality in Public Spaces!

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Respectfully,

Olga Krzhipova,

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

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**From:** Ryan [REDACTED] ATIA Sec. 20(1)  
**Sent:** April 24, 2026 8:18 PM  
**To:** Pat Fule; Melissa Langmaid; Claude Brown; James Chisholm; Matt Hyde; Richard Wegener; Brent Wiley; LegServ Admin  
**Cc:** premier@gov.ab.ca; minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca  
**Subject:** Proposed motion

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Attn: Mayor and Council,

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Respectfully, Strathmore resident R Mack

---

**From:** M Small [ATIA Sec. 20(1)]  
**Sent:** April 25, 2026 2:26 PM  
**To:** LegServ Admin  
**Subject:** Neutral Public Space

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Respectfully,

Gordon + Marleen Small

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Linda Vander Veen **ATIA Sec. 20(1)**  
**Sent:** April 25, 2026 2:52 PM  
**To:** Pat Fule; Melissa Langmaid; Claude Brown; James Chisholm; Matt Hyde; Richard Wegener; Brent Wiley; LegServ Admin  
**Cc:** premier@gov.ab.ca; minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca; Drayton Valley-Devon  
**Subject:** It is time for Neutrality in Public Spaces!

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Respectfully,

Linda Vander Veen

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

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**From:** Rebecca Smith [REDACTED] ATIA Sec. 20(1)  
**Sent:** April 27, 2026 2:36 PM  
**To:** Pat Fule; Melissa Langmaid; Claude Brown; James Chisholm; Matt Hyde; Richard Wegener; Brent Wiley; LegServ Admin  
**Cc:** Office of the Premier; MA Minister  
**Subject:** Attn: Mayor and Council, RE: It is time for Neutrality in Public Spaces!

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PLEASE MAKE THIS COMMUNICATION A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD.

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*"I'm contesting that neutrality is the ultimate form of inclusion...Neutrality ensures that every resident feels welcome and represented by their town...[and] would allow my council to focus their time, and our administration to focus their resources, on issues that are really important, like fiscal and operational matters, instead of divisive and contentious issues."* Cllr Brent Wiley

The installation of special-interest group road markings on public property, and the display of their flags—or those of foreign nations—signals presence, authority, and control, serving as a visible declaration of allegiance and support and reflecting a perception of shared values or a common cause. This is a blatant misuse of public resources to advance particular beliefs or ideologies not necessarily widely shared. As Councillor Wiley aptly noted, *"It announces that we endorse a particular viewpoint and have chosen a side in a debate. It excludes all our residents that don't share a council's politics or opinions or ideas."*

As the creator of the Pride flag, Gilbert Baker, declared:

*"That's what flags are for. Flags are about proclaiming power... that visibility is Key to our success and to our justice."*

The Pride flag and foreign flags are not benign or innocuous symbols, they are strategically political and are meant to assert power and influence. Facilitating this constitutes taxpayer-funded, government-sanctioned activism and is not the function of Council. A neutrality bylaw would ensure that municipal property and resources are not used to promote or endorse specific political, ideological, or foreign interests.

Therefore, I urge the Mayor and Council to develop and enforce the Public Space Neutrality Bylaw proposed by Cllr. Wiley. This will create a truly inclusive public space that respects all citizens, allowing Council to focus on *"fiscal and operational matters, instead of divisive and contentious issues."* Strathmore residents deserve to be united under our shared **'Canadian' heritage** as we shape our town into a place we can all call home.

Respectfully,



Attn: Mayor and Council,

RE: It is time for Neutrality in Public Spaces!

**PLEASE MAKE THIS COMMUNICATION A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD**

I am writing to address Councillor Brent Wiley's proposed Motion, scheduled for debate on May 6 during a regular council meeting, which urges the administration to develop a "Public Space Neutrality Bylaw." I am in full agreement with Councillor Wiley's stated position:

*"I'm contesting that neutrality is the ultimate form of inclusion...Neutrality ensures that every resident feels welcome and represented by their town...[and] would allow my council to focus their time, and our administration to focus their resources, on issues that are really important, like fiscal and operational matters, instead of divisive and contentious issues." Clr Brent Wiley*

The installation of special-interest group road markings on public property and the display of their flags—or those of foreign nations—indicates presence, authority, control, and serves as a visible declaration of allegiance and support, reflecting a perception of shared values or a common cause.

For example, the creator of the Pride flag Gilbert Baker did not mince words when he declared its meaning:

*"That's what flags are for. Flags are about proclaiming power... that visibility is Key to our success and to our justice."*

This constitutes government-sanctioned activism paid for by taxpayers and is not the function of Council.

Therefore, I urge the Mayor and Council to develop and enforce the Public Space Neutrality Bylaw proposed by Clr. Wiley. This will create a truly inclusive public space that respects all citizens, allowing Council to focus on "fiscal and operational matters, instead of divisive and contentious issues." Strathmore residents deserve to be united under our shared Canadian heritage as we shape our town into a place we can **all** call home.

Respectfully,

*George and Laura Matheson*

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

## Ban Non-government and Special Interest Group Flags

Attn: Mayor and Council/School Superintendent/Trustees/School Principal/Library Personnel/Police etc.

### RE: Non-government and Special Interest Group Flags

To whom it may concern,

I am writing with regards to the segregation, discrimination, inequality and discontent being created as a result of non-government flags, and those of political and special interest groups, being displayed in/at government spaces such as schools, city halls, libraries etc and being worn on police uniforms.

For instance, organizers of Pride **month** are demanding and expecting their flag to be flown throughout the month of June and they have also lobbied the police to wear the Pride flag symbol on their uniforms.

**Side question:** Why is there only one day a year allotted to celebrate Canada Day and only one day for our Veterans, but a whole month to celebrate a highly political special interest group? Further, should we continue to permit the pride parades which have become a platform for public debauchery, nudity and lewd adult performances?

According to Section 15(1) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, citizens have the right to be treated equally under the law:

*“Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination”.*

The “Duty of State Neutrality” stipulates that neutrality must be adhered to and upheld by elected officials and must be done so without favour and in respect of the law. Giving special rights to any one group is divisive and unlawful.

The Supreme Court of Canada addressed this issue in *Mouvement laïque québécois v. Saguenay (City)*, 2015 SCC 16, [2015] 2 S.C.R. 3 (para 72 -74)<sup>1</sup>. It states:

[73]...When the state adheres to a belief, it is not merely expressing an opinion on the subject. It is creating a hierarchy of beliefs and casting doubt on the value of those it does not share. It is also ranking the individuals who hold such beliefs.

[74] By expressing no preference, the state ensures that it preserves a neutral public space that is free of discrimination and in which true freedom to believe or not to believe is enjoyed by everyone equally, given that everyone is valued equally.

The Pride flag, for example, is political and divisive in nature and the creator of the Pride flag, Gilbert Baker, did not mince words when he declared its meaning:

*“That’s what flags are for. Flags are about proclaiming power... that visibility is Key to our success and to our justice.”*

Here are some even more compelling reasons why these symbols should not be celebrated and why they are offensive to the majority of Canadians. For example, are you aware that some of the creators of these symbols have nefarious proclivities and deviant sexual fetichists, including a fixation on castrating children?

The creator of the trans flag, Robert Hogge (aka Monica Helms), forced his wife to participate in his fetishistic cross-dressing and wrote ‘forced feminization’ (a porn genre) stories, including one about young girls who never age. Hogge tells many stories but one in particular sexualizes a child, and in his memoir, Hogges said the concept of that story came to him in a dream<sup>2</sup>.

After his divorce was finalized, Hogge began frequenting sex clubs which *“afforded patrons the chance to watch people have sex in windowed rooms.”* Helms says these clubs *“enabled me to fulfill each and every fantasy I had concerning sex with men. This included orgies...”*

<sup>1</sup> <https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/15288/index.do>

<sup>2</sup> <https://genevievegluck.substack.com/p/creator-of-trans-flag-admitted-cross>

In addition, as reported by Reduxx, the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) is a top trans medical association that collaborates in castration and child abuse fetishists. This international association, which sets guidelines for the medical 'transitioning' of children, has been collaborating with participants of a fetish forum that hosts and produces fictional child pornography and extreme sadomasochistic content. They are associated with the Eunuch Archives which hosts over 3,000 pieces of fictional child pornography that detail the rape, torture, and killing of children. In some narratives, children with stunted puberty are raped by doctors. In others, children are castrated by force as part of a sadistic sexual torture ritual. Professor Emeritus at California State University Chico, who goes by the pseudo name Jesus, is a member of the forum and works extensively with WPATH.

Another associate is Johnson who has published research<sup>3</sup> based on surveys he has personally conducted with other members of the Archives. His academic interests advocate for expanding the concept of 'gender identity' to include men with sadomasochistic and even pedophilic castration fantasies — something that has now been included as a Male-to-Eunuch identity<sup>4</sup> in the draft Standards of Care for the WPATH.

Genevieve Gluck, Co-founder of Reduxx, has done extensive research on these matters. Learn more about the individuals who are behind this radical agenda, including WPATH, who created the Standard of Care for trans children.

- <https://action4canada.com/wp-content/uploads/Top-Trans-Medical-Association-Collaborated-With-Castration-Child-Abuse-Fetishists-Reduxx.html>
- <https://genevievegluck.substack.com/p/academics-behind-fetish-site-hosting>

According to Johnson's own research<sup>5</sup>, the majority of site members who participated in these surveys cited sexual fantasy as their main reason for interest in castration. Some surveys participants asserted that they became sexually aroused when witnessing animal castration. Additionally, group members have used the forum to request information regarding doctors willing to perform orchiectomies without a psychiatric evaluation. There are also personal ads where participants request partners for BDSM acts. "*Seeking total body modification... Slave in search of Master that would like to take a boy and transform it into an exotic fetish toy,*" wrote one site member<sup>6</sup>.

Egale, a Canadian 2SLGBTQ advocacy group, recently launched a campaign calling on municipalities to raise the Pride flag<sup>7</sup> claiming that there is a rise in hate toward this group. In reality, the majority of citizens are rightfully concerned about this political special interest group's relentless demand to monopolize society and push their radical sexual ideologies on others, consuming tax dollars to implement and support their agenda and being permitted to influence and interfere with the safety and well-being of children, and parental rights.

It is clear by the comments on Egale's twitter page<sup>8</sup> that support is waning due to the rising awareness of sexual deviancy, their overreach and public attacks of anyone who does not support their agenda.

It is time for elected officials and other individuals who have blindly supported the 2SLGBTQ agenda, possibly with good intentions, to do their research and cease and desist capitulating to their demands. The loud voice afforded to the 2SLGBTQ activists must be tempered and it is imperative that the voice of reason, rationale and common sense prevail.

Therefore, I request that only the federal, provincial and municipal flags be permitted to be raised in all public spaces, to maintain unity and peace and to respect the equal rights of ALL citizens according to the rule of law and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Respectfully,

Signature

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Print Name:

Laura Matheson

Date:

23,04,2026

<sup>3</sup> <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/731894>

<sup>4</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L9odleDVgbiGxt6v42dLFnU\\_SDfDXra/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L9odleDVgbiGxt6v42dLFnU_SDfDXra/view)

<sup>5</sup> <https://sci-hub.mkssa.top/10.1111/j.1743-6109.2007.00636.x>

<sup>6</sup> <https://genevievegluck.substack.com/p/academics-behind-fetish-site-hosting>

<sup>7</sup> <https://egale.ca/awareness/open-letter-egale-canada-urges-all-municipalities-to-fly-pride-flag/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://twitter.com/egalecanada/status/1652002391716245532>



## NOTICE OF MOTION

Submitted to Administration: **April 9, 2026**

Notice given to Council: **April 15, 2026**

Council Meeting for discussion: **May 6, 2026**

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**SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Brent Wiley**

**SUBJECT: Neutrality Bylaw**

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**WHEREAS** Municipalities are responsible for developing and maintaining safe, viable, and representative communities pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act*;

**AND WHEREAS** Council is responsible for ensuring that municipal facilities and infrastructure remain welcoming and inclusive to all residents by maintaining a position of political and ideological neutrality;

**AND WHEREAS** Council desires that municipal assets—including flagpoles, streets, and crosswalks—be used to represent the common identity of all citizens through the display of official government symbols and standardized safety markings;

Notice is hereby given that the following motion will be brought forward for consideration at the May 6, 2026 Regular Council Meeting:

THAT Council direct Administration to draft a "Public Space Neutrality Bylaw" for Council's consideration, which shall include provisions to:

1. Limit the flags displayed on municipal buildings, flagpoles, and Town-owned property to official government flags, including the National Flag of Canada, the Province of Alberta Flag, the Town of Strathmore Flag, and the flags of our municipal partners, such as Siksika Nation and Wheatland County;
2. Ensure that all future municipal crosswalks and roadway markings are maintained in standardized traffic-safety configurations (such as continental or ladder patterns) and remain free from non-standard colors or symbols associated with specific ideological causes or social movements;
3. Include a grandfathering provision stating that any existing non-standard crosswalks, or those previously approved by Council motion, be permitted until such a time as scheduled maintenance or replacement is required, at which point they shall be converted to standardized configurations; and

*I agree with this Bylaw*

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

4. Clarify that such regulations apply only to flagpoles and crosswalks on public municipal property and do not regulate displays or symbols on private property.

# DO YOU KNOW WHO CREATED THE PRIDE FLAG AND WHAT YOU ARE ALIGNING WITH?

Before you display a pride flag, it is important that you know **who** and **what** you are supporting.



Flags are designed to symbolize presence, power and subjugation. For example, in 1945, during the Battle for Iwo Jima, US marines planted the American flag on the crest of Mount Suribachi to represent political conquest.

The pride flag, and all its iterations, is a symbol used to represent **LGBTQ+ 'political' activism** which is based on unscientific and marxist ideologies. It promotes segregation, discrimination, inequality, provocation and discontent as a method to deconstruct the family and break down societal norms.

The flag is offensive to the vast majority of Canadians — your customers — including people in the LGBTQ+ community, who see how destructive this movement has become and are now distancing themselves from it.

Overall, support for this activism is waning. Giving special rights to any one group is a Charter of Rights violation:

*"Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination."*

- Section 15(1) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

**If you display a pride symbol, you are indicating your allegiance to the political LGBTQ+ activist's agenda to break down societal norms.**

## Do you know?

In 1978, artist Gilbert Baker was asked by gay political activist Harvey Milk, to create a symbol for the LGBTQ+ community. He created the original pride flag because he saw a flag as a power symbol:

*"That's what flags are for. Flags are about proclaiming power... that visibility is key to our success and to our justice."*

The creators of the pride/trans flags have nefarious proclivities and deviant sexual fetishes - such as a fixation on castrating children. For example, the creator of the trans flag, Robert Hogge, forced his wife to participate in his fetishistic crossdressing and wrote 'forced feminisation' (a porn genre) stories, including one about young girls who never age.

**If you display a pride symbol, you are indicating your allegiance with this deviant ideology.**

## Do you know?

There is only one day set aside to celebrate Canada Day and one day for commemorating our brave veterans, but a whole "season" to recognise a **highly political special interest group**, whose pride parades have become a platform for public debauchery, nudity and lewd adult performances in front of children. These parades violate the Criminal Code of Canada regarding nudity and indecent exposure: (Section 174(1)(a) and Section 173(2)(a)(b)).



**If you display a pride symbol, you are indicating your allegiance in support of public indecency and child endangerment.**

## Do you know?

On December 8, 2021, Bill C-4 (<https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/C-4/royal-assent>) came into effect making it illegal for parents, therapists, and clergy to provide non-affirming support for an individual's "gender dysphoria". Any government that dictates what an individual can or cannot do is totalitarian.

It is a fact that "gender dysphoric" individuals often have underlying comorbidities such as self-abuse (cutting, eating disorders), sexual abuse, depression, ADHD or autism. The radical LGBTQ+ movement is exploiting these individuals by denying them supportive counselling, in a safe and healthy environment, to discover the root cause. Parents are vilified - some in Ontario and British Columbia have even had their custody rights removed by the government - and psychologists have lost their licenses to practice. The repercussions of this Bill are devastating to individuals, families and society as a whole.



**If you display a pride symbol, you are indicating your allegiance with the government in the criminalization of protective parenting and mental health counselling.**

## Do you know?

In alignment with a United Nations Human Rights Council's (UNHRC) edict, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau lowered the age of anal sex from 18 to 16. The degree of this sexual depravity has no limit, opening the door to normalising paedophilia, incest, and bestiality.

Also, the UNHRC mandated an amendment to the Canadian Human Rights Act, both federally and provincially, to add 'Gender Identity and Gender Expression' to the list of prohibited grounds for discrimination. This amendment, Bill C-16 (a.k.a. the bathroom bill), allows males into female washrooms, change rooms, prisons, athletics and shelters. Consider the sacrifice of female athletes losing well-earned scholarships to physically stronger biological males, and also the risks and trauma for females of all ages in bathrooms, shelters and prisons since the fact is that the majority of "transgender women" have fully functioning male genitalia.



**If you display a pride symbol, you are indicating your allegiance with the normalization of sexual deviancy and the elimination of female-only spaces.**

## Do you know?

The amendment to the Human Rights Act laid the foundation to implement the UN's Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in schools (a.k.a. SOGI123 / Wynne Sex Ed / Beyond the Basics). The LGBTQ+ activists are **lobbying government** to advance the ideologically-driven CSE agenda. CSE is a program that "*seeks to change sexual and gender norms in children*" by teaching children age 0-4 about masturbation, age 4-6 about same sex relationships, age 9 about aphrodisiacs, age 15 about abortion, etc. This is not a harmless agenda. CSE is a Trojan horse brought into schools under the guise of inclusivity, anti-bullying and human rights but it instead indoctrinates and sexualizes children at the earliest age possible through deceptive and unscientific ideologies.

CSE has created a social contagion. Historically "trans-ideation" affected 0.01% of the population, mostly boys. 80% - 95% of children will accept, if not dissuaded, their biological sex by late adolescence (a small percentage will identify as gay). However, in 2018 there was a reported 4,515% increase in girls identifying as boys!



**If you display a pride symbol, you are indicating your allegiance with the early sexualization of children, confusing them and contributing to this destructive social contagion.**

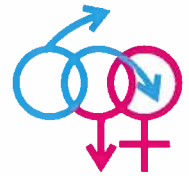
## Do you know?

On March 4, 2024 the World Professional Association of Transgender Health (WPATH) — the organization most cited regarding “gender affirming care” — was exposed as fraudulent. <https://environmentalprogress.org/big-news/wpath-files>

It was also reported by Reduxx that WPATH collaborates with castration and child abuse fetishist forums and is associated with the Eunuch Archives which hosts over 3,000 pieces of fictional child pornography that details the rape, torture, (some raped by doctors, some castrated by force as part of a sadistic sexual torture ritual) and killing of children.

- <https://action4canada.com/wp-content/uploads/Top-Trans-Medical-Association-Collaborated-With-CastrationChild-Abuse-Fetishists-Reduxx.html>

- <https://genevievegluck.substack.com/p/academics-behind-fetish-site-hosting>



**WPATH**

**If you display a pride symbol, you are indicating your allegiance with the WPATH's “standard of care” created by these debauched entities who are behind this radical agenda.**

## Do you know?

The “standard of care” currently being used in Canada has also been debunked by the British CASS Report. (<https://cass.independent-review.uk/home/publications/final-report/>)

For instance, there is no data which shows that the use of puberty blockers for “gender dysphoric” children is safe but rather that it permanently damages and sterilizes children. You cannot “pause” puberty without causing irreversible side effects. Also, invasive surgery that removes perfectly healthy body parts — breasts and genitalia — results in life-changing and permanent body mutilation. Even “social transitioning” — the use of pronouns, name change and cross-sex dressing — is not a neutral act since the majority of these individuals will move forward with more permanent medical procedures. This is government-sanctioned child abuse that leads to lifelong submission to expensive, dangerous chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex.



**If you display a pride symbol, you are indicating your allegiance with the physical mutilation of healthy individuals by radical activists.**

## Do you know?

LGBTQ+ activists promote victimhood in order to manipulate society. You may have heard that kids who struggle with “gender identity” are at an increased risk of suicide and need our support to feel accepted.

**The fact is there is a 20 times greater rate of suicide AFTER sex reassignment surgery!**

Transgender regret, experienced within 2 to 10 years, is skyrocketing as individuals realize they were deceived into following this path. An ever-growing number of detransitioners worldwide, who have been left with lifelong physical and psychological scars and disabilities, are now suing those who pushed this agenda.



**TRANSGENDER**

**If you display a pride symbol, you are indicating your allegiance with a movement that has caused immeasurable and irreparable harm to a multitude of individuals.**

## Do you know?

The UN and the World Economic Forum (WEF) via political activists, are bullying businesses like yours to comply with the LGBTQ+ agenda through the Environment Social Governance (ESG) and Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) schemes, which promote climate change propaganda, hiring immigrants over Canadian citizens, and hiring individuals based on their gender identity or disabilities rather than merit or employee performance. Both ESG and DEI are anti-business and discriminatory against people who are truly qualified yet fall outside these subjective criteria.

This agenda was accelerated during the COVID-19 “pandemic” where small and medium businesses were closed, yet big box stores — since they are more easily controlled than a myriad of independent businesses — were allowed to remain open. **Never forget that the same entities who required you to comply with totalitarian mandates during COVID-19 are now asking you to comply with ESG, DEI and LGBTQ+ agendas.**

Please consider all of these implications before applying for or accepting any government grants or financial incentives that are conditional upon your compliance to this globalist agenda.

**If you support the ESG and DEI schemes you are indicating your allegiance to this global agenda.**

## The True Meaning of the Rainbow

Genesis 9:12-16  
New Living Translation



And God said, “I am giving you a sign of my covenant with you and with all living creatures, for all generations to come. I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth. When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds, and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life. When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth.”

## In Conclusion...

The once earnest support of the gay and lesbian community has mutated into an ideological demonization of heteronormativity disguised as “Social Justice”, at the expense of the gay and lesbian community and disrupting the reality of femininity and masculinity, deconstructing the concept of family, attacking parental rights, and sexualizing our children.

The old adage “the squeaky wheel gets the grease” has given a loud voice to the LGBTQ+ political activists to fraudulently attack the unique creation, value and beauty of womanhood and emasculate the unique creation and strengths of manhood.

***It is vital that the voice of common sense and objective reality prevail.***

The harms of this agenda are well-known to many, including your customers who will vote with their wallets. It is time for everyone who blindly supported the political agenda of the LGBTQ+ and their globalist partners — albeit possibly with good intentions — to do their research. It is time to stop capitulating to their bullying demands. It is NOT a Human Rights violation to NOT display a pride symbol!

***Now that you know more about this symbol of division, do you still want to display a pride symbol in your business?***

## What you can do:

- Resist the bullying to display a pride symbol.
- Educate yourself and others on this issue.
- Be courageous to resist this weaponization of empathy.
- Be considerate of all your customers by being politically neutral.



View the following A4C resource page to help educate you further on how you can protect your business:  
[action4canada.com/business-resources](https://action4canada.com/business-resources)

**ACTION4 CANADA**  
Protecting Faith, Family and Freedom

---

**From:** Caleb Jones [REDACTED] ATIA Sec. 20(1)  
**Sent:** April 29, 2026 1:22 PM  
**To:** LegServ Admin  
**Subject:** Neutrality Bylaw

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear town council,

My name is Caleb Jones. As a resident of Strathmore, I ask that the town council votes yes on the neutrality bylaw.

Reasons for the bylaw are numerous. Despite the fact that true neutrality is impossible, the government should still strive for neutrality in public infrastructure. Our city should reflect the values Canada was built upon, not culture's swings to and fro.

Pride pertains to private matters such as sexuality and yet are loudly painted upon streets. Is there any real reason they are necessary to be shown by the government?

Those who are against the bill use largely slippery slope or straw man arguments that do not pertain to the actual bill itself.

Thank you for taking the time to bring this issue to light.

Thanks, Caleb

---

**From:** Lilah Jones [REDACTED] ATIA Sec. 20(1)  
**Sent:** April 29, 2026 3:50 PM  
**To:** LegServ Admin  
**Subject:** Neutrality Bylaw

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear city council members,

I am writing to express my support for the motion by Brent Wiley to bring a neutrality bylaw to Strathmore.

My reasons for supporting this legislation are twofold. Firstly, I don't believe that the local government should use permanent public infrastructure to support contentious social issues. Secondly, public lands belong collectively to the public and therefore should represent the majority of citizens rather than the views of a few.

Thank you to both the council member and administrators for your time and public service.  
Lilah Jones

---

**From:** [REDACTED] ATIA Sec. 20(1)  
**Sent:** April 30, 2026 12:27 PM  
**To:** LegServ Admin  
**Subject:** Neutrality Law

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear City Council,

Thank you for all you do to serve our town and community.

My name is [REDACTED] ATIA Sec. 20(1) I am [REDACTED] ATIA Sec. 20(1) years old and a local resident of Strathmore Alberta.

I am in favour of the proposed neutrality bylaw. Because I do not believe that the best way to make people feel welcome is by promoting certain ideologies and political viewpoints. I do not believe that government property has to be left sterile as depicted in certain posters either, but there are other ways of decorating which are not so controversial.

Our community has a culture worth celebrating, and we can do so with Canada and Alberta flags, or town monuments. Decorating by planting gardens because what a lot of what people know Strathmore for is the nature and walking paths that we all love. Rather than representing one specific group, we should represent the beliefs that Strathmore as a whole is built on and agrees upon, what makes up our entire community and culture, telling the story of our town's history.

Thank you for your time reading and considering this letter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] ATIA Sec. 20(1)

**From:** mail@strathmore.ca  
**Sent:** April 13, 2026 11:30 AM  
**To:** Customer Service  
**Subject:** CCF - New Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.



## CCF Created for "Other"

### Details:

It's my understanding one of the town councilor's has put forward a motion to ban pride flags under the guise creating safe spaces. This is a right-wing tactic whereby the words do not match the actions. The rainbow pride flag lets people of the LGBTQ+ community that they are safe and inclusivity for all people. Please see though this anti-gay extremist motion and vote down such hatred. Send a message to people who have been ostracized that they are welcome and to hate groups that they are not.

### Above request was provided by:

Name: Tracey FLYNN

Address: **ATIA Sec. 20(1)**

Phone: **ATIA Sec. 20(1)**

Email: **ATIA Sec. 20(1)**

[Survey123 Login](#)

[View Survey Data](#)

*This is an automated message.*

Town of Strathmore, PO BOX 2280, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB, T1P 1K2

Powered by The Town Of Strathmore.

---

**From:** Olivia Reardon [REDACTED] ATIA Sec. 20(1)  
**Sent:** April 14, 2026 2:55 PM  
**To:** LegServ Admin; Brent Wiley; Claude Brown; jim.chisholm@strathmore.ca; Matt Hyde; Melissa Langmaid; Pat Fule; Richard Wegener  
**Subject:** Opposition to Proposed Public Space Neutrality Bylaw

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing to respectfully oppose the proposed Public Space Neutrality Bylaw scheduled for discussion on May 6.

While the intent of neutrality is understandable, this bylaw would remove visible expressions of inclusion, such as Pride flags and crosswalks, that many community members rely on as signs of welcome, safety, and belonging. For marginalized residents, these symbols are not political messaging but affirmations that they are valued and safe in Strathmore.

Neutrality should not mean erasing representation. A truly inclusive community can acknowledge and support diversity while still serving all residents fairly. I urge Council to reconsider this motion and to instead engage with community members on ways to promote unity without diminishing visibility for those who are most often excluded.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Olivia Reardon, Strathmore resident

---

**From:** ATIA Sec. 20(1)  
**Sent:** April 24, 2026 10:25 PM  
**To:** Pat Fule; Brent Wiley; Claude Brown; jim.chisholm@strathmore.ca; Matt Hyde; Melissa Langmaid; Richard Wegener  
**Cc:** LegServ Admin  
**Subject:** Neutrality Bylaw concerns

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Strathmore town council,

I am writing in hopes that you all are able to reconsider going forth with neutrality bylaw.

My name is Joshua Berndt. I am a strathmore resident and like everyone I'm sure. I take great pride and pleasure to have the opportunity to call this place home.

I feel as though imposing this neutrality bylaw you would be doing the exact opposite. Every person, and every race should be allowed to feel free and comfortable to express themselves and take pride in who they are. When you pose restrictions on public displays of this you are targeting not one particular group or religion. But rather all of them at the same time for removing sense of inclusion and belonging.

By not going through with this bylaw and allowing visible symbols in public places. You are allowing everyone to be included, have a sense of belonging, and greater support the belief that we are all connected and supported in this wonderful town.

Thank you for all that you do for this community. And taking the time to read this.

Kindest regards

Josh Berndt  
ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Sent from my iPhone

To Councillors Wiley, Brown, Chisholm, Hyde, Langmaid,  
Wegener and Mayor Pat Fule.

No. page 1  
Date

April 24/2026

I want to start this by introducing my self and why I feel that this proposed bylaw does not act in the best interests of our towns residents. My name is Brandon Kehler and I have lived in town for over eleven years and has witnessed so much change, growth, and positivity that I was fairly surprised to read the details of this proposed bylaw. I am writing this to express my worry and concern regarding the effects if this bylaw is approved. I myself do not identify as LGBTQ+ or any cultural minority community in town but I feel that as long as they are not stepping on the toes of others, that they absolutely have the right to exist and live without fear of persecution or being treated negatively. I feel that a huge part of the issue here is basic<sup>lack of</sup> understanding of the proposed bylaw and people not realizing the specific groups being targetted have been fighting just for their right to exist in public spaces for many years. While I dont agree or identify with many of the things that can/may occur at a gay pride parade/meetup, I feel that something like the proposed bylaw acts as an umbrella that is creating a lot of confusion and misdirection of feelings. Its as if <sup>some</sup> people think that by allowing for an LGBTQ+ sidewalk is also saying it is ok to also have things like erotically dressed adults out in front of kids while showing private parts/revealing body, which is NOT what this is saying. Its also not saying that things like transvestite reading hour at the public library are ok either. I think people are seeing this and using this as a way to funnel negative feelings towards a marginalized community within our own Town.

Im a 35 year old white male, athiest, and not a person identifying as part of the LGBTQ+ sexuality but I will absolutely stand with and beside them as they have a right to exist in public spaces without fear of being treated unfairly or negatively by those who do not agree. I do not agree with barely clothed adults in front of minors or anything like that and people are confusing the two. By saying it is ok to have painted crosswalks some think that it is a blanket statement that means all and every aspect of the LGBTQ+ cultures must be publicly accepted. This is so wrong and misinformed.

Police and local Governments or Municipalities should not be allowed to target minorities that are not pushing their beliefs or practices onto the public. This proposed by law will affect so much more then just painted sidewalks and deciding which flags can be flown on public property. While I may not even agree with many

Others and their ideologies I absolutely believe they have the right to exist and be welcomed. This bylaw is such a "blanket statement" that is going to negatively affect several communities and their abilities to represent their flags/colors/and faces in public spaces.

I cannot understand how so many people can find a rainbow sidewalk/crosswalk sooo problematic, as if it is an acceptance of all things deprived and potentially harmful to our own children or families and communities. I personally do not want to see scantily clad wearing adults exposing 18+ things but they do have the right to do so as long as no laws/rights are being infringed upon, just like I do not want to see the other side condemning the other groups rights to exist in a safe and protected space, which all public property should be. This bylaw not only steps on others toes but helps facilitate an environment where more bylaws like this one could be created and further make it so those <sup>other</sup> minority groups are not recognized. Being in an objectively conservative town like Strathmore many people see the rainbow flag/symbol as a direct threat to their own personal lifestyle and choices, something it is absolutely not. People are focusing on the LGBTQ+ part of this argument but they are not the only community targeted or affected by this bylaw. The effects this will have if it is passed will bleed onto so many others that it is not absolutely fair.

It seems like this whole issue somehow became an "Us Verses Them" type of thing but it is not. We are living in a time when it is more important than ever before to come together and work together regardless of which side of the aisle one may sit. What we need is to find some common middle ground that satisfies both sides. I personally do not know what that looks like but I do know what it looks like is that there are people <sup>legitimately</sup> concerned that allowing a gay pride sidewalk is going to influence their/their kids sexuality. It will actually help those who struggle with their identity and sense of acceptance in our own town. I'm not saying that lets have Happy Gay Hour everyday at 4 PM and that everyone must play a part in the LGBTQ+ community and its advancement in Strathmore.

All I am trying to say is that these people have a right to exist and feel represented in and by our own community within the confines of the law. I want to protect all of our rights and this proposed bylaw does not do that. This leans more towards the side of intolerance and small minded thinking. These types of restrictions will bleed onto other communities. Our local Indian, Filipino, Chinese, French, and everything in between will be less welcome here as our town becomes more restrictive.

and the boundaries proposed do not act in the best interest of

Steathmore now or in the future. I may not agree with many of these groups but that doesn't mean they don't have the right to exist and be represented.

Like I said initially, No I do not like less than half naked adults around children or some other LGBTQ+ ideologies but as long as no laws or rights are infringed upon, they have a right to exist. The "maintenance trap" absolutely encourages vandalism as a way to bring about change and that is completely a step in the wrong direction. Many of you must agree or else the initial pride sidewalk would have been not allowed or be put in a place where it is not protected more so like being on <sup>local</sup> government properties.

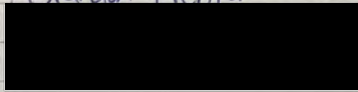
It is not the towns right or responsibility to dictate which communities may exist and what type of representation they may display on public spaces. We live in such a devicive time where hate and negativity towards certain groups grows by the day and we have an opportunity to show <sup>the</sup> world that we want something different.

That we are not alright with and won't tolerate one side stopping the growth and advancement of another, whether we agree or not with their ideologies

Its actually pretty wild to even consider this potential bylaw as a reality as it reflects more American Republican thinking, something that I feel is contributing to the overall increase of risk of a World War Three and the further marginalization of minorities ~~and~~.

Thank you for your time, I hope that a decision may be reached that does not step on the toes of anyone that feels marginalized in our Town.

Brandon Kebler



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**From:** Heidi Philips ATIA Sec. 20(1)  
**Sent:** April 25, 2026 2:56 PM  
**To:** Pat Fule  
**Cc:** LegServ Admin  
**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed Neutrality Bylaw

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mayor Fule,

I am writing to express concern about the proposed “neutrality bylaw “ and respectfully ask you to vote against it.

I am it sure how or why the *“council desires that municipal assets be used to represent the common identity of all citizens through the display of official government symbols”*

A community is diverse.

Strathmore’s strength has been its sense of connection and belonging. Policies like the neutrality bylaw risk reducing visible support for the whole community.

I must mention, I attended the letter writing campaign at the community room in the library. It was well organized, we were offered some basic information ,pens, paper, cards and envelopes. The room was calm and non judgmental. There were people quietly writing and children colouring at a separate table.

An obvious champion of the proposal and the councillor that submitted it, crashed the event accusing the organizers of misleading the public with scare tactics.

He was known to the organizers and I would expect to the council as well.

He was rude, argumentative and disruptive and would not stop. He was asked repeatedly to join and write his own letter, was even

offered paper and a pen.He just continued to rant. Some of us left, perhaps that was the intention.

Is this now a community who tries to intimidate community members who have a different perspective by yelling and bullying?

I would ask you to consider whether this policy is clear necessary and aligned with the values of a welcoming community.

Thank you for your time and service

Regards

Heidi Philips

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Patricia Manuell [ATIA Sec. 20(1)]  
**Sent:** April 26, 2026 5:46 PM  
**To:** LegServ Admin; Pat Fule  
**Subject:** Formal Opposition to Proposed Neutrality Bylaw – May 6 Council Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To the Mayor and Members of Strathmore Town Council,

I am writing to you today as a concerned resident of Strathmore to express my strong opposition to the proposed bylaw that would ban Pride flags and crosswalks in our community. Our town thrives when everyone feels safe, seen, and valued. Pride symbols—like the crosswalk and the flag—are more than just decorations; they are vital signals of safety for the LGBTQ+ community, their families, and their allies.

I am particularly concerned about the message this ban sends to our youth. When children and young adults do not feel a sense of belonging in their own community, the consequences can be tragic. Research consistently shows that a lack of inclusion can lead to increased rates of hate, substance abuse, and even suicidal ideation. Conversely, visible signs of support act as a protective factor. They tell our kids that they are safe and that they have a future here in Strathmore.

A "neutrality" bylaw often has the unintended consequence of erasing the visibility of marginalized groups. We cannot afford to let a desire for "neutrality" come at the cost of our children's mental health and well-being.

I respectfully urge the Council to vote against this ban and to continue supporting the visibility and safety of all our citizens. I want our town to remain a place where every child feels they belong.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Patricia Manuell

**From:** [Redacted] Sec. 20, ATIA  
**To:** [LegServ Admin](#)  
**Subject:** Neutrality act in Strathmore :3  
**Date:** April 28, 2026 6:50:00 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear town of Strathmore council, I am [Redacted] Sec. 20, ATIA, a queer [Redacted] Sec. 20, ATIA year old who has lived here in town for my whole life ! I have been a part of the sidewalk pride parade for two years now, and I love it ! It makes me feel more accepted in my community and town when I'm surrounded by youth like myself, it is an honour to be able to have a community event like this. It's very important that young queer youth feel welcomed into our town, and it makes young queer youth my age, younger or older, feel encouraged to be themselves and be a part of something special every year. It's not exactly about the sidewalk itself, but the love and sense of community that it provides, and getting rid of the sidewalk just makes it harder for our people to feel more included. :3

Sincerely,

[Redacted] Sec. 20, ATIA

[Redacted] Sec. 19, ATIA

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**From:** Michelle Ryan [REDACTED] ATIA Sec. 20(1)  
**Sent:** April 30, 2026 9:00 AM  
**To:** LegServ Admin  
**Subject:** Attention all councillors-Town of Strathmore

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Members of Strathmore Town Council,

I am writing to share my concerns about the proposed neutrality bylaw that would ban Pride crosswalks and other symbols of diversity and inclusion on town property.

I understand the goal of keeping government secular, especially when it comes to religion. This is an important principle in a diverse community. However, I believe this bylaw treats very different things as if they are the same.

The Pride flag and cross walk are not a religious or political symbol. It represents acceptance, inclusion, and support for a variety of people. Having Pride flags and cross walks show that the town welcomes and respects all residents. Removing them in the name of neutrality could send the opposite message.

Neutrality does not have to mean removing all signs of support for different groups. Pride flags and cross walks do not force beliefs on anyone or exclude others. They simply recognize that our community is diverse and values a safe, inclusive space for all.

Many towns and cities across Canada have similar symbols to show their commitment to inclusion and respect. These efforts help build stronger, more welcoming communities.

I ask Council to reconsider this bylaw and think about a more balanced approach that keeps government neutral while still supporting inclusion.

I would like this letter to be included in the May 6 Town Council meeting agenda package.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Ryan

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**From:** Daya Williams ATIA Sec. 20(1)  
**Sent:** April 30, 2026 1:59 PM  
**To:** Pat Fule; Claude Brown; James Chisholm; Matt Hyde; Melissa Langmaid; Richard Wegener; Brent Wiley  
**Cc:** LegServ Admin; tasiya.barkman@goldenwest.ca; luke.england@goldenwest.ca; submit@calgaryherald.com  
**Subject:** Neutrality Bylaw

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

*Hi Legislative Services Team, please count the following letter as a written submission to the Public Hearing re: the Neutrality Bylaw.*

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing to raise concerns and express my opposition to the proposed Public Space Neutrality Bylaw and the message it sends to residents.

Of particular concern to me is the ambiguous language used throughout the motion. Terms such as "neutrality," "non-standard," and "ideological causes or social movements" are not clearly defined, leaving significant room for interpretation and discretionary enforcement. Vague wording of this nature risks being applied inconsistently and may unintentionally - or intentionally - target specific forms of expression while appearing neutral on the surface.

I am also troubled by the broader message this bylaw sends. A municipality that restricts visible expressions of identity or community inclusion is not one that reflects the diversity of its residents. A town that does not celebrate individuality and difference is not one in which I feel a strong sense of belonging.

Canada has long understood itself as a cultural mosaic, where identities are respected and allowed to exist visibly and meaningfully. This stands in contrast to the idea of the American "melting pot", where differences are minimized in the name of uniformity. A policy framed as "neutrality" risks quietly pushing us toward sameness rather than inclusion.

I also want to raise concerns about Alberta's rising separatist movement and the increasing politicization of the provincial flag. In the current climate, the Alberta flag is often used not only as a symbol of provincial identity, but as a signal of political grievance or division. Under this proposed bylaw, that expression would remain permitted on municipal property, while other symbols - particularly those tied to inclusion of marginalized communities - could be restricted. This creates the appearance that some forms of political expression are acceptable, while others are not, reinforcing unequal treatment rather than neutrality.

This inconsistency is especially concerning given the growing influence of polarized American political narratives filtering into Alberta policy discussions. The language of "neutrality" has frequently been used elsewhere to justify the removal of inclusive symbols under the guise of fairness, while allowing dominant or traditional political expressions to remain unexamined.

Finally, I want to clearly name my concern that this bylaw may contribute to an environment that enables or normalizes homophobia, even if unintentionally. For many 2SLGBTQ+ residents, especially youth, visible signs of inclusion are not political statements; they are indicators of safety, dignity, and belonging. Removing or restricting those signals sends a message that some identities are less welcome than others.

I urge Town Council to carefully consider the broader social impact of this proposed bylaw and to engage meaningfully with residents who may feel marginalized or excluded by it. I hope our Town will continue striving to be a place where diversity is not merely tolerated, but respected and celebrated. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Daya Williams

Resident, Taxpayer, Ally.

Type text here



# Strathmore

"Where Quality of Life is a Way of Life"  
(for some people)

# Post Card

Dear Strathmore Councillor.

I am expressing my disapproval of the Neutrality Bylaw. As the world seems to be backsliding on tolerance, acceptance, and celebrating our differences, I would be embarrassed to live in a town that does not allow for freedom of expression. Painted crosswalks and other celebrations of individuality cause no harm.

To Mayor Pat Fule

From Daya Williams

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

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**From:** Ivy Zeegers [ATIA Sec. 20(1)]  
**Sent:** April 30, 2026 2:57 PM  
**To:** LegServ Admin  
**Subject:** Proposed Neutrality Bylaw

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Members of Town Council,

I am writing as a resident of Strathmore to express my strong opposition to the proposed removal of non-standard crosswalks and flags from public spaces and ask that this email be included in the May 6 agenda package.

These features are more than aesthetic additions; they represent important values within our town, including visibility and inclusivity. Non-standard crosswalks contribute to pedestrian awareness while also reflecting the diversity of our community. Similarly, flags displayed in public areas can signify recognition, support, and respect for the groups that make up our population.

I am concerned that removing these elements contradicts the Town's mission statement, which commits "to foster a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable community where residents can live, work, and play." Eliminating visible symbols of inclusion and community identity is inconsistent with that commitment and risks undermining the sense of belonging that many residents value.

Further, this proposed approach appears misaligned with several of the Town's stated values. A decision to remove inclusive community features without clear, consistently applied rationale raises concerns regarding transparency and accountability. Limiting visible expressions of community identity may also conflict with the Town's commitment to being supportive and collaborative, particularly where those features reflect the diversity of residents. Additionally, the removal of these elements, rather than exploring adaptive or innovative solutions, seems at odds with the value of innovation and continuous improvement.

Decisions affecting shared public spaces should reflect established policies, community values, and broad public input. It is important that these decisions are grounded in clear, consistent criteria that apply equally across all situations.

In that regard, I would ask the Council to clarify how this approach will be applied consistently. If non-standard crosswalks and community flags are being removed on the basis of neutrality or standardization, will the same rationale apply to seasonal or religious displays, such as Christmas decorations in public areas? If not, what criteria are being used to distinguish between what is permitted and what is not? Clear and transparent guidelines are essential to ensure fairness, consistency, and public trust in decision-making.

If there are concerns related to safety standards, maintenance, or regulatory compliance, I encourage Council to explore alternatives rather than removal. Options such as reviewing design standards,

improving maintenance practices, or engaging with the community could allow these features to remain while addressing any legitimate concerns.

I urge Council to vote no on the proposed removal of non-standard crosswalks and community flags. This action conflicts with the Town's commitment to inclusivity, does not reflect the values of transparency and collaboration, and applies standards inconsistently across public spaces.

Thank you,

Ivy Zeegers

ALISON CLARKE

30 April 2026.

Dear Mayor Fule and  
Town Council;

I am writing to oppose the  
proposed neutrality bylaw.

I have considered Strathmore  
to be a place that is inclusive  
to all citizens - that celebrates  
and recognizes our individual  
diversity.

I believe this bylaw will  
remove that celebration, that  
sense of belonging. More, it  
may make vulnerable residents  
feel unseen and excluded.

Please consider the acceptance  
of all Strathmore citizens in your  
decision

Sincerely

Dear council,

I'm writing in opposition to the proposed Neutrality Bylaw.

My name is Becca McDonald. I grew up in Strathmore.

I was never into farming or sports really, I was a

"tom-boy", and ~~then~~ did like sports before grade

seven - ~~the~~ <sup>possibly</sup> ~~was~~ the most awkward stage in life,

I ended up being put into all girls gym, ~~even~~  
(though I wanted the 5 credit mixed class). I felt then like

I was being put in a box, I understand that's just how

~~that~~ classes were decided - not a personal judgement,

but at a formative time in my life it made

a difference in the way I identified.

I am against the Neutrality Bylaw in all facets - the

legion, ~~the~~ and all other communities should be

proud to make their presence known so that we

can be proud to build. I am especially concerned

about the lash back ~~is~~ at the LGBTQ+ community.

I think it <sup>could</sup> ~~might~~ help the councillors who might believe

that this <sup>LGBTQ+</sup> community is "shoving ideas down throats", or

something to that effect to hear personal stories, so

I think it's worth it to offer my personal expression and

why the LGBTQ community's well-being means so much to

me. I think it's important to stay grounded in the

fact that consensual same-sex sexual ~~activity~~ activity

is illegal in Afghanistan, Brunei, Iran, Mauritania, the

northern states of Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia,

Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Yemen ~~and~~ - in over

60 countries. Fines, imprisonment and even the death

penalty. People today are stoned for being a part

of the LGBTQ community. We know there is a long

history of humans targeting minority groups in order

to gain personal wealth. When we look to the states and

see ICE organizing to send people to illegal + unconstitutional

mega-prisons we can see how hate can be a very

slippery slope. ~~when I moved back to Strathmore~~  
~~and had friends who were run into by people at~~  
~~the shop~~ I do believe that finding neutrality  
has its uses - especially in communication I do  
sometimes worry that political powers use these small  
communities to scape goat their own issues. I think  
at this point we can all agree that there are some  
big forces in this world with ill intentions. That's why  
I think communities like the Strathmore Pride  
Community should have the support of the Municipality  
and its governing forces - ~~small~~ small communities  
of people w/ common interests should support each other.

I have to cut this letter short because our  
meeting was interrupted ATIA Sec. 20(1)  
~~again~~

I will write again. ~~2/11~~

Thank you for your time.

Becca McDonald

Dear Council,

Neutrality is not taking a side. Inherently, the municipality is not neutral - it is colonial. Colonial is not neutral.

I understand that there is some fear around ~~the~~ groups of people with differences getting upset with each other.

I want to remind the council that - if the fear of hate crimes is the concern ~~that~~ that inspires the idea for the Neutrality Bylaw then the Pride

Cross-walk has nothing to do w/ that fear. The legion's veteran's walk has nothing to do w/ that.

~~The~~ The Siksika flag should be up at the municipality because we are on native land. Do not force our community deeper into an "bed room community" mind set. We need every excuse to connect w/ each other and spark conversation.

Thank you,

Becca

**Dear Members of Town Council,**

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed neutrality by-law recently brought forward by Councillor Brett Wiley.

I fully appreciate/understand the reasons that were surfaced by Councillor Wiley as to why he feels this is so important. However, I am saddened that he feels this will, in some manner, fulfil his responsibilities as a Councillor pursuant to the Municipal Government Act. One of a Councillor's main focus should, and must, be to "consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and, to bring to council's attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality". Our Town is not made up of one type of person – people who live here have different moral, cultural, secular and spiritual/religious beliefs. This is what Canada is all about – what makes Canada so unique and amazing as a Country.

Hard as I try, I am unable to see this motion as anything but directly related to the LGBTQ2S members of our society. I find it sad that so many seem to be intimidated by a group of people who want nothing more than to live their lives in peace. The main issue here – some paint placed on a section of a parking lot (at their expense) - sends a message that is totally opposite from the one we are seeing right now in the United States, Lebanon/Iran, Israel, Palestine/Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar, Africa, Haiti and numerous other locations in civil conflict.

Perhaps it's time to consider the welfare and interests of our municipality by supporting groups who support peace.

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Bob and Gina Sobol  
Strathmore, Alberta

Dear Mayor Fulk

Noted April 24  
Date 2026

I am writing to share my concerns about the proposed neutrality bylaw being presented & ask that you vote against it. Strathmore has always been a community known for being welcoming and family-oriented. That sense of belonging is something many residents, myself included, value deeply.

You have previously spoken about supporting grassroots initiatives and caring for vulnerable residents. The Pride crosswalk was one such community-led initiative that helped create visibility and support for people who might otherwise feel unseen.

From an educator and community perspective, even small symbols can have a meaningful impact on youth mental health and wellbeing. Strathmore's strength has always been its small-town spirit of inclusion and connection.

I am concerned that this bylaw is overly broad and risks removing positive community expressions rather than solving a clearly defined problem. It may also unintentionally impact cultural events, traditions and community groups.

I would ask you to consider: what kind of community do we want Strathmore to be known for, one that limits expression, or one that fosters belonging. Thank you for your time & leadership.

Sincerely

Dear Councillor Langmaid

I am writing to strongly express concern about the proposed neutrality bylaw and ask you to vote against it.

You have previously spoken about the importance of visibility and support for LGBTQ2S+ youth, particularly in relation to mental health and wellbeing. Research and lived experience both show that visibility and inclusion matter deeply for young people.

The Pride crosswalk was a meaningful symbol of support and acceptance in the community. Removing such symbols risks reducing that visibility. Strathmore's strength is its ability to support vulnerable residents and create spaces where people feel seen and valued.

I would ask you to remain consistent with your previous commitment to inclusion and youth wellbeing.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Dear Councillor Brown

No. April 27  
Date 2026

My name is Bonnie Bigas and I have lived & worked in Strathmore for thirty eight years.

I am writing to ask you to vote against the proposed Neutrality Bylaw. As someone who values practical and evidence-based policy, I am concerned about whether this bylaw is clearly solving a defined problem.

This bylaw, if passed, may also create unintended costs relating to enforcement, interpretation and administration. It could also impact community events, cultural expression and local traditions such as parades and celebrations.

As you consider your decision, I ask: What specific problem is this bylaw actually solving? I encourage you to ensure this policy remains clear, practical and necessary.

Sincerely

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Dear Councillor Wiley

My name is Bonnie Bigas. I am writing to ask you to reconsider your proposed neutrality bylaw.

As a Social Studies educator, you must understand how identity, inclusion, and belonging affect students.

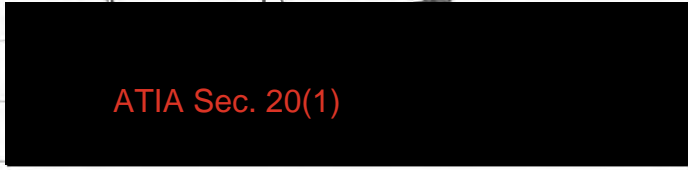
Strathmore's strength is its family oriented & connected community.

I am concerned that removing visible symbols in public spaces will reduce the sense of belonging for students, families, and community members.

I respectfully ask you to consider how this bylaw will impact at risk youth, their families, and community connection between the many diverse communities that make Strathmore a great place the raise a family.

Thank you for your work in education and service.

Respectfully



ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Dear Councillor Wegener

I am writing to share concerns about the proposed neutrality bylaw and respectfully ask you to vote against it.

Given your background in public safety and community service, I know you value clear, practical policies that improve real-world outcomes.

My concern is that this bylaw may create unintended consequences for community groups, youth programs, & public events. These include spaces where identity, belonging, and visibility are important. Symbols in public spaces often play a role in fostering community pride and participation, especially among youth and sports organizations.

I would ask you to consider whether this policy strengthens community safety and cohesion or risks reducing belonging and inclusion.

Sincerely

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

No. April 24  
Date 2026

Dear Councillor Hyde

I am writing to express concern about the proposed neutrality bylaw and respectfully ask you to oppose it.

Your background in community service and faith-based leadership speaks to a strong commitment to compassion, dignity, and care for others. These values are reflected in your work with local organizations supporting vulnerable residents.

My concern is that this bylaw may unintentionally reduce visibility and belonging for members of the community, particularly those who already feel excluded.

Strathmore is a town known for its strong family-oriented identity and community connection. Policies that remove positive symbols risk weakening that sense of belonging.

I would ask you to consider whether this bylaw reflects the values of inclusion, care, and practical community impact that you have demonstrated in your service.

Sincerely

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Rear Councillor Crisholm

April 24  
Date 2026

My name is Bonnie Bigas. I am writing to express concern about the proposed neutrality bylaw.

With your background in banking and community service, I know fiscal responsibility and clear governance are important to you.

As you consider this bylaw, I would highlight: This policy may be too broad and unclear, potentially creating unintended consequences. It could also affect Strathmore's strength in its sense of belonging and connection. As you have likely seen in your community work, inclusion matters because it gives all groups a sense that they belong.

I respectfully ask you to consider whether this bylaw is necessary, clear, and effective.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Sincerely

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Town Council,

No.  
Date

I am writing this letter urging you vote against the proposed neutrality bylaw.

When I'd first arrived to Strathmore, there were some who had treated me as an outsider. The first to welcome me were the Legion and the Pride Community - groups who the proposed bylaw directly affects.

I agree that Council is responsible for ensuring a welcoming and inclusive environment, but supporting this bylaw is not an adherence to that responsibility, it is a failure of it.

The affected groups host events which not only serve to strengthen our Community, but stimulate our local economy. Removing their expression on municipal property will not make them feel more welcome, it will only appease those who do not share your responsibility.

I have had the pleasure of interviewing many of you during the election, and none of you mentioned neutrality as a platform. Councillor Wiley even spoke with me about feeling uninvited as a child, so it troubles me to see him propose this bylaw to begin with.

If you care about promoting a welcoming and inclusive environment, you would support crosswalks for all groups, and not feel the need to restrict non-government flags. What this bylaw proposes is an appeal to ignorance masked as inclusivity, which is a disservice to those affected, and feels disingenuous to the values that Councillor Wiley claims to represent. Whether or not you endear to the Pride community or Canadian veterans, you should not support this bylaw as it contradicts the responsibility that the Town of Strathmore ensures.

~ Brandon Zdebink

Dear Councillor Wiley,

I am writing to express concern about the proposed neutrality bylaw & respectfully ask you to vote against it.

As an Intensive Care Nurse, mother of twin three-year olds, community leader and engaged citizen in this rural county, I value & I know you understand the importance of inclusion, identity, & belonging - especially for youth.

Strathmore's strength has always been its family-oriented, connected community.

Policies that reduce visibility in public spaces unintentionally affecting how included people feel.

While I understand the intent behind neutrality, I am concerned that this approach may not be applied consistently and could reduce positive community expression.

I would ask you to consider how this bylaw impacts students, families, & the overall sense of belonging in Strathmore and to all of the communities and visitors.

Everyone should feel welcomed, included, visible, & safe and I hope you would envision and vote for a future and present of the same.

Thankyou for your work in education & community service.

Sincerely,

Brielle Story

Dear Councillor Wegener

I am writing to express concern about the proposed neutrality bylaw & respectfully ask you to vote against it.

As an Intensive Care Nurse, mother of twin three-year olds, community leader & engaged citizen in this rural county, I value inclusion, visibility, and safety in our present community and a future of the same for community members, visitors, and tourists.

Given your background in public safety & community service & public safety, I know you value clear & practical policy.

This bylaw may unintentionally impact youth, seniors, & community events where visibility & belonging matter.

I ask you to consider whether this bylaw improves safety & community cohesion or creates unintended consequences.

Thank you for your service,

Sincerely,  
Brielle Stary

To the members of Strathmore Town Council,

I am writing to you in opposition to the proposed Neutrality Bylaw, submitted by councillor Brent Wiley. I am certain that many of the letters you will receive will appeal to emotional factors, notions of fairness, equality, and so forth, I aim to take a different tack. Councillor Wiley gave a series of reasons for his proposal, listed below, and I will argue that those reasons are actually contrary to the actual effects of the bylaw.

1. Municipalities are responsible for developing and maintaining safe, viable, and representative communities
2. Council is responsible for ensuring that municipal facilities and infrastructure remain welcoming and inclusive by maintaining a position of political and ideological neutrality
3. Council desires that municipal assets ... be used to represent the common identity of all citizens through the display of official government symbols and standardized safety markings

Let's be clear before I continue. This is a bylaw that is meant to remove the Pride crosswalk outside of town hall and prevent any other similar symbols from being displayed in the future. It is framed in intentionally neutral language, but its intention is made clear by focusing on flags and crosswalks, typical platforms for queer voices, and it further hides its aim by including a seemingly conciliatory legacy clause. The third clause in the motion, states that the "existing non-standard crosswalk ... be permitted until such a time as maintenance or replacement is required" is particularly convenient, given that the bylaw is being debated in May and the existing Pride crosswalk has been repainted every June since 2023, when it was previously approved by council. This legacy clause would allow the crosswalk to remain for a matter of weeks, or less if it happens to be vandalized in the interim.

Firstly, a bylaw that eliminates public symbols of a minority community would by definition go against promoting representation. It tells members of that community that their identity is not compatible with the larger community. It also tells them that the hateful voices in the community telling them to be "normal" or go away hold more sway, hardly making them feel safe.

Secondly, a bylaw that removes a pride crosswalk, as established above, is substantially different from one that prevents it from being added in the first place. Council would be going out of their way to make a statement saying that symbols of that community are not welcome, expressly repealing a previous decision of council in the process. Recognizing community diversity is hardly an ideological position, but erasing minority representation is definitely a political statement.

Lastly, appealing to a "common identity" while removing symbols of minorities sends a powerful message. It says that rather than celebrating the diversity of our town, the only identity that will be publicly recognized is that of the common denominator and that members of the queer community will only be accepted to the extent that they are able to assimilate into the majority. Moreover, declaring what Council does or does not desire before the bylaw is debated or voted upon assumes a great deal and takes for granted a level of support that may not exist, as indicated by the spirited community discussion thus far.

This bylaw is a bad idea, and is not justified by its own reasons. It claims to seek neutrality, but closes off the public square to any groups apart from the “common identity” of the majority. It will remove the pride crosswalk as soon as conveniently possible, despite being worded to indicate otherwise, and given that the veteran’s crosswalk will be prevented from being maintained, it may discourage it from being installed at all. Recognizing the existence of minority groups and welcoming them into the community is not a political or ideological stance, it is celebrating the diversity and vibrancy of our town. Enacting this bylaw would be a step backward in a very real sense, taking away a symbol of belonging for a vulnerable community and sending a clear message to others that the multitudes of differences that make us all unique and valuable are irrelevant.

The City of Calgary’s Flag Policy, (Policy # CP2016-07) allows for flags apart from the official government flags to be flown on occasion on a “Courtesy Flagpole” These could be flags of other nations when celebrating their national holidays or flags of special interest groups or societies as a way of recognizing their place in the community. There are a simple set of rules listing what flags cannot be flown (flags of foreign enemies, flags of hate groups, flags of commercial or sectarian groups, etc), but largely it is left open and welcome to any group that wishes to have a flag raising. I would far rather have a policy like that, which welcomes everyone equally, than the one that is proposed to council, which silences any outside voices.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you will consider these words and vote against this proposed bylaw.

-Colin Gillespie  
18 year resident and tax payer of Strathmore

**Daniel Cormeau**

Hilltop Realty Ltd.  
PO Box 2070  
Strathmore, AB T1P 1K1

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April 13, 2026

Mayor Pat Fule and Members of Council  
Town of Strathmore  
PO Box 2280  
1 Parklane Drive  
Strathmore, AB T1P 1K2

**Re: Opposition to Proposed Flag Restriction Bylaw**

Dear Mayor Fule and Members of Council,

I am writing to respectfully oppose the proposed bylaw that would restrict the display of flags in Strathmore to the Canadian flag only, except at private residences.

In my view, such a bylaw is unnecessarily broad and harmful to the character of our community. Strathmore is home to people from many backgrounds, traditions, and lived experiences. Cultural, heritage, community, and support flags are meaningful symbols of identity, belonging, history, and inclusion.

If adopted, this bylaw could prevent community members, schools, organizations, and event organizers from respectfully displaying flags during parades, cultural celebrations, awareness events, and other public gatherings. That would diminish, rather than strengthen, civic pride and community connection.

A municipality should be careful not to adopt rules that suppress peaceful and respectful expression simply because not everyone shares the same views or affiliations. Public spaces should reflect the people who live here. A welcoming community grows stronger when people feel seen, respected, and included.

I am also concerned that a blanket restriction of this nature could disproportionately affect minority communities and those who already feel underrepresented. Whether a flag reflects cultural heritage, solidarity, or support for a vulnerable group, a broad prohibition sends an exclusionary message.

If Council's concern relates to consistency, decorum, or the use of public property, those issues can be addressed through a narrower and more balanced policy. A complete prohibition on all flags other than the Canadian flag is, in my respectful view, not the right solution.

I respectfully urge Council to reject this proposed bylaw, or at minimum postpone any decision until there has been full and meaningful public consultation with residents, cultural groups, schools, event organizers, and other affected community members.

Strathmore should remain a place where people are welcomed, where culture is visible, and where respectful expression is not pushed out of public life. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Daniel Cormeau**  
Hilltop Realty Ltd.

April 24, 2026  
No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mayor Fule

I am writing you today, in hopes you think heavily on the message the neutrality bylaw speaks in volume by action. My wife and I have lived in Strathmore over 15 years and proud to call it home. Voting for this bylaw makes me feel its not ok to express who I am. If the town makes "Pride" something that needs to be kept quiet, no one will feel ok to be different!

not everyone needs to 100%  
agree, But hiding our  
differences, will make  
things not accepted plus  
could increase more people  
hiding who they truly  
are. Learning to all live  
together with our differences  
will go a long way!

Hiding is damaging every-  
one should feel welcome and  
part of the community.

Please Don't erase us  
in Strathmore

Thanks for your time  
Kind regards Dee-Ann  
Wagner-Mercer

**April 21, 2026**

To Strathmore Mayor and Town Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed neutrality bylaw. This bylaw, while ostensibly intended to maintain political neutrality within our community, presents a threat to the rights and dignity of the LGBTQ+ community. By attempting to impose neutrality, the council will effectively silence those whose voices are already marginalized, thus undermining the democratic principles that support our freedom. Neutrality in matters of social justice is an illusion. Should the ToS council choose 'neutrality' as an actionable measure, it will tacitly endorse a status quo that has proven to be discriminatory and unjust. This is particularly pertinent when it comes to the rights of marginalized groups, including LGBTQ+ individuals, who have historically faced systemic oppression. Historically, homosexuality was only decriminalized in Canada in 1969 (Bill C-150). Not unlike today, politicians of that time also promoted neutrality as a measure to ensure the status quo of the day. Homosexuality was only removed from the DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual Of Mental Disorders) in 1973. This action contributed to a gradual shift in public attitudes, leading to increased acceptance and understanding of our LGBTQ+ community. This change played a crucial role in fostering a more inclusive society. The governments that supported this action recognized that remaining 'neutral' was not conducive to achieving equality or equity in our society. History has long since passed judgment on the bigoted, discriminatory individuals who promoted the status quo of the 60's and 70's, and has gone forward to build a more just society as a result of the judicious 'non-neutral' actions of enlightened politicians of that time. I am hopeful today's councillors will choose to be on the right side of history. It is vital to our democracy that we not take this reactionary step backward. It is equally vital to ensure all our community members feel empowered to express their identities and advocate for their rights. A neutrality bylaw does not promote peace; it fosters the very type of division the writer of this notice of motion duplicitously suggests must be avoided. By suggesting that advocacy for marginalized communities is somehow divisive or unwelcome is the ranting of conservative Christian nationalist social structures designed to uphold race and gender hierarchies. Our democracy is one that thrives on dialogue, debate, and action. It flourishes when all voices, especially those that are often underrepresented, are engaged. While I abhor the context and content of the motion being proposed, I support the right of individuals dedicated to patriarchal heterosexism to bring their argument forward, as their voices have a right to be heard, too. I am fervently hopeful our council will be a champion of principles that uplift all citizens so as not to become a barrier that limits the progress we can make together as a community. I urge the Strathmore Town Council to fully consider the implications of the ill-conceived proposed neutrality bylaw. Please stand firmly in support of a place and a voice for all citizens. Thank you for considering my views. I hope to see our council take a stand for what is right and just.

**Sincerely, Denise Peterson**

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Dear Mayor Pat Fule + Town Council,

No.  
Date

I am writing to share my deep concerns about the proposed neutrality bylaw, and ask that you vote against it.

My name is Emma and I have been a Strathmore resident for 15 years. Writing this letter is the first time in these 15 years I have ever felt compelled to take <sup>political</sup> action, which should be a testament to my concern over this proposed bylaw.

In this current political climate, I feel a step in this direction of "neutrality" is not going to benefit anyone - silence is choosing the side of the oppressor. Now is a time, more than ever, where we uphold the rights and dignities that so many marginalized groups have worked so tirelessly to protect.

One perspective I encourage you to consider is the idea mentioned by Counsellor Bret Wiley, when he shared "When a municipality publicly displays a political, religious, ideological, or identity symbol, it becomes a statement of the institution itself. It announces that we endorse a particular viewpoint and have chosen a side in a debate. It excludes all our residents that do not share a council's politics or opinions or ideas." First, I would like to remind you all that gender and sexual identity is not an "opinion" or "idea," but a basic human right. Second, I would like to point out that every year, the ~~St~~ Town of Strathmore permits Christmas decor to be displayed on town property, but does not celebrate or recognize any other groups or religious holidays. My concern is selective rule-following that is happening here, as COUN. Brett stated himself that he does not want to endorse any one specific "Symbol," but seems quite content allowing celebrations of religion on town property as they align with his beliefs.

Please do better for all members of Strathmore - not just straight white Christians.

Sincerely,

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Dear Mayor & Council Members

I am writing to express what the neutrality bylaw means to me.

I grew up thinking something was wrong with me. I did not feel included in my small town, my school, or my community. I felt that I was not able to be myself. I was uncomfortable. I did not feel I could be my true self.

I work with teenagers and I see the awkward & uncomfortable social situations they are put in. I see in them what I have personally experienced. I see the struggles with friends & family. I see fear in their eyes, fear they cannot be open, honest and their true selves.

The acceptance in Strathmore has not always been strong. In the past 5-10 years I have felt the scale/balance change. This has helped me be more myself, be stronger and able to help others through this challenging path of life being someone of the affected minority groups.

This bylaw will affect many community members of the town of Strathmore. Growing up there was no signs of acceptance or inclusivity. I was scared to be me. I experienced mental health struggles throughout school, personal life, sports, work and general community involvement.

I hope these words help you understand

my personal experience.

I believe taking the inclusivity away from Strathmore will isolate many. After many years of fighting for acknowledgement of LGBTQIA+ Community. Now we face losing this important Symbol of Inclusion Giving us hope and then taking it away Could be detrimental to many residents of Strathmore, Young and old.

This is a big step backwards in fostering belonging in this amazing town.

Thank you for your time and acknowledgement of this letter and how it will effect Strathmore residents.

Sincerely,

Janet Wagner

Dear Strathmore Town Council

I am writing as a concerned citizen and resident of 15 years of Strathmore in regard to the proposed 'NEUTRALITY BYLAW'.

As a parent to not 1, but 2 children who identify as a member of the Rainbow Community, I have been so happy to have them grow up in a community that accepted them despite the feelings of the provincial government and many others in this province.

Their feeling of inclusion not only in the Strathmore Community but in the schools, was a blessing to their sense of belonging and mental health.

This proposed bylaw does nothing but erase the diversity of this town - not only of the

LGBTQIA+ Community but all the citizens who

don't identify as the 'Caucasian norm' that

AB. seems to want to cater to.

Please take into consideration all the people in Strathmore and the surrounding areas that this will affect negatively.

Please show all the people in Strathmore and the surrounding areas that they are welcome and loved!

Thanks for taking the time to read my letter ♡

Kate

24 April 2026

Dear Councillor Chisholm,

My name is Katrie, and I have lived in town for 10 years. I am writing to express concern about the proposed neutrality bylaw.

With your background in banking and Community Service, I know fiscal responsibility and clear governance are important to you.

As you consider this bylaw, I would highlight: This policy is so broadly worded and unclear, it will potentially create unintended consequences and extra work and use of resources to resolve issues by Council. It could also affect how different cultural groups are able to show up and celebrate in municipal parks, town events and parade traditions that usually encourage large turnouts of Strathmore community members.

Strathmore's strength is its sense of belonging and connection. As you have likely seen in your community work, inclusion matters because individuals who see representation will feel included in the culture of our town and with that comes a sense of safety.

I respectfully ask you to consider whether this bylaw is necessary, clear, and effective.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Sincerely,  
Katrie M.

24 April 2026

Dear Councillor Langmaid,

I am writing to strongly express concern about the proposed neutrality bylaw and ask you to vote against it.

You have previously spoken about the importance of visibility and support for 2SLGBTQ+ youth, particularly in relation to mental health and wellbeing. Research and lived experience both show that visibility and inclusion matter deeply for young people.

The pride crosswalk was a meaningful symbol of support and acceptance in the community. Removing such symbols risks reducing that visibility. Strathmore's strength is its ability to support vulnerable residents and create spaces where people feel seen and valued.

I would ask you to remain consistent with your previous commitment to inclusion and youth wellbeing!

Thank you for your excellent leadership

Sincerely,  
Katie M.

24 April 2026

Dear Councillor Brown,

I am writing regarding the proposed neutrality bylaw and respectfully asking you to vote against it.

Given your background in economic development and emergency services, I would imagine you value practical, evidence based policy and efficient use of resources.

My concern is that the language in this bylaw is too broad/vague and may create unintended consequences without solving a clearly defined issue.

It also raises questions about cost and enforcement. Policies like this can require ongoing interpretation and administration without clear measurable benefit.

Additionally, the bylaw may unintentionally impact community events, cultural expression, and local traditions such as parades and public celebrations.

My main question is: what specific problem is this bylaw actually solving? I encourage you to consider whether this is the most practical and effective use of municipal time and resources.

Sincerely,  
Katie M.

24 April 2026

Dear Councillor Hyde,

I am writing to express concern about the proposed neutrality bylaw and respectfully ask you to oppose it.

Your background in community service and faith-based leadership speaks to a strong commitment to compassion, dignity, and care for others.

These values are reflected in your work with local organizations supporting vulnerable residents.

My concern is that this bylaw may unintentionally reduce visibility and belonging for members of the community—particularly those who are already feeling the strain of exclusion.

Strathmore is a town known for its strong family-oriented identity and community connection. Policies that remove positive symbols risk weakening or erasing that sense of belonging.

I would ask you to consider whether this bylaw reflects the values of inclusion, care and practical community impact that you have demonstrated in your service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Katie M.

24 April 2026

Dear Mayor Fule,

My name is Katie, and I am a resident of Strathmore - having called this place home for 10 years. I am writing to express my concern about the proposed neutrality bylaw and ask respectfully that you vote against it. Strathmore is important to me as I have lived and worked here, I have seen the way all people have come to be included and find their place in the community as well as coming together to celebrate each individual culture they represent. As you have previously recognized: "supporting grassroots initiatives helps to support more vulnerable residents...". The pride crosswalk was one such grassroots initiative that helped create visibility and belonging for members of our community. From my perspective, it is important for both older citizens and the youth that will be our future to know this town is safe and supportive of all people - no matter their culture or how they identify. Inclusive community symbols may seem small, but they have a meaningful impact on youth mental health and belonging. I am concerned this bylaw is overly broad (vague) and may unintentionally remove positive community expression rather than solve a clearly defined issue. Based on the vague language in the bill, it may also affect cultural events, community traditions, and local groups.

I would ask you:

What kind of community do we want Strathmore to be - one that limits expression, or one that fosters belonging?

Thank you for your leadership and service.

Sincerely,  
Katie M.

April 24, 2024

Dear Councillor Witey,

I am writing to express concern about the proposed neutrality bylaw and respectfully ask you to vote against it.

As a social studies educator and community leader, I know you understand the importance of inclusion, identity, and belonging - especially for youth. Strathmore's strength has always been its family-oriented, connected community. Policies that reduce visibility in public spaces risk unintentionally affecting how included people feel.

While I understand the intent behind neutrality, I am concerned that this approach may not be applied consistently and could reduce positive community expression.

I would ask you to consider how this bylaw impacts students, families, and the overall sense of belonging in Strathmore.

Thank you for your service and commitment to all members of our vibrant community.

Yours,  
Katie M.

April 24, 2026

Dear Councillor Wegener,

My name is Katie, and I have been a Strathmore citizen for 10 years. I am writing to share my concerns about the proposed neutrality bylaw.

Given your background in public safety and community service, I know you value clear and practical policy.

My concern is that the language written in the bylaw is very vague and leaves a lot of room for interpretation or misinterpretation. Who would be policing these infractions? Where does the funding for that come from? What constitutes "needing maintenance"? How does one become an "approved community partner"? Is the bylaw targeting the land the town office is located or does it also include Kingsmen Park, other parks, the pathways, roads and other spaces that are often used for the diverse cultural celebrations and events that take place in our town?

This bylaw may unintentionally impact youth, seniors, and community events where visibility and belonging matter. As someone who is also involved in youth community programs, I know you will appreciate also knowing that young people value having representation and a secure sense of belonging. Isn't it important for them to know that security extends to the town they call home as well?

I ask you to consider whether this bylaw improves safety and community cohesion or creates unintended consequences and division.

Thank you for your service to our town.

Sincerely,  
Katie M.

Hello councillor Claude Brown,

My name is Lorelei Wadsworth. I am someone who grew up in Strathmore, attended Strathmore Highschool, and who actively participates in the Strathmore Stampede as a volunteer.

I'm writing to you about the new neutrality bylaw. I am concerned that voting 'yes' on this law and therefore pushing the law into officiality will affect more than what is intended. I worry that for communities within Strathmore who identify themselves by flag and symbol, this will make it harder to express themselves. Not only the LGBTQ+ community (who many peers of mine are a part of) but other youth groups like scouts and SIKSIKA even. I am concerned if this law will actually solve anything in the long run, or if it only serves to damage the friendly open-minded image Strathmore has worked so hard to build. I also am concerned that this law goes against what makes the community spaces meaningful shared culture and celebration of our differences and diversity.

So in all, I implore you to vote 'no' on this neutrality bylaw to help keep Strathmore inclusive and welcoming to all

Thank you for your time, your neighbour Lorelei Wadsworth.

Dear Councillor Brown,

I am writing you as an 18 year resident of Strathmore.

I appreciate your focus on clarity, evidence and practical decision making.

One question I keep returning to is simple: what problem is this bylaw actually solving?

When I look at the Pride Crosswalk, I see a community-led initiative that costs taxpayers NOTHING and exists because residents put in a request, it was voted on and approved in a 4 to 2 vote and they created something meaningful for belonging and visibility.

From a policy perspective, I worry this bylaw is too broad and could create unintended consequences for community groups, events and cultural expression. I also worry about what enforcement would look like in practice and whether it creates clarity or confusion.

I know you bring a practical lense to governance. From that lense, I'm asking whether this is the most efficient and targeted way to address any real concern or whether it opens the door to unnecessary complexity.

Having such vague language opens the door to this potentially blocking the Filipino community from having flags at their Independence Day celebrations. It could block the British Flag at ceremonies. It could block sponsorship flags from the parades!

I would really value your careful consideration of how this plays out in real, everyday community life.

Sincerely,  
Mandy Gillespie.

Dear Mayor Pat Fule,

I am writing you personally as someone who has lived in Strathmore for 18 years, raised my family here and cares deeply about the direction our town is taking.

I've watched Strathmore grow into a community that, at its best, chooses inclusion over division. That's part of why I was so proud when Council supported the Pride crosswalk in 2023. It signaled that belonging matters here.

I also recognize your past support for community-led initiatives like the Pride crosswalk, the Legion crosswalk, and the Treaty 7 flag. Those decisions reflected a Strathmore that makes space for visible identity and community expression.

That's why I'm struggling with the proposed neutrality bylaw. It feels like a step away from the commitments this town has already made, including participation in the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities. Should this bylaw pass is the town prepared to remove its name from that list?

The Siksika flag and the Wheatland County have been chosen to be allowable flags (as they should be) but then that brings into question who decides who gets to be a "municipal partner" because that definition will shape whose identities remain visible in public space.

The crosswalk for pride was already voted on 4 to 2. 23 LGBTQIA+ youth are 5 times more likely to consider suicide and 7 times more likely to attempt compared to their hetero cis peers. There has been a drastic deterioration of mental health of trans youth and their parents since the 2024 ban on gender affirming care. If the crosswalk can show these youth that they are seen, valuable and loved in

some small way than it's important and invaluable.  
Little things add up and save lives.

I believe that all cultures and communities should  
be seen and celebrated, it makes our community  
more vibrant and beautiful.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Mandy Gillespie

18 year resident and taxpayer of Strathmore.

Dear Chisholm,

I am writing you as someone who understands you bring a strong background in banking, governance, and community service to your role.

One of the things I've always appreciated about Strathmore is how much it relies on people who quietly give back and invest in the community. That's what the Pride Crosswalk represents to me - community members giving their time, energy and resources to something inclusive and visible. People in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community face higher rates of depression, and suicide. Symbols like a town having a pride crosswalk can show them that they are loved, seen and valuable.

I understand that fiscal responsibility is important. This has not cost the taxpayers anything to paint and maintain the crosswalk. What will cost the town is the price to patrol, and enforce this bylaw. It will cost the town in lost revenue from not having sponsorship flags in the parade, in park rental revenue lost from groups like the Filipino Community who celebrate their Independence Day at Kinsman. It invites more vandalism to the existing crosswalk to expedite its removal by some people and costs the taxpayer in having to have the RCMP fine them.

Im asking you to consider whether this is clear, necessary, and proportionate policy or whether it risks creating more questions than answers.

Sincerely,

Mandy Gillespie, 18 year resident and taxpayer of Strathmore

28 April 2026

To Whom it may concern,

I trust you are well.

I am writing considering the proposed by-law interpreted partly as proposing to restrict all, other than the Canadian Flag, to private residence.

As a prelude, let me highlight the way I fathom a flag. It is **a powerful primary emblem of identity, serving as a representation of a nation's values and history.**

As a newcomer in Strathmore, I had the opportunity to showcase my culture and learnt a lot about other cultures from various parts of the world through various events. An example is the Black History Month Event and the Chinese New Year Event. Different cultures showcased their cultures, parading their flags as an emblem of who they are. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2025, the Community Holiday party was brimming with all of humanity. Yet there was harmony, without ethnic barriers. All these were public events, and each nationality displayed their flag.

I see the restriction of any nation's flag as a step towards erasure of their identity and culture. I note this with full comprehension that the Canadian National Flag takes precedence over any other in cases of multiple flag display.

Being a Strathmore resident should not erase or compromise any ethnicity. Is this by-law not some form of **apartheid**? As a foreign national, how would I engage in future events in restricted space? Are we not trying to turn Strathmore into another **Malaga Island, Maine (1912) or The Jekyll Island of Georgia (1950's)**? Is this by-law not coming in as an instrument of **forced assimilation or deliberate culture erasure**?

I recently saw a Facebook post about international food festival hosted by Strathmore High School. Different cultures showcased their indigenous food/dishes and were identified by their flags. Will the by-law say No to this? Will my children not see their flag in their school, and what impact will this have on their selfhood?

Could I probably be enlightened on the negative impact of any other nation's flag in Strathmore, lest I have missed the mark?

Let me reiterate though that the use of my national flag (mostly on events) is not tantamount to absolute sovereignty, but a mere emblem of identity. The use thereof does not replace or subvert the significance of the National Flag of Canada.

Kind Regards

Mapasure S

Dear Councillor Wiley,

No.  
Date Apr. 24/26

I am writing to express concern about the proposed neutrality bylaw and respectfully ask you to vote against it.

As a social studies educator and community leader, I know you understand the importance of inclusion, identity, and belonging - especially for youth.

Strathmore's strength has always been its family-oriented, connected community. Policies that reduce visibility in public spaces risk unintentionally affecting how included people feel.

While I understand the intent behind neutrality, I am concerned that this approach may not be applied consistently and could reduce positive community expression.

I would ask you to consider how this bylaw impacts students, families, and the overall sense of belonging in Strathmore.

Thank you for your work in education and community service.

Sincerely,

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

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No.

Date

My name is **ATIA Sec. 20(1)** I am writing to oppose the neutrality bylaw that's considering being passed. I am a transgender student, graduating this year. This law goes against my existence — though it may seem "small", this law tells me, and people like me, that we are not loved. That we do not matter. Almost 3 years ago, I tried to take my own life, because of not only a lack of support, but also the lack of acceptance in Alberta itself. I was 14. This is the case for many, not just me. 13, 14, 15, kids, adults, 6 feet under because of a hate fostered by ignorance. My life is not your choice, our lives are lives. Doing this will show a lack of support — a lack of community. This will kill someone in the long run. This will kill an upcoming gay teenager, this will kill the baby your neighbours just had who will grow up unsupported. The kid who was cast out in school, the grandparent who fought for us to be happy. They will hang, they will cry. We will not get them back. You can never get them back. We are dying because our existence is uncomfortable for you. I am a resident of Alberta just like you. Born and raised. I want you to know that my right to live is as much as yours. Take this in, please. I beg to be seen. I beg to be known. I beg you to not let kill my siblings. We are born on the same earth. Don't let hate blind you to blood.

**ATIA Sec. 20(1)**

April 24, 2026

Dear Mr. Wiley,

A long time Streetmore resident, I have lived through many different town councils, with many different agendas. I must say I was shocked by the proposed, regressive approach to personal expression you have put forth.

An educator for 30 years, I would hope someone in our profession would support inclusion and open-mindedness, rather than a narrow-minded, fear-mongering pandering to xenophobic, homophobic, tin-hat wearing minority.

Let's move forward in a positive way, and re-think your proposed changes,

Dear Councillor Witley,

Date April 24/26

Please vote AGAINST the proposed neutrality bylaw.

I want to be proud of the community that I live in!

I want my community to stand FOR Inclusion and belonging.

Let's celebrate everyone!

Let's welcome other

community members.

As an educator, you should know the importance of including

ALL of your students!

Let Strathmore stand for inclusion, identity and belonging. Sincerely,

Sharon Horne

April 30, 2026

True North Society  
Strathmore, Alberta

Strathmore Town Council & Mayor  
1 Parklane Drive  
Strathmore, AB T1P 1K2

**RE: Strathmore Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw**

Dear members of Strathmore Town Council and Mayor Fuel,

We are writing to you today in response to the proposed *Strathmore Public Space Neutrality Bylaw* put forward by Councillor Wiley. As you know, True North Society is a domestic violence support organization, whose primary mandate is safety, that has been operating in the Strathmore area for over 30 years. True North has worked to support the safety of vulnerable individuals through emergency shelter, community programming, outreach support and other social health initiatives and campaigns. We are grateful for the continued support of the Town of Strathmore and specifically Mayor and Council, for your recognition that our services are essential for the wellbeing of our community.

True North Society was the first domestic violence shelter across Canada to support all individuals impacted by violence regardless of gender identity, sex, religion, ethnicity, demographic, or sexual identity. True North firmly believes in our innovative inclusivity framework and ensuring that all those who require safety and belonging are cared for and have a safe space to heal. It is a fundamental element of our care practices.

Members of vulnerable and marginalized communities and groups face disproportionately higher rates of violence, assault, and social & health inequities due to intergenerational trauma, discrimination, stigma, and sociopolitical policies. We understand that the aim of the *Strathmore Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw* is to create more inclusivity, however, we would ask that the Town of Strathmore Councillors and Mayor Fule reconsider the bylaw pending consultation with those who are part of these marginalized communities who are most impacted, research best practices within inclusivity frameworks, and then determine what helps to create inclusivity and visibility for all, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Inclusion practices work directly to reduce negative health outcomes for vulnerable and at-risk individuals by reducing discrimination and stigma through awareness, education, supporting social belonging, and creating true communities of care and support. There is much research to demonstrate the positive outcomes of representation and solidarity via

public acknowledgement of these important issues, and it is critical that this is considered before moving forward with a Bylaw such as this.

We encourage all to consider the sociopolitical impact of the *Strathmore Public Spaces Neutrality Bylaw* and to empathetically engage with the vulnerable and at-risk populations the Bylaw will have the most impact on.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

True North Society Board of Directors & Staff

**True North**

Box 2162 | Strathmore, AB | T1P 1K2

403-934-6634 ext. 0

[general@truenorthab.com](mailto:general@truenorthab.com)

[www.truenorthab.com](http://www.truenorthab.com)

Apr 24, 2026

Dear Mayor Fule

I am writing to share my concerns about the proposed neutrality bylaw and to respectfully ask you to vote against it. Strathmore has always been a community known for being welcoming and family oriented. That sense of belonging is something many residents deeply value.

You have previously spoken about supporting grassroots initiatives and caring for vulnerable residents. The Pride Crosswalk was one such community-led initiative that helped create visibility and support for people who might otherwise feel unseen. From a community perspective, even small symbols can have a meaningful impact on youth mental health and wellbeing.

Strathmore's strength has always been its small-town spirit of inclusion and connection.

I am concerned that this bylaw is overly broad and risks removing positive community expressions rather than solving a clearly defined problem. It may also unintentionally impact cultural events, traditions, and community groups.

2

I would ask you to consider,  
what kind of community do we want  
Strathmore to be known as - one that  
limits expression, or one that  
fosters belonging?

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

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**From:** Laura Ryan [ATIA Sec. 20(1)]  
**Sent:** April 30, 2026 7:00 PM  
**To:** LegServ Admin  
**Subject:** K

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Members of Strathmore Town Council,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed neutrality bylaw that would prohibit Pride crosswalks and other symbols of diversity and inclusion on town property.

I appreciate the intention to maintain a secular government, particularly regarding religion, as this is an important value in a diverse community. However, I believe the bylaw groups together things that are fundamentally different.

The Pride flag and crosswalk are not religious or political symbols. They represent acceptance, inclusion, and support for a wide range of people. Their presence signals that the town is welcoming and respectful of all residents. Removing them under the banner of neutrality could unintentionally communicate the opposite.

Neutrality does not need to mean eliminating all visible support for diverse groups. Pride symbols do not impose beliefs or exclude others; rather, they acknowledge the diversity of our community and promote a safe, inclusive environment for everyone.

Many municipalities across Canada use similar symbols to demonstrate their commitment to inclusion and respect, helping to foster stronger and more welcoming communities.

I respectfully ask Council to reconsider this bylaw and explore a more balanced approach—one that upholds neutrality while continuing to support inclusivity.

I would also like this letter to be included in the May 6 Town Council meeting agenda package.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Ryan

Resident of Wheatland County

April 24, 2026

To the Mayor and Council of Strathmore,

I am writing to formally express my strong opposition to the proposed “Public Space Neutrality Bylaw,” scheduled for debate on May 6, 2026. I am a resident of this community and I feel a responsibility to speak plainly about what this motion represents, not just in policy terms, but in human terms.

The stated intent of this bylaw is to maintain “neutral” public spaces. I would respectfully challenge that framing. There is nothing neutral about removing the symbols of one community while the broader visual landscape remains unchanged. To erase a group’s visibility from municipal property is not neutrality, it is a statement. It tells LGBTQ+ residents that their presence is conditional, that their belonging is up for debate. That is not a community I believe any of us should want to represent.

What concerns me deeply is how recognizable this pattern is. Throughout history, whenever those in power have encountered a community, a culture, or a way of life they did not fully understand or were not willing to make the effort to understand, the response has too often been the same: ban it, erase it, legislate it out of sight. We have watched this happen to Indigenous peoples, to religious minorities, to immigrants, to the disabled, to women seeking basic rights. In nearly every case, history has looked back on those decisions with shame.

Rather than moving toward restriction, I would ask this council to consider a different path entirely: sit down with members of these communities. Invite them in. Listen to their stories, their journeys, what they have endured and what they hope for. I am firmly convinced that if we did that, if we genuinely opened those conversations, we would discover far more common ground than divides us. Every person has known hardship. Every person has experienced loss and joy. Every person is here, trying to live their life as fully and honestly as they can. That is not a radical idea. That is simply our shared humanity.

I want to be clear about where I stand on the limits of free expression: I do not support speech or symbols that are hateful or that incite violence. That is a reasonable line. But the Pride community are people living their lives, truthfully, openly, and at considerable personal cost in many cases. They are breaking no laws. They are harming no one. They are simply asking to exist visibly in the community where they live. Passing a bylaw to suppress that visibility is not a neutral administrative decision. It is a choice to push one group’s values onto everyone else, which is precisely the thing this motion claims to oppose.

I respectfully and firmly urge this council to vote against this motion on May 6th, and to instead invest that energy into building a Strathmore where every resident feels seen, valued, and welcome.

Respectfully submitted,  
A Strathmore Resident

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Councillor Brent Wiley's motion to create a Neutrality Bylaw that is being brought forward for consideration at the May 6, 2026, Regular Council Meeting. This motion will affect the Pride crosswalk that is already there and does not reflect Strathmore's history, values, or the commitments our town has already made to inclusion.

Strathmore's Pride crosswalk was not imposed on the community. It was created through local initiative, volunteer labour, and community support. Residents, families, and youth came together to paint it as a visible sign that Strathmore is a place where everyone belongs. For years, it has stood as a symbol of safety and welcome — especially for LGBTQ+ young people who often look for reassurance that their town sees and accepts them.

The crosswalk has also been part of Strathmore's broader effort to present itself as a growing, diverse, and family-friendly community. It has been featured positively in local media, supported by residents, and embraced by many businesses and organizations. It has never caused safety issues, disruptions, or financial burden to the municipality.

Given this history, the sudden push to ban Pride crosswalks — particularly when it is seemingly motivated by personal religious beliefs — is deeply concerning. Municipal decisions must be grounded in fairness, evidence, and the responsibility to serve all residents equally. When a councillor supports symbolic recognition for some groups (such as Veterans) but seeks to eliminate recognition for LGBTQ+ residents, it creates unequal treatment and undermines the claim of "neutrality."

Across Canada, Pride symbols in public spaces are recognized as expressions of inclusion, not political statements. Human-rights tribunals have affirmed that selectively excluding Pride recognition can constitute discrimination when it is rooted in bias or applied inconsistently.

The 2024 Ontario Human Rights Tribunal decision involving the Township of Emo made this clear: Pride is a matter of equality, not ideology. (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/ontario-human-rights-tribunal-fines-emo-township-for-refusing-pride-proclamation-1.7390134>) They ruled that the Township of Emo and its then-mayor, Harold McQuaker, discriminated against the LGBTQ2S+ community by refusing in 2020 to proclaim June as Pride Month and display a rainbow flag for a week. The tribunal ruled Borderland Pride be awarded \$15,000, with \$10,000 coming from the township itself and the other \$5,000 coming from Emo mayor Harold McQuaker. (In this case it was the Mayor himself who was fervently against the Town providing a service to their Pride community.) In addition to the compensation, the tribunal also ordered McQuaker and the Chief Administrative Officer of the municipality to complete a "Human Rights 101" training course offered by the Ontario Human Rights Commission within 30 days.

I would suggest that such training would be beneficial for our local town councillors.

I am aware that Action4Canada has a call to action on their website encouraging their members to write letters in support of Councillor Wiley's motion, where they add "protect Canadian heritage and values" to their statement. <https://action4canada.com/call-to-action-strathmore-ab-support-public-space-neutrality-bylaw-protect-canadian-heritage-and-values/> This suggestion that Pride symbols conflict with Canadian heritage denies the fact that Canada's heritage includes a long and ongoing commitment to equality under the Charter, to multiculturalism, and to protecting minority groups from discrimination. Municipalities across the country — large and small — display Pride symbols as part of this commitment.

Strathmore has already demonstrated these values through its own Pride crosswalk, which was created by local residents, supported by local businesses, and embraced by many families. Removing it now would not protect Canadian values; it would contradict them. Reversing that position would send a harmful message — especially to LGBTQ+ youth, who are statistically more vulnerable to bullying, homelessness, and mental-health challenges. Removing or banning Pride crosswalks does not make our town more neutral; it makes it less welcoming.

I feel that it should be noted that The Canadian Anti-Hate Network describes Action4Canada as “one of the country’s most active Christian Nationalist organizations” with a history of anti-2SLGBTQ+ activism and conspiratorial claims. [Corporate Ledgers Show Action4Canada Raised Over \\$790K in 2022. Here’s How They Spent It - Canadian Anti-Hate Network](#)

Therefore, I believe that it is also important to recognize that Canadian faith leaders themselves have spoken clearly about the dangers of merging religious identity with political power. [Statement on Christian nationalism from the Anglican Church of Canada - Anglican Church of Canada](#) In 2025, the Anglican Church of Canada issued a national statement warning that Christian nationalism is a distortion of Christian faith and a threat to Canada’s democratic and pluralistic society. They affirmed that Christianity should not be privileged by the state and that attempts to fuse religious authority with civic decision-making undermine both religious freedom and the equal dignity of all Canadians.

I respectfully ask Council to:

- Reject Councillor Wilson’s motion;
- Affirm Strathmore’s ongoing commitment to inclusion and equal treatment; and
- Continue allowing Pride crosswalks as a visible sign that all residents are valued members of this community.

Strathmore is at its best when it chooses compassion, fairness, and community over division. I urge Council to uphold those values.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Pekrul

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

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April 29, 2026

Kevin Scoble, CAO  
Mayor and Members of Council  
Strathmore Town Council  
P.O. Box 2280  
Strathmore, AB T1P 1K2

**Re: Request to Maintain Existing Community Painted Crosswalk**

Dear Mr. Scoble,

Thank you for the time and attention Council is giving to the proposed Public Space Neutrality Bylaw. I am writing regarding the existing painted crosswalk adjacent to Strathmore Town Hall and to formally request approval for its continued maintenance under a grandfathered approach.

The crosswalk referenced in this letter is the same crosswalk identified in the Notice of Motion as being eligible for grandfathering. Our request is specific and limited in scope: that the existing crosswalk be permitted to remain in place and be maintained until such time as the underlying pavement requires replacement, at which point it would be returned to a standard crosswalk configuration.

Since its installation, the crosswalk has been maintained through community support and has not resulted in any ongoing cost or maintenance obligation for the Town of Strathmore. That approach would continue. Prospect Human Services is prepared to coordinate a community-based maintenance model that brings together local organizations, volunteers, and potential sponsors to ensure the crosswalk remains in good condition. All costs associated with repainting and upkeep would be borne by the community and would not fall to the Town or municipality.

Maintenance would be coordinated by the community at no cost to the Town and would occur with the awareness of Administration. The Town would retain full authority to require changes or to discontinue repainting should safety, visibility, or pavement condition warrant. Repainting would cease entirely at the point of pavement replacement. This request applies solely to the existing crosswalk referenced in the Notice of Motion and does not establish a precedent for new or additional non-standard roadway markings.

When maintenance is completed to a high standard, repainting can reasonably extend the service life of the crosswalk and defer the need for standard municipal maintenance. This approach ensures the Town does not assume financial or operational responsibility for a non-standard asset while allowing an existing feature to remain in place until replacement is otherwise required.

We believe this request aligns with the intent of the proposed grandfathering provision and provides clarity regarding roles, responsibilities, and costs.

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Thank you for your consideration. Prospect remains committed to working collaboratively with the Town of Strathmore on community-based initiatives that are clearly scoped, well managed, and respectful of municipal processes.

Sincerely,

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Kevin McNichol  
Chief Executive Officer  
Prospect Human Services

Cc [LSAdmin@strathmore.ca](mailto:LSAdmin@strathmore.ca)

ATIA Sec. 20(1)



# Strathmore

## CITIZEN COMMUNICATION FORM

We're happy to help resolve any concerns, and this form will help us respond as quickly as possible. Please provide as many details as you can.

The Town of Strathmore is committed to providing our employees, contractors, and visitors with a safe workplace. Thank you for helping us by keeping language respectful.

DATE AND TIME: 04/15/2026	
NAME: TERESA CHAMBERGAIN	PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED] ATIA Sec. 20(1)
ADDRESS: [REDACTED] ATIA Sec. 20(1)	EMAIL: [REDACTED] ATIA Sec. 20(1)
POINTS TO BE ADDRESSED: <p>Rainbow driveway is offensive. Please replace with a Maple or Poppy.</p> <p>Crosswalk outside office building, with the rainbow crosswalk she is referring to.</p>	
STAFF MEMBER WHO TOOK COMMUNICATION FORM:	[REDACTED] ATIA Sec. 20(1)
ASSIGNED TO:	[REDACTED]
CITIZEN CONTACTED – DATE AND TIME:	
FOLLOW UP COMMENTS:	

# **Neutrality**

Debunking the myths

Peter Jenner, CD, RSE

May 1, 2026

The idea that a government can legislate via true neutrality is not in line with the reality of human psychology. The nature of by-laws targeting neutrality in public symbols and town owned spaces is often backed up, as it is in this case, with the concept of safety. There is a lack of evidence to support that safety is an actual concern with regards to non standard crosswalk designs, and for the few safety factors that do exist, mitigation strategies are easy and routine to implement. The negative impact on marginalized and minority populations are real, not perceived and the proposal lacks substance on whether majority class symbols would also be impacted.

Government is a body that aims to create, and enforce rules upon a society. In Canada we rely on democratically elected representatives at all three levels of government to implement legislation and policy on our behalf. The very basis of this concept is in and of itself, a non neutral ideological entity. Hiding behind the mask of neutrality only serves to create an illusion that bias and ideology don't exist in decision making. Governments should strive to use fact based decision making towards pragmatic change. This does not however preclude a town from celebrating peoples differences, and creating smart policies that offload work from town council onto the administration and provide clear directions on how to implement the requests of groups looking for awareness installations such as flags, branding, and crosswalks.

According to research by the Transportation Association of Canada in 2023, Non-Standard crosswalks may perform as well as, or in some cases, better than standard crosswalks. It's important to note that there is no one standard legal definition of a crosswalk in Alberta, and the concept of a standard crosswalk refers to parallel white lines, or thick "zebra stripe" or "Ladder Rung" striped designs. These designs themselves do not have an approved size, maintenance cycle, safety testing regime or other factors that would be necessary to consider them a "precedent standard". The TAC identifies that a municipality wishing to mitigate the safety concerns of non-standard crosswalks may choose to pick a parallel white line ladder rung combination design, where the pattern for awareness, whether it's LGBTQ, Transgenderism, Anti-Bullying, Ukraine or Veterans, would be required to exist as either colored rungs, or within the rungs of the ladder. These markings should be painted with approved road marking paints to provide wear resistance, ease of cleaning up vandalism, and grip for pedestrians.

What the bylaw proposal fails to mention is whether or not symbology outside the crosswalks and permitted flags would be affected by this bylaw. Since the town would no

longer allow for ideological symbols on town property, would we still have Christmas displays? Does the town intend to prohibit protesting on public property, as this would constitute a display of political or ideological sentiments on town property? There are currently several instances where groups that do not represent all, or even a significant portion, of the population enjoy representation on town owned property. The local hockey team enjoys branding in the publicly owned hockey rink, The agricultural society, despite having it's own property right next door, enjoys a branded office in the town community center attached to the high school, and the town routinely displays Christmas decorations, but no other groups holidays in and around Kinsmen Park. The town could be committing themselves to removing far more than two crosswalks and eliminating the need to change flags if this bylaw were to pass.

The town could look to other sources of information for ways to mitigate council time spent on things like crosswalks and flags by seeking alternative measures such as policies and directives that allow for installations to remain, other groups to apply for and be granted their own installations, and the town to offload or recoup the cost of said installations through fee guides. The only reason something should be prohibited on town property is if it violates existing public-safety, hate speech, or other laws that have already been established and tested against the charter of rights and freedoms.

## REFERENCES

Susana Rinderle, 2025

<https://susanarinderle.medium.com/the-dangerous-myth-of-neutrality-in-a-world-gone-mad-ba23825565e7>

Nicholas Schwarm, 2018

<https://fisherpub.sjf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1221&context=ur>

Transportation Association of Canada, 2023

<https://prestohost167.inmagic.com/Presto/content/GetDoc.axd?ctlID=ZjU2ZmI5MzYtOGFkZC00MTE3LWEwMmMtZDAwMzAwNGJyYmJm&rID=MTczNjl=&pID=Mjg2&attchmnt=False&uSesDM=False&rldx=Mjk=&rCFU=>



# Request for Decision

**To:** Council

**Contact:** Kevin Scoble, Chief Administrative Officer

**Date Prepared:** April 15, 2026

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Regular Council Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2026

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** THAT Council adopt the April 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented in Attachment I.

**REPORT SUMMARY**

**KEY ISSUE(S):**

Pursuant to Section 208(1)(iii) of the *Municipal Government Act*, the minutes of the April 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting are given to Council for adoption.

**OBJECTIVE:**

For Council to adopt the Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

N/A

**OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IMPACTED:**



Community Connection



Managing Growth



Financial Resilience



Economic Growth



Protecting Water and Green Spaces



Community Safety and Wellbeing

**HOW THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ARE MET:**

N/A

**IMPLEMENTATION**

**NEXT STEPS:**

Once signed, the April 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes will be posted on the Town's website.

**ALTERNATIVE MOTIONS:**

1. Council may adopt the recommended motion.
2. Council may provide further direction regarding the Regular Council Meeting Minutes.

**REPORT AUTHOR:**

Claudette Thorhaug, Legislative Services Officer

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Attachment I: REGULAR COUNCIL - 15 Apr 2026 - Meeting Minutes](#)

Veronica Anderson, Legislative Services Officer

Approved  
- 24 Apr  
2026

Johnathan Strathdee, Manager of Legislative Services

Approved  
- 29 Apr  
2026



# MINUTES

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

6:00 PM - Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Council Chambers, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore AB

### **COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Mayor Pat Fule, Councillor Claude Brown, Councillor Jim Chisholm, Councillor Matt Hyde, Councillor Melissa Langmaid, Councillor Richard Wegener (virtual), and Deputy Mayor Brent Wiley

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Kevin Scoble (Chief Administrative Officer), Jamie Dugdale (Director of Infrastructure, Operations, and Development Services), Mark Pretzlaff (Director of Community and Protective Services), Kara Rusk (Director of Strategic, Administrative, and Financial Services), and Johnathan Strathdee (Manager of Legislative Services)

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fule called the April 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

#### **Resolution No. 100.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Langmaid

THAT Council adopt the April 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Agenda as presented.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

### **3. PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **3.1. Bylaw No. 25-27, Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw (Lakewood Phase 2 Amendments: Secondary Suites, Garage Suites, and Reduced Side Yard Setbacks)**

Mayor Fule opened the Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 25-27 at 6:02 p.m. This public hearing was held pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments there to.

Two written submissions were received from Wheatland County and Ryan and Kari Pender.

Chuck Procter presented for Administration.

Scott Silva spoke to Bylaw No. 25-27.

Brian Martin spoke to Bylaw No. 25-27.

Kent Riehl spoke to Bylaw No. 25-27.

Ryan Pender spoke to Bylaw No. 25-27.

Mayor Fule closed the Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 25-27, being a bylaw to amend the Town's Land Use Bylaw No. 14-11 at 6:42 p.m.

#### 4. **BYLAWS**

##### 4.1. **Bylaw No. 25-27, Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw (Lakewood Phase 2 Amendments: Secondary Suites, Garage Suites, and Reduced Side Yard Setbacks)**

###### **Resolution No. 101.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Brown

THAT Council give Second Reading to Bylaw No. 25-27, being a bylaw to amend the Town of Strathmore Land Use Bylaw.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

###### **Resolution No. 102.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Wiley

THAT Council give Third Reading to Bylaw No. 25-27, being a bylaw to amend the Town of Strathmore Land Use Bylaw.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

#### 5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## 6. DELEGATIONS

### 6.1. Delegation – Western District Historical Society

- Rhonda Stockwell
- Lynn Fair

#### **Resolution No. 103.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Wiley

THAT Council direct Administration to work with the Western District Historical Society to create a report on the financial and organizational implications of the request for two binzebos at Gray's Park and a bulletin board at Kinsmen Park and another one at Gray's Park.

AND THAT Council direct Administration to bring the report to the June Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA

### **Resolution No. 104.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Chisholm

THAT Council adopt the recommendations of the following agenda reports by an omnibus motion:

- 8.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes – April 1, 2026
- 9.2 Corporate Strategic Plan & Financial Plan Quarterly Report – Q4 2025
- 9.3 Stormwater Agreement Amendment
- 11.2.1 2025-2026 Community Futures Wild Rose Impact Report
- 12.1 Minister Letter 2026 – Town of Strathmore – March 24, 2026
- 12.3 FAIM – Letter of Appreciation – March 31 2026
- 12.4 WSC & True North Society – Letter – March 30, 2026
- 12.5 Letter from Minister Williams Re: Bill 28

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**8. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**8.1. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – April 1, 2026**

The following motion was adopted by the consent agenda:

THAT Council adopt the April 1, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented in Attachment I.

**9. BUSINESS**

Councillor Langmaid left the April 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting at 7:20 p.m.

**Resolution No. 105.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Brown

THAT Council take a 5-minute recess.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Langmaid rejoined the April 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Mayor Fule reconvened the April 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting at 7:27 p.m.

**9.1. 2025 Audited Financial Statements**

**Resolution No. 106.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Langmaid

THAT Council accept the 2025 Annual Audited Financial Statements as presented in Attachment I.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**9.2. Corporate Strategic Plan & Financial Plan Quarterly Report – Q4 2025**

**9.3. Stormwater Agreement Amendment**

The following motion was adopted by the consent agenda:

THAT Council authorize the Mayor and CAO to sign the First Amending Agreement of the existing Stormwater Discharge Agreement.

**9.4. 911 Fire Dispatch Options**

**Resolution No. 107.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Wiley

THAT Council direct Administration to request a meeting with Wheatland County Administration for the purpose of reviewing 911 Fire Dispatch Services and bring a report back to Council including a 911 Fire Dispatch Agreement with a recommended provider.

AND THAT Council direct Administration to bring a report on May 6, 2026.

**Resolution No. 108.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Wegener

THAT the motion be amended to read as follows:

“THAT Council direct Administration to request a meeting with Wheatland County, the Villages and Siksika Administrations for the purpose of reviewing 911 Fire Dispatch Services and bring a report back to Council including a 911 Fire Dispatch Agreement with a recommended provider.

AND THAT Council direct Administration to bring a report by May 6, 2026.”

**WITHDRAWN**

**Resolution No. 109.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Wiley

THAT the motion be amended to read as follows:

“THAT Council direct Administration to request a meeting with Wheatland County and Siksika Administrations for the purpose of reviewing 911 Fire Dispatch Services and bring a report back to Council including a 911 Fire Dispatch Agreement with a recommended provider.

AND THAT Council direct Administration to bring a report by May 6, 2026.”

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. 107.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Wiley

THAT Council direct Administration to request a meeting with Wheatland County and Siksika Administrations for the purpose of reviewing 911 Fire Dispatch Services and bring a report back to Council including a 911 Fire Dispatch Agreement with a recommended provider.

AND THAT Council direct Administration to bring a report by May 6, 2026.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**9.5. Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre – Sport Court Feasibility**

**Resolution No. 110.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Chisholm

THAT Council direct Administration to bring the Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre – Sport Court Feasibility, including financial implications to a future Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**10. BYLAWS**

**10.1. Cemetery Bylaw No. 26-04**

**Resolution No. 111.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Brown

THAT Council give First Reading to Bylaw No. 26-04, being the Cemetery Bylaw.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. 112.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Wegener

THAT Council amend Bylaw No. 26-04, section 10.1 Field of Honour to read:

The Town maintains a Field of Honour section for the burial of Veterans, Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members, still serving and retired Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) members.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, and Councillor Hyde

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. 113.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Langmaid

THAT Council take a 5-minute recess.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

Mayor Fule reconvened the April 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting at 9:37 p.m.

**Resolution No. 114.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Langmaid

THAT Council give Second Reading to Bylaw No. 26-04, being the Cemetery Bylaw as amended.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. 115.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Langmaid

THAT Council gives unanimous consent to proceed with Third and Final Reading to Bylaw No. 26-04, being the Cemetery Bylaw as amended.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. 116.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Wiley

THAT Council give Third and Final Reading to Bylaw No. 26-04, being the Cemetery Bylaw as amended.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**10.2. Tax Arrears Payment Plan Bylaw No. 26-09**

**Resolution No. 117.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Wiley

THAT Council give First Reading to Bylaw No. 26-09, being the Tax Arrears Payment Plan Bylaw.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. 118.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Wiley

THAT Council give Second Reading to Bylaw No. 26-09, being the Tax Arrears Payment Plan Bylaw.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. 119.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Wiley

THAT Council gives unanimous consent to give Third and Final Reading to Bylaw No. 26-09, being the Tax Arrears Payment Plan Bylaw.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. 120.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Wiley

THAT Council give Third and Final Reading to Bylaw No. 26-09, being the Tax Arrears Payment Plan Bylaw.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**10.3. Tax Penalty and Tax Installment Payment Plan Bylaw No. 26-10**

**Resolution No. 121.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Hyde

THAT Council give First Reading to Bylaw No. 26-10, being the Tax Penalty and Tax Installment Payment Plan Bylaw.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. 122.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Hyde

THAT Council give Second Reading to Bylaw No. 26-10, being the Tax Penalty and Tax Installment Payment Plan Bylaw.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. 123.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Hyde

THAT Council gives unanimous consent to proceed with Third and Final Reading to Bylaw No. 26-10, being the Tax Penalty and Tax Installment Payment Plan Bylaw.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. 124.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Hyde

THAT Council give Third and Final Reading to Bylaw No. 26-10, being the Tax Penalty and Tax Installment Payment Plan Bylaw.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. 125.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Langmaid

THAT Council extend the April 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting until 11:00 p.m.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**11. COUNCILLOR INFORMATION & INQUIRIES**

**11.1. QUESTIONS BETWEEN COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL STATEMENTS**

**Resolution No. 126.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Wiley

THAT Council direct Administration to create a report on our Bylaw Officer's coverage regarding:

- Do we align with best practices with like-sized municipalities regarding: number of officers, hours of coverage (i.e., Monday to Friday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and description of duties
- Does our RCMP require increased assistance from bylaw officers

AND THAT Council direct Administration to bring the report to the May 13 Committee of the Whole for Council's review and consideration.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** Councillor Langmaid

**CARRIED**

**11.2. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

11.2.1. 2025-2026 Community Futures Wild Rose Impact Report

**11.3. QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD**

None.

**11.4. ADMINISTRATIVE INQUIRIES**

None.

**11.5. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Resolution No. 127.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Brown

THAT Council waive the requirement for a notice under section 30.1 of *Council Procedure Bylaw No. 23-17* to hear Councillor Wegener's motions regarding Provincial Funding for Regional Water Infrastructure and Provincial Support for Small-Municipality Transit Connections tonight.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**11.5.1. Provincial Funding for Regional Water Infrastructure – Councillor Wegener**

**Resolution No. 128.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Wegener

**WHEREAS** Strathmore Town Council's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan includes the priority of Protecting Water and Green Spaces to ensure Council is proactive in responding to changing environmental conditions.

**AND WHEREAS** water is a finite and essential resource, and responsible long-term planning is required to ensure the Town's environmental impact is minimized while supporting sustainable development for current and future residents;

**AND WHEREAS** the Town relies on a limited and regulated water supply that must be managed carefully to ensure reliability, resilience, and affordability over time;

**AND WHEREAS** the Calgary region is experiencing rapid population and economic growth, resulting in increased demand on shared water resources, with many smaller municipalities facing similar capacity and allocation pressures;

**AND WHEREAS** water allocations in southern Alberta are driven by provincial regulation, existing licensed allocations, and environmental considerations, limiting opportunities for expansion.

**AND WHEREAS** funding and resourcing continues to be a challenge in managing fast growing municipalities.

I move:

THAT Council direct Administration to complete a draft Resolution for the 2026 Alberta Municipalities Convention that advocates for increased provincial funding and regulatory reform to support regional water supply infrastructure and new water licenses for high- growth municipalities.

AND that Council direct Administration to bring the resolution to the May 20, 2026 Council Meeting for consideration.

**FOR:** Councillor Wegener

**AGAINST:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, and Councillor Wiley

**DEFEATED**

**11.5.2. Provincial Support for Small-Municipality Transit Connections – Councillor Wegener**

**Resolution No. 129.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Wegener

**WHEREAS** Strathmore Town Council's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan includes the priority of Community Safety and Wellbeing , intended to create communities for residents which promote optimum lifestyles.

**AND WHEREAS** many Strathmore residents commute to Calgary on a daily basis;

**AND WHEREAS** encouraging the use of mass transit helps reduce highway congestion, improves road safety, and lowers greenhouse gas emissions;

**AND WHEREAS** providing cost-effective transit options helps alleviate the financial strain caused by rising fuel costs and ensures residents have transportation choices that meet their needs;

**AND WHEREAS** expanding regional transit options supports regional economic development and connectivity.

I move:

THAT Council direct Administration to complete a draft Resolution for the 2026 Alberta Municipalities Convention that asked the Provincial Government to create a funding program for intermunicipal transit between mid-sized towns and major cities.

AND that Council direct Administration to bring the resolution to the May 20, 2026 Council Meeting for consideration.

**FOR:** Councillor Langmaid, and Councillor Wegener

**AGAINST:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, and Councillor Wiley

**DEFEATED**

**11.5.3. Neutrality Bylaw – Councillor Wiley**

**WHEREAS** Municipalities are responsible for developing and maintaining safe, viable, and representative communities pursuant to the Municipal Government Act ;

**AND WHEREAS** Council is responsible for ensuring that municipal facilities and infrastructure remain welcoming and inclusive to all residents by maintaining a position of political and ideological neutrality;

**AND WHEREAS** Council desires that municipal assets—including flagpoles, streets, and crosswalks—be used to represent the common identity of all citizens through the display of official government symbols and standardized safety markings;

Notice is hereby given that the following motion will be brought forward for consideration at the May 6, 2026 Regular Council Meeting:

THAT Council direct Administration to draft a "Public Space Neutrality Bylaw" for Council's consideration, which shall include provisions to:

1. Limit the flags displayed on municipal buildings, flagpoles, and Town-owned property to official government flags, including the National Flag of Canada, the Province of Alberta Flag, the Town of Strathmore Flag, and the flags of our municipal partners, such as Siksika Nation and Wheatland County;
2. Ensure that all future municipal crosswalks and roadway markings are maintained in standardized traffic-safety configurations (such as continental or ladder patterns) and remain free from non-standard colors or symbols associated with specific ideological causes or social movements;
3. Include a grandfathering provision stating that any existing non-standard crosswalks, or those previously approved by Council motion, be permitted until such a time as scheduled maintenance or replacement is required, at which point they shall be converted to standardized configurations; and
4. Clarify that such regulations apply only to flagpoles and crosswalks on public municipal property and do not regulate displays or symbols on private property.

Councillor Langmaid left the April 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting at 10:19 p.m.

Councillor Langmaid rejoined the April 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting at 10:21 p.m.

**12. CORRESPONDENCE**

**12.1. Minister Letter 2026 – Town of Strathmore – March 24, 2026**

**12.2. Letter – Strathmore Alliance Church – March 25, 2026**

**12.3. FAIM – Letter of Appreciation – March 31 2026**

**12.4. WSC & True North Society – Letter – March 30, 2026**

**12.5. Letter from Minister Williams Re: Bill 28**

**13. CLOSED MEETING**

**Resolution No. 130.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Chisholm

THAT Council move In Camera to discuss items related to section 29(1)(b)(iii) and 26 of the *Access to Information Act* at 10:25 p.m.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**13.1. Council CAO Dialogue – Advice from officials – ATIA S. 29(1)(b)(iii)**

**13.2. Closure of TWP 240 Project – Disclosure Harmful to Intergovernmental Relations – ATIA S. 26**

**Resolution No. 131.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Langmaid

THAT Council move out of Camera at 10:46 p.m.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. 132.04.26**

Moved by Councillor Langmaid

THAT Council authorize Administration to capitalize the entire TWP 240 Project, funded by \$950,000 from the Capital Budget and \$184,459 from the Operating Budget for a total of \$1,134,459.

**FOR:** Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

**AGAINST:** None.

**CARRIED**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Fule adjourned the April 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting at 10:50 p.m.

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Mayor

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Director of Strategic, Administrative,  
and Financial Services



## NOTICE OF MOTION

Submitted to Administration: **April 9, 2026**

Notice given to Council: **April 15, 2026**

Council Meeting for discussion: **May 6, 2026**

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**SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Brent Wiley**

**SUBJECT: Public Space Neutrality Bylaw**

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**WHEREAS** Municipalities are responsible for developing and maintaining safe, viable, and representative communities pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act*;

**AND WHEREAS** Council is responsible for ensuring that municipal facilities and infrastructure remain welcoming and inclusive to all residents by maintaining a position of political and ideological neutrality;

**AND WHEREAS** Council desires that municipal assets—including flagpoles, streets, and crosswalks—be used to represent the common identity of all citizens through the display of official government symbols and standardized safety markings;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council direct Administration to draft a "Public Space Neutrality Bylaw" for Council's consideration, which shall include provisions to:

1. Limit the flags displayed on municipal buildings, flagpoles, and Town-owned property to official government flags, including the National Flag of Canada, the Province of Alberta Flag, the Town of Strathmore Flag, and the flags of our municipal partners, such as Siksika Nation and Wheatland County;
2. Ensure that all future municipal crosswalks and roadway markings are maintained in standardized traffic-safety configurations (such as continental or ladder patterns) and remain free from non-standard colors or symbols associated with specific ideological causes or social movements;
3. Include a grandfathering provision stating that any existing non-standard crosswalks, or those previously approved by Council motion, be permitted until such a time as scheduled maintenance or replacement is required, at which point they shall be converted to standardized configurations; and
4. Clarify that such regulations apply only to flagpoles and crosswalks on public municipal property and do not regulate displays or symbols on private property.



# Report for Council

**To:** Council

**Contact:** Kevin Scoble, Chief Administrative Officer

**Date Prepared:** April 22, 2026

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2026

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>2026 Property Tax Rate Bylaw No. 26-12</b>
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**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** THAT Council give First Reading to Bylaw No. 26-12, being the 2026 Property Tax Rate Bylaw.

THAT Council give Second Reading to Bylaw No. 26-12, being the 2026 Property Tax Rate Bylaw.

THAT Council give unanimous consent to give third and final reading to Bylaw No. 26-12, being the 2026 Property Tax Rate Bylaw.

THAT Council give Third Reading to Bylaw No. 26-12, being the 2026 Property Tax Rate Bylaw.

<b>REPORT SUMMARY</b>
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**KEY ISSUE(S):**

The key issue is whether it wishes to approve the Tax Rate Bylaw as presented.

Passing the bylaw includes an update of the ratio of residential to non-residential tax rates of 1.56. Administration recommends this update, compared to 2025's ratio of 1.495.

Council will need to pass the 2026 Property Tax Bylaw at the current (May 6th) meeting, otherwise Council will need to call a Special Council Meeting to ensure that Administration has the time required to produce the 2026 Property Tax notices with giving tax payers the at least 30 days to pay if they are not currently on a Tax Payment Plan.

**OBJECTIVE:**

For Council to pass the 2026 Property Tax Rate Bylaw as presented.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The Property Tax Rate Bylaw impacts the Town's capital projects and the operational programs and services provided to residents and businesses. Raising too little tax revenue

could impact the programs and services provided to the community or delay capital infrastructure investment and renewal. Collecting too much property tax could place a financial burden on residents and businesses and curb investment in the community. Finding a balance point for current and future tax revenue is important for the entire community.

**BACKGROUND:**

Council passed the 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets on November 25, 2025. At the time, the annual property tax increase was forecast to be 13.0% overall for 2026.

With the proposed Bylaw, the average residential taxpayer will see a year-over-year tax increase of 5.8% (an total increase of \$232 annually) \$24 of this year-over-year increase is due to Municipal taxes, \$192 is from provincial education requisitions, and \$15 is from Seniors requisitions.

The 2026 Budget as approved included an estimated 2.8% Municipal tax increase. Due to higher than expected growth in the Town, and the recommended change to a 1.56 rate ratio, the average Municipal tax increase for residential properties will be 0.9%.

The 2026 education requisition received from the Provincial Government in March ended up being \$8.6 million - a 16% percent increase over last year. Administration overestimated the education requisition, which ended up having a favourable impact to residents on overall tax increases between 2025 and 2026 compared to what was expected during the budgeting process.

**OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IMPACTED:**



Community Connection



Managing Growth



Financial Resilience



Economic Growth



Protecting Water and Green Spaces



Community Safety and Wellbeing

**HOW THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ARE MET:**

The Property Tax Rate Bylaw is developed through the direction of the 2026 Operating Budget, which builds on Council's financial strategy of stable tax increases, reduction of the Town's debt, and building financial reserves. The Town's taxes help fund the balance of Council's strategic priorities as well.

**COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS:**

N/A

**INTERNAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Once the Property Tax Bylaw is approved, Administration will proceed with producing and mailing tax notices to residents and businesses in mid-May (if approved at this Meeting). Any delay in the passing of the Property Tax Rate Bylaw beyond the May 6 Regular Council Meeting could push the mailing date and the property tax due date beyond the dates referenced above with out calling a Special Meeting of Council.

**LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS AND REFERENCES:**

Under Section 353(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*, the Town of Strathmore must pass a property tax bylaw annually.

The Town of Strathmore's Bylaw 26-10 Tax Penalty and Tax Installment Payment Plan indicates that tax penalties are calculated as at July 1st of the year or one day after the due date, whichever is earlier. 2026 Taxes for Town of Strathmore are due June 30, 2026.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND AWARENESS:**

Council and Administration held a Coffee with Council session on November 17, 2025 to garner feedback from the public on the proposed 2026 Budget.

Administration provides information inserts pertaining to budget and taxation with property assessments that were mailed in February 2026, and will include additional insert information along with the tax notices. Administration will issue a press release when the tax bylaw is passed.

Taxpayers cannot debate their levied taxes owing. Taxpayers can inquire with the Town's contracted assessors on the assessment of their property and file an appeal if they are in disagreement by April 27, 2026.

<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>
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**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Once the Property Tax Rate Bylaw is passed, the 2026 property tax bills will be prepared and mailed to all property owners in the community. Along with the tax bills, information will be provided to property owners in regards to the 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets. The property tax notices will also provide information on the Town's monthly Tax Installment Payment Program (TIPPS) and the Town's new Tax Arrears Payment Plan (TAPP).

**NEXT STEPS:**

Once the Property Tax Rate Bylaw is passed by Council, Administration will prepare the 2026 property tax bills. These bills will be mailed to property owners during the last weeks of May with a due date of June 30, 2026. Any delay in the passing of the Property Tax Rate Bylaw beyond the May 6 Regular Council Meeting could push the mailing date and the property tax due date beyond the dates referenced above with out calling a Special Meeting of Council.

**ALTERNATIVE MOTIONS:**

1. Council could adopt the recommended motions.
2. Council could provide further direction to Administration and schedule a special council meeting.

**REPORT AUTHOR:**

Riley Brolly, Manager of Financial Planning, Budgeting & Reporting

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- [Attachment I: Bylaw 26-12 Property Tax Bylaw](#)
- [Attachment II: 2026 Tax Rate Bylaw Presentation](#)
- [Attachment III: 2025 Assessment Growth](#)

Riley Brolly, Manager of Financial Planning, Budgeting & Reporting

Approved  
- 01 May  
2026

Leana Ashbacher, Senior Manager of Financial Services

Approved  
- 01 May  
2026

Kara Rusk, Director of Strategic, Administrative, and Financial Services

Approved  
- 01 May  
2026

Kevin Scoble, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved  
- 01 May  
2026

**BYLAW NO. 26-12  
TOWN OF STRATHMORE  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA**

**BEING A BYLAW TO AUTHORIZE THE RATES OF TAXATION TO BE LEVIED  
AGAINST ASSESSABLE TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE TOWN OF  
STRATHMORE FOR THE 2026 TAXATION YEAR.**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Strathmore has prepared and adopted detailed estimates of the municipal revenue and expenditures as required at the Council meeting held on November 25, 2025, inclusive of operating and capital budget amendments approved by Council from January 1, 2026 to April 29, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated municipal expenditures (excluding non-cash items) set out in the annual budget for the Town of Strathmore for 2026 is \$45,815,900 for operating and \$14,654,030 for capital;

**WHEREAS**, the estimated municipal revenues from all sources other than property taxation is \$28,272,700; and the balance of \$17,543,200 is to be raised by general municipality property taxation; and

**WHEREAS**, the requisitions for non-municipal purposes are:

**And Whereas the Assessed Value for the 2025 Assessment Roll is:**

Residential & Farmland	2,516,824,790
Non-Residential	447,742,400
Residential-Annexation (O/C-135/2010)	20,345,200
Non-Residential - Annexation (O/C-135/2010)	5,465,120
Farmland-Annexation (O/C-135/2010)	264,660
M & E - Annexation (O/C-135/2010)	259,330
Total Assessment	2,990,901,500

**Designated Industrial Property** 71,289,390

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of the Municipality is required to levy on the assessed value of all property, tax rate sufficient to meet the estimated expenditures and requisitions.

**AND WHEREAS** the Council is authorized to sub-classify assessed property, and to establish different rates of taxation in respect to each sub-class of property, subject to the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A 2000 Chapter M-26; and

**AND WHEREAS** the assessed value of all property in the Town of Strathmore as shown on the 2025 assessment roll is:

**Now Therefore**, the Council of the Town of Strathmore, duly assembled, hereby enact as follows:

**1. SHORT TITLE**

1.1. This Bylaw may be cited as the "2026 Property Tax Rate Bylaw".

**2. LEVY RATES OF TAXATION**

That the Chief Administrative Officer is hereby authorized to levy the following rates of taxation on the assessed value of all property shown on the assessment roll of the Town of Strathmore:

<u>General Municipal Taxation</u>	<b>Tax Levy</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Tax Rate</b>
Residential & Farmland	13,648,741	2,516,824,790	<b>5.42300</b>
Non-Residential	3,787,901	447,742,400	<b>8.46000</b>
Residential-Annexation (O/C-135/2010)	51,313	20,345,200	<b>2.52210</b>
Non-Residential - Annexation (O/C-135/2010)	42,642	5,465,120	<b>7.80260</b>
Farmland-Annexation (O/C-135/2010)	3,807	264,660	<b>14.38610</b>
M & E - Annexation	2,023	259,330	<b>7.80260</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<hr/> 17,536,427	<hr/> 2,990,901,500	
 <u>Alberta School Foundation Fund</u>			
Residential & Farmland	6,293,092	2,290,038,886	<b>2.74800</b>
Non-Residential	1,598,700	400,576,377	<b>3.99100</b>
Residential-Annexation (O/C-135/2010)	52,987	20,345,200	<b>2.60440</b>
Non-Residential - Annexation (O/C-135/2010)	22,257	5,465,120	<b>4.07260</b>
Farmland-Annexation (O/C-135/2010)	689	264,660	<b>2.60440</b>
<b>ASFF Subtotal</b>	<hr/> 7,967,726	<hr/> 2,716,690,242	
 <u>Christ the Redeemer Catholic School Division</u>			
Residential & Farmland	623,208	226,785,904	<b>2.74800</b>
Non-Residential	31,066	7,784,043	<b>3.99100</b>
<b>CRCSD Subtotal</b>	<hr/> 654,274	<hr/> 234,569,948	
 <b>Education Total</b>	<hr/> 8,622,000	<hr/> 2,951,260,190	
 <b>Wheatland Housing Management Board</b>	\$144,300	2,990,642,170	<b>0.04825</b>
 <b>Designated Industrial Property</b>	\$5,190	71,289,390	<b>0.07280</b>

The minimum amount payable per property for general municipal purpose shall be \$50.00 (estimated revenue of approximately \$7,000).

**3. SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of this bylaw is found to be illegal or beyond the power of Council to enact, or otherwise invalid, such section shall be deemed to be severable from all other sections of this bylaw.

**READ A FIRST TIME** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2026

**READ A SECOND TIME** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2026

**READ A THIRD AND FINAL TIME** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC, ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

# Town of Strathmore 2026 Property Tax Rate Bylaw



# Residential (5.8%) and Commercial (3.6%) Total Average Tax Increase

- ❑ **Municipal Tax - \$17.5 million – 4.6% Increase**
  - ❑ **2026 Budget: \$17.5 million**
  - ❑ **2025 Municipal Tax: \$16.8 million**
  
- ❑ **Education Tax – \$8.6 million – 16% Increase**
  - ❑ **2026 Expected: \$10.1 million (high estimate)**
  - ❑ **2025 Education Tax: \$7.3 million**
  
- ❑ **Seniors Housing Tax - \$144 thousand**
  - ❑ **2025: \$56 thousand (included \$99k over requisition from prior year)**
  
- ❑ **Total Tax - \$26.3 million**
  - ❑ **2025 Total Tax: \$24.1 million**



# Budget and Growth

- 2026 Budget
  - We Estimated 2.8% Municipal Tax Increase for Residential based on 2026's Budget
  - Average Municipal tax increase is 0.9%
- 2026 Budget – total estimated average tax increase was 13%
  - Average tax increase for Residential is 5.8%
  - Tax increase for Non-Residential is 3.6%
- Education levy below estimate

# Assessment

- ❑ **Average Residential Assessment Increase: 4.2%**  
(Average Residential home in Strathmore is assessed at \$512k)
- ❑ **4% Growth in the tax base from December 2024 to December 2025**

## Progress

### Towards 70/30

#### Assessment Split:

**Residential**

<u>Dec-25</u>	<u>Dec-24</u>
84.8%	84.9%
15.2%	15.1%

**Non-Residential**

- ❑ **i.e. our assessment base is 84.8% residential at December 31, 2025**

# Tax Bylaw – Other Considerations

- Ability to Debate Rates**
  - Municipal taxation requirements have already been determined by the budgeting process**
  - Education and Seniors levies are imposed on the Town.**
- Council does have one decision to make:**
  - Deciding on the ratio of Residential to Non-Residential tax rates.**



# Tax Rate Ratio

- ❑ Ratio of Residential to Non-Residential Tax Rates year over year
- ❑ Council can adjust this if it intends to change the tax burden between Res and Non-Res
- ❑ Administration recommends a factor of 1.56 for the 2026 tax bylaw.
  - ❑ This means Non-Residential taxpayers pay 1.56x the rate of taxes that Residential taxpayers do, for every dollar of assessment.
- ❑ This strikes the best balance between increases in taxes between the residential and non-residential, any other factor is imbalanced (i.e. one side pays more of an increase than the other)

## 2025 ASSESSMENT & TAX COMPARISON - RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY - 1.56 Res to Non-Res

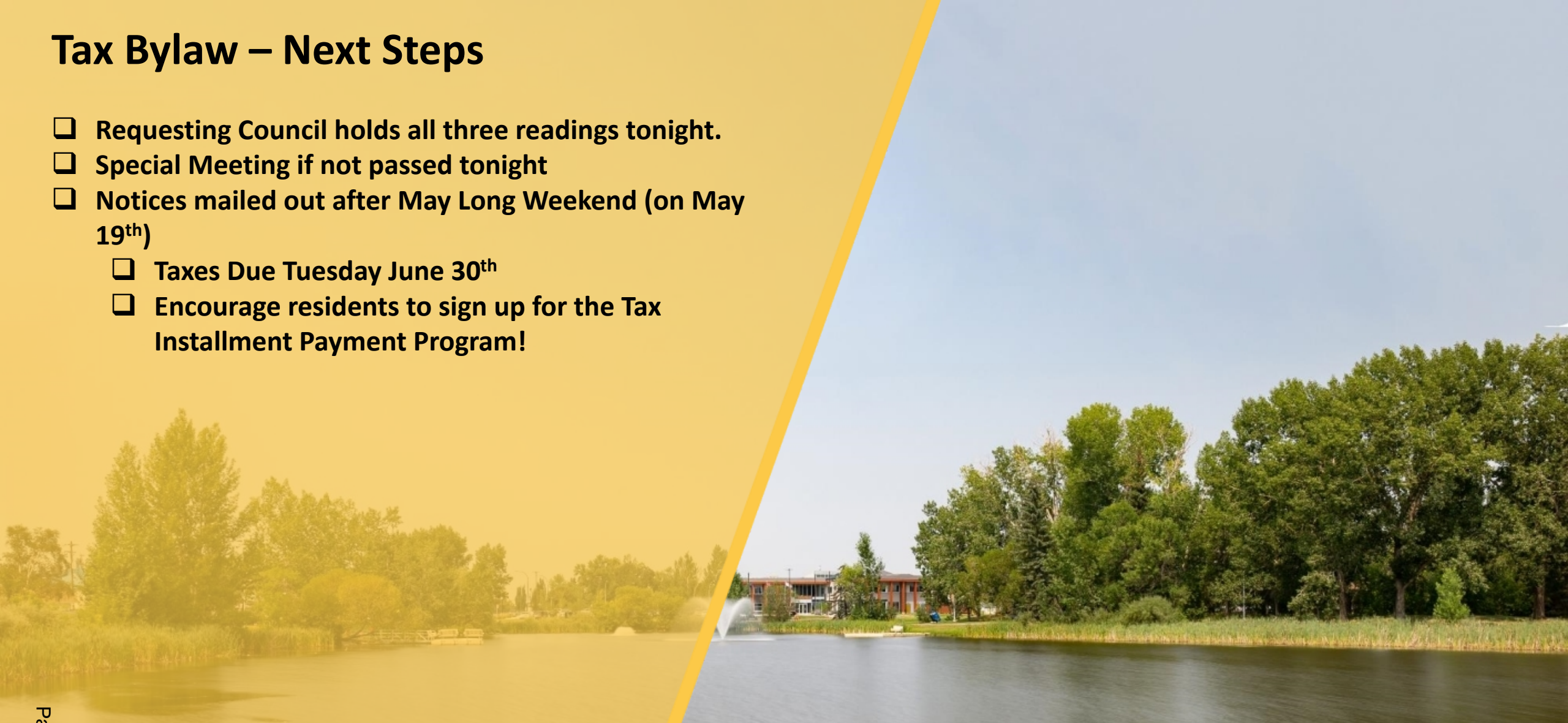
	2026					2025					Residential Assessment Increase	Municipal Tax Increase	Provincial Tax Increase	Total Increase
	Tax Rate	5.42300	2.74800	0.04825	8.21925	Tax Rate	5.60100	2.47200	0.02000	8.09300				
	Assessment	Municipal Tax	Education Tax	Seniors Tax	Tax Amount	Assessment	Municipal Tax	Education Tax	Seniors Tax	Tax Amount				
<b>Residential</b>														
Ratepayer #1	\$675,000	\$3,661	\$1,855	\$33	\$5,548	\$628,000	\$3,517	\$1,552	\$13	\$5,082	7.5%	4.1%	19.5%	9.2%
Ratepayer #2	\$753,000	\$4,084	\$2,069	\$36	\$6,189	\$737,000	\$4,128	\$1,822	\$15	\$5,965	2.2%	-1.1%	13.6%	3.8%
Ratepayer #3	\$533,000	\$2,890	\$1,465	\$26	\$4,381	\$535,000	\$2,997	\$1,323	\$11	\$4,330	-0.4%	-3.5%	10.7%	1.2%
Ratepayer #4	\$727,000	\$3,943	\$1,998	\$35	\$5,975	\$718,000	\$4,022	\$1,775	\$14	\$5,811	1.3%	-2.0%	12.6%	2.8%
Ratepayer #5	\$463,000	\$2,511	\$1,272	\$22	\$3,806	\$456,000	\$2,554	\$1,127	\$9	\$3,690	1.5%	-1.7%	12.9%	3.1%
Ratepayer #6	\$757,000	\$4,105	\$2,080	\$37	\$6,222	\$682,000	\$3,820	\$1,686	\$14	\$5,519	11.0%	7.5%	23.4%	12.7%
Ratepayer #7	\$440,000	\$2,386	\$1,209	\$21	\$3,616	\$429,000	\$2,403	\$1,060	\$9	\$3,472	2.6%	-0.7%	14.0%	4.2%
Ratepayer #8	\$704,000	\$3,818	\$1,935	\$34	\$5,786	\$695,000	\$3,893	\$1,718	\$14	\$5,625	1.3%	-1.9%	12.6%	2.9%
Ratepayer #9	\$425,000	\$2,305	\$1,168	\$21	\$3,493	\$393,000	\$2,201	\$972	\$8	\$3,181	8.1%	4.7%	20.2%	9.8%
Ratepayer #10	\$611,000	\$3,313	\$1,679	\$29	\$5,022	\$597,000	\$3,344	\$1,476	\$12	\$4,832	2.3%	-0.9%	13.8%	3.9%
Average Res. Ratepayer	\$512,400	\$2,779	\$1,408	\$25	\$4,212	\$491,800	\$2,755	\$1,216	\$10	\$3,980	4.2%	0.9%	15.8%	5.8%

## 2025 ASSESSMENT & TAX COMPARISON - Commercial PROPERTY 1.56 Res to Non-Res

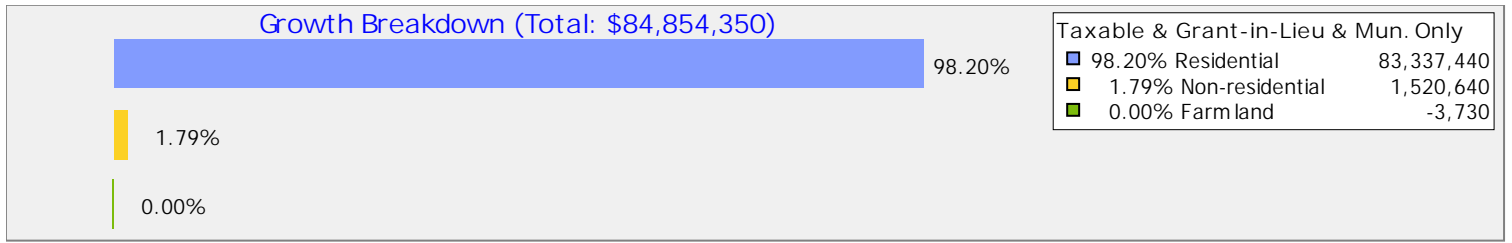
	2026					2025					Non-Res Assessment Increase	Municipal Tax Increase	Provincial Tax Increase	Total Increase
	Tax Rate	8.46000	3.99100	0.04825	12.49925	Tax Rate	8.37300	3.66900	0.02000	12.06200				
	Assessment	Municipal Tax	Education Tax	Seniors Tax	Tax Amount	Assessment	Municipal Tax	Education Tax	Seniors Tax	Tax Amount				
<b>Commercial</b>														
Average Commercial Ratepayer	\$1,000,000	\$8,460	\$3,991	\$48	\$12,499	\$1,000,000	\$8,373	\$3,669	\$20	\$12,062	0.0%	1.0%	8.8%	3.6%

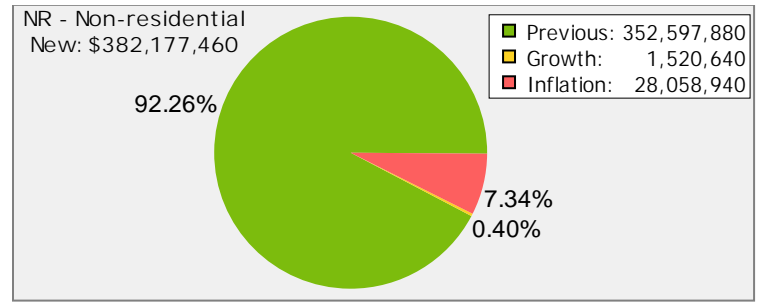
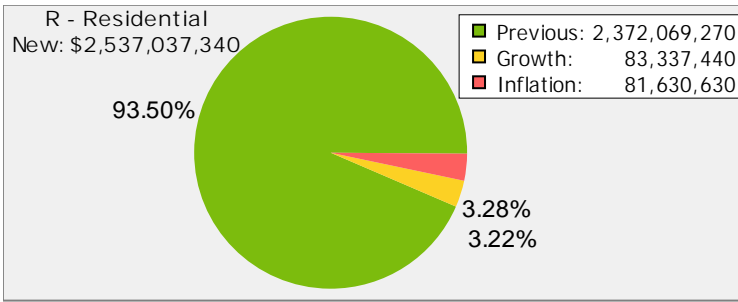
# Tax Bylaw – Next Steps

- Requesting Council holds all three readings tonight.
- Special Meeting if not passed tonight
- Notices mailed out after May Long Weekend (on May 19<sup>th</sup>)
  - Taxes Due Tuesday June 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Encourage residents to sign up for the Tax Installment Payment Program!



Property Description	Grand Totals			
	Previous (2024)	New (2025)	Growth	Inflation
<b>Taxable</b>				
F Farm land	400,520	397,310	-3,730	520 0.1%
NR Non-residential	349,853,540	379,201,000	1,515,640	27,831,820 8.0%
R Residential	2,372,069,270	2,537,037,340	83,337,440	81,630,630 3.4%
<b>Taxable total:</b>	<b>2,722,323,330</b>	<b>2,916,635,650</b>	<b>84,849,350</b>	<b>109,462,970 4.0%</b>
<b>Grant-In-Lieu</b>				
NR Non-residential	1,682,340	1,800,460	3,000	115,120 6.8%
<b>Grant-In-Lieu total:</b>	<b>1,682,340</b>	<b>1,800,460</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>115,120 6.8%</b>
<b>Mun. Only</b>				
NR Non-residential	1,062,000	1,176,000	2,000	112,000 10.5%
<b>Mun. Only total:</b>	<b>1,062,000</b>	<b>1,176,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>112,000 10.5%</b>
<b>Exempt</b>				
F Farm land	298,030	288,590	-9,440	0 0.0%
ME Machinery and equipment	789,740	1,862,310	0	1,072,570 135.8%
NR Non-residential	235,386,900	266,880,370	2,275,860	29,217,610 12.4%
R Residential	76,930,240	84,044,560	435,590	6,678,730 8.7%
<b>Exempt total:</b>	<b>313,404,910</b>	<b>353,075,830</b>	<b>2,702,010</b>	<b>36,968,910 11.8%</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,038,472,580</b>	<b>3,272,687,940</b>	<b>87,556,360</b>	<b>146,659,000 4.8%</b>
<b>Taxable &amp; Grant-in-Lieu &amp; Mun. Only</b>				
F Farm land	400,520	397,310	-3,730	520 0.1%
NR Non-residential	352,597,880	382,177,460	1,520,640	28,058,940 8.0%
R Residential	2,372,069,270	2,537,037,340	83,337,440	81,630,630 3.4%
<b>Taxable &amp; Grant-in-Lieu &amp; Mun. Only total:</b>	<b>2,725,067,670</b>	<b>2,919,612,110</b>	<b>84,854,350</b>	<b>109,690,090 4.0%</b>





F - Farm land  
New: \$397,310

Previous:	100.81%	400,520
Growth:	-0.94%	-3,730
Inflation:	0.13%	520



# Request for Decision

**To:** Council

**Contact:** Kevin Scoble, Chief Administrative Officer

**Date Prepared:** April 20, 2026

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2026

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>911 Fire Dispatch Options</b>
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**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** THAT Council direct Administration to cease using the Wheatland and Adjacent Districts Emergency Medical Services Association for 911 call-taking and fire dispatch services only;

AND THAT Council direct Administration to secure a 911 call-taking and fire dispatch services agreement with Calgary 911.

## REPORT SUMMARY

### KEY ISSUE(S):

The key issue is determining which service delivery model best balances public safety, reliability, operational effectiveness, and financial sustainability. This includes considering whether to remain with the current provider, enter into an agreement with an alternative provider, or pursue an alternative service arrangement.

### OBJECTIVE:

This report provides Council with options for delivering fire dispatch and 9-1-1 call-taking services, and recommends an approach that will ensure reliable emergency communications, maintain operational effectiveness, support legislative compliance, and promote long-term service sustainability for the municipality.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The most significant financial implication is the annual operating costs associated with a 9-1-1/fire dispatching service.

While there may be additional unforeseen costs that arise, should the Council wish to seek another provider, Administration believes the only other financial implication is staff time associated with this report.

### BACKGROUND:

During the March 4, 2026, meeting, Administration was directed (Resolution Number 066.03.26) to review fire dispatch services and develop a report, including alternative options and/or opportunities for fire dispatch services for the Town of Strathmore.

This report was presented at the April 15th meeting, and during this meeting, Administration was requested to meet with Wheatland County and Siksika Nations administrations for the purpose of reviewing 9-1-1 fire dispatch service and providing a recommended provider to Council, with possible alignment and consideration for the Town's regional partners, where possible.

Subsequently, Administration contacted both Wheatland County and Siksika Nation to better understand both organizations' intended approach to future emergency communications service delivery.

At the April 21, 2026, Wheatland County council meeting, a resolution was approved to transition Wheatland County's 9-1-1 fire dispatch service to Calgary 911. Likewise, Siksika Nation has been consulted.

In addition to the direction provided at the April 15th meeting, additional information was requested about the prospective service providers in order to better compare operational capacity, service scale, staffing structure, and transition readiness. Administration subsequently circulated follow-up questions to the three vendors under consideration: Calgary 911, Foothills Regional Emergency Communications Society (FRECS), and Red Deer Emergency Services Communications.

Administration obtain responses from each prospective provider to the following questions:

1. How many stations within the departments do you serve in total?
2. What is the total population of all areas you serve?
3. Can you clarify the ratio split from 9-1-1 call takers to dispatchers per day on shift, including the total number on shift?
4. How familiar are you or your employees with our service area, and how would you address the local knowledge component to ensure a seamless transition?

### **Vendor Response Summary:**

#### **Calgary 911**

1. How many stations within the departments do you serve in total?

*Calgary 911 Dispatches 12 Fire Departments. The 12 Fire Departments include the following and the number of stations for each department:*

- Calgary Fire – 44 Fire Stations – Full-time Metro Fire Department
- Rocky View County Fire Services – 7 Fire Stations – Combination of Full-time and paid on call. 4 Stations are fulltime and 3 are paid on call.
- Chestermere Fire Services – 1 Fire Station – Full-time Fire Department
- Kananaskis Fire – 1 Fire Station – Paid on call Department
- Bighorn Fire – 3 Fire Stations – Paid on call Fire Department. Do have 3 full time members including their Chief.
- Redwood Meadows Emergency Services – 1 Fire Station – Paid on call Department
- Beiseker Fire Department – 1 Fire Station – Combination of Paid on call and Volunteer
- Tsuut'ina Nation Fire Department – 1 Fire Station – Full time and paid on call
- Cochrane Fire Department – 1 Fire Station – Full time
- Crossfield Fire Department – 1 Fire Station – Paid on call
- Stoney Nakoda Fire Department – 1 Fire Station – Paid on call
- *Canmore Fire Services – 1 Fire Station – Full time*

2. What is the total population of all areas you serve?

*We serve 1,700,000.*

3. Can you clarify the ratio split from 9-1-1 call takers to dispatchers per day on shift, including the total number on shift?

*To speak to the question about our staffing structure and skill sets. Our minimum staffing level is 12 people 24 hours a day. Of that 12 people there will always be a minimum of 4-5 dispatchers with the remaining being call takers. All dispatchers are call takers, but not all call takers are dispatchers. This means we could have shifts where all 12 (or more) people working are dispatchers but will never have less than 4-5 dispatchers working at any given time. In total we have 85 fire trained employees with 53 of those people holding a fire dispatch skill set.*

*There are 2 dedicated dispatchers for the 12 departments that we dispatch for 24 hours a day. There is also 1 dispatcher in a Fire Resource role 24 hours a day. This person will take calls from the public but is also at a dispatch console with radio and can instantly become a 3rd dispatcher should a surge in call volume occur.*

4. How familiar are you or your employees with our service area, and how would you address the local knowledge component to ensure a seamless transition?

*To speak to the question about district familiarization. We have several employees who live in Strathmore and surrounding Wheatland areas. Additionally, C911 dispatched Rural EMS for most of southern Alberta including for Strathmore and Wheatland for 15 years up until 2019 when Alberta Health Services centralized dispatch services. All of our current Fire trained ECOs and Dispatchers either were call takers or Dispatchers for EMS during this time and still retain their geographical knowledge of the area. We also retain a lot of the mapping and jurisdictional information due to fire mutual aid agreements that are in place.*

## **Foothills Regional Emergency Communications Society (FRECS)**

1. How many stations within the departments do you serve in total?

*25 departments with over 40 halls. To confirm we have 25 municipalities total, 23 with Fire (the other 2 are Peace Officer's only) and 40 Fire Halls.*

2. What is the total population of all areas you serve?

*The total population we serve is 133,000; the total population estimate I have for the Town of Strathmore is just over 16,000. I want to reassure your Council; we are prepared to add in additional staffing coverage to ensure we maintain our service levels to address any increase in our workload based on new population and/or population growths and call volume. Please note below I have outlined we have added in a fourth ECO to our schedule for the summer season for operational support. This decision was based on 2025 call volume analysis.*

3. Can you clarify the ratio split from 9-1-1 call takers to dispatchers per day on shift, including the total number on shift?

*We operate using a horizontal model that allows for each member to call take and dispatch from any of our four consoles. This allows for high flexibility with call taking and dispatching in a partnered structure. For example, one member will process the 9-1-1 call, and the other member is able to dispatch the call – all members are able to monitor the dispatch channel for response to the Fire Department for the event. A minimum of two operational trained Emergency Communication Officers (ECO) (dispatchers) are scheduled in the Centre 24 hours day/7 days per week. A third ECO is scheduled during peak time hours 8-12 hours at a time up to 7 days per week. A fourth ECO has been added to our schedule for additional operational and shift change support Mon-Friday for the 2026 summer season. A designated Superintendent or on-call Superintendent oversees each shift.*

4. How familiar are you or your employees with our service area, and how would you address the local knowledge component to ensure a seamless transition?

*Many of our Emergency Communications Officers are local to the region and have extensive personal and professional familiarity with the counties and municipalities we serve as well as the surrounding areas such as Wheatland County. Our organization has a high degree of familiarity with rural and combined municipal environments, particularly those involving large geographic service areas and multiple municipalities. We currently support service delivery across diverse jurisdictions that require in-depth knowledge of rural addressing, mixed urban–rural response patterns, and locally specific response practices. Several of our members also serve as volunteer/paid on call firefighters. This dual experience strengthens operational effectiveness by combining dispatch expertise with first-hand understanding of fire service operations, on-scene realities, and response expectations.*

*We seamlessly onboarded Cypress County making up 13, 000 sq kms, in 2017; our knowledge of rural dispatch was pivotal to this successful migration*

## **Red Deer Emergency Services Communications**

1. How many stations within the departments do you serve in total?

*The Red Deer 9-1-1 Communication Centre currently provides emergency dispatch services to 83 fire stations across multiple municipalities and counties in Alberta.*

*The Centre consistently meets or exceeds industry performance standards, including: 99.39% of 911 calls answered within 15 seconds*

*This benchmark demonstrates a sustained commitment to timely call handling and efficient, coordinated emergency response.*

*Service Area Breakdown by Municipality / Region*

*Urban Municipalities*

- City of Red Deer: 5 stations
- City of Leduc: 2 stations
- City of Airdrie: 3 stations
- Town of Penhold: 1 station
- Town of Sylvan Lake: 1 station
- Town of Innisfail: 1 station
- Town of Stettler: 1 station
- Town of Drumheller: 1 station
- City of Wetaskiwin: 1 station

*Regional Counties / Municipal Districts*

- Red Deer County: 8 stations
- Newell County: 10 stations
- Mountain View County: 5 stations
- Lacombe County: 6 stations
- County of Ponoka: 2 stations
- Kneehill County: 6 stations
- Clearwater County: 5 stations
- Starland County: 6 stations
- Special Areas No. 2: 7 stations
- Special Areas No. 3: 4 stations
- Special Areas No. 4: 3 stations
- M.D. of Acadia No. 34: 1 station
- Heartland Regional Fire Services: 4 stations

2. What is the total population of all areas you serve?

*The combined population across all dispatch service areas is estimated at:*

- *Approximately 550,000 residents*

*This service area includes a diverse mix of urban centres, rural municipalities, agricultural regions, and industrial corridors, each requiring tailored response coordination and dispatch support.*

3. Can you clarify the ratio split from 9-1-1 call takers to dispatchers per day on shift, including the total number on shift?

*The following timeline illustrates daily staffing adjustments, including peak operational periods and staggered support roles:*

<i>Time</i>	<i>Staffing Change</i>	<i>Total Staff</i>	<i>Operational Status</i>
<i>6:00 AM</i>	<i>Day Shift begins</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Standard day operations commence</i>
<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>+1 Dispatcher added</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Increased daytime support</i>
<i>3:00 PM</i>	<i>+1 Call Taker added</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Peak operational capacity</i>
<i>6:00 PM</i>	<i>Night Shift begins</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Transition to overnight operations</i>
<i>9:00 PM</i>	<i>-1 Dispatcher</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Reduced evening staffing</i>
<i>3:00 AM</i>	<i>-1 Call Taker</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Minimum overnight staffing</i>
<i>6:00 AM</i>	<i>Reset cycle</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Return to daytime staffing model</i>

#### *Supervisory and Operational Flexibility*

- Lieutenant Support: One assigned per day shift to support surge events, break coverage, and operational backfill*
- Flexible Pod Configuration: Five of eight positions can function as either call-taking or dispatch roles to support surge demand*
- Surge Capacity Model: Real-time reassignment of staff based on call volume and incident complexity*

4. How familiar are you or your employees with our service area, and how would you address the local knowledge component to ensure a seamless transition?

*Red Deer 9-1-1 recognizes that strong local knowledge is essential to effective emergency dispatch performance. To ensure a seamless transition, we implement a structured 4–6 months implementation process, including comprehensive onboarding and training led by a*

*Qualified Training Officer. This approach ensures personnel are fully prepared and validated prior to assuming operational responsibilities.*

### *Structured Onboarding Approach*

*The onboarding process is deliberate and methodical, allowing sufficient time for knowledge development, applied learning, and operational validation.*

*It integrates:*

- Publicly available geographic and mapping resources*
- Direct engagement with the Fire Chief and departmental leadership*
- Operational briefings to capture local response expectations and jurisdiction-specific nuances*

*This ensures staff develop both technical competency and practical understanding of the service area, supporting a seamless transition into live operations.*

### *Training Program Components*

*Each operator completes a standardized onboarding package including:*

#### *1. Cultural and Community Awareness*

- Treaty and territorial acknowledgements*
- Regional demographics and community profiles*

#### *2. Geographic Familiarization*

- Response zone mapping*
- Highways, intersections, and key landmarks*
- Critical infrastructure (hospitals, airports, recreation facilities)*

#### *3. Fire Department Profiles*

- Organizational structure and leadership*
- Staffing models (career and paid-on-call)*
- Station locations and apparatus identification*
- Response capabilities (fire, rescue, medical, HazMat, water/ice rescue)*
- Mutual aid relationships and operational dependencies*
- Training schedules and radio test protocols*

#### *4. Dispatch Operations*

- Radio communication systems and protocols*
- Agency-specific technology and equipment standards*

### *Competency Validation*

- Mandatory knowledge assessments of the onboarding department*
- Formal sign-off prior to independent dispatch authority*
- Ongoing performance evaluation and refresher training*

### *5. Regional Experience*

*The Centre currently provides dispatch services to the surrounding areas north and east of Wheatland County.*

*This established operational footprint enhances:*

- Regional familiarity
- Inter-jurisdictional coordination
- Seamless integration into adjacent service areas

**OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IMPACTED:**



Community Connection



Managing Growth



Financial Resilience



Economic Growth



Protecting Water and Green Spaces



Community Safety and Wellbeing

**HOW THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ARE MET:**

As part of its Strategic Plan, Council has prioritized the maintenance, protection, and improvement of Community Wellness programs and services that support optimum lifestyles for residents of Strathmore.

Effective 9-1-1 call taking and fire dispatch play a critical role in protecting life, property, and public safety. Ensuring these services are reliable, coordinated, and sustainable helps foster a safe and resilient community and supports the overall wellness of residents, visitors, and emergency responders.

**COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS:**

Fire dispatch and 9-1-1 call taking are core public safety services that directly affect residents, visitors, and emergency responders. An effective and reliable service provider can directly influence response coordination, public confidence, continuity of service, and a municipality’s ability to provide dependable emergency communications. A sustainable and well-supported service model helps protect community safety and ensures emergency calls are handled in a consistent and effective manner.

**INTERNAL IMPLICATIONS:**

A change in service provider would require a degree in coordination between Administration, specifically, the Fire Department, dispatch stakeholders, and external partners.

Staff/internal implications may include time for procurement, agreement review, transition planning, training, testing, quality assurance, and ongoing contract oversight.

Should Council decide to seek another service provider, Administration would be responsible for the implementation of a new agreement, policy, and operational coordination/alignment with the new provider.

#### **LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS AND REFERENCES:**

Emergency communications services must operate within applicable provincial legislation, regulatory requirements, and service standards. Any recommended model must align with legislation governing 9-1-1 call answer responsibilities, municipal fire service operations, emergency management obligations, and any applicable intermunicipal or contractual service arrangements. Legal review may be required prior to finalizing any agreement to ensure compliance with governing legislation, procurement requirements, and municipal authority.

#### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND AWARENESS:**

Public engagement has not been identified as a primary requirement at this stage, as this report relates to the review of service delivery options for an operational public safety function.

<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>
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#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Should Council support the recommended motion, Administration will meet with the current service provider, the recommended provider, regional fire agencies, Fire department staff to ensure timelines and expectations are clearly outlined.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

Should Council approve the recommended direction, Administration will proceed with negotiations with the preferred provider and undertake the legal, financial, and operational review required to finalize the service arrangement. Administration will work with Fire leadership, partner agencies, and the selected provider to develop an implementation plan that addresses transition timelines, service levels, communications protocols, training, testing, and continuity measures.

#### **ALTERNATIVE MOTIONS:**

THAT Council direct Administration to bring the 911 Fire Dispatch Options report to the May 13 Committee of the Whole for further review and discussion.

#### **REPORT AUTHOR:**

David Sturgeon, Fire Chief

Mark Pretzlaff, Director of Community and Protective Services

Approved  
- 01 May

2026  
Approved  
- 01 May  
2026

Kevin Scoble, Chief Administrative Officer



# Request for Decision

**To:** Council

**Contact:** Kevin Scoble, Chief Administrative Officer

**Date Prepared:** April 14, 2026

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2026

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Post Secondary Fire School Partnership</b>
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**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** THAT Council support a post-secondary fire school partnership and the development of a one-year pilot firefighter training program in Strathmore for Fall 2026.

<b>REPORT SUMMARY</b>
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**KEY ISSUE(S):**

The Town of Strathmore has an opportunity to support the development of a full-time firefighter training program for the southern Alberta region by partnering with a post-secondary training provider. Two potential partners have been evaluated. Both models would rely on Town facilities, apparatus, and operational support; however, they differ significantly in speed to launch, administrative burden, program control, financial clarity, and long-term growth potential.

Administration has reviewed the two potential partners will be moving forward on the opportunity for partnership that has a clearer financial model, the ability to launch a pilot program (as early as Fall 2026), and an existing curriculum that would reduce the administrative burden on the Fire Department.

**OBJECTIVE:**

This initiative would establish a firefighter training program in Strathmore that:

- Trains entry-level firefighters to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards;
- Utilizes Strathmore’s facilities, apparatus, and operational expertise as the practical backbone of delivery;
- Expands post-secondary and skilled trades training opportunities within the community;
- Supports workforce development in emergency services; and
- Creates local economic and reputational benefits for the Town of Strathmore.

This initiative would position Strathmore as a regional center for applied emergency services training, with potential for future program growth and long-term community reinvestment.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The proposed program has the potential to create a new revenue stream for the Town, while also benefiting the Town's broader economy. Based on the briefing analysis, estimated Town revenue per intake ranges from approximately \$64,213 for a 15-student intake to \$114,177 for a 25-student intake. Total economic impact to Strathmore, including Town revenue, local instructor wages, student spending, evaluator purchases, and consumables, is estimated between \$147,586 and \$239,622 per intake.

Under the recommended partnership model, tuition is estimated at approximately \$15,000 per student, with an anticipated 50/50 revenue-sharing structure required to maintain student loan eligibility. This model estimates approximately \$65,000 net per partner at 15 students and approximately \$115,000 net per partner at 25 students. They would also administer the financial side of the program, reducing the Town's direct administrative burden.

Alternatively, the other option does not yet have a finalized tuition or cost structure, would likely involve higher instructor costs, additional overhead, and more Town involvement in administration and program development. At this stage, their financial model is less defined, which creates greater uncertainty.

**BACKGROUND:**

Administration has been exploring options to support the delivery of a full-time firefighter training program in southern Alberta. The intent is to create a high-quality, NFPA-aligned program that uses local facilities and apparatus for practical learning while building a program that is operationally realistic, financially sustainable, and scalable over time. Two potential delivery partners were reviewed.

Both options are structured as 12-week programs and require use of Town resources; however, the two models differ in several important ways. The preferred partnership offers an already developed curriculum that includes NFPA 1001, NFPA 470 Awareness and Operations, rope rescue, wildland fire, firefighter survival, aquatic spinal rescue, and other related training. Since this curriculum has already been developed, this program could begin immediately, following agreement on the partnership.

Administration has reviewed proposals and believes this option is more advantageous due to the lower administrative demands, financial viability, program flexibility, and ultimately, the ability to expedite the launch of the program.

**OTHER IMPLICATIONS****STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IMPACTED:**



### HOW THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ARE MET:

As part of its Strategic Plan, Council has prioritized supporting the well-being of its residents through opportunities for connecting with others, contributing to the community, and being fully involved residents of Strathmore. By increasing post-secondary advocacy for the community and residents of Strathmore, a post-secondary fire training partnership can create meaningful ways for people to connect and contribute to the community.

A firefighter training program, delivered in Strathmore, would bring post-secondary-style, applied learning directly into the community rather than requiring participants to leave the region to access emergency services education. It would increase access to practical career training, support students pursuing firefighting as a profession, and demonstrate that Strathmore is actively investing in skills-based education and regional workforce development.

Beyond the training itself, the program creates an opportunity for Strathmore to strengthen its profile as a community that supports local learning, applied education, and career pathways tied to public service. It also enables future partnerships and complementary offerings such as testing, certification support, practical placements, or related emergency services education.

In this way, the initiative supports not only firefighter development, but also broader community identity, local opportunity, and the Town's role as a place where education and service intersect in visible, practical ways.

### COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS:

While the community implications for a firefighter training program would, on the surface, potentially benefit the local economic activity through student spending, instructor wages, and locally purchased consumables, it would also increase Strathmore's visibility as a center for specialized regional training.

By establishing a post-secondary partnership, this type of program would reinforce the Town's investment in education, public safety, and workforce readiness. It may help attract students, instructors, and related partnerships to the area while strengthening the town's position as a viable partner in post-secondary education.

Should this pilot program be successful and an enhanced, live-in training model be established, further benefits would be achieved through local accommodation, food service, and facility reinvestment.

### **INTERNAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Internally, the development of a firefighter training program would require continued support from the Town's Fire Department, as the use of the Town's apparatuses, facilities, and training grounds would be an essential element of the program.

Additional implications would arise depending on the partner selected. The preferred partnership would place the responsibility of program administration, instructor hiring, payroll, scheduling, and financial administration with them, which significantly reduces the administrative burden on Town staff.

Conversely, other options would require Town staff to take a lead role in curriculum development and the overall administration of the firefighter training program, placing additional pressure on internal capacity, which could slow implementation of the program.

### **LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS AND REFERENCES:**

The program must be delivered in a manner consistent with applicable firefighting training standards and credentialing requirements. The program objective would be to train recruits to NFPA standards, which is central to the credibility and employability of graduates.

In addition, both models are structured to qualify for student loan eligibility, which requires a 50/50 partnership structure and prevents the Town from being the majority owner of the program. This has implications for governance, control, and program structure that should be reflected in any final agreement.

Any formal partnership would also require appropriate agreements respecting liability, insurance, facilities use, instructional qualifications, operational safety, and financial administration. Those details would need to be finalized before launch.

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND AWARENESS:**

At this stage, no public engagement or awareness campaigns have begun.

<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>
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### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

If Council supports proceeding with the initiative, Administration would move into the next phase of partner discussions, program planning, and internal coordination. Implementation would focus on confirming the preferred partnership model, establishing roles and

responsibilities, identifying facility and apparatus requirements, and developing a pilot delivery timeline for Fall 2026.

Initial implementation would also include a review of legal agreements, insurance requirements, financial arrangements, and operational expectations to ensure the program can be delivered safely and sustainably.

Should the pilot move forward, further communications would be developed to promote the program to prospective students, build awareness in the region, and position Strathmore as a host community for applied emergency services training.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

Following the May 6, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, Administration will:

1. Continue discussions with the preferred partner regarding program structure, governance, and implementation requirements.
2. Confirm financial terms, facility needs, apparatus use, and staffing supports required for program delivery.
3. Undertake legal and risk review, including agreements related to liability, insurance, and operational responsibilities.
4. Refine the implementation timeline for a potential Fall 2026 pilot intake.
5. Develop a communications approach to support public awareness and regional promotion of the program.
6. Return to Council with any further recommendations or approvals required prior to launch.

#### **ALTERNATIVE MOTIONS:**

1. That Council receive the report for information and direct Administration to continue exploring partnership options for delivery of a firefighter training program in Strathmore and return to Council with a finalized partnership model and implementation plan.
2. That Council receive the report for information and direct Administration to defer further work on the firefighter training program pending additional review of financial, operational, and strategic implications.

#### **REPORT AUTHOR:**

David Sturgeon, Fire Chief

Veronica Anderson, Legislative Services Officer

Approved  
- 30 Apr  
2026

Kevin Scoble, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved  
- 01 May  
2026

Johnathan Strathdee, Manager of Legislative Services

Approved

AIR-26-104

- 01 May  
2026

**CONFIRMED MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting of the Town of Strathmore Library Board**

**Tuesday, March 17, 2026**

**6:30 P.M.**

**Strathmore Municipal Library Program Room**

**PRESENT:**

Trustee Ann Horn, Chair  
Trustee Taura Fox Walker, Co-Chair  
Trustee Lindsay Walker  
Trustee Tammy Anderson  
Trustee Sunday Adeola  
Trustee Emily Rochford  
Trustee Shanon Kelly  
Trustee Jen Chaisson  
Trustee Melissa Langmaid  
Director Rachel Dick Hughes

**ASBENT WITH NOTICE:**

Trustee Musenga Simwawa

**1. CALL TO ORDER & OPENING REMARKS**

Trustee A. Horn called today's meeting to order at 6:36 P.M.

Welcome SAIL Staff Rhonda apologies Renee

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*We honour all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries. We acknowledge that the ancestral and traditional lands on which we gather are Land of the Blackfoot Confederacy and Treaty 7 territory, a traditional meeting ground for many Indigenous peoples, and in particular our neighbors, Siksika Nation on whose territory we work, live, and play, and on whose territory we stand and where Strathmore resides.*

**3. CONFIRMATION OF PROPOSED AGENDA (APPENDIX A)**

**Moved by Trustee Langmaid**

To approve the March 17, 2026, Town of Strathmore Library Board Meeting agenda as presented.

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Ann Horn, Chair

1

APPROVED

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Rachel Dick Hughes, Director  
Library Services

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2026 (APPENDIX B)**

**Moved by Trustee Langmaid**

To approve the February 17, 2026, Town of Strathmore Library Board Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

**APPROVED**

**5. PRESENTATION FROM SAIL TEAM**

**6. REPORTS**

5.1 Director’s Report (**APPENDIX C**)

5.2 Strategy & Community Report – Look Ahead

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Travel for SAIL Staff for CALP Symposium**

**Moved by Trustee Fox Walker**

To approve the travel for SAIL Staff to attend CALP Symposium in Edmonton April 29-30.

**APPROVED**

**2. Marigold Conference Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Discussion on available for room for board to attend Conference at no cost

Taura Fox Walker and Jen Chaisson will attend on behalf of Board.

**8. CALENDAR LOOK AHEAD**

- **April 1- Day of Library Giving- Campaign to get new couch for children’s area**
- **April 11- Parade of Garage Sales**
- **April Meeting- Completion of Plan of Service**
- **May Meeting – Policies and Procedures- Emergency Response Procedures**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Trustee Anderson**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M.

**ATIA Sec. 20(1)**

Ann Horn, Chair

**APPROVED**  
**ATIA Sec. 20(1)**

Rachel Dick Hughes, Director  
Library Services

**Next regular meeting Tuesday April 21, 2026 at 6:30 P.M.**

**APPENDICIES**

- A. Proposed Agenda for March 17, 2026
- B. Unconfirmed Minutes of February 17, 2026
- C. Director's Report

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Arin Horn, Chair

3

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Rachel Dick Hughes, Director  
Library Services

## WADEMESA April 20, 2026, Meeting

### Meeting Minutes Adopted

- March 16, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes adopted
- March 23, 2026, Special Meeting minutes adopted
- March 31, 2026 Special Meeting minutes adopted

### Agenda

- In-camera discussion
- Doug Lagore was appointed as Interim CAO for WADEMESA
- Shaw/Rogers 911 Fees
  - Doug Lagore to contact Strathmore CAO
- Asset Management Plan
  - Deferred
- Strategic Planning
  - Deferred
- Financials accepted as presented.

### Chair Report

- Nothing to report.

### CAO Report

- NA

### New Business

- Discussions about WADEMESA's future should municipalities opt out of WADEMESA

### Next Meeting

- May 19, 2026

Presented by Councillors Wegener and Brown.

Town of Strathmore  
PO Box 2280 Stn Main  
Strathmore, AB T1P 1K2

April 8, 2026

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your donation of \$5,000.00. With your gift, you are helping young families in Strathmore have a caring place to go when they need support. Having someone to walk alongside you, when things are difficult, can make all the difference.

Often, this support is only needed until they are through a difficult time. Alysa\* dropped by with some practical donations, sharing: "I love to support my community when they did so much for me...and my baby". Through the support of our centre, she is doing well and wanted to give back what she could.

Your choice to support Mainsprings Strathmore has helped us become a reliable place for people in our city to turn. You are making a difference; we see the difference you make every day in our clients. Thank you.

Gratefully,

ATIA Sec. 20(1)

Drinda Hyde  
Mainsprings Strathmore Director

**Thank you for your generous support!**

Donor ID: 355974

*Registration N°: 11882 3442 RR0001*