AGENDA

Monday, October 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers at the Tom Hornecker
Recreation Centre, 2nd Floor, 2122 – 18 Street

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER & ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

2. PRESENTATIONS:

2.1 Public Hearing re: Bylaw # 1377/23 (Lane Closure)

3. REPORTS:

3.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

3.1.1 Status Report – E

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

4.1 ADOPTION:

4.1.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2023 – E

4.1.2 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes September 21, 2023 - E

4.1.3 Committee of the Whole of Council Meeting Minutes September 25, 2023 - E

4.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

4.2.1 **RECOMMENDATION # 1 – 23/09/21 – Finance Committee**
Consideration for additional Utility Operator - E

4.2.2 **RECOMMENDATION # 2 – 23/09/21 – Finance Committee**
Kosy Korner stair lift - E

4.2.3 **RECOMMENDATION # 1 – 23/09/25 – Committee of the Whole of Council**
Alberta Southwest/ AND Villages Regional Housing proposal - E

4.2.4 **RECOMMENDATION # 2 – 23/09/25 – Committee of the Whole of Council**
Nanton Quality of Life Foundation Request for Advocacy Support

5. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Requests for Decision):

5.1 Further consideration of Bylaw #1375/23 – E

5.2 Further consideration of Bylaw #1376/26 – E

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

6.1 FOR ACTION:

6.1.1 Municipal District of Willow Creek invitation to 2023 Legacy of the Land Banquet Nov. 3/23
Two complimentary tickets available –RSVP - E

7. CLOSED CONFIDENTIAL SESSION:

7.1 Nanton Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee – FOIP Section 24(1)(g) Advice from officials.

7.2 Park Assets – FOIP Section 21(1) Disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations

8. ADJOURNMENT:

BYLAW

Bylaw Number: 1377/23

A BYLAW OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE TOWN OF NANTON IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLOSING A PORTION OF A PUBLIC ROADWAY

1. PURPOSE:

1.1. WHEREAS Section 22 of the Municipal Government Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26, provides that no road in a municipality that is subject to the direction, control and management of the municipality may be closed except by bylaw, and

1.2 WHEREAS application has been made to Council to have a portion of the laneway closed, and

1.3. WHEREAS Council deems it proper and expedient to provide for a bylaw for the purpose of closing to public travel certain roads, or portions thereof situated in the said municipality, and therefore disposing of the same; and

1.4. WHEREAS notice of intention of Council to pass a Bylaw has been given in accordance with Section 606 of the Municipal Government Act; and

1.5. NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Municipality of the Town of Nanton in the Province of Alberta duly assembled enacts as follows:

2. ENACTMENT

2.1 Council does hereby close to public travel for the purpose of disposing of the following described roadway, subject to rights of access granted by other legislation;

PLAN 3163L
BLOCK 28
ALL THAT PORTION OF THE LANE WHICH LIES BETWEEN THE SOUTHERLY LIMIT OF LOTS 11 AND 12, AND THE NORTHERLY LIMIT OF LOTS 23 AND 24
EXCEPTING THEREOUT ALL MINES AND MINERALS

and as further outlined in Schedule 'A', which forms part of this bylaw.

3. EFFECTIVE DATE AND READINGS

3.1 This bylaw comes into effect upon the date of final reading and signing thereof.

3.2 Read a **first** time this 5th day of September 2023.

TOWN OF NANTON

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

APPROVED this __________ day of __________________, A.D. 2023

MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION

3.3 Read a **second** time this ____ day of ___________________, 2023.

TOWN OF NANTON

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

3.4 Read a **third** time this ____ day of _____________________, 2023.

TOWN OF NANTON

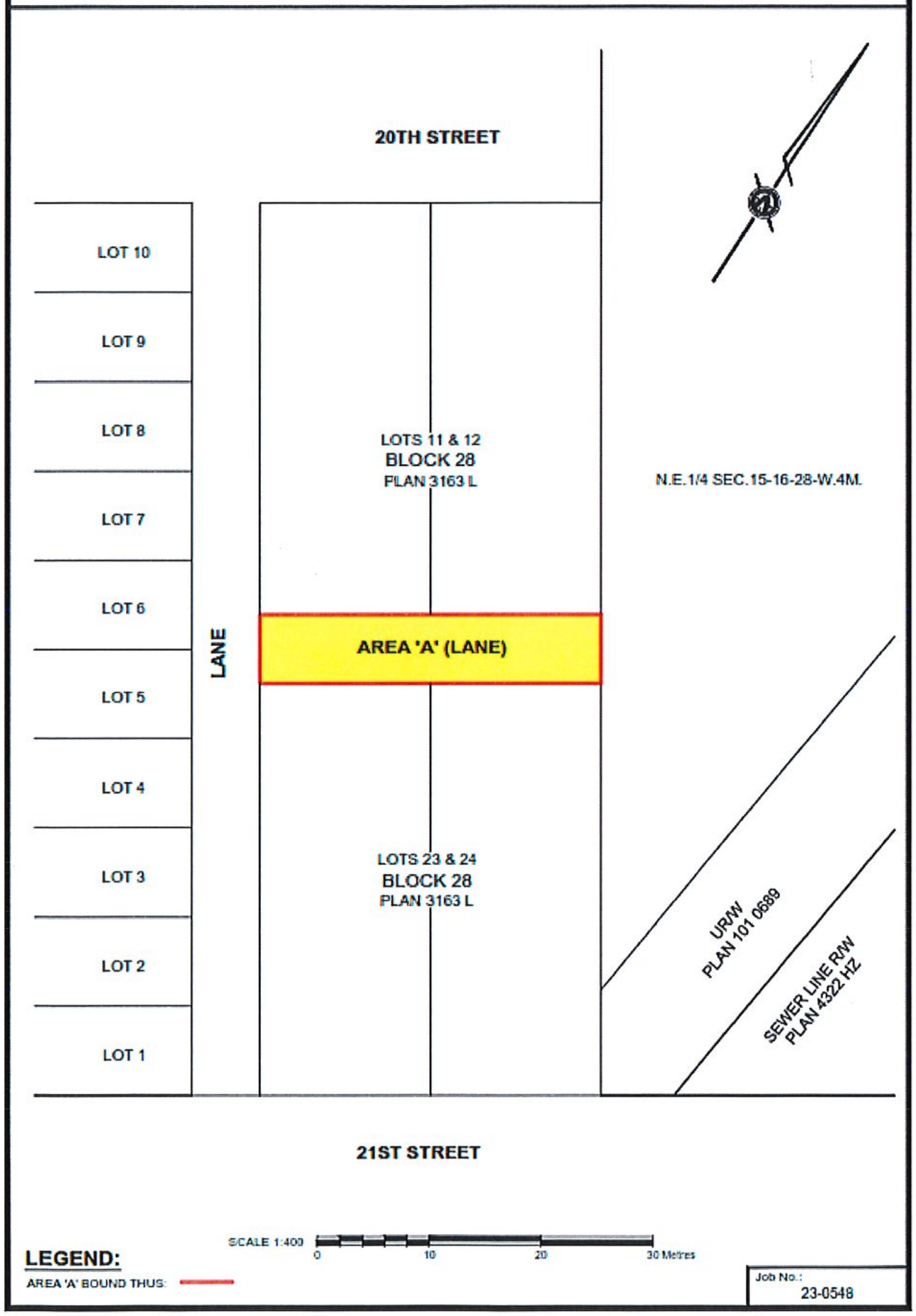
CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

SCHEDULE A
SKETCH PLAN

SHOWING AREA 'A'

ROAD CLOSURE BYLAW # 1377-23
ALL THAT PORTION OF THE LANE WHICH LIES BETWEEN THE SOUTHERLY LIMIT OF LOTS 11 AND 12, AND THE NORTHERLY LIMIT OF LOTS 23 AND 24, BLOCK 28, PLAN 3163L



NANTON EST 1903

3of 3

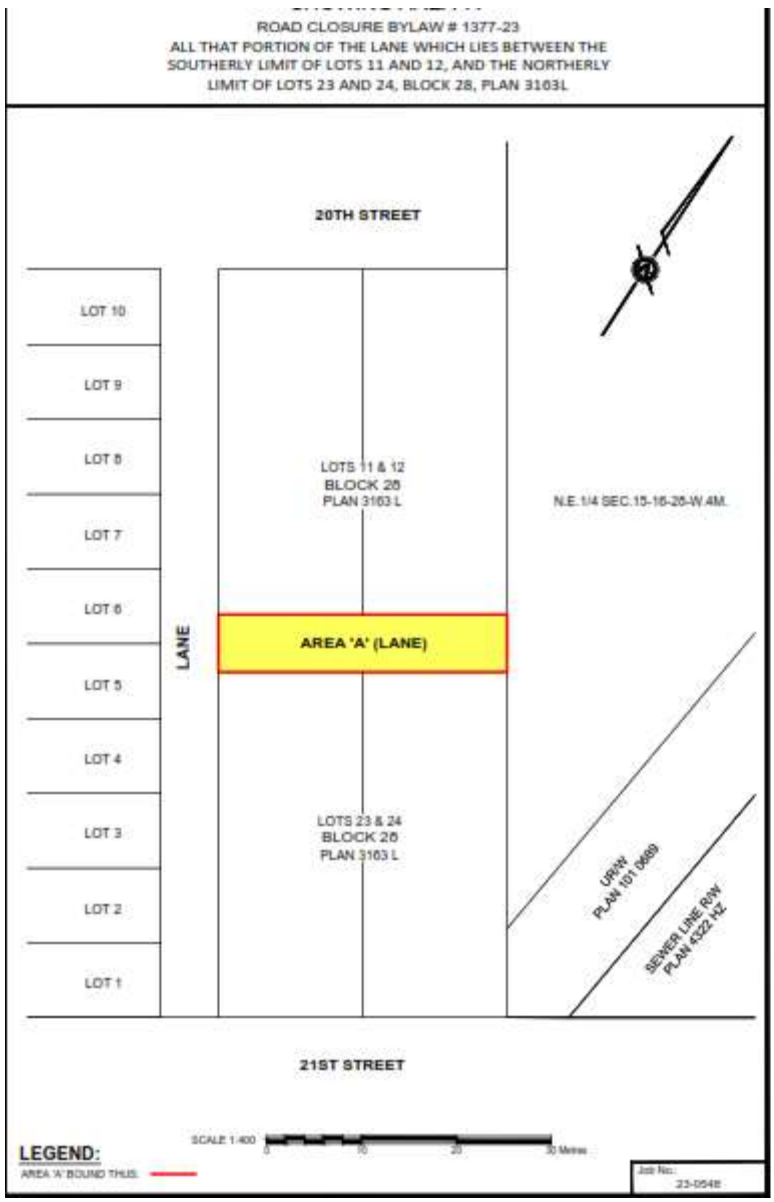
Posted on www.nanton.ca for not less than two consecutive weeks (September 8 to October 2, 2023)

TOWN OF NANTON - Notice of Public Hearing

Bylaw # 1377/23 for the purpose of closing, disposing of and consolidating a portion of a Public Roadway

DATE: **OCTOBER 2, 2023**
PLACE: **COUNCIL CHAMBERS (Tom Hornecker Recreation Centre, 2122 – 18 Street)**
TIME: **COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM**

Pursuant to the Municipal Government Act**,** it is the intention of the Council of the Town of Nanton to consider adoption of Bylaw #1377/23, at the Regular Meeting of Council to be held Monday, October 2, 2023, being a bylaw for the purpose of closing and consolidating a portion of a Public Roadway, described as follows:



PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS: Deadline for written submissions, to be included in the Council Agenda Package, is 12:00 noon **September 27, 2023**.

Written submissions must include the Bylaw #, the name of the person, representative or group making the submission, and position on the matter whether opposed or in favour. Any information provided will be available to the public and is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Any person, groups or persons acting on behalf of another person who is affected by the Bylaw may make verbal presentations at the public hearing, which may include a written summary as a component of the presentation.

HEARING FORMAT: The Public Hearing will be held in person and electronically. To participate in the Public Hearing by electronic means please contact the Planning and Development Officer by the pre-registration deadline to receive instructions.

PRE-REGISTRATION: Persons interested in participating in the Public Hearing are asked to register prior to 12:00 noon on the public hearing date, to the Planning and Development Officer at develop@nanton.ca or by contacting the Town Office at 403-646-2029

A copy of the proposed bylaw may be inspected in the Town Office, 1907 - 21st Avenue, Nanton, during regular office hours, or on the Town's website at www.nanton.ca.

Neil Smith MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer
Email: cao@nanton.ca

Dated: September 8, 2023

NANTON
EST 1903

Town of Nanton
Box 609, Nanton, Alberta, T0L 1R0
P: 403-646-2029 **E:** develop@nanton.ca **nanton.ca**

September 8, 2023

SOUTHERN ALBERTA TOWING CORP
C/O WILLIAM HODGINS
BOX 1111
NANTON, AB T0L 1R0

SENT VIA REGULAR MAIL

RE: PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE – BYLAW #1377/23 AFFECTING ALL THAT PORTION OF THE LANE WHICH LIES BETWEEN THE SOUTHERLY LIMIT OF LOTS 11 AND 12, AND THE NORTHERLY LIMIT OF LOTS 23 AND 24, BLOCK 28, PLAN 3163L

Enclosed is a sketch of the above-mentioned proposed road closure that is located adjacent to or near land registered in your name. Please be advised the municipality proposes to close this laneway for the purpose of disposing (sale) of the closure area.

In order to proceed with the closure, we request that you to indicate your agreement with this closure by signing and returning the duplicate copy of this letter. Should you have any objections, please notify our office before the submission deadline for the Public Hearing (12:00 pm September 27, 2023) as per the enclosed notice.

Sincerely,
Town of Nanton

Sharpe

Georgina Sharpe
Planning and Development Officer
Encl.

I hereby certify that I have no objections to the closure of the public roadway (lane area) as described above.

September 11, 2023.
Date

Signature

RECEIVED
SEP 15 2023
TOWN OF NANTON

RECEIVED

SEP 1 2 2023

NANTON

EST 1903

Town of Nanton
Box 609, Nanton, Alberta, T0L 1R0
P: 403-646-2029 **E:** develop@nanton.ca **nanton.ca**

September 8, 2023

M.D. OF WILLOW CREEK #26
BOX 550
CLARESHOLM, AB T0L 0T0

SENT VIA REGULAR MAIL

RE: PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE – BYLAW #1377/23 AFFECTING ALL THAT PORTION OF THE LANE WHICH LIES BETWEEN THE SOUTHERLY LIMIT OF LOTS 11 AND 12, AND THE NORTHERLY LIMIT OF LOTS 23 AND 24, BLOCK 28, PLAN 3163L

Enclosed is a sketch of the above-mentioned proposed road closure that is located adjacent to or near land registered in your name. Please be advised the municipality proposes to close this laneway for the purpose of disposing (sale) of the closure area.

In order to proceed with the closure, we request that you to indicate your agreement with this closure by signing and returning the duplicate copy of this letter. Should you have any objections, please notify our office before the submission deadline for the Public Hearing (12:00 pm September 27, 2023) as per the enclosed notice.

Sincerely,
Town of Nanton

Georgina Sharpe
Planning and Development Officer
Encl.

I hereby certify that I have no objections to the closure of the public roadway (lane area) as described above.

Sept 13/23
Date

Signature

On behalf of Council.

STATUS REPORT

Meeting: October 2, 2023
Agenda Item: 3.1.1

Completed = C **Under Review** = UR **In Progress** = IP **No Further Action** = NFA **On Hold** - HOLD

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer
DO = Development Officer
CS = Corporate Services
LS = Legislative Services
OP = Operations Manager
OTHER = Staff/Contractor/etc.

COMMITTEES: **GOV** = Governance **FIN** – Finance **SERV** = Services **REC** = Recreation & Culture
ECD = Economic & Community Develop **CW**= Committee of the Whole

Items will move to "DEPARTMENT" or "COMMITTEE" after first reporting to Council.

COUNCIL

Res #	Description	Notes	Status	FWD
Regular Meeting September 19, 2023				
240-23/09/18	Public Hearing Bylaws #1375/23 & 1376/23	#241 Closed	C	
242 – 23/09/18	Written Submissions added as Schedule "A" to minutes		C	
245 - 23/09/18	Correction to Special Minutes 23/09/11 – Mitchell absent		C	
Item 5.1	Gopher policy – research req'd for residents to participate	Oct 2 Reg mtg	IP	CAO
246 – 23/09/18	Dust Suppression policy updated – offering service		C	
247-250 23/09/18	Animal Bylaw #1378/23 – update completed		C	

COMMITTEE

Res #	Description	Notes	Status	FWD
Committee Recommendations brought forward to Agenda				
1-23/09/21 - 13	Additional Utility Operator consideration	Reg 23/10/02		4.2.1
2-23/09/21 - 13	Council consider 25% contribution to Kosy Korner lift	Reg 23/10/02		4.2.2
3-23/09/21 – 13	CAO to explore contracted street sweeping/janitorial	Future schedule		
1-23/09/25 – CW	Correspondence to Minister Seniors, Community & Social Services re: AND Villages concept support	Reg 23/10/02		4.2.3
2-23/09/25 - CW	Support Nanton Quality of Life advocacy as per RMA report	Reg 23/10/02		4.2.4

DEPARTMENTS

Res #	Description	Notes	ST	fw
243-21/09/07	Heraldic emblem project updated – waiting for 2nd draft	Preview 23/09/05	IP	LS
149-22/05/02	RFD re: STARS $2/capita request	Deferred for new reserve 2024	IP	CS
174-22/05/16 250-22/08/15	CAO to draft lease agreement for the Canadian Grain Elevator Discovery Center	Ready for finalization 06/05	IP	CAO
394 - 22/12/12	Defer off-site levy in lieu of legal advice		IP	CAO
67 - 23/03/06	CAO to review Bylaw 1160/04, (Development Levy Bylaw) for off-site levy and utility fee discussions.	May 15th	IP	CAO
76 - 23/03/06	CAO find options re: pension programs and planning.		IP	CAO
66 - 23/03/06	2023 dewatering pilot project for WWTP before larger scale dewatering project to reduce liquids in sludge.	$10,000 est -pilot proceeding	C	OP
139-23/05/01	Chamber support of Economic Development Officer - RFD for financial implications to be brought forward	Res #208-23/08/14 $20K 2024 & 2025	C	CAO/CS
148-23/05/15	Wastewater Plant upgrade – Town funding $581,900 borrowing & $581,900 reserves	Borrow bylaw req'd	IP	CS
162-23/06/05	Proceed w/ Wastewater sludge dewatering $65,350	Rental July	C	OPS
163-23/06/05	Discuss Visitor Information potential with Canadian Grain Elevators Discovery Centre	Discussions ongoing	IP	CAO

185-23/06/19	Off-site levy bylaw to be re-drafted eliminating Lancaster Landing future densities from calculation		IP	CAO/ CS
178 –23/06/19	Consideration for Bare lot utility fees for Fees/Rates (143-23/05/15 Item 5.1 Bare Lot & Servicing to June 5)	Fall 2023	IP	CAO/ CS
196– 23/07/10 198-23/07/10	Public Hearing re: Bylaw #1375/23 & #1376 Aug 14/23 Resolution #204-23/08/14 moved to Sept 18 Reg Mtg		C	DO
210 – 23/08/14	Land Use Bylaw update process – include letter of opposition to secondary suites - J. Cooper & petitioners		IP	DO
207- 23/08/14	Council to adopt formal approach to pursue treated water supply via pipeline from High River next 4-8 yrs		IP	CAO
219 – 23/09/05	CAO to draft Gopher Control policy (199-23/07/10) further info required re: private properties	1-23/08/30 S Bring fwd Oct 2	IP	CAO
220 – 23/09/05	CAO amend Dust Suppression Policy 32-20-23/01/16 to include provisions for additional opportunities	2-23/08/30 S Res#246-23/09/18	C	
221 - 23/09/05	Closure of yard waste depot Oct 31/23 – contingent (68-23/03/06 Air option for Q4 2023 planning)	3-23/08/30 S	IP	PW/CAO
222 - 23/09/05	Purchase skid-mounted flusher in 2024 budget process	4-23/08/30	IP	CS/OPS
223 - 23/09/05	Pool Assessment Report – further info req'd from Salas O'Brien, Stephenson Engineering	5-23/08/30	IP	CAO
229 – 23/09/05	Policy #183 – 10/06/07 – Entrance Sign	REPEAL/ REPLACE	IP	LS
230 – 23/09/05	Bylaw #1377/23 Road Closure – 1st reading – signature (Res #209-23/08/14)	AB TSP	IP	DO
231 – 23/09/05	Public Hearing Bylaw #1377/23 Oct 2/23 Regular mtg.		IP	DO/CAO

ITEMS ON HOLD FOR FUTURE SCHEDULING

Res #	Description	Notes
CW 1-22/11/28	Pursue a Community Designation under the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program	Entrepreneur Stream secured - CAO
90 -23/03/20	Collaborate w/ Nanton Fire Chief to review number of firefighters for required level of service	Fire Chief/CAL
135-23/05/01	Application for a solar feasibility assessment for Town's facilities or unserviced industrial lands	For future consideration contingent on Climate Action Centre funding – CS
221 - 23/09/05	Closure of yard waste depot Oct 31/23 – contingent (68-23/03/06 Air option for Q4 2023 planning)	3-23/08/30 S

Roadway Infrastructure	Lead: Public Works	BUDGET	SOURCE
Road rehab & repairs - various locations **COMPLETE**		$150,000	Gas Tax
Sidewalk rehab & replacement - *various locations* **COMPLETE**		$75,000	Gas Tax

Notes:

- *Sidewalk: HWY 2 Circle 'K' Location is priority ahead of Tim Horton's area (defer latter to 2024);*
- *Curb replacement: SWL area of 20th conversion to angle parking will be a 2024 project – some underground services need to first be addressed.*

Water, Wastewater & Stormwater Infrastructure	Lead: Manager of Operations	BUDGET	SOURCE
WWTP (FOG Digester) **COMPLETE**		$75,000	MSI/LGFF
Sewer collection re-lining (remainder of 19th Street), ***incorporating manhole chamber renewal(s)*** **COMPLETE**		$150,000	Gas Tax
Flusher (for sewer collection mains) Modifying the 2009 flusher is not an option, therefore a whole new unit is required as a 2024 project.		$20,000	MSI/LGFF
WWTP Equipment (chemical pump and metering)		$25,000	MSI/LGFF
Water Valve Replacement (12 planned) **PARTIAL COMPLETION – REMAINDER SCHEDULED FOR FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER**		$100,000	Gas Tax
Catch Basin/ swale (Ranchland Motel corner) project: *further discussion*		$20,000	MSI/LGFF
Raw water reservoir aeration project		$1,370,000 *38.46% Reserves; 61.54% Province*	AWWMP

Notes:

- ***Water valve replacement will resume in the Fall (20th Street)***
- *A decision on the catch basin/ how to address stormwater needs to be made **asap,** project has additional complexities.*
- *Raw water reserve aeration project: PAC system awarded; aeration system awarded*
- *WTP has finally gotten its "last mile" fiber connection from Telus. This is good news for plant monitoring and operation.*

Parks & Trails	Lead: Rec Facility Supervisor	BUDGET	SOURCE
Picnic Shelter/ Gazebo modifications (Lions Grove Park) **COMPLETE**		$15,000	MSI/LGFF
Pathway Rehab (Ball Diamond area) **COMPLETE**		$20,000	MSI/LGFF
Playground updates (handicap accessible swings and groundwork): deferred – linked to Boards project delays at THRC		$25,000	MSI/LGFF
VIC washroom completion **COMPLETE**		$10,000	***Reserves***

Notes:

- *Shelter: water line condition (assess for leakage)*
- *playground groundwork may be 2024;*

Buildings	**Lead: Various**	**BUDGET**	**SOURCE**
THRC - front curtainwall façade, roof & elevator (grant dependent) Grant application submitted – unlikely a 2024 project		$300,000	program
Arena – partial board replacement/ updates **COMPLETE**		$75,000	MSI/LGFF
Public Works Shop – Heating, A/C, ventilation, lighting and structural, electrical, fiber, sewer, water Most aspects complete – inside structural work still to be done.		$75,000	MSI/LGFF
Firehall – Heating updates **COMPLETE**		$50,000	MSI/LGFF
Fencing - recycling/branch pile yard In development		$25,000	Taxation

Notes:

Vehicles & Equipment	**Lead: Public Works/ Rec/Bylaw**	**BUDGET**	**SOURCE**
PW equipment - sander and plow **COMPLETE**		$50,000	Taxation
Backhoe replacement **COMPLETE (ORDERED)**		$202,000	MSI/LGFF
Vehicles (PW pickup trucks) **COMPLETE**		$75,000	***Reserves***
Parks - tractor replacement **COMPLETE**		$40,000	MSI/LGFF
Bylaw equipment - speed signage & upgraded crosswalk illumination **COMPLETE (not crosswalks)**		$25,000	Gas Tax

Notes:

- *Sander and Plow will be executed this summer.*
- *Backhoe ordered – receipt in 2024*
- *A fleet program for next year may is being examined. What best fits the budget?*
- *Electric traffic signs received. Model that will allow traffic count on HWY2.*
- *Pedestrian crossing upgrades could be deferred due to challenges around cost-effective upgrading. Inquiries continue..*

Public Realm & Development	**BUDGET**	**SOURCE**
Library Raingarden *(grant dependent)*	$56,500	program
VIC Raingarden/secondary phase *(grant dependent)*	$567,500	program
Gateway Signage	$25,000	MSI/LGFF

Notes:

- *Some capital renewal around technology undertaken for the LED gateway signs.*
- *Digital Kiosk project has been completed.*
- *Library or VIC project grant application success would mean considerable reserve decisions for match or partnering amounts.*

Other notes:

Fortis streetlight at HWY 533 campground is deferred due to estimate inflation. Will be discussed for 2024 budget.

MINUTES

Monday, September 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers at the Tom Hornecker
Recreation Centre, 2122 – 18 Street

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL PRESENT:	Mayor Jennifer Handley and Councillors Victor Czop, Roger Miller, Dave Mitchell, Ken Sorenson and Kevin Todd. Absent: Councillor John Dozeman	
OTHERS PRESENT:	Neil Smith	Chief Administrative Officer
	Lisa Lockton	Legislative Services Manager
	Clayton Gillespie	Corporate Services Manager
	Georgina Sharpe	Planning & Development Officer
Via Electronic	Kelsey Becker Brookes	Reynolds, Mirth, Richards & Farmer LLP
	Andrew Skeith	Associate, RMRF LLP
	Steven Butt	D2S Farms Ltd.
	Chris Ollenberger	Consultant for D2S Farms Ltd.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Handley at 7:00 p.m.

RESOLUTION # 239 – 23/09/18 - Mitchell
The Regular Council agenda for September 18, 2023, was accepted with the following addition:
7.2 Nanton School Advantage – FOIP Section 16(1) Disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party. CARRIED

2. PRESENTATIONS:

2.1 Bylaw #1375/23 – Amend Land Use Bylaw #1246/13 to redesignate lands, and Bylaw #1376/23 – Repeal of Lancaster Landing Area Structure Plan Bylaw #1235/11

RESOLUTION # 240 – 23/09/18 - Todd
Moved to recess the Regular Meeting of Council at 7:01 p.m. in order to hold a Public Hearing in regards to firstly:

- Town of Nanton Bylaw #1375/23, an amendment to the Land Use Bylaw #1246/13, to redesignate the unsubdivided Phase I area of the Lancaster Landing Area Structure Plan (PTN NE 16-16-28 W4) from Multiple Residential – R3 and Public Institutional – P1 to Agricultural Transitional – AT: and secondly,

- Town of Nanton Bylaw #1376/23, a Bylaw to repeal the Lancaster Landing Area Structure Plan Bylaw #1235/11.

CARRIED

2.2 INTRODUCTION FROM ADMINISTRATION:

No introductions from Administration were made.

2.3 SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED TO DATE, AS READ BY THE CHAIR:

NAME	BYLAW #	POSITION
M.D. Willow Creek	1375, 1376	Neutral
AB Transportation and Economic Corridors	1375, 1376	Neutral
Marion Murphy, Resident	1376	In Favour
Shores Jardin/D2S Farms Ltd.	1375, 1376	Opposed

2.4 CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS BY THE CHAIR:

The Chair read:

"The advertisement for the Public Hearing in regards to Town of Nanton Bylaw #1375/23 and #1376/23 was conducted in accordance with the Municipal Government Act, and will be conducted in accordance with the Council and Committee Procedural Bylaw #1354/21.

If there are those present or registered who wish to speak to Council, the general rules for presentations are:

- Please note that each person that has a submission or speaks to the bylaws will have their name and position regarding the bylaw to which they are addressing, recorded in the minutes
- Each presentation will be limited to five minutes for individuals and ten minutes for groups, unless a time extension is granted by Council.
- Presentations are not to include questions to Council or Administration.
- Council Members may question the speakers after each presentation for clarification of the presentation.
- The Chair may recall the presenter in order to allow Council to ask additional questions of clarification, if required.
- Council must not ask questions of Administration until the Public Hearing on a matter is concluded.
- Improper conduct by members of the public will result in that person being asked to leave the Public Hearing by the Chair.
- Any person, group or authorized representative wishing to speak must state their name for recording in the minutes and which of the Bylaws, #1375 or #1376, or both, to which the person wishes to address.
- Any person(s) or group(s) present who are IN FAVOUR of the subject matter of the Public Hearing and wish to be heard by Council.
  - Those IN FAVOUR present.
- Any person(s) or group(s) present who are AGAINST the subject matter of the Public Hearing and wish to be heard by Council.
  - Those AGAINST present. – D2S Farms Ltd. and/or representative."

Chris Ollenberger 7:07 to 7:13 p.m. Bylaws #1375/23 and #1376/23 AGAINST

(no written submission provided)

Steven Butt 7:13 to 7:18 p.m. Bylaws #1375/23 and #1376/23 AGAINST
(no written submission provided)

The Chairs asked if any other person(s), group(s) or authorized representative(s) other than those above who wish to be heard by Council. There was no one else present who wished to be heard.

The Chair thanked everyone and stated that all information received and presented at this hearing will be considered by Council.

2.5 **RESOLUTION # 241 – 23/09/18 – Czop**
Moved to **CLOSE** the Public Hearing in regards to Town of Nanton Bylaw #1375/23 and Bylaw #1376/23 and reconvene the Regular Meeting of Council at 7:20 p.m. CARRIED

RESOLUTION # 242 – 23/09/18 – Miller
Move that all written submissions received in regards to the Public Hearing for Town of Nanton Bylaw #1375/23 and #1376/23, from the following person(s) or groups(s):

- M.D. Willow Creek
- AB Transportation and Economic Corridors
- Marion Murphy, Resident
- Shores Jardin/D2S Farms Ltd.

be attached to these minutes collectively as Schedule "A".
CARRIED

3. REPORTS:

3.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:
3.1.1 Status Report – E
3.1.2 Monthly Report - E

3.2 FINANCIAL:
3.2.1 Accounts Payable Reports to August 31, 2023

3.3 DEPARTMENT:
3.3.1 Corporate Services Manager - E
3.3.2 Operations Manager - E
3.3.3 Planning & Development Officer - E
3.3.4 Fire Chief – No report
3.3.5 Peace Officer - E

3.4 COUNCIL:

3.4.1 MAYOR JENNIFER HANDLEY
(a) Proclamation of Legion Week, September 17 to 23, 2023 - E

3.4.2 COUNCILLOR VICTOR CZOP July & August – E

3.4.6 COUNCILLOR KEVIN TODD
(a) Alberta SouthWest Board Minutes Aug 2/23 – E
(b) Alberta SouthWest Sept. Bulletin - E

RESOLUTION # 243 - 23/09/18 - Todd
Moved that all written reports, as recorded on the agenda for September 18, 2023 be received for information and filing. CARRIED

Georgina Sharpe left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

4.1 ADOPTION:

4.1.1 Regular Council Meeting September 5, 2023 Minutes – E

RESOLUTION # 244 - 23/09/18 - Mitchell
The Councillors all having read the minutes and there being no errors, omissions or corrections, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Town of Nanton held September 5, 2023, were accepted as distributed. CARRIED

4.1.2 Special Meeting of Council September 11, 2023 Minutes - E

RESOLUTION # 245 - 23/09/18 - Czop
The Councillors all having read the minutes and there being a correction to note the absence of Councillor Mitchell for this meeting, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council of the Town of Nanton held September 11, 2023, were accepted as corrected. CARRIED

4.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None

5. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

5.1 Proposed Gopher Control Policy – E

Council discussed the policy presented for gopher control. Research for accommodating requests for control on private property was requested from Administration prior to further consideration.

5.2 Amendment for Dust Suppression Policy #32-20-23/01/16 - E

RESOLUTION # 246 - 23/09/18 - Mitchell
Moved to approve the update to Dust Suppression Policy #32-20-23/01/16 as presented and attached to these minutes as Schedule "B". CARRIED

5.3 Update for Animal Bylaw #1352/21 - E

RESOLUTION #247 – 23/09/18 - Todd
Move to read Town of Nanton Bylaw #1378/23, a bylaw for the licensing, control and regulation of Animals, for a first time. CARRIED

RESOLUTION #248 – 23/09/18 - Miller
Move to read Town of Nanton Bylaw #1378/23 for a second time. CARRIED

RESOLUTION #249 – 23/09/18 - Czop

Unanimous consent to read Town of Nanton Bylaw #1378/23 for a third time was granted by Council present. CARRIED

RESOLUTION #250 – 23/09/18 - Sorenson
Move to read Town of Nanton Bylaw #1378/23 for a third and final time. CARRIED

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

6.1 FOR ACTION:
6.1.1 Alberta Food Rescue and Distribution Warehouse – E

Council accepted the correspondence for information with no action at this time.

6.2 FOR INFORMATION:
6.2.1 Nanton Animal Protection Society September 30, 2023 event - E

7. CLOSED CONFIDENTIAL SESSION:

RESOLUTION # 251 - 23/09/18 - Todd
IT WAS MOVED to recess the Regular Meeting at 7:50 p.m. in order to hold "Closed Confidential Sessions" pursuant to Section 197(2) of the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26 and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, as follows:

7.1 Alberta Municipalities Meetings – FOIP Section 21 Harmful to Intergovernmental Relations.

7.2 Addition - Nanton School Advantage – FOIP Section 16(1) Disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION # 252 - 23/09/18 - Mitchell
IT WAS MOVED to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 8:34 p.m. CARRIED

8. ADJOURNMENT:

RESOLUTION # 253 - 23/09/18 - Todd
IT WAS MOVED to adjourn the Regular Meeting of Council at 8:34 p.m.

TOWN OF NANTON

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

NS:ll

These minutes accepted and signed this 2nd day of October, 2023.

Municipal District of Willow Creek

Office of the Administrator

www.mdwillowcreek.com
273129 Secondary Highway 520
Claresholm Industrial Area
Box 550, Claresholm Alberta T0L 0T0

Office: (403) 625-3351
Fax: (403) 625-3886
Shop: (403) 625-3030
Toll Free: 888-337-3351

July 19, 2023

Town of Nanton
Box 609
1907 – 21st Ave
Nanton, AB
T0L 1R0
cao@nanton.ca
development@nanton.ca Town

RE: Bylaw No. 1375-23 and 1376-23
Land Use Bylaw Amendment and repeal Area Structure Plan

The MD of Willow Creek No. 26 has reviewed the Notice of Public Hearing on July 19, 2023 for Bylaws No. 1375-23 and 1376-23.

The MD of Willow Creek recognize the requirement of the Intermunicipal Development Plan Bylaw No. 1613 and Bylaw No. 1227/10, to notify the MD of Willow Creek for proposed bylaws for comments to be provided. The MD of Willow Creek have no comments.

The M.D. of Willow Creek thank you for the referral and the opportunity to comment. If you any questions, please call (403) 625-3351, extension 235 or email at chisholm@mdwillowcreek.com

Thank you

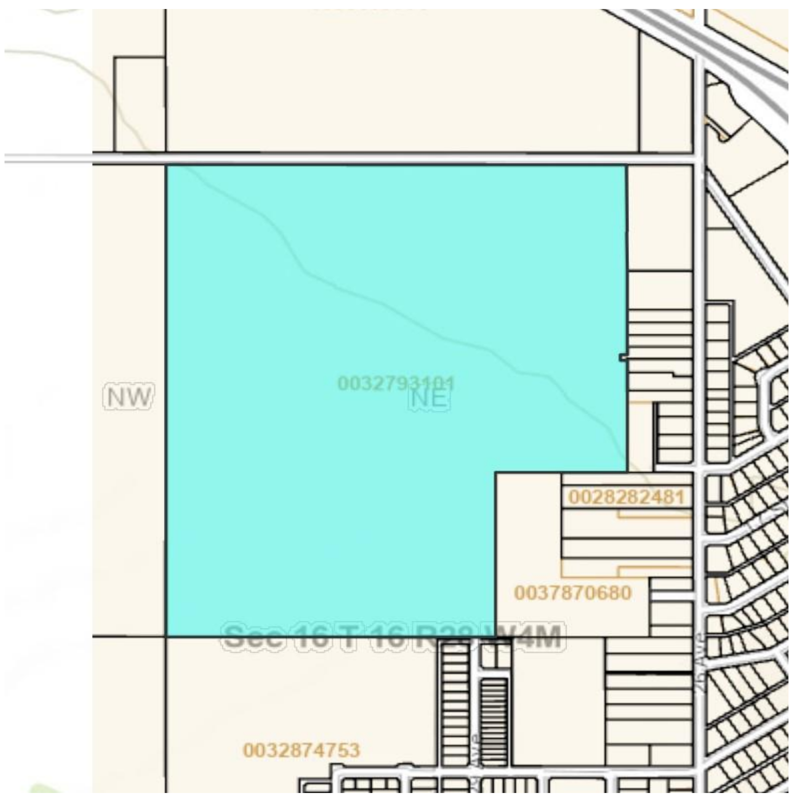
(VIA EMAIL ONLY)

Cindy Chisholm
Director of Planning and Development

Transportation and Economic Corridors Notice of Referral Decision

Statutory Plan in Proximity of a Provincial Highway

Municipality File Number:	Repeal Bylaw #1376/23 - Public Hearing Notice	**Highway(s):**	533, 2
Legal Land Location:	QS-NE SEC-16 TWP-016 RGE-28 MER-4	**Municipality:**	Nanton
Decision By:	Leah Olsen	**Issuing Office:**	Southern Region / Lethbridge
Issued Date:	2023-07-31 14:06:10	**AT Reference #:**	RPATH0036706
Description of Development:	Proposed bylaws to repeal the Lancaster Landing Area Structure Plan (Bylaw #1235/11) and to redesignate a portion of the Lands to Agricultural Transitional - AT		



This will acknowledge receipt of your circulation regarding the above noted proposal. Transportation and Economic Corridors primary concern is protecting the safe and effective operation of provincial highway infrastructure, and planning for the future needs of the highway network in proximity to the proposed development(s).

Transportation and Economic Corridors offers the following comments and observations with respect to the proposed development(s):

- Pursuant to Section 618.3(1) of the Municipal Government Act (MGA), the department expects that the municipality will comply with any applicable items related to provincial highways in an ALSA plan if applicable

- Pursuant to 618.4(1) of the Municipal Government Act, the department expects that the Municipality will mitigate the impacts of traffic generated by developments approved on the local road connections to the highway system, in accordance with Policy 7 of the Provincial Land Use Policies.

Please contact Transportation and Economic Corridors through the RPATH Portal if you have any questions, or require additional information.

Issued by **Leah Olsen,** on **2023-07-31 14:06:10** on behalf of the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors pursuant to *Ministerial Order 52/20 – Department of Transportation and Economic Corridors Delegation of Authority*

Marion Murphy
1511 - 26 Avenue
[redacted]
Nanton, Alta. T0L 1R0
31 July, 2023

Council Members
Town of Nanton
Nanton, Alberta

Dear Members:

I am writing this to say that I am absolutely in favor of adopting Bylaw #1376/23 to repeal Bylaw #1235/11.

Bylaw #1235/11 should never have been adopted in the first place. Most people that attended the open house presentations and public hearing were opposed to it on the grounds of lack of water, Town of Nanton could not afford the infrastructure, traffic and congestion. Those concerns still stand.

The plan was to build a lot of high-density "multi-family" dwellings. They also used the term "affordable housing." That term, presumably, means people on the lower end of the income scale. Whom do they think would live there? There is no industry in Nanton that could hire enough workers to fill those places. And anyone who had a lower-income job in Calgary would hardly move his family to Nanton - any savings in housing would be eaten up in transportation costs.

The result would be mostly-empty buildings left to decay. In other words, an eye-sore.

Marion Murphy

SHORES JARDINE LLP

August 9, 2023

Delivered Via Email <cao@nanton.ca>

Town of Nanton
Box 609, 1907 – 21 Avenue
Nanton, AB T0L 1R0
Attention: Neil Smith, CAO

Dear Sir:

Re: Public Hearing, Monday August 14, 2023 re: Bylaws 1375-23 and 1376-23

I write to request an adjournment of the public hearings scheduled for Monday, August 14, 2023 re: proposed bylaws #1375/23 and #1376/23 to amend Land Use Bylaw 1246/13 and repeal the Lancaster Landing ASP Bylaw 1235/11 respectively.

Upon our initial review of the proposed bylaws and publicly available materials, we have some significant concerns regarding the justification for the bylaws proposed by administration, the procedural fairness that has been afforded the landowner, and the possibility that the lands at issue are at risk of being sterilized by the municipality. We note that recent legal cases across Canada have significantly shifted the landscape for municipal planning matters, particularly with respect to the duties of municipalities.

We are in the process of being retained by D2S Farms to represent them with respect to the above noted matters given the grave concerns they have with how their lands are being addressed by the Town of Nanton. At this time, we have not had the opportunity to review all of the pertinent information in order to provide written submissions by the deadline of August 9, 2023, or effectively participate in the public hearing scheduled for August 14, 2023. We have been advised that D2S Farms has also asked Mr. Chris Ollenberger, P. Eng. of QuantumPlace Developments Ltd. to review the file using his over 20 years of experience in development and planning applications to assist us.

We respectfully request that the public hearing be adjourned for four weeks (to September 11, 2023) to provide us with sufficient time to review the file and prepare submissions, and that the deadline for submission be correspondingly extended (September 6, 2023). Given the significant impact on the development rights of our client if these bylaws are to go ahead, it is essential that they have full opportunity to present their case to council, and have opportunity to discuss the matter with Administration in detail.

SHORES JARDINE LLP

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

SHORES JARDINE LLP

Per:

M. Joseph Redman

M. Joseph Redman
joseph@shoresjardine.com

MJR/

Cc: Planning and Development Officer,
develop@nanton.ca

C. Ollenberger, Agent for D2S Farms
C. McMorran, D2S Farms
S. Butt, D2S Farms

NANTON
EST 1903

POLICY

Policy No. 32 – 246 – 23/09/18
Department: Common Services
Regular Minutes 23/09/18 – Schedule "B"

DUST SUPPRESSION

PURPOSE:

To formalize the Town's approach to annual dust suppression provided to select unpaved road surfaces within town limits.

POLICY:

1. Unabated dust from gravel roads may pose safety and nuisance concerns, with the Town identifying critical areas for annual treatment from the Operations budget.
2. The Town cannot accommodate requests for additional areas or treatments of dust suppression (at cost as a sale of service) at this time.
3. While nuisance concerns are sympathized with, the Town has a limited annual budget available for dust suppression and prioritizes this work accordingly in line with this policy.
4. This policy represents a formalised 'baseline' to enable better understanding by the public and an easier, more transparent, starting place for discussing levels of service and value for money in future.

PROCEDURE:

1. The Town will implement the use of products that meet environmental standards and its discretionary needs, while always reviewing and exploring different options.
2. The Town will apply dust suppression annually in front of the properties and lands identified in Schedule 'A'.
3. Property owners and businesses can be included in the Town's annual program, on an invoiced cost-recovery basis, provided that:
    a. a Minimum linear frontage be met for cost effectiveness, and
    b. a deadline date or time frame for inclusion in the annual program is stated, be included in the parameters for the addition.
4. Property owners or residents who wish to independently arrange and pay for additional or repeat applications of dust suppression on any unpaved municipal streets, avenues or alleys privately from contracted service providers may do so as long as the Operations Department have an opportunity to first review and approve the proposed location(s), product and application methodology.

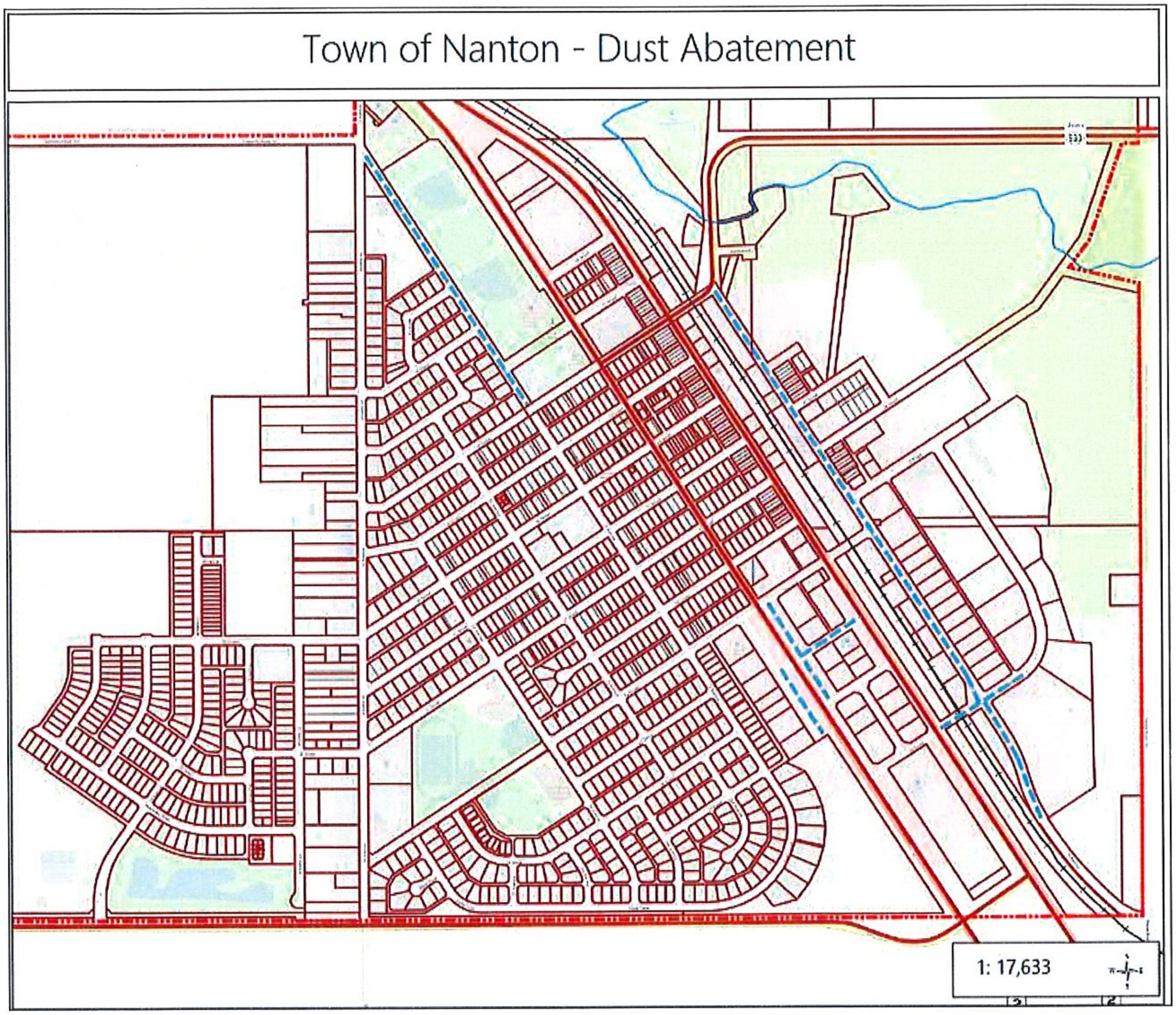
MAYOR — Date: Sept 25, 2023

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER — Date: Sept 26 2023

REFERENCE: 32 – 246 – 23/09/18
REPLACES POLICY: 32 – 20 – 23/01/16

Schedule 'A'

Dust Suppression Areas



MINUTES

Thursday September 21, 2023 at 1:30 pm.
Council Chambers at the Tom Hornecker
Recreation Centre, 2122 – 18th Street

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chairperson Kevin Todd, Members John Dozeman, Dave Mitchell and Mayor Jennifer Handley (ex-officio).

OTHERS:	Neil Smith	Chief Administrative Officer
	Clayton Gillespie	Corporate Services Manager
	Bill Wotyiuk	Operations Manager

<u>1. CALL TO ORDER & ADOPTION OF AGENDA:</u>

1.1 The meeting was called to order by Chair Todd at 1:32 p.m.

<u>RESOLUTION # 1 - 23/09/21 - 13 - Mitchell</u>
IT WAS MOVED to accept the agenda for the September 21, 2023 Finance Committee meeting as distributed. CARRIED

<u>2. DELEGATIONS BY APPOINTMENT:</u> None

<u>3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS & BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:</u>

3.1 Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance Committee of December 7, 2022 were adopted by Council on December 12, 2022.

<u>4. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:</u>

4.1 Additional Utility Operator Consideration

Administration presented a brief outlining the consideration of an additional utility operator. The operations manager expanded on the brief outling the reasoning and need for an additional operator. Discussion then followed.

<u>RECOMMENDATION # 1 – 23/09/21 – 13 – Handley</u>
That an additional utility operator be recommended for Council consideration for the 2024 budget. CARRIED.

Operations Manager Bill Wotyiuk left the meeting at 1:50 pm

4.2 Non-union Personnel Compensation Policy Review

Administration presented Policy No. 14-249-20/10/05 to the Committee for a brief review as the policy has now been in place for three years. No concerns or issues were noted at this time.

4.3 2024 Capital Budget Review

Administration presented the current 5-year capital plan highlighting 2024 and reviewing those items along with additional items that should be considered. Discussion followed – administration will continue to refine the 2024 capital budget for further consideration in the coming months.

Member Dozeman entered the meeting at 2:00 pm

4.4 Kosy Korner budget request

Member Dozeman recused himself at 2:05 pm due to a pecuniary interest as a family member of the contractor quoting for the elevator project.

Administration presented a request from the Kosy Korner for budget consideration of a wheel chair lift to enable basement access by all users. Discussion followed.

RECOMMENDATION # 2 – 23/09/21 – 13 – Mitchell
That Council consider a 25% contribution to the estimated project cost of $59,000 for supply and installation of a wheel chair lift should the Kosy Korner not be able to fundraise and or obtain grant/other funding to cover the cost of the project. CARRIED.

Member Dozeman re-joined the meeting at 2:14 pm.

4.5 Contracting services

The Committee discussed the idea of contracting certain services out as opposed to having them done internally.

RECOMMENDATION # 3 – 23/09/21 – 13 – Handley
That the Chief Administrative Officer explore the feasibility of contracting street sweeping services, janitorial restroom services and public waste receptacle services. CARRIED.

4.6 Contractor Agreements

A general discussion on contracts/agreements that can be put in place for work/services the Town needs done. Administration noted a requirement for a specific contract agreement can be added to the purchasing policy for further consideration.

4.7 Paving/Street improvement tax

Discussion on ideas to further fund street improvements.

5. Closed Confidential Session:

RESOLUTION # 2 – 23/09/21 – 13 – Mitchell
IT WAS MOVED to recess the Finance Committee Meeting at 2:57 pm in order to hold a "Closed Confidential Session" pursuant to Section 197(2) of the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26 and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, as follows:

5.1 Upcoming Union Negotiations – FOIP Section 17 (4)(c) Disclosure harmful to personal privacy

CARRIED

RESOLUTION # 3 – 23/09/21 – 13 – Handley
IT WAS MOVED to reconvene the Finance Committee Meeting at 3:18 pm. CARRIED

6. ADJOURNMENT:

RESOLUTION # 4 – 23/09/21 – 13 - Handley
Moved to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting at 3:18 p.m.

TOWN OF NANTON

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL	**CHAIRPERSON**

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

NS:cg

These minutes accepted and signed this 2nd day of October, 2023.

MINUTES

Monday, September 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers at the Tom Hornecker
Recreation Centre, 2122 – 18 Street

COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Jennifer Handley and Councillors Victor Czop*, John Dozeman, Roger Miller, Dave Mitchell*, Ken Sorenson and Kevin Todd.
(*Attendance via electronic means)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Neil Smith	Chief Administrative Officer
Lisa Lockton	Legislative Services Manager
Clayton Gillespie	Corporate Services Manager
Georgina Sharpe	Planning & Development Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER & ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

The Committee of the Whole of Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Handley at 7:00 p.m.

RESOLUTION # 1 – 23/09/25 – CW - Dozeman
The Committee of the Whole of Council agenda for September 25, 2023, was accepted as presented. CARRIED

2. DELEGATIONS:

2.1 ISL Land Development, Brian Conger and Bridget Ritter: Land Use Bylaw Update 7:05–9:00 pm.

Councillor Czop left the meeting at 8:03 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Georgina Sharpe left the meeting at 8:24 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

3. PRESENTATIONS BY DEPARTMENTS:

Administration

3.1 Discussion of Land Use Bylaw community consultation phase and any directions to consultant and administration

3.2 Alberta Southwest/ AND Villages Regional Housing proposal

3.2.1 Letter of support consideration

RECOMMENDATION # 1 – 23/09/25 – CW - Dozeman
That Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to forward correspondence to Minister Jason Nixon, Seniors, Community and Social Services, to offer support, in principle, for the concept proposed by AND Villages' Regional Solution for Housing Supply, in advance of further Council discussion and direction regarding affordable housing solutions for Nanton. CARRIED

3.3 Nanton Quality of Life Foundation Request for Advocacy Support
(Reg Mtg 23/09/18 item 3.4.6(c))

RECOMMENDATION # 2 – 23/09/25 – CW - Czop
That the Town of Nanton will support the Nanton Quality of Life Foundation in its advocacy efforts based on the four recommendations of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta report, “Understanding and Responding to the Challenges Faced by FCSS Programs in Rural Alberta”, stated as:

1. Increase core funding from the Province;
2. Increase the accessibility of Provincial social support services for rural Alberta;
3. Ensure that future public policy related to social service delivery in Alberta is approached via a rural lens;
4. Ensure that social service policy in Alberta is designed with meaningful contributions from rural FCSS programs; and

further that this support will be conveyed by Council at the fall 2023 Alberta Municipalities Association conference.
CARRIED

RESOLUTION # 2 - 23/09/25 – CW - Sorenson
Moved that all written reports, as recorded on the agenda for the Committee of the Whole of Council meeting September 25, 2023 be received for information and filing. CARRIED

4. MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR INQUIRIES: None

5. NEXT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING: Not scheduled.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

RESOLUTION # 3 - 23/09/25 – CW - Dozeman
IT WAS MOVED to adjourn the Committee of the Whole of Council Meeting at 9:18 p.m.

TOWN OF NANTON

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL	**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

NS:ll

These minutes accepted and signed this 2nd day of October, 2023.

INFORMATION BRIEF

Additional Utility Operator Consideration

Background:

At present the Utility department has two full time operators plus one part-time operator to manage and operate the WTP, the WWTP and the distribution system. This has been in place for the past two years now – previous to that there were two full time operators and at two different times a utilities foreman was also present. Public works staff does help out on the distribution side but in a limited capacity and only sparingly. The current setup is mostly adequate in terms of operating both plants but there is a lot of maintenance work on the distribution side and the plant side that is getting pushed off and in general more help would be quite beneficial. Without additional help, maintenance costs will be higher as outside contractors will be needed.

In 2023, wages, deductions and benefits will account for approximately 26% of the water and wastewater budgets. At the current union rate, an additional utility operator 1 would increase this to about 32% and result in a deficit. One option to cover the deficit is to increase to the utility fees. Utility fees are set to increase in 2024 to help cover the annual cost increases that come from inflation, but this alone would not be enough. The deficit could also be covered by general taxation.

2024 water rates per the fees and rate bylaw are as follows:

$61 flat fee +

$0 on 0 to 18 m^3 consumption

$2.25/m^3 on 18 to 36 cubic meter consumption

$2.75/m^3 on 36 to 45 cubic meter consumption

$2.95/m^3 over and above 45 cubic meter consumption

In order to avoid a deficit, the flat utility fee would have to be increased to $67 (no change to consumption).

The current 2023 flat rate sits at $59 bi-monthly so this would be a 13% increase. The wastewater flat fee would also need to be increased from the current $75 fee up to $81 instead of the proposed $77 bi-monthly fee.

Recruitment for the utility positions has been difficult in the past and we have hired internally previously due to this. Moving forward it is difficult to say how it may go but a third full time utility operator could greatly help the department in terms of increased maintenance work and general operation.

Prepared by: Clayton Gillespie, Corporate Services Manager Date: September 19, 2023

Attention, Town of Nanton Budget Committee,

It has come to our attention that the Kosy Korner is discriminating against Seniors with mobility problems. Specifically People in wheel chairs. We had a Senior ask if they could come and play pool, no problem was our reply, except that the Senior in question was confined to a wheel chair and could not use the stairs. We as a group under took the pricing of a wheel chair lift. Using a local builder as our information source. We have priced out a wheel chair lift for $39.000, with installation coming in at an additional $20,000. At this time we ask that the Town consider budgeting for this lift to be installed in the Kosy Korner. I have included the information package on the lift for your information. Thank you for time in addressing this very worth while project.

Brian Stapley President ,
Town and Country Kosy Korner.

Suitable for virtually any architectural requirements including public spaces and home use

Ideal for indoor or outdoor applications from basic installations to large-scale, complex projects

Finish options including frameless glass for the ultimate in luxury for upscale commercial applications

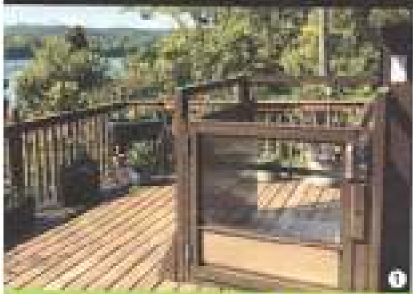
Savaria® V-1504 Vertical Platform Lift

VERSATILITY FOR ANY APPLICATION

The Savaria V-1504 vertical platform lift is built to carry a wheelchair and passenger safely up and down one or more levels.

Suitable for installations in public and commercial buildings, as well as private homes, this Savaria lift features an extremely versatile design that can be configured and customized to suit virtually any project requirements and aesthetic needs. From the rugged outdoors, to the most luxurious office tower lobbies, the Savaria V-1504 lift is ready to serve with its reliable performance, ease of use and range of finish options.

savaria



SAVARIA® V-1504 VERTICAL PLATFORM LIFT

The Savaria V-1504 vertical platform lift is available in a range of base models, all with options and configurations for customization to your needs. Please consult your local skilled Savaria dealer for complete details and local requirements for installation compliance.

STANDARD (V-1504 STD)

Ideal for basic commercial applications and home use, this lift can be used indoors and outdoors to travel a standard 48" with 2 stops or optionally more distance and stops. The standard unit can be custom enclosed on site by your local installer, or built inside a hoistway.

Order the V-1504 in standard beige powder-coated finish, or choose an optional custom color. Popular for use in schools, places of worship and other public spaces, the standard model can be outfitted with a range of options to suit the installation need.

Every Savaria V-1504 model is driven by our reliable hydraulic system and can be configured specifically for your needs. The lift travels up and down a rail system enclosed in the lift tower. The tower is supported with attachment to an existing wall or through a constructed hoistway. Because the drive system is contained within the lift tower, no additional machine room is required for installation.

SMOOTH HYDRAULIC 2:1 CHAIN DRIVE SYSTEM

The lift provides a high efficiency, reliable and comfortable ride.

LARGE PLATFORM FOR EASY ACCESS

The standard platform is 36" by 54" (ADA compliant), and custom platform sizes are also available. The non-skid surface provides added safety.

Installation notes:

1. *Custom brown paint, gate with glass inserts (photo courtesy of Transitions Mobility & Elevator)*
2. *Hoistway application*
3. *Unenclosed outdoor (photo courtesy of Elevators of Texas)*
4. *Tall enclosure with acrylic inserts (photo courtesy of Liftwizard)*
5. *Enclosure with aluminum inserts (photo courtesy of Access Lifts & Service)*
6. *Prestige frameless glass with custom red tower*

ALUMINUM/ACRYLIC MODEL (V-1504 ALPE)

This enclosed model uses aluminum and acrylic inserts and top dome with corrosion-resistant steel components, making it ideal for outdoor applications. Optionally, this model can be ordered with tempered* or laminated glass panels. The active ventilation system keeps the inside comfortable and the gates and door can be motorized.

LUXURY FRAMED (V-1504 LUX)

Framed in 316 stainless steel finish No. 4, with tempered or laminated glass inserts, this lift is a beautiful complement for lobby areas, offices and public buildings.

PRESTIGE FRAMELESS (V-1504 PRESTIGE)

With half-inch structural tempered or tempered laminated glass and no visible frame, this lift is the ultimate statement for creating barrier-free access in commercial applications.

FLEXIBLE DESIGN

Configure up to 23' of travel distance* with up to four stops, with a full range of entrance and exit configurations available.

EXTENSIVE FINISH OPTIONS

Choose standard beige powder coat, select from the optional color finishes, or even request your own custom color. Enclose your lift with acrylic or glass panels.

EMERGENCY BACK-UP SYSTEMS

In addition to a manual lowering system, the lift features a DC battery powered lowering system for use in the event of a power failure. Optionally, a battery back-up operating system can be added to allow full functionality of the lift for emergencies.

EASY OPERATION

On-board controls operate the lift easily with constant pressure. Optional call/send stations can be added with or without key access. Add an optional joystick, 60 mm buttons, or additional operating panel to add even more flexibility for user needs.

MACHINE ROOMLESS

The Savaria V-1504 does not require a machine room to house the drive component, simplifying the installation process. Alternatively, the drive system can be located in a remote machine room for ultra-quiet operation.

** consult your authorized Savaria dealer for complete specifications applicable to your local code requirements*

Savaria® V-1504 Vertical Platform Lift

VERSATILITY FOR ANY APPLICATION

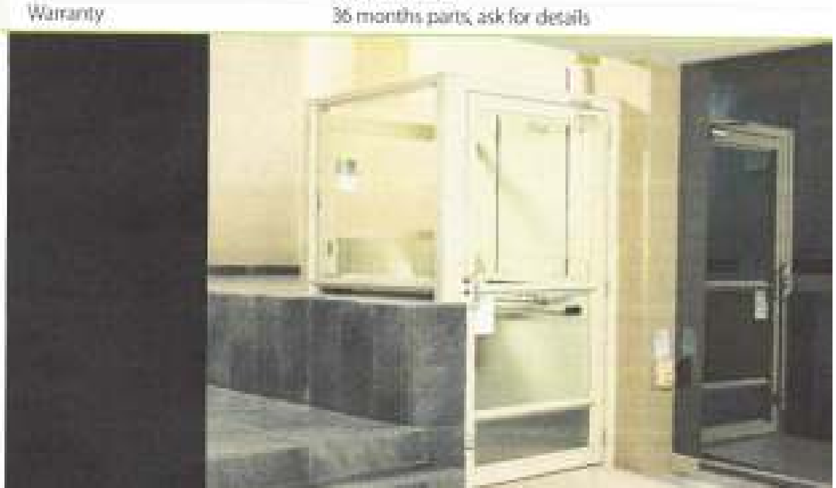
OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

Platform gate, top landing gate, upper/lower landing door, emergency light and alarm, motorized door, frame-mounted, wall-mounted, recessed or free-standing call stations, public building package, outdoor package, battery back-up system for up/down operation, fire-rated doors, wooden door, automatic swing door operator, doors with glass or acrylic inserts, interlock, weather resistant lock, telephone, ADA-hands free phone, folding seat and more.

SPECIFICATIONS

Applications	Residential (indoor/outdoor), Commercial (indoor/outdoor), consult local dealer for details
Capacity	750 lb (340 kg)
Maximum travel distance	23' (7 m), 12' to 14' (3.65 to 4.26 m) in some jurisdictions
Platform sizes	36" x 54" (914 mm x 1371 mm) ADA-compliant, (customize up to 17.5 sq.ft./1.63 sq. m)
Nominal speed	20 ft/min (0.1 m/s)
Levels/stops	2 to 4 stops
Car access/configurations	Enter/exit same side, 90 degree exit, straight through enter/exit
Power supply	110 volt, 20 amp, single phase, 60 Hz
Drive system	2:1 roller chain, hydraulic
Motor pump	3 hp, gear-type
Controller	Relay logic
Emergency operation	Battery-operated lowering with automatic recharging system, plus remote access manual lowering valve optional battery backup
Rail construction	8' modular guide rail assembly with roller guide shoes
Side guards	42 ⅛" (1070 mm), 80" (2032 mm) optional
Finish	Powder coated steel beige, optional and custom colors available
Warranty	36 months parts, ask for details

For drawings, detailed specifications and a complete list of options for your Savaria V-1504 vertical platform lift, consult your local authorized Savaria dealer. To locate a dealer near you, visit savaria.com, or call us.



Talk to a Savaria dealer about how the V-1504 vertical platform lift can give you the access you need.

Authorized Savaria dealer

savaria

www.savaria.com
2 Walker Drive, Brampton, ON L6T 5E1 Canada
tel 800.661.5112 fax 905.791.2222

October 3, 2023

Honourable Mr. Jason Nixon
Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services
Office of the Minister
227 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
E-mail: SCSS.minister@gov.ab.ca

Subject: Support for Regional Initiative to address Housing Supply

Dear Minister Nixon:

The Council of the Town of Nanton wishes to express its strong support in principle for AND Villages' Regional Solution for Housing Supply proposal for proof of concept. This initiative represents a somewhat cohesive approach to addressing the housing challenges we collectively face in the Alberta Southwest region.

Nanton has a well-known shortage of 1-2 bedroom units that are critical to the smaller working families and individuals who support the local economy. We are supportive of a framework that involves provincial financial support, review of municipal borrowing powers and extension of limits as needed, and streamlined reporting mechanisms, as these actions ensure a structured approach that maximizes the impact of available resources.

Council would expeditiously consider the necessary zoning changes and permitting processes, and work closely with a contracted project manager or developer to ensure the timely completion of housing projects. The proposed timeline of 18-24 months seems achievable, subject to funding availability.

The Town of Nanton would be fully prepared to provide the required data and progress updates to demonstrate the outcomes of our collective efforts.

We respectfully request support from Seniors, Community and Social Services and provincial support to make this initiative a reality. Provincial investment of capital and in expanded borrowing powers would be critical in helping us achieve our shared objective of enhancing housing availability within our community.

Continued…,

Thank you for your consideration in appreciation of Alberta SouthWest Regional Alliance bringing this forward to its member municipalities. We look forward to collaborating with your ministry in advancing rural and small-town housing in southwestern Alberta in a way that supports the regional and provincial economies.

Warm regards,
Town of Nanton

Neil Smith, RPP, MCIP
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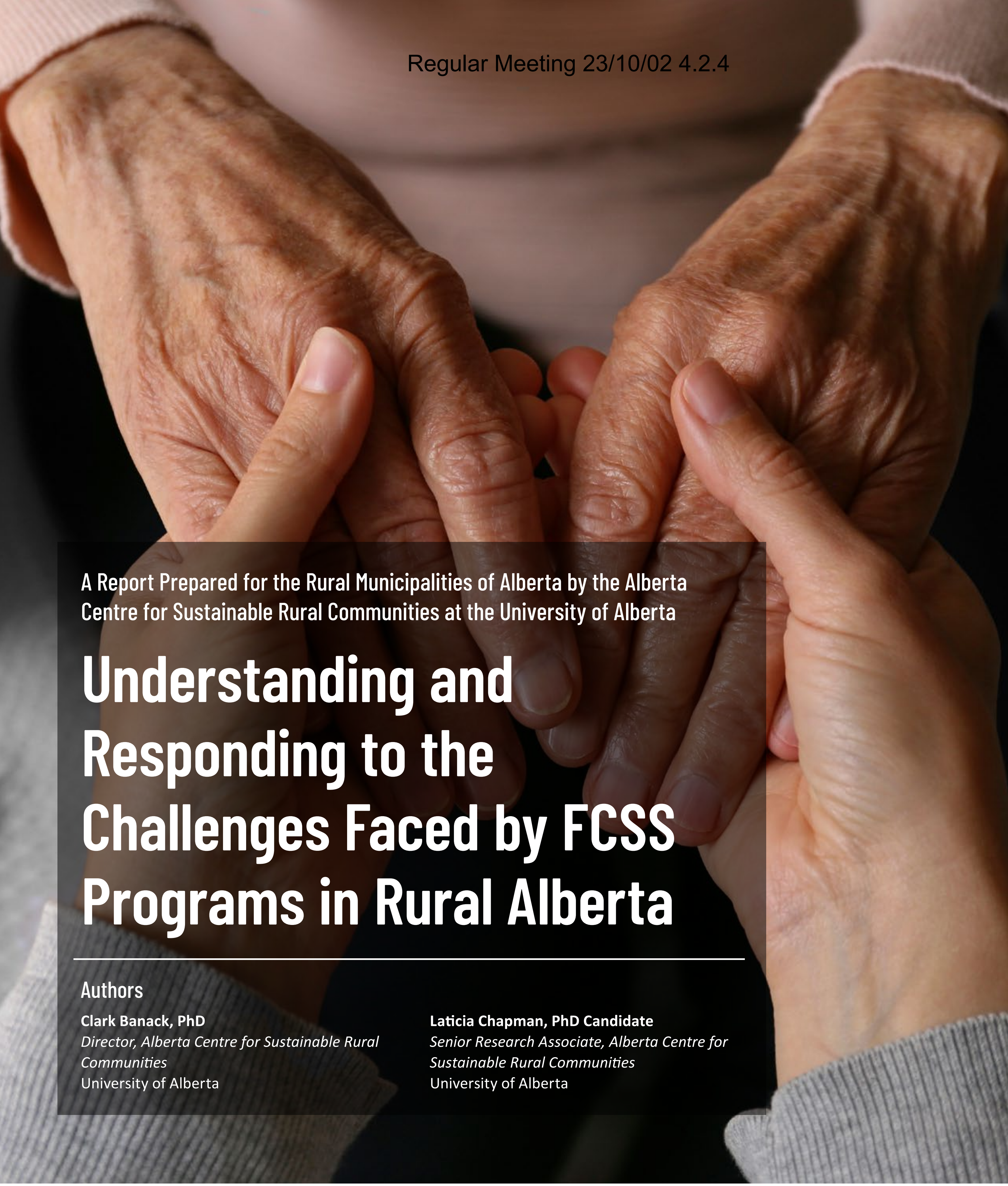

A Report Prepared for the Rural Municipalities of Alberta by the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities at the University of Alberta

Understanding and Responding to the Challenges Faced by FCSS Programs in Rural Alberta

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RMA
RURAL MUNICIPALITIES of ALBERTA

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ALBERTA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES

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* ABOUT THE ALBERTA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES

The Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC), located at the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta in Camrose, has, since its founding in 2009, assisted rural communities in meeting diverse challenges across many areas of public policy through fostering constructive dialogue, promoting interdisciplinary and collaborative research, and developing partnerships. The ACSRC's mission is to link the research, outreach, and educational capacity of the University of Alberta with students, researchers, rural communities, rural community organizations, and policy makers at multiple levels across the province, nationally, and internationally in order to support the improved sustainability of rural communities and populations.

Thinking respectfully and reciprocally with, not just for, rural communities is a main objective of the ACSRC. Through dialogue and collaboration, the ACSRC operates an outreach program that provides direction and stimulates innovation in the development of rural communities. This is built around various collaborations with educational institutions, municipalities, and not-for-profit organizations on research projects that seek to create resilient rural communities across Alberta.

Recently, the ACSRC has been engaged in rural-focused projects related to substantiable economic development opportunities, community mental health, the delivery of social services, enhancing inclusivity, advancing the transition to renewable energy, aiding municipal collaboration, and better understanding both rural public opinion and rural-based populism. To read more about the ACSRC and the work it does, please visit: www.acsrc.ca.

✱ ABOUT THE RURAL MUNICIPALITIES OF ALBERTA (RMA) & THE PROJECT

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocates on behalf of Alberta's rural municipalities. The RMA's members consist of 63 municipal districts and counties, five specialized municipalities, and the Special Areas Board. The RMA's 69 members have several common traits: large land masses, small populations, and a lack of a traditional "population centre." RMA members provide municipal governance to approximately 85% of Alberta's land mass; Alberta is unique in Canada in that municipalities govern land throughout the entire province, from border to border.

Because Alberta's rural municipalities provide municipal governance to large, sparsely populated, and often isolated areas, efficient and high-quality delivery of municipal services is an ongoing challenge that often requires innovative solutions and partnerships with neighbouring towns and villages. It also means that provincial services readily available in urban areas are limited or inaccessible to rural residents, especially those without access to a personal vehicle.

For several years, the RMA has heard from members that reductions in provincial social service availability in rural communities combined with stagnation in provincial funding for municipally-operated family and community support services (FCSS) has led to unprecedented pressure on FCSS agencies to act as a catch-all for a range of social needs in rural communities, including many beyond their mandates. Similar pressure has been put on rural municipalities to contribute funding to FCSS services well beyond their formal requirement under the *Family and Community Support Services Act*.

As social challenges are often overlooked and under-reported in rural Alberta, the RMA prioritized the need to "dig deeper" on this issue to determine whether these concerns were as serious as members described, and whether they were widespread across the province. The work undertaken by the ACSRC provides some powerful evidence as to the reality of this issue in rural Alberta and will allow the RMA to continue to advocate for improved delivery of provincial social services and adequate funding of FCSS programs in rural communities.

* EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Family and community support service (FCSS) programs have provided vitally important "preventative" social service programming to vulnerable Albertans for several decades. FCSS programs remain a critical staple of community life in rural Alberta in particular, often existing as the "only place in town" for rural Albertans in need to seek assistance face-to-face. However, these rural-based programs are facing increasing pressures that are negatively impacting their capacity to serve those in need. This report highlights three key challenges faced by rural FCSS programs in Alberta and responds with four policy recommendations.

Key Challenges

1. Insufficient Provincial Funding

FCSS program costs have been rapidly increasing in the past five years, placing significant stress on their operations. Government of Alberta (GOA) funding (meant to equate to 80% of FCSS's core funding) has remained largely stagnant since 2015. The majority of rural FCSS offices are increasingly reliant on municipal contributions well above their required twenty percent. However, rural municipalities do not have unlimited budgets, and are only able to make up so much of the shortfall created by the province refusing to meaningfully increase FCSS funding.

2. The Increasing Inaccessibility of Provincial Social Services in Rural Alberta

The ongoing centralization of social support services in Alberta has generated challenges for rural FCSS programs; challenges that have only multiplied with recent GOA decisions to transition to "1-800" intake lines and online web portals for several social service supports. As rural FCSS offices are often "the only shop in town," they face a disproportionate burden compared to most of their urban counterparts, as more and more community members approach FCSS offices for help. This places additional pressure on rural FCSS offices to go beyond their mandate and provide intervention-type services, incurring the extra cost this entails with no hope of being reimbursed.

3. Changing and Increasing Social Needs in Rural Communities

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent period of inflation, FCSS programs across rural Alberta are encountering far more community members with more complex social needs than ever before. The number of people who are walking through the doors of rural FCSS offices in crisis has increased dramatically in the past few years, placing additional burdens on these offices to provide intervention-type services and incur the extra cost and effort this entails with no hope of being reimbursed.

Policy Recommendations:

1. Increase core funding from the Government of Alberta.
2. Increase the accessibility of provincial social support services for rural Albertans.
3. Ensure that future public policy related to social service delivery in Alberta is approached via a rural lens.
4. Ensure that social service policy in Alberta is designed with meaningful contributions from rural FCSS programs.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Family and community support service (FCSS) programs provide effective and vitally important "preventative" social service programming to vulnerable community members of all ages throughout Alberta. In an era of ongoing centralization of social service supports in the province, FCSS programs remain a staple of rural community life, often existing as the only physical location where rural Albertans in need can seek assistance face-to-face. These offices are staffed with hardworking and caring individuals who go above and beyond in serving their communities.

However, these rural-based programs are facing increasing pressures related to stagnant provincial funding, the centralization of provincial social service supports, and enhanced social challenges faced by vulnerable community members in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent period of rapid inflation. These challenges are pushing many rural FCSS programs to the brink, negatively affecting some of the most vulnerable members of rural communities and placing pressure on rural municipalities to shoulder an ever-increasing share of the costs of FCSS programming — a share that is now routinely in excess of the 20% mandated by provincial legislation.

The Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) at the University of Alberta was tasked by the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) to conduct a deep dive into the contemporary challenges faced by rural FCSS programs across Alberta and the subsequent burdens being placed on rural municipalities.

To complete this task, the research team utilized a mixed-method study design that was reviewed and approved by the research ethics board of the University of Alberta

(Pro00124133). The research began by conducting 20 semi-structured, in-depth, one-on-one interviews with individuals deemed knowledgeable about this topic. Those interviewed included 16 different directors of rural and smalltown FCSS programs across Alberta, one member of the Family and Community Support Service Association of Alberta (FCSSAA), and three separate Government of Alberta employees with significant experience working with rural FCSS programs. Each interview lasted between 45 and 90 minutes, were conducted online using Zoom, and were transcribed for thematic analysis by the research team.

After completing all 20 interviews, the research team designed a 38-question survey to further explore the depth of the challenges faced by rural FCSS programs identified in the interviews. This survey was conducted online, was emailed to the directors of 158 FCSS programs scattered across rural and smalltown Alberta and received a total of 80 respondents. As Figure 1 and Figure 2, page 8 suggest, the survey respondents provided a representative sample of rural FCSS programs from across the province. Not only did the research team receive a good number of replies from each FCSS region, they also received responses from various sizes and structures of FCSS programs in Alberta.

Figure 1: What FCSS region is your program located in?

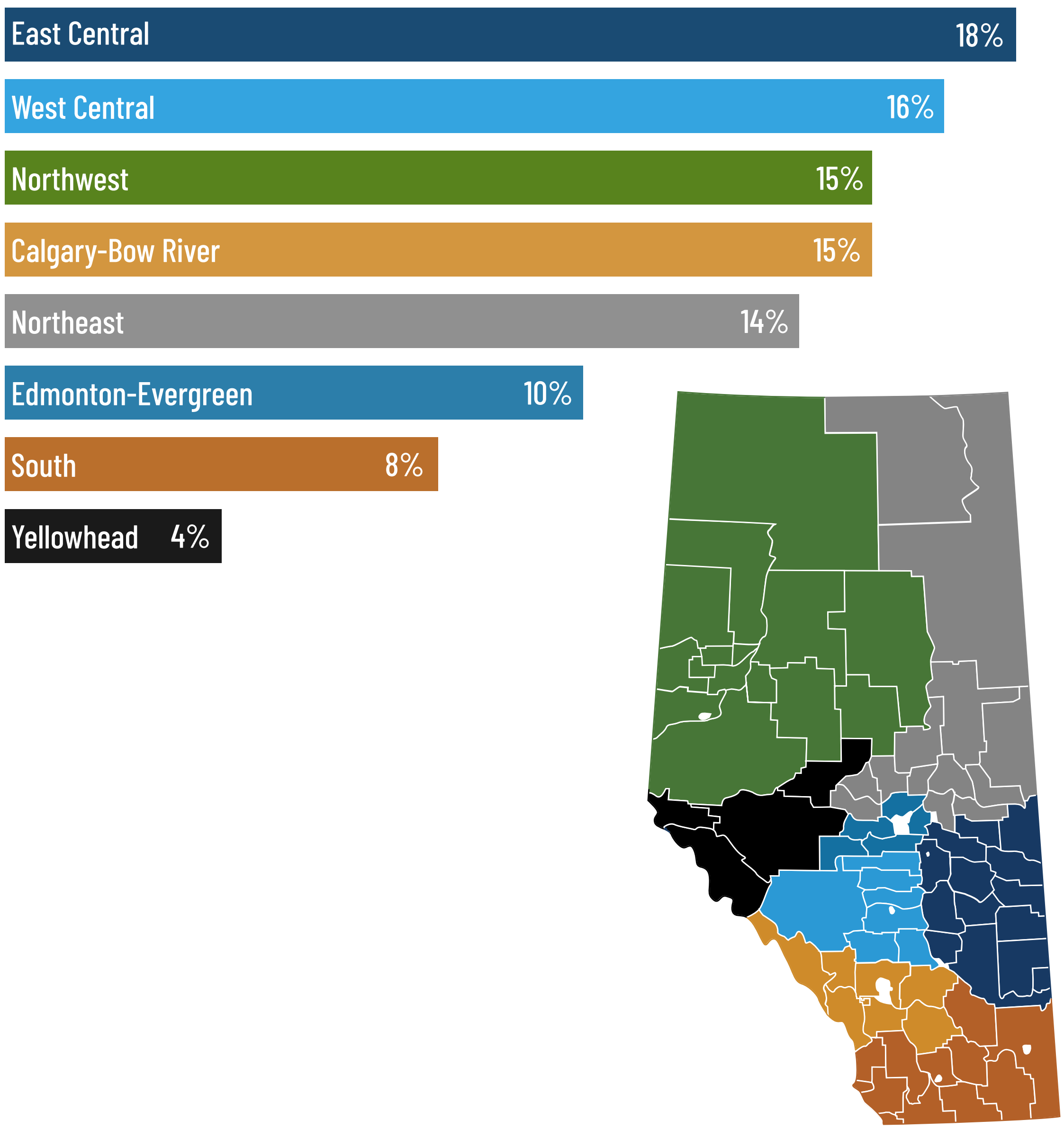
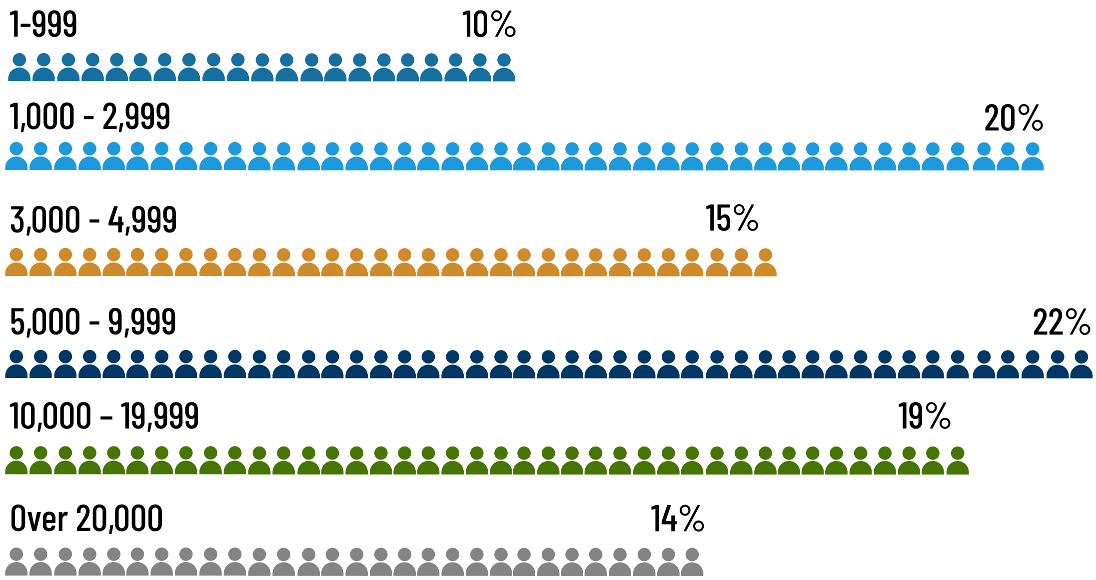


Figure 2: How large is the population your FCSS program serves?



The results of this study, discussed in detail throughout the report, were derived from an analysis of both the qualitative interview portion and the quantitative survey portion described above. In short, the research team found that rural FCSS offices are facing several important challenges that impact their capacity to address the social needs that are arising in their communities. After a brief description of the FCSS program in general (, page 9), the report delves into three specific and interlocking challenges and describe their implications for rural FCSS offices, rural Albertans in need, and rural municipalities in general (Section 3: Key Challenges, page 13). The report closes with four policy recommendations for the Government of Alberta (GOA) that would, if implemented, contribute to re-establishing the full capacities of rural FCSS offices, positively impact the lives of many of rural Alberta's most vulnerable citizens who are currently being poorly served, and substantially relieve the additional FCSS-related fiscal load rural municipalities are being asked to shoulder in the current environment.

* SECTION 2: WHAT ARE FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES?

Social service delivery in Alberta is a complex file stretching across a variety of provincial ministries, agencies, and organizations. Family and community support services (FCSS) sit amid this complicated web, currently existing within the Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services, but frequently collaborating with agencies from the ministries of Health, Education, Children's Services, and Mental Health and Addiction, among others.

With a history stretching back to 1966, there are now 210 local FCSS programs across Alberta providing services to 316 municipalities and Métis Settlements, most of which can be designated as "rural" or "small town."[1] All but a handful of FCSS programs are represented by the Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSSAA), a member-driven organization that brings FCSS directors and staff together for educational and networking opportunities, while also representing FCSS programs to various stakeholders,

1 Technically, FCSS does not make any formal distinction between rural vs. urban, although there do exist strong perceptions among FCSS directors that "rural" FCSS programs, however defined, face distinct challenges from "urban" programs. Although it is possible to select a formal measure to define rural from urban, there is little reason to do so in this context given that there exist many FCSS programming partnerships across Alberta between low population / low density rural counties or villages and higher population cities (for example, the partnership between the City of Camrose and Camrose County under the umbrella of Camrose and District Social Services) that make drawing a divide between rural and urban especially complicated when it comes to FCSS.

especially the Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services.

Fundamentally, the mandate of FCSS programs is to provide preventive social services, defined as "a proactive process that strengthens the protective factors of individuals, families, and communities to promote well-being, reduce vulnerabilities, enhance quality of life, and empowers them to meet the challenges of life." More specifically, FCSS programs are meant to enhance "protective factors to improve well-being and prevent problems before they occur or at an early stage before they require crisis supports."[2]

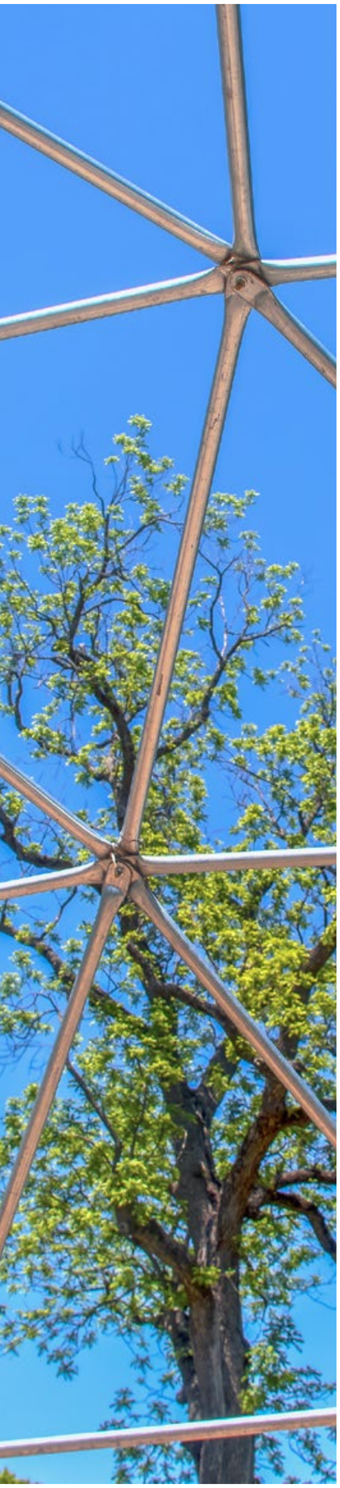
FCSS programs are governed by the provincial *Family and Community Support Services Act*, although both their creation and the structure and programming decisions they make are strongly rooted in their local communities. When a municipality or Métis Settlement council decides to establish an FCSS program, they enter into an agreement with the Government of Alberta to jointly fund projects, services, or both. Since 1966, the funding model has been set at an 80/20 split, with the province meant to provide 80% of the core funding for FCSS programming and the municipality providing the remaining 20%.[3] As of 2023, the total annual provincial funding for FCSS programs across Alberta is $105 million. Importantly, the FCSS model also relies upon what was described to the research team as "the multiplier effect." In essence, the funds contributed by the provincial and municipal governments are further buttressed by significant on-the-ground volunteer participation, especially from community organizations who partner with local FCSS offices on a variety of programming. This significantly extends the reach of FCSS programming. In 2021, FCSS programs across Alberta reported more than 47,850 volunteers contributing over 1,295,700 volunteer hours annually.

The Importance of Local Autonomy

Since 1981, local FCSS offices have had considerable autonomy to structure their programs and design their day-to-day programming in ways that are best suited to meet the local conditions in their respective communities. Indeed, "local responsibility for decision-making" remains a key principle of the entire FCSS program. Although the GOA is meant to provide the bulk of program funding, municipalities and Métis Settlements must "decide how to allocate the funding to best meet the needs and priorities of the community — within the FCSS

2 "Family and Community Support Services Accountability Framework," Government of Alberta, December 2022.

3 For a more detailed history of FCSS in Alberta, as well as more information of the variety of regulations FCSS programs must follow, see: "Understanding FCSS," published by the *Family and Community Social Services Association of Alberta*. Available at: https://fcssaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/FCSS-101-All-Modules-2021.pdf



mandate”.[4] This concept was repeatedly highlighted as a strength of the FCSS model in our study, a conclusion that coincides with academic literature on rural community development, which frequently stresses the importance of local autonomy as a key ingredient in program success across issues[5]. Unsurprisingly, this autonomy has also ensured a good deal of variation across FCSS programs in Alberta — there is no standard FCSS model in the province.

At the municipal level, FCSS programs can be operated directly by single municipalities, as multi-municipal programs, or in partnerships. The single municipality structure is most common. In a multi-municipal program, two or more municipalities join as a “regional” or “district” FCSS program, and each participating municipality makes its 20% contribution to the program budget. In a partnering or “grant transfer” FCSS organization, neighbouring municipalities agree to give some or all of their FCSS funds to one of the municipalities to provide services to residents of the partnering municipalities.

In addition to these three possible program structures, FCSS also offers three different models of program administration: the FCSS department (or FCSS program), the community services department, or direct municipal management. An FCSS department has a designated FCSS program director and FCSS staff who are municipal employees and report to a manager or CAO. In a community services department arrangement, FCSS is part of a larger municipal department that provides other services like recreation. Under direct municipal management, the FCSS manager or CAO administers the FCSS program and reports directly to council, which has oversight over FCSS funding decisions. This model is more common in smaller communities with small FCSS budgets. The community services department model is common both in smaller communities and in larger cities, and the FCSS department model is popular in municipalities with medium-sized budgets.[6] There are also six FCSS non-profit societies. In these programs, FCSS staff are employees of the non-profit society, not municipal employees. Although they are independent of the municipality, non-profit FCSS programs are still mandated to provide programming that meets community needs and priorities.[7]

Day-to-day programming also varies across FCSS programs; several interview respondents spoke passionately about the importance of tailoring programming to specific community needs. The most frequently mentioned programs across all FCSS offices included parent and family support, early childhood development, and youth programs. FCSS directors also described programs to benefit seniors, including home support and organized opportunities for social interaction to combat isolation, as key components of their mandate. Annual volunteer appreciation events, providing welcoming services for newcomers to the community, and low-income tax clinics are three other examples of commonly provided services in small and rural FCSS programs. Helping connect community members in need to the provincial and federal benefit and support services they are entitled to also falls within FCSS’s mandate.

Certain types of support services fall outside of the FCSS mandate and are thus ineligible to be supported with FCSS funding. These include services that are primarily recreational or leisure-oriented in nature; services that offer direct assistance such as money, food, or

4 See: “Understanding FCSS”

5 See: Yolande E. Chan, Jeffery A. Dixon, and Christine R. Dukelow, Revitalizing Rural Economies. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2013

6 “FCSS Program Structure, Administration and Delivery,” published by the Family and Community Social Services Association of Alberta, p.2. Available at: https://fcssaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/FCSS-101-All-Modules-2021.pdf

7 “FCSS Program Structure, Administration and Deliver,” p.2

shelter; services which could be classified as intervention or rehabilitation; and services which duplicate programs that are the responsibility of a different ministry or government agency.[8]

The Reality of FCSS Programs in Rural and Small Town Alberta

The research team heard repeatedly throughout this study that the FCSS office is often the only social service agency in rural communities. As this report will demonstrate, this is an important consideration that plays a central role in the challenges FCSS programs face across rural Alberta.

Given that they are often "the only shop in town," rural FCSS programs are likely to spend a large portion of their funding on direct service delivery, including salaries for employees who provide direct service delivery. In general, this contrasts with larger urban FCSS programs, which tend to grant their funds to the myriad other community service organizations that exist to offer programming in urban centres rather than deliver programming themselves.

Where there are other social service agencies and community-based non-profits, rural FCSS offices often play a coordinating role. In addition to managing their own FCSS funds and outside grants, FCSS programs will often act as the banker or guarantor for community non-profits, helping them to write grants, manage funds, and fulfill reporting requirements. Several of the rural FCSS directors interviewed described this as a community development role: they want to reduce barriers for the community non-profit sector and see FCSS as having an important role in making funding accessible to local non-profit organizations.

Finally, while all the FCSS directors interviewed expressed their support for prevention as the core of FCSS services, it is also clear that provincial stipulations around funding only preventative programming frequently conflict with daily realities in rural communities. Many directors emphasized that rural FCSS programs serve as social service "catch-alls." In the words of one director, "In rural communities, if you need help and you're not sure where to go, you go to FCSS." Rural FCSS offices are regularly approached by community members seeking assistance that often goes beyond prevention and FCSS staff are thus frequently placed in the largely untenable situation of "staying true to their mandate" and turning people in need away or providing some type of required intervention support, an action that not only goes beyond their mandate but also requires additional effort and resources that are not reimbursed by the GOA. Unfortunately, a variety of factors have pushed FCSS offices, especially those in rural communities, in this direction, placing significant additional stress on these programs.

8 "Understanding FCSS," p.4

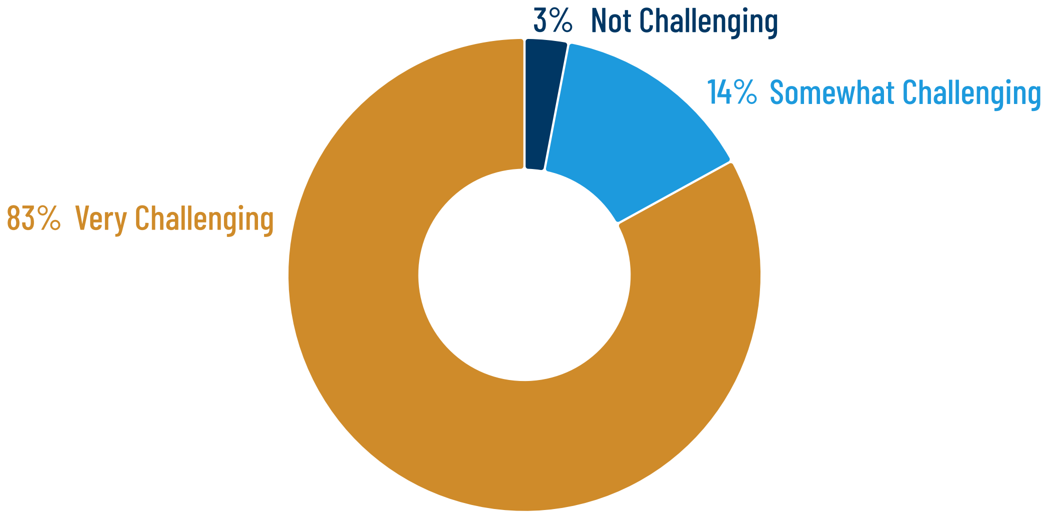
* SECTION 3: KEY CHALLENGES

Over the course of this study the research team learned of a variety of challenges rural FCSS offices face, some specific to certain communities, others shared across the province. What follows is not a full account of all the challenges encountered, but rather a detailed consideration of three unique, complex, and often interlocking challenges that emerged as the most widespread and pressing for rural FCSS offices.

Key Challenge 1: Insufficient Provincial Funding

The most significant challenge rural FCSS programs deal with is insufficient core funding. As mentioned in the introduction, the core programming of FCSS is meant to be funded by an 80% contribution from the GOA, with the remaining 20% from the FCSS's municipality (or municipalities). However, the overall contribution to the entire provincial FCSS program has remained stagnant at $100 million since 2015, with a small increase of $5 million in 2023. Given the very real challenges posed by the ongoing centralization of other social services, increasing need in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the inflationary pressures of the past few years, FCSS directors across rural Alberta were unanimous in their concerns that the failure by the GOA to meaningfully increase funding is tantamount to a funding cut. Indeed, within a series of survey questions, FCSS directors were asked to rate how challenging certain issues were to their operations. On a survey question asking about stagnation of provincial funding increase since 2015, over 83% of respondents suggested that this has been "very challenging" (see Figure 3, page 14), the highest scores among all challenges listed in the survey.

Figure 3: How challenging has the lack of a funding increase since 2015 been to your FCSS program?[9][10]



Although FCSS programs often supplement their core provincial and municipal funding with other government service contracts or grants, most rural FCSS offices increasingly rely on municipal contributions well over their required 20%. This municipal overcontribution often occurs because municipalities step in to fund programs which have become established in the community but have had provincial funding cut or are no longer affordable given rising costs of programming not being addressed with additional provincial funds. However, municipalities do not have unlimited budgets, and can make up only so much of the social service delivery shortfall created by the stagnation of provincial FCSS funding.

The survey results corroborated and expanded this information. Over 63% of survey respondents answered that their municipalities contribute more than the required 20% of FCSS funding (Figure 4, page 15). Almost 84% of survey respondents noticed an increase in the need for municipal overcontribution after 2018 (Figure 5, page 15). Of those respondents whose municipalities overcontribute, almost 43% estimated that the true contribution of their municipality is more than 35% of the FCSS program's budget (Figure 6, page 16).

9 For readability purposes, this data was collapsed from a survey question that employed a 10-point Likert Scale asking respondents to rate "how challenging" this was from 1 (not challenging) to 10 (extremely challenging). In this chart, scores from 1 – 3 were collapsed into "not challenging", scores 4 – 6 were collapsed into "somewhat challenging", and scores 7 – 10 were collapsed into "very challenging".

10 This survey was completed in early 2023, before the increase in overall FCSS funding from $100 million to $105 million was announced by the GOA.

Figure 4: Does your municipality (or municipalities) contribute more to your core funding than the required 20%?

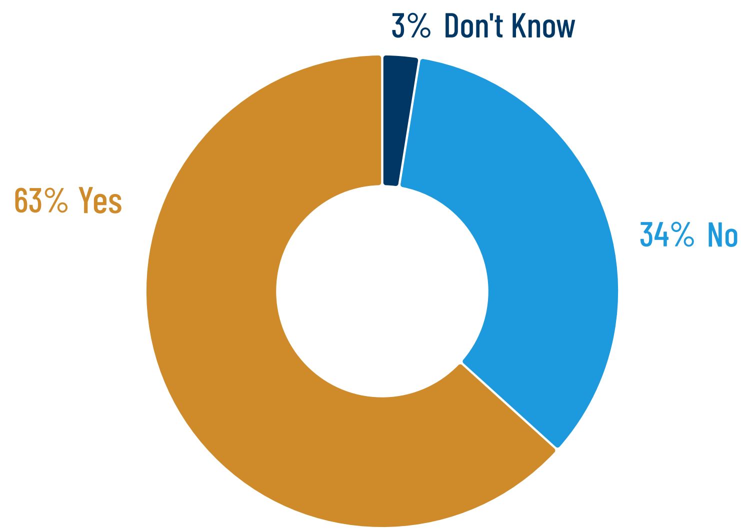


Figure 5: Has the need for this municipal over-contribution increased since 2018?

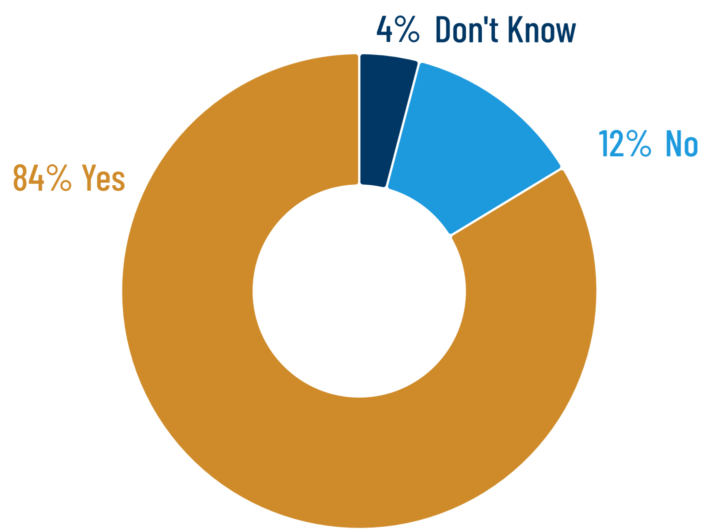
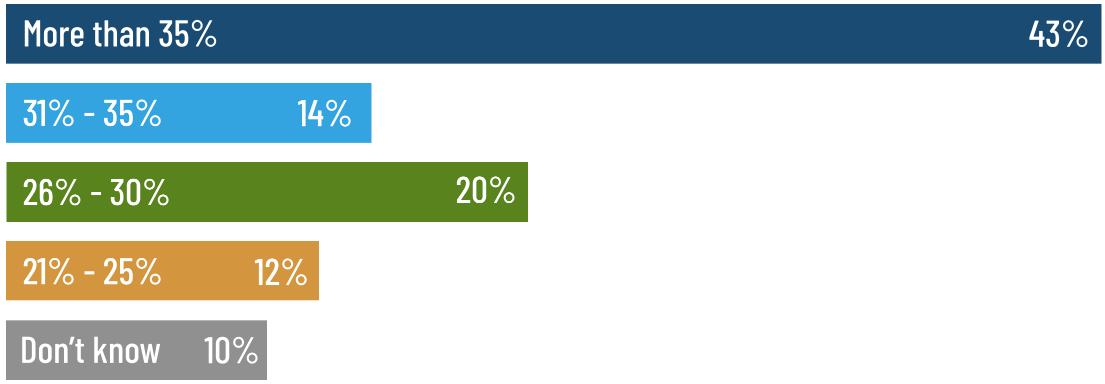


Figure 6: If your municipality is contributing beyond 20% of your core funding, can you provide an estimate as to the true percentage that your municipality is contributing?



Since "more than 35%" was the highest rate of overcontribution that survey respondents could choose, the survey did not capture the true rate of overcontribution in detail for municipalities with the highest rates of overcontribution. Indeed, within the interviews, the research team learned of one case wherein the municipality typically contributes about 50% of the FCSS program's budget, but this year the contribution increased to 60%. Another director explained that their supporting municipalities will contribute more than the provincial amount this year.

Several FCSS programs are similarly growing more dependent upon outside grants for which FCSS directors must apply. Although outside grants (non-FCSS funding) make up a significant portion of some FCSS programs' budgets, they make up very little or even none of other FCSS programs' budgets. This is because accessing such funds depends on the capacity of individual FCSS programs. Directors and staff may or may not have the time or skillsets to identify, apply for, and manage external grants — a challenge that is especially acute for the smaller rural FCSS programs in Alberta.

Overall, the research team heard that insufficient funding is both a long-time concern and the result of recent events like the pandemic and some political decisions at the provincial level in 2019 – 2020 (to be discussed later). The funding challenges faced by rural FCSS programs can be broken down into four distinct components: insufficient operational funding, insufficient funding for staff, funding precarity / inattention to sustainability in funding, and, especially germane to this report, the funding challenges related to inattention to or lack of understanding of rurality on the part of the provincial government.

Insufficient Operational Funding

Overall, rural FCSS programs do not feel they have the funds to adequately meet community needs. More specifically, respondents noted that there is a lack of funding to meet the operating costs for direct delivery of ongoing programs. Adequate and reliable program funding is extremely important because community members and service users come to rely on programs to support their own and their families' wellbeing. When a longstanding program is cut because of insufficient funding, this results in a loss of trust in the community and a decrease in individual and social wellbeing. As one director noted, "If we weren't seeking additional funding and partnerships, we would be offering a lot less to our communities."

As will be discussed later in the report, the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent inflationary period has resulted in several FCSS offices offering expanded or revised programming to meet emerging community needs, or simply being pulled in new directions to help those in need; this increased demand means higher staffing and material costs. Some FCSS directors interviewed seemed eager to respond to increasing and changing community needs by expanding their capacity to address a wider and more complex range of issues and taking on a larger social role in their communities. These directors noted, however, that they cannot expand their capacity without increased funding, infrastructure, training, and staffing.

It is also clear that the community-based non-profits many rural FCSS programs partner with have more financial need than the local FCSS program can meet. These groups have also been impacted by increasing community need and several rural FCSS programs are fielding increased requests for funding from these organizations, especially to fund mental health supports.

Rural FCSS directors also told us that their budgets are often too small to allow them to apply for many grants, largely because they lack the staffing capacity to do so. For similar reasons, many are unable to engage meaningfully with evidence-based practice. Without the capacity to fund staff education, training, or research, rural FCSS programs perceive themselves to be at a disadvantage when it comes to understanding the impacts of their programming and designing more effective programs.

Ministerial-level changes to programming have also meant funding decreases for rural FCSS programs. In particular, the transition from Parent Link Centres to the Family Resource Network (FRN) model has seen FCSSs having to participate in a competitive process for a smaller pool of funding.

The Ending of Parent Link and the Introduction of Family Resources Networks

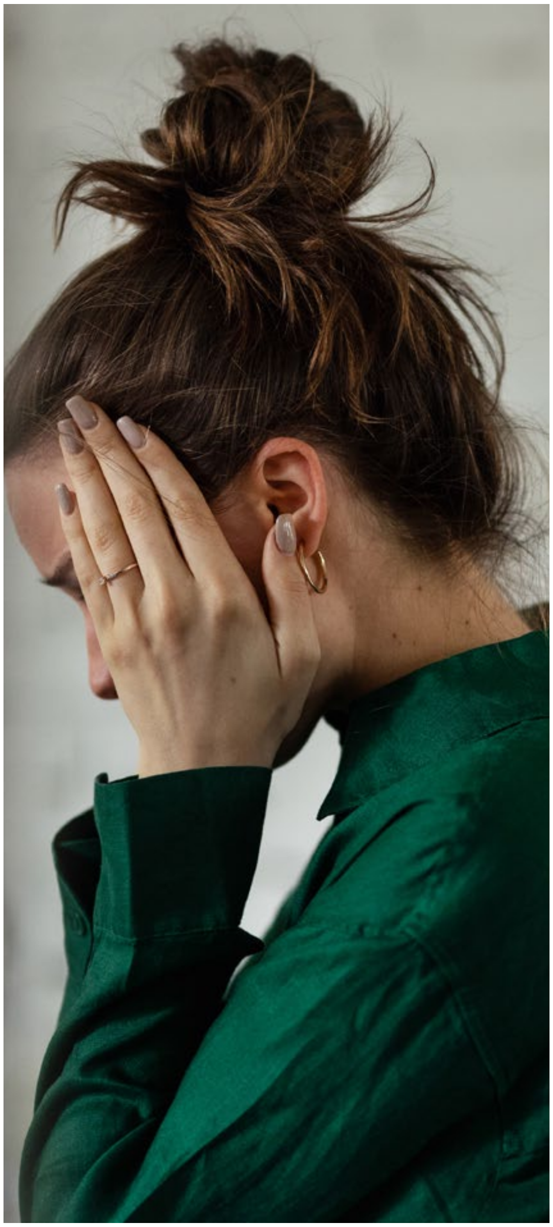
In 2019, the Ministry of Children's Services announced, with essentially no consultation with the rural FCSS directors we spoke with, that funding for the Parent Link program was being cancelled. This popular program, frequently administered and delivered by FCSS offices in rural communities, provided free play groups, classes, education, and social opportunities for parents of children ages six and under, in addition to early learning opportunities and developmental screening for these children. In its place, the ministry launched a funding competition for organizations to participate in local Family Resource Networks (FRNs), a program with similar goals as Parent Link, although the program was now designed to offer supports for parents and children from 0 – 18, and the total amount of funding was now smaller.

In our interviews, this shift from Parent Link to FRNs was often a flashpoint for frustration for rural FCSS directors. Not only was the loss of Parent Link problematic for many parents of young children across rural communities who benefitted from the program offerings (especially those who relied on the access to the development screening available for very young children), FCSS directors lamented the increased competition between communities in search of a smaller pool of children-focused preventative funding made available under the FRN program. Other concerns shared included the difficulty inherent in delivering programs, with less overall funding, for children aged 0 – 18, the subsequent necessity to lay off staff in certain FCSS offices, and a broader sense that the new model's reporting structures are "a chaotic mess" compared to those that existed under Parent Link.

The FRNs are recognized by many FCSS programs as a significant funding cut to child and youth support in rural communities, and many FCSS directors also noted other problems with the FRNs including organizational structure (discussed in more detail below). As a result of the transition to the FRN model, some communities have lost early childhood services completely, and that the loss of funding because of the reorganization of children's services is hurting rural communities.

Finally, several directors highlighted that there is an overlooked rural component to FCSS funding needs. Basing funding on population does not consider the needs of communities with high transient populations (like tourism-based economies). More generally, population does not give an accurate picture of need in rural communities because of the added costs rural communities experience because of large, sparsely populated areas, challenging geography, often poor internet and cell phone service, and transportation costs.

Overall, several of our respondents told us that their FCSS capacity is "maxed out" — current programs have full caseloads, FCSS offices are facing increasing need in their community and increasing costs overall, provincial funding did not increase between 2015 – 2022, and municipalities are being asked to shoulder more of the load.



Insufficient Funding for Staff

Insufficient staff funding presents several challenges for rural FCSS programs. Many rural FCSS programs have minimal staff (sometimes just one person) and many directors felt they could more effectively serve their communities if they had the funding to hire even one or two more staff. Limited funding also means that rural FCSS offices struggle to be competitive with salaries and benefits, which can make it difficult to attract and retain qualified staff. Several directors brought up the challenge of trying to maintain a balance between appropriate staffing levels — and adequate compensation for qualified staff — with program funding and grants to community-based organizations.

Putting more effort into seeking outside sources of funding (e.g., other provincial, federal, private, or charitable grants) is often not an adequate solution to funding shortfalls because applying for grants requires time and expertise that is already in short supply for minimally staffed rural FCSS programs. Outside grant funding can also come with stipulations about how the grant money is to be used (e.g., developing new programs) that pull FCSS staff away from delivering core and established programs. More than one director has had to turn down grant opportunities, or be very careful when applying for outside funding, because of a lack of capacity to administer grants. Many grants also do not include wages as an eligible use of funds.

The loss of Parent Link Centres and transition to the FRNs has also had an impact on staffing at some FCSS offices. Many directors admitted that losing their Parent Link Centre caused them to significantly restructure their FCSS program and resulted in a loss of hours and staff. Many FCSS programs that were successful in applying for FRN funding noted that the FRN funding is a significantly smaller amount of money than they had received with the Parent Link program.

Funding Precarity and the Lack of Sustainability in Funding

One of the significant stresses FCSS directors and staff experience is a sense of precarity over the future of FCSS. One respondent stated that "it seems to be this [feeling] … always that FCSS is going to be gutted." The people interviewed partially attribute this precarity and uncertainty to a sense of political instability in Alberta. The research team heard that there is a lack of clear signalling from the GOA that FCSS funding is secure. One director described waiting for FCSS's next three-year agreement, which was overdue at the time of the interview, as a "nerve-wracking situation".

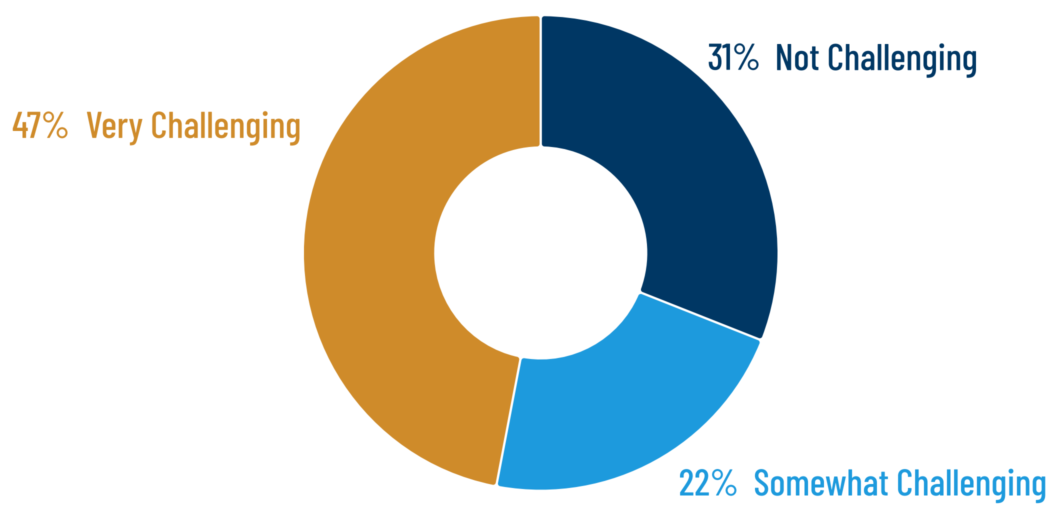
Respondents also noted that formerly secure and reliable contracts are increasingly being put up for bid. One director said "We don't know what's going to happen" with a home care contract their FCSS has held for more than ten years. The team also heard that funding and support for FCSS programming or programs administered by FCSS is often piecemeal and short-term, with a lack of attention given to program sustainability in the face of unreliable funding.

FCSS directors experience provincial funding for social services as episodic and identified the inconsistency of provincial funding and support for FCSS as a long-term problem. Several interviewees noted a pattern where the GOA will introduce a pilot program for social services with limited-term funding (one to three years is common). In many cases, just when the program is starting to show results, the funding is inexplicitly dropped. Unexpected program restructuring and shifting government priorities contribute to challenges both in meeting government targets and in serving community members in a consistent, reliable way. From the perspective of FCSS, when funding for a program is ended, the reasons for the cut can be much better explained by a bias towards political novelty than by evidence of a need to revise policies.

The result of this sense of scarcity and instability, we were told, is increased territorialism between social service agencies. Organizations that could partner with each other instead may find themselves competing for funding. Many directors also pointed out that underfunding preventive social services ultimately results in increased social service costs. One director explained that "We put all of these dollars in … intervention work, but if we put more money in … prevention work … we wouldn't need as many dollars in intervention".

The ending of the Parent Link program in late 2019 and early 2020 is an important example of this kind of unexpected program restructuring and funding instability. Results from the research team's survey on this topic require some interpretation and possibly further research. In simplest terms, the survey results seem to show that the ending of the Parent Link program and its replacement with the Family Resource Network model (FRN) was either experienced as extremely challenging, or as not at all challenging. Roughly 31% of survey respondents rated the replacement of Parent Link by the FRN model as "not challenging," while roughly 47% rated the replacement as "very challenging" (Figure 7, page 20). These two answers at opposite ends of the scale received the highest number of responses.

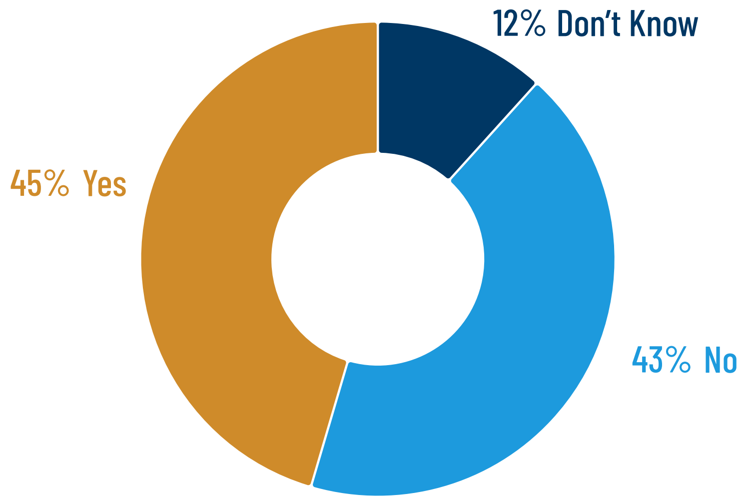
Figure 7: How challenging was the replacement of Parent Link Centres by Family Resource Networks for your FCSS program?[11]



Similarly, respondents were evenly split on the effects of ending Parent Link. Just over 45% of respondents said that their FCSS program was negatively affected by the ending of the Parent Link program, while almost 43% of respondents indicated that the ending of Parent Link did not negatively affect their program (Figure 8, page 21).

11 For readability purposes, this data was collapsed from a survey question that employed a 10-point Likert Scale asking respondents to rate "how challenging" this was from 1 (not challenging) to 10 (extremely challenging). In this chart, scores from 1 – 3 were collapsed into "not challenging", scores 4 – 6 were collapsed into "somewhat challenging" and scores 7 – 10 were collapsed into "very challenging".

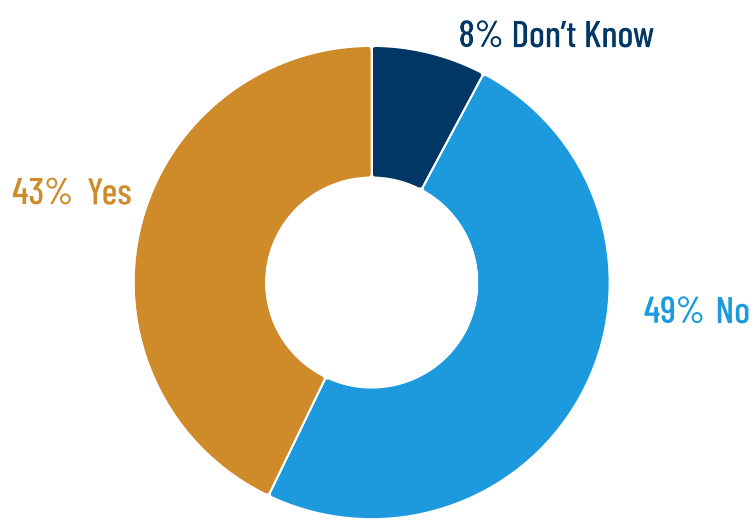
Figure 8: Was your FCSS program negatively affected by the ending of the Parent Link program?



Evidence given by interview participants was stronger and more clear-cut about the negative impacts of the ending of the Parent Link program and the transition to FRNs. Participants variously described the loss of Parent Link as "dramatic" and a "traumatic loss." They described the transition to the FRNs as "abysmal" and "a chaotic mess" which introduced "a lack of clarity" about the role of FCSS in supporting child and youth development. Directors stated that the ending of Parent Link and transition to the FRN model was not just about funding. Many also expressed concerns related to a lack of clarity from the government about reporting expectations, goals and outcomes, and communication more generally.

Almost 59% of survey respondents answered that FRN funding was insufficient to adequately meet the needs of community members who had formerly attended Parent Link programming (Figure 9, page 21).

Figure 9: Has FRN funding allowed you to adequately meet the needs of community members who formerly attended Parent Link programming?



More than one director said that, under the FRN structure, they received about one-third of the funding they had received with Parent Link. As difficult to navigate as a two-thirds funding cut for early childhood programming must have been, the FRNs also imposed a requirement to expand the amount and type of services provided. Parent Link programs served families with children aged 0 – 6 years, while the FRNs cover ages 0 – 18. This means that FCSS programs which were successful in receiving FRN funding took on responsibility for providing services that meet the needs of families, children, and youth across a much wider range of developmental stages. Several directors expressed concern that the funding and administrative structure for the FRNs forced communities within the same region to compete for funding — something that has strained relationships between communities in certain cases.

Directors told us that in some cases their municipalities have stepped in to fund the programs that were formerly funded through Parent Link, while in other cases the loss of Parent Link and its funding had resulted in a loss of programming, jobs, and services. Directors agreed that programming for 0- to 18-year-olds was important but said that the expansion could have happened within the model already established by Parent Link. Directors agreed that the Parent Link model was much more functional, consistent, and easy to coordinate than the FRN model.

Rural-Specific Funding Challenges for FCSS Programs

Being rural significantly shapes the financial needs of FCSS programs. Many of the directors interviewed feel the GOA does not understand or appreciate the unique cost-of-living and opportunity constraints faced by rural communities. In particular, the research team heard about issues related to transportation and limited access to social services in rural communities. The team also heard from northern FCSS programs about the isolation their communities face and about how a recent economic downturn due to changes in the oil and gas industry is putting strain on residents and social programs. These and similar stories suggest that it is important to pay attention not only to ruralness as a factor in the social needs of Albertans but also to variation within rural Alberta, and to the geographic, socio-cultural, and economic reasons for this variation.

Many of the issues faced by rural FCSS programs can also be framed in terms of an urban-rural divide. FCSS directors were quick to tell us that they do not measure themselves against urban FCSS programs and that there is generally open communication and sympathy within FCSSAA and between rural and urban programs. Nevertheless, urban FCSS programs have significantly greater access to both financial and human resources. The research team heard several times that resources are more likely to go to Alberta's urban centres, and that grants tend to be geared more towards urban organizations with administrative, data collection, and analytical capacity. The knowledge that funding is more accessible to urban FCSS programs which already have larger budgets and greater personnel capacity is experienced by rural FCSS directors as a kind of arbitrary punishment: one director told us that rural communities are "penalized for being small" when it comes to accessing social service funding.

Almost every director noted that rural FCSS programs are incredibly important because there often are no other social services available in small communities. Rural FCSS directors feel that decision-makers in urban settings do not realize how few social services there are in rural

communities, which leads to underestimating the needs of rural communities and the complexity of the situations to which rural FCSS programs must respond. The research team was told that, in rural communities, FCSS programs cannot be specialized because there often are no other social service agencies, and that rural FCSS staff must be similarly flexible, adaptable, and able to wear "many different hats." There is a strong perception on the part of rural FCSS directors that urban FCSS programs have a narrower social focus and more internal specialization due to their proximity to other social service agencies and greater ease of access to outside professionals such as mental health counsellors. Rural FCSS directors count their flexibility and "jack of all trades" pragmatism as a strength, in part because it means that they feel connected to and knowledgeable about the social wellbeing of their communities. However, directors are aware that the flip side of being a "jack of all trades" means that there is no one else around that one can consult or bring in to offer specialized knowledge or support for complex social issues.

Directors repeatedly raised transportation as a significant barrier for rural residents. Simply put, there is a lack of public transportation or other affordable and reliable transportation options serving rural communities. Residents often live long distances from neighbours and from municipal centres wherein so many social and health support offices are located. Lack of access to transportation is particularly acute for people living on low or fixed incomes. One of FCSS's important preventive roles is guarding against isolation and increasing social connection. If people are unable to travel to programming, FCSS's capacity to reach people is limited.

Transportation is also an issue for more acute social and personal needs, such as attending medical appointments or appointments with other social service agencies, either locally or in the city. FCSS programs are generally prohibited from using designated governmental funding to offer transportation service. At least one director told the research team that their FCSS provides a transportation service that they pay for with non-FCSS funding because reducing barriers to participation is a core FCSS goal. Directors also emphasized the need to provide outreach services and to meet people where they live in cases where an individual is housebound or unable to travel.

Another infrastructure issue rural FCSS directors raised concerned lack of available, appropriate, and affordable space for programming. Rural communities often have a limited stock of buildings suitable to rent or borrow for events, and building new infrastructure is for the most part prohibitively expensive for FCSS programs with limited budgets.

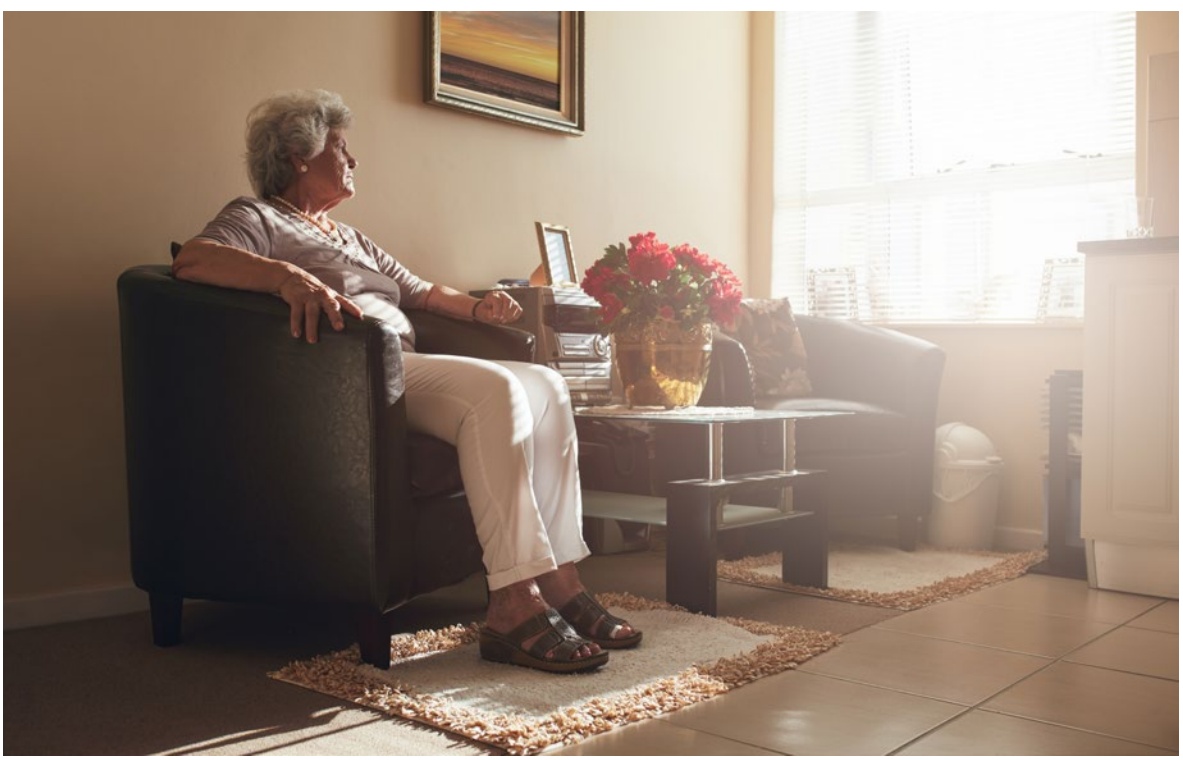
One final significant piece the research team heard regarding rural FCSS programs' funding challenges is that some rural communities have experienced population growth or economic development and have increased in importance as regional hubs. While this shift may suggest an important corrective to assumptions of rural decline, the team was told that provincial FCSS funding has not kept pace with, or has not yet recognized, this growth. FCSS programs in these communities now have more clients, but in at least some cases, have had to cut programming to shift resources to "maxed-out" programs.

Key Challenge 2: The Increasing Inaccessibility of Provincial Social Services in Rural Alberta

It is increasingly difficult for both rural residents and rural FCSS offices to access provincial government support services. This is partly the result of a long-running trend of the centralization of public services that has occurred in Alberta and elsewhere. In general, the story has been the same across Canada for more than three decades: stagnant populations in rural areas, combined with the ever-present search for "efficiencies" among cost-conscious provincial governments has led to a "retreat of the state" from rural areas. As one rural FCSS director noted, to the extent that services still exist in small communities, they are often "a shell of what they used to be."

Nearly all FCSS directors who took part in this study highlighted the ongoing process of centralization of social services. They noted that, not only did these processes often unfold with little consultation or communication with key community stakeholders (including FCSS offices), this decline of services has significantly impacted rural community members who are dependent on government services but are now being asked to travel much farther at their own expense to a government office or healthcare facility for assistance. This presents a very real barrier for many community members for whom financial insecurity or health concerns make such travel difficult, if not impossible.

> *"For a long time, we have been talking with Alberta Supports and Alberta Works... We have been requesting that they provide a person on a regular basis, like once a month, to come to our office ... and there is an absolute refusal. There was zero interest in them being accessible out here. Their solution was that, if there are clients that need help, they can call their office and book an appointment to meet with those clients. But it still required a person to travel that 45 plus minutes."*



This is not a new observation with respect to the delivery of rural public services. However, what is increasingly evident for FCSS offices across rural Alberta is that, given that they are now very often "the only place in town" that is understood to offer social supports to community members in need, FCSS offices are often shouldered with additional requests for help from residents.

Part of this trend seems to have been by design on the part of the GOA. A significant concern raised frequently by FCSS directors is the ongoing "downloading" of additional responsibilities that were once within the purview of other provincial agencies onto FCSS offices, often without additional financial support or meaningful training. One FCSS director recounted a time wherein a designated provincial support worker would routinely visit the office to help local seniors with applications required to access certain supports or benefits. That worker eventually stopped coming and instead, "Our office got a PowerPoint and my staff are expected to go out and share the information on their services and benefits to the community."

This may seem like an insignificant anecdote, but the research team heard a version of this story repeatedly during the study. The consistent downloading of tasks is further stressing FCSS programs across rural communities by increasing their workload without access to additional provincial funding.

A related outcome of centralization of support services is, even if rural FCSS programs are not technically being asked to "take on" additional responsibilities, because they are often "the only place in town" offering any type of supports, community members requiring help will frequently show up at FCSS offices with requests for assistance. However, such requests are often beyond the FCSS's legislated mandate of providing preventative services and thus, technically, meant to be addressed by other agencies who, in many cases, no longer have a physical presence in the community.

As Figure 10, page 25 and Figure 11, page 26 show, the overwhelming majority of rural FCSS directors are being forced to extend their mandate and completing additional work beyond what they are funded to do. Importantly, there is a strong sense that these requirements have significantly increased since 2018 (Figure 12, page 26).

Figure 10: Do you feel your FCSS program is having to take on responsibilities that are meant to be the mandate of other provincial ministries or agencies?

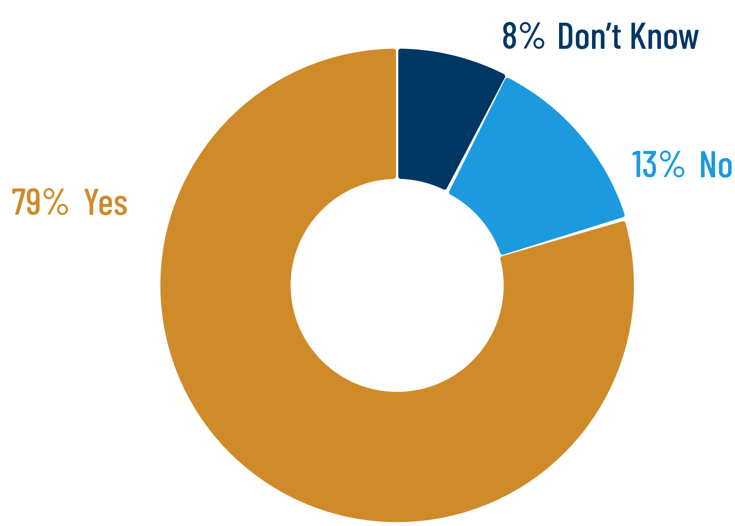


Figure 11: Does your FCSS program occasionally provide services to community members beyond those you understand to fall under the mandate of "prevention"?

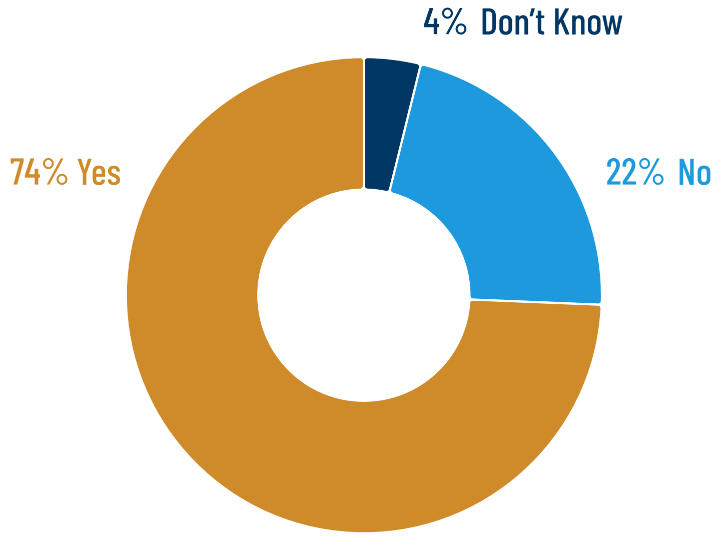
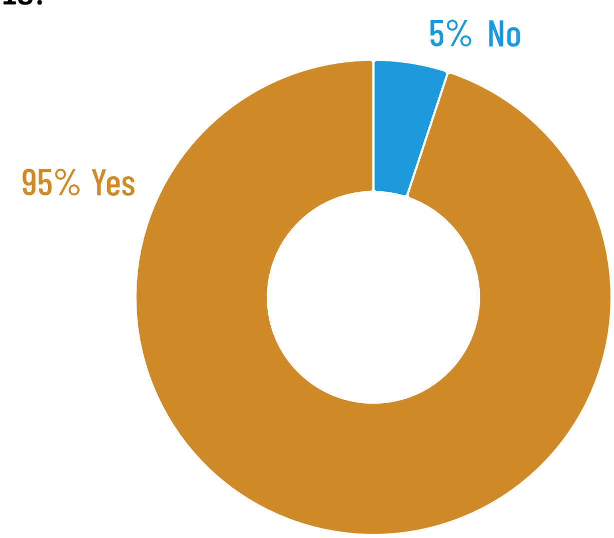


Figure 12: Has this pressure to provide services beyond "prevention" increased since 2018?



The Relational Realities of Rural Life

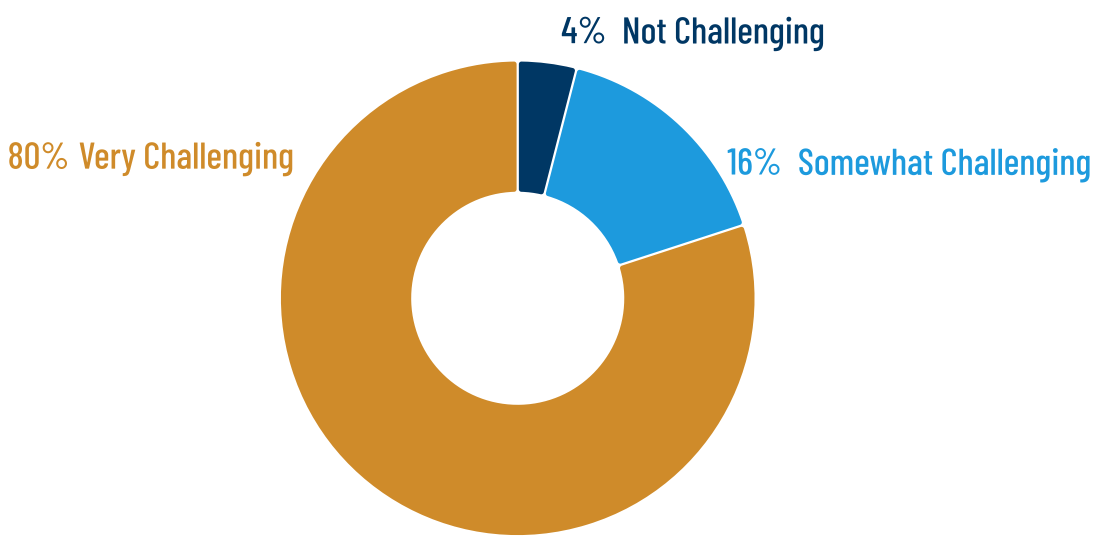
Pressure for FCSS offices to complete work beyond their mandate is amplified by the "relational reality" of small-town life. Compared to urban centres, there is a higher likelihood that members of a rural FCSS office have some personal connection or familiarity to the community member in need and thus feel an additional responsibility to help, even when the request is well outside FCSS's mandate. Even if this relational component is not part of the equation in a given request for help from a community member, the fact that rural FCSS offices are more likely to provide direct services compared to urban FCSS offices (who are more likely to "grant-out" their funding to other organizations), make them more prone to being approached for this kind of help.

In either case, that rural FCSS offices have essentially become one of the last physical places (if not the only place) where people in need of social services can seek help, they are automatically placed in the unfair and untenable situation of having to go beyond their mandate and provide intervention-type services (incurring the extra cost and effort this entails with no hope of being reimbursed) or turning away a community member in need, who may be someone they know personally, or at least someone they have a high likelihood of encountering again.

The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Shuttering of Additional In-person Support Services

This reality of rural FCSS offices as the only local site of social supports has intensified in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent decision by the GOA to shutter or reduce in-person services across several social service agencies (conversely, almost all rural FCSS offices remained open throughout the pandemic). Alberta Supports was the service most frequently mentioned in this context by FCSS directors, but it certainly is not the only example of social services offices closing. In place of provincial in-person services, those in need of assistance on a range of issues, such as mental health supports, victim services, senior supports, and AISH applications are increasingly required to call a "1-800" line or seek assistance via an online web platform or email. Every FCSS director interviewed for this study highlighted the negative impact of this change on their operational capacity. FCSS directors were asked about the severity of this challenge (Figure 13, page 27) and roughly 80% of respondents rated this as "very challenging."

Figure 13: How challenging have increased community member requests due to the centralization of provincial services like Alberta Supports, Mental Health and Addictions, and Children's Services, been for your FCSS program?[12]

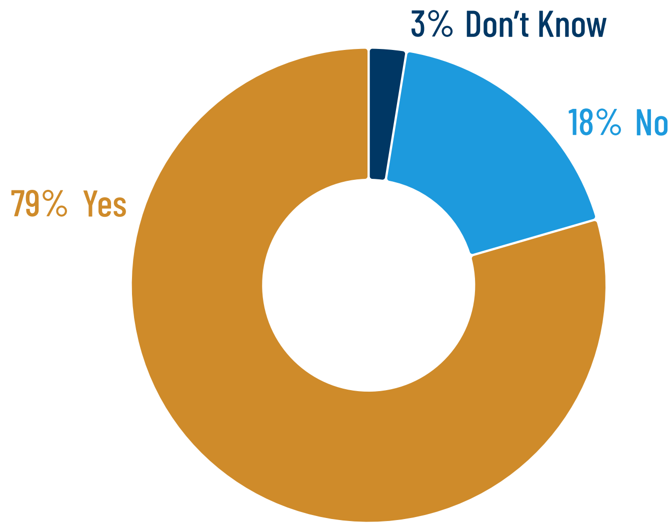


Online and telephone services have severe limitations for vulnerable people in rural communities. Several FCSS directors noted how difficult it can be for community members in need to navigate this new impersonal system. Stories of community members being left on hold for hours on end, of running out of minutes on their "pay as you go" cell phone plans while waiting for help, of attempting to navigate confusing web portals with poor internet service, and of seniors without email addresses being asked to "sign-in online" were very

12 For readability purposes, this data was collapsed from a survey question that employed a 10-point Likert Scale asking respondents to rate "how challenging" this was from 1 (not challenging) to 10 (extremely challenging). In this chart, scores from 1 – 3 were collapsed into "not challenging", scores 4 – 6 were collapsed into "somewhat challenging" and scores 7 – 10 were collapsed into "very challenging".

common. For rural FCSS offices, this has led to a significant influx in community members seeking help. As noted in Figure 14, page 28, this has resulted in an increase in the amount of time FCSS staff must spend one-on-one with community members — time that is now no longer available for traditional preventative programming that is central to FCSS's mandate.

Figure 14: Are your FCSS staff spending more time working with community members one-on-one since 2018?



This new reality is captured well in this extended quote from a long-time rural FCSS director:

"The lack of foresight when it comes to centralization of services, the 1-800 numbers, the online portals; these do not work for all people in our community, particularly those that are illiterate, that don't have telephones, and that don't have computer skills. And my growing concern is that we are skewing statistics to look like rural communities do not need services because they're not able to access them.

When you look at seniors' programs, seniors' benefits, when you look at income support, when you look at even victim services, mental health services, continuing care, all of that has become a '1-800' intake. So you take somebody who has mental health concerns, they're on the line waiting for sometimes two, three hours, only to be cut off. And still not get to an actual appointment.

This is something that my staff experience on a daily basis with folks. Some days, we have five, six people in need come who come in here at their wit's end, they have no money, no phone, no internet access, no ID, and we are the only ones that try to maneuver through the system with them.

And this is what's happening in all of our rural communities. And we need a voice to say 'no, this isn't working.' And my fear is that the provincial government is swinging the pendulum to a fully centralized intake system because it's saving money, it's efficient...

These things pull us away from what the true mandate of FCSS is. And so it does cause a lot of stress on the staff, a lot of burnout, and a lot of feelings of helplessness, almost because there's nothing they can do.

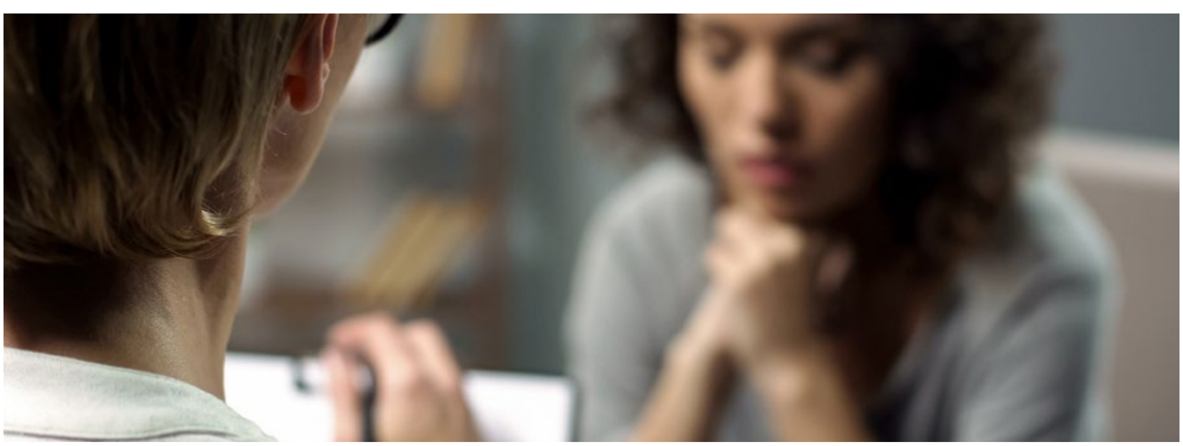
And I would say everybody in (our office) has thought about walking away. But their sense of responsibility won't let them because they're also the ones that look people in the eye, as opposed to the person on the other end of a '1-800' call."

Negative Impacts on Rural Clients

Unsurprisingly, not only has the recent move towards "1-800" lines and online platforms stressed rural FCSS offices, these changes have also resulted in noticeable negative impacts on rural citizens in need. Several rural FCSS directors spoke passionately about the reality of more vulnerable community members simply "falling through the cracks" and not receiving the help they require, and are entitled to, because the system has become far too inaccessible. Several FCSS directors recounted stories of people simply "giving up" and not pursuing the help they need. As the quote above suggests, there are legitimate fears that the true volume of "need" in rural communities is much more significant than what appears in provincial statistics because so many rural citizens either fail to navigate the new virtual reality of provincial supports or they have stopped trying. This was precisely the moral of one of the more dramatic (although not unique) stories shared with the research team:

> ***"We had an individual that was threatening to commit suicide, or even take other people out because he was so frustrated with trying to navigate the provincial social services system. And so we did a bit of an intervention with him, and we were able to develop some supports that we could offer to him and support him, and help navigating some of those services. But I mean it, it was so bad that he was very serious about taking his own life. So, that's just one example of where what happens when you have people that are already in challenging situations, and they just are getting the runaround from agencies and governments, and when there aren't really clear lines about who is supposed to be doing what. I know there's a lot of discussion in the FCSS world around the centralization of Alberta Supports. And I feel like we haven't received as many clients requesting this type of help recently, and it's mostly because people have given up."***

Even in cases where individuals are able to connect with support workers online or over the phone, many FCSS directors noted that such impersonal "virtual intakes" frequently fail to uncover the full range of services vulnerable people need. The result is "the loss of a continuum of service" wherein the social support system can "wrap around the entire client" and ensure they are both properly taken care of and receive the full multitude of supports they need. Further, clients no longer have a consistent contact person to follow up in this environment, leading to additional challenges accessing the required supports. Ultimately, as one rural FCSS director explained, "The actions of the provincial government [in transitioning to '1-800' lines or online web portals for intakes and assistance] … summarily dismissed people who are already disenfranchised."



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In summary, the ongoing centralization of social services in Alberta has generated significant challenges for rural FCSS programs and rural citizens — challenges that have only multiplied with the recent decision to fast-track a transition to telephone intake lines and online web portals for a variety of provincial social service supports (especially Alberta Supports) in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because rural FCSS offices are often “the only shop in town,” they face a disproportionate burden compared to most of their urban counterparts. Indeed, this issue raises a serious equity concern. Multiple provincial agencies mandated to deliver supports to all Alberta citizens have increasingly reduced their in-person supports to rural Albertans. Rural FCSS offices are subsequently faced with helping vulnerable community members navigate this new system — a considerable task for offices already facing funding and capacity pressures. This in turn intensifies pressure on rural municipalities to increase funding to local FCSS programs, which has resulted in a significant increase in municipal overcontribution to FCSS programs across rural Alberta.

Key Challenge 3: Changing and Increasing Social Needs in Rural Communities

Rural FCSS directors were essentially unanimous in highlighting the changing nature and the overall increase of social service needs in their communities — two trends that have also placed new stresses on already taxed FCSS programs in rural Alberta. Although tracing precise causes of such complex trends is difficult, the FCSS directors we spoke with were adamant that both the COVID-19 pandemic and recent inflation are key drivers of changing and increasing client needs.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unique and difficult challenges for all Albertans. Rural FCSS directors spoke at length about a clear decline in the mental health of many of their clients, of the impacts of social isolation (especially for children and seniors), and increased anxiety related to both physical health and financial wellbeing. In addition, directors noticed new patterns of division within communities, decreased comfort levels in group settings, and declining levels of healthy behaviours in the wake of basically losing two years of FCSS group programming.

The current period of inflation has added more stress on many of the most vulnerable in our communities. Multiple FCSS directors spoke of “unprecedented demand” for the services of local food banks, of noticing more and more people “not eating,” and of a more general decline in the mental health of many given the overarching anxiety fast-rising prices of all key staples can cause in those populations without the means to absorb significantly higher costs. Several rural FCSS directors also noted increasing levels of homelessness in their communities, a trend that was already emerging prior to the pandemic, and has grown worse in the past few years.

Overall, rural FCSS directors are receiving more requests for assistance than previous years and are encountering more complex cases involving serious mental health issues, addictions, domestic abuse, crime, and individuals and families in serious financial distress. In short, the number of people who are walking through the doors of rural FCSS offices in crisis has increased dramatically in the past few years (See Figure 15, page 31 and Figure 16, page 31).

Figure 15: How often do your FCSS staff encounter community members who are in a state of crisis?

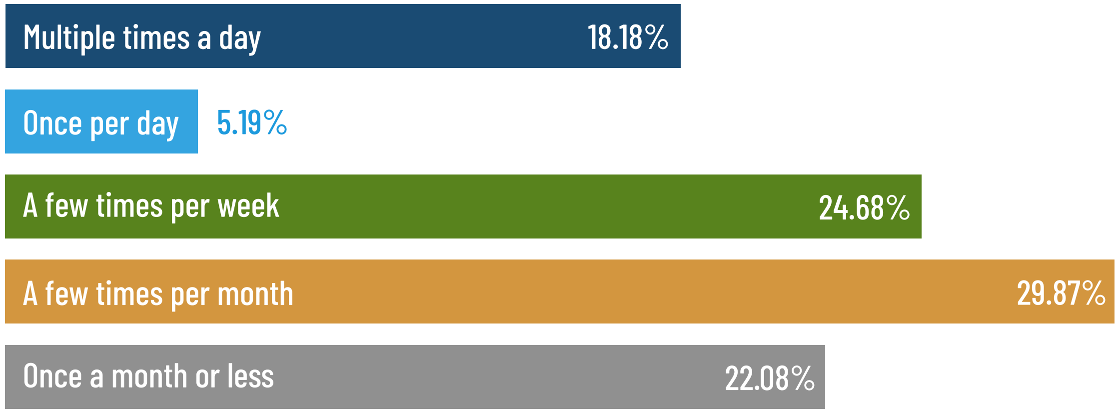
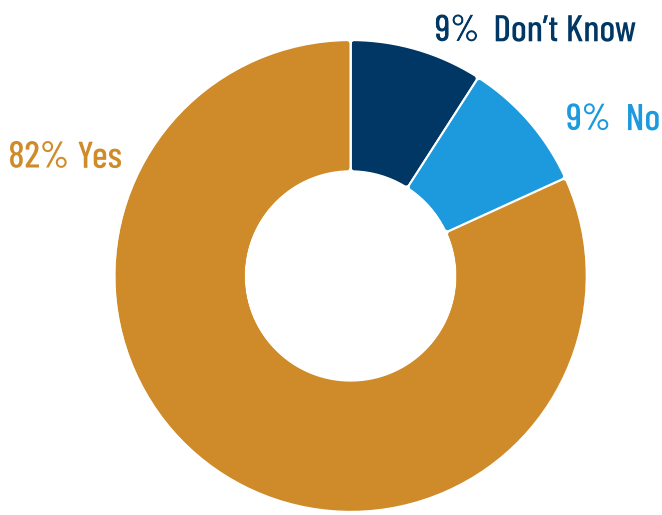
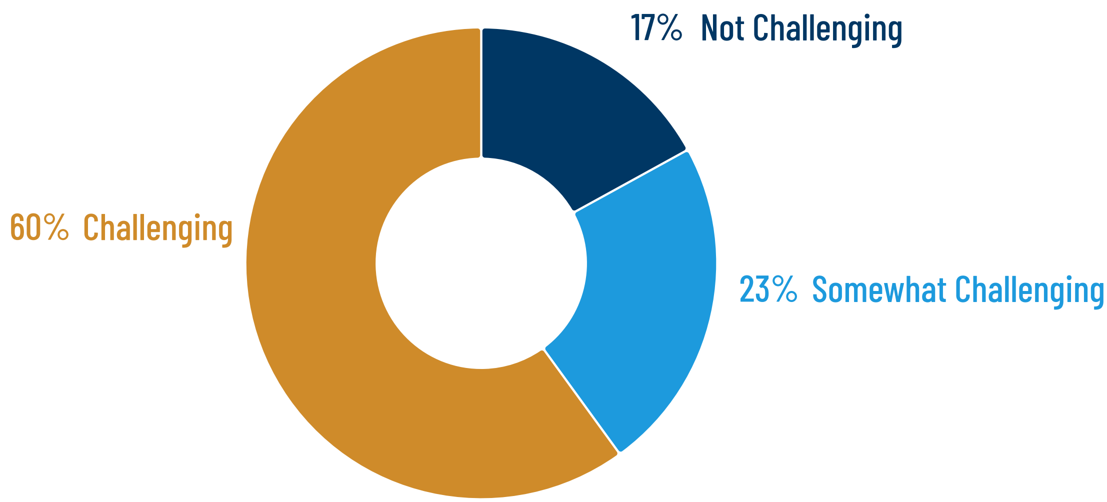


Figure 16: Have your FCSS staff experienced an increase in community members who are in a state of crisis since 2018?



These trends are especially problematic for rural FCSS offices because such cases clearly fall within the range of "intervention" rather than "prevention," thus often pushing FCSS staff further beyond their legislated mandate. As discussed earlier, the "relational realities" of rural life make it especially difficult for rural FCSS staff to simply turn people in need of intervention away. Indeed, one clear outcome of this increased pressure that several rural FCSS directors noted was a noticeable rise in both workload and levels of personal stress among both FCSS staff and members of community organizations who partner with FCSS on local programming, often leading to what many respondents labelled as "staff burnout" (see Figure 17, page 32).

Figure 17: How challenging has the problem of staff burnout been in your FCSS office?[13]



FCSS directors have faced increasing anxiety related to both the wellbeing of their staff and clientele, but also awareness that these patterns place even more fiscal pressure on their underfunded offices. In addition, many directors demonstrated a fair amount of despair in their conversations with us in response to their growing sense that provincial officials are simply unconvinced by their pleas regarding the increasingly dire situation facing both vulnerable individuals and rural FCSS offices.

Granted, the changing nature and increasing frequency of these social service needs are not localized to rural communities. It is likely that most urban social service providers across Alberta (if not North America and beyond) have noted similar patterns in the wake of the pandemic and the subsequent period of inflation. However, due to existing funding shortfalls and increasing client loads, these new challenges are pushing already taxed rural FCSS offices to the brink. FCSS directors were asked about the severity of this challenge (Figure 18, page 33) and roughly 74% of respondents deemed this to be "very challenging."

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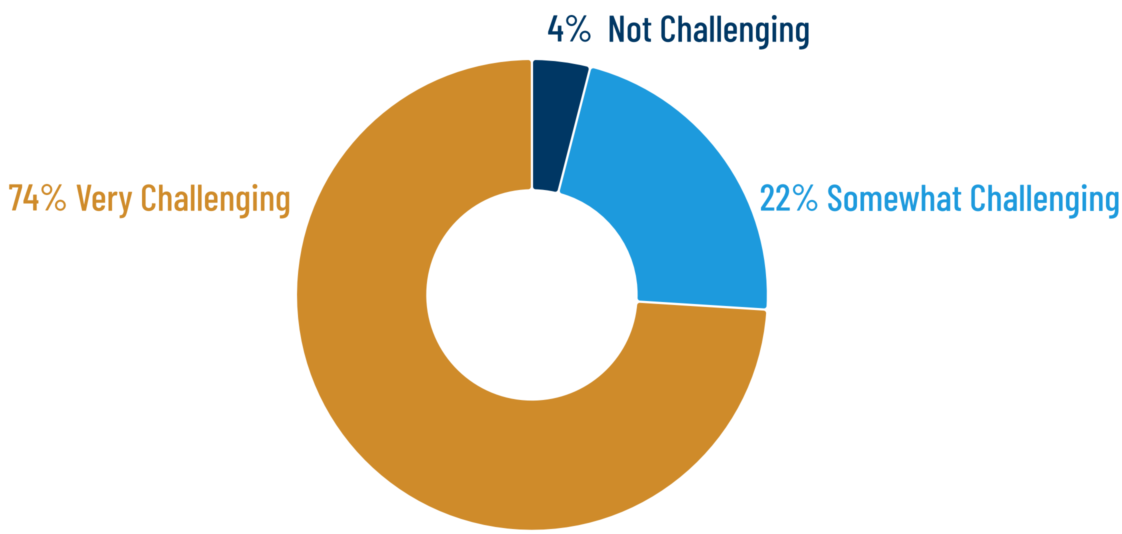
13 For readability purposes, this data was collapsed from a survey question that employed a 10-point Likert Scale asking respondents to rate "how challenging" this was from 1 (not challenging) to 10 (extremely challenging). In this chart, scores from 1 – 3 were collapsed into "not challenging", scores 4 – 6 were collapsed into "somewhat challenging" and scores 7 – 10 were collapsed into "very challenging".

Figure 18: How challenging has increased demand for intervention-type services due to recent challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic or cost-of-living inflation to your FCSS program?[14]



Policy Recommendations

1. Increase Core Funding from the Province

The most commonly mentioned policy recommendation made by rural FCSS directors who participated in this study was simple: the provincial government must increase core funding for FCSS programs across the province. As mentioned earlier, provincial funding for FCSS programming remained capped at $100 million from 2015 – 2022. In the meantime, several standard FCSS costs, from staff salaries to space rental to materials required for various on-the-ground programming have risen considerably. In this environment, many municipalities across rural Alberta have been forced to increase funding beyond their required 20% to prop up FCSS programs in their communities. Even with municipal overcontributions, the research team repeatedly heard about FCSS programs across rural Alberta facing significant fiscal pressure, often being forced to curtail programming, make smaller contributions to partnering community organizations, and reduce staff hours. Although the province increased overall funding to FCSS programs across the province by $5 million in 2023, it is a near certainty that this amount will not be enough to address the key fiscal issues rural FCSS offices are facing.

A number of different ideas for ensuring more funds flow to rural FCSS offices were shared over the course of this study but, at minimum, it would be prudent for the provincial ministry to ensure annual increases in core funding are indexed to inflation. Given the emerging patterns of need discussed in the previous section, and the significant pressures the centralization of other social services puts on rural FCSS offices, there is an urgent need not only for funding to index with inflation but to increase significantly overall. Therefore, a significant increase to core funding that acknowledges the rising

14 For readability purposes, this data was collapsed from a survey question that employed a 10-point Likert Scale asking respondents to rate "how challenging" this was from 1 (not challenging) to 10 (extremely challenging). In this chart, scores from 1 – 3 were collapsed into "not challenging", scores 4 – 6 were collapsed into "somewhat challenging" and scores 7 – 10 were collapsed into "very challenging".

need for the types of vital services and programs FCSS offices provide to their community members is also recommended. Widespread municipal overcontribution essentially means that the provincial government is failing to uphold the funding parameters that govern FCSS operations in Alberta: 80% from the province and 20% from the municipality. A meaningful increase to core funding would help to return the provincial-municipal funding balance to what is demanded by the terms of the FCSS Regulation. In an environment wherein the provincial government is basking in significant budget surpluses and has made several large spending announcements across different jurisdictions in the past year, a serious increase to the core funding of FCSS programs in Alberta seems imminently doable.

In addition, the provincial government must do more to ensure the sustainability of core funding for FCSS programming. Several FCSS directors noted that the current practice of signing three-year funding contracts with individual FCSS programs creates an unnecessary level of anxiety, and even program inertia, for directors and staff, especially when these contracts are frequently renewed at “the very last moment.” Similar concerns were shared in relation to “pilot programs” the provincial government decides to fund. These should be funded for at least three (if not five) years, and should not be abruptly ended without significant consultation with FCSS directors. The degree of precarity faced by FCSS offices on both these fronts adds additional stress to programs that are already “maxed out”.

2. Increase the Accessibility of Provincial Social Support Services for Rural Albertans

In accordance with the second key challenge discussed above, the GOA must do more to ensure certain provincial social services remain or are returned to rural communities. No rural FCSS director we spoke with expected a full return of social services that once existed in rural Alberta decades ago. However, there are actions the GOA can take to lessen the load rural FCSS offices face in terms of the increased demand from community members given that they are often “the last shop in town” offering some social supports.

At a minimum, the province must revisit the decision to transition so many support services and client intakes to “1-800” lines and online web portals. Not only has this decision placed incredible stress on rural FCSS offices, it has also proven to have significantly negative impacts on vulnerable people throughout rural Alberta who find it very difficult, if not impossible, to navigate this new system. Re-opening the Alberta Supports offices that were shuttered over the pandemic would be the most appropriate first step in this direction.

More generally, a serious commitment from the GOA to ensure that more in-person social service supports are made available across a wider cross section of Albertan communities is required. While it is unrealistic to insist that every town and village across Alberta contain a selection of social service offices covering multiple issues, the province must ensure that there are physical offices within reasonable distances to all Alberta communities so rural Albertans can seek assistance in-person. Some additional assistance with transportation costs must also be included in such plans.

In addition, the GOA must reinvest in ensuring that social service workers who possess the capacity to truly help community members in need with various supports they are entitled to are travelling to and spending time in rural Alberta. The slow erosion of this practice has negatively impacted rural FCSS offices and vulnerable rural citizens. The principle of equitable treatment for all Albertans, urban and rural, requires revisiting this model.

3. Ensure that Future Public Policy Related to Social Service Delivery in Alberta is Approached via a Rural Lens

The practice of applying a “rural lens” to public policy decisions refers to an assessment that specifically considers how a proposed policy change will impact rural regions and peoples. To apply a “rural lens” to public policy decisions related to social service delivery in Alberta would require a careful and systematic consideration of the impact that any policy change in this area would have on rural Albertan communities and citizens.

Having outlined the challenges rural FCSS programs face, many recent decisions related to social service delivery in Alberta were not considered through a “rural lens.” Although FCSS programs across Alberta are facing increasing pressures in response to similar challenges, impacts are often felt most acutely by rural FCSS programs that bear most of the burden generated by the ongoing centralization of broader social service delivery. On a more technical note, the transition to the use of telephone and web portals by many social service agencies discounts the reality of both poor internet and spotty cellular service in rural regions. Although the past cannot be altered, future policy decisions related to provincial social services must more seriously engage with questions related to impacts on rural communities and citizens.

Throughout this study the team heard many ways in which ministries responsible for social service delivery could better anticipate the impacts of policy changes on rural Alberta. Several rural FCSS directors noted the current funding calculation that determines the provincial contribution to each FCSS program should take into account that the size and sparseness of rural communities leads to higher costs for offering different FCSS programs, and of sharing important information with community members. Similarly, although some consolidation and centralization of social services may be inevitable, rural FCSS directors insisted that, when relocating services, more must be done to understand the actual travel patterns that rural residents follow, rather than assuming that travelling to a location pre-determined by an Edmonton-based bureaucrat will be realistic for rural citizens from a specific community.

Several directors (although not all) were open to being more creative (and even somewhat radical) in terms of what rural FCSS programs can and should accomplish, given the realities they face. Rural FCSS offices are consistently “doing more with less” given the centralization of social service supports and the increasingly complex social challenges many rural Albertans are now facing. In such circumstances, more and more rural FCSS directors are asking whether they should take on an enlarged mandate capable of providing traditional “preventative” programming and additional “intervention-type” services and supports to community members in crisis given that no local alternatives exist. Any such move in this direction would require careful planning, consultation, and enhanced resources from the GOA. Such an idea was not unanimously supported by the FCSS directors we spoke with. However, to even discuss it in a way that considers the impacts such a move would have on rural FCSS programs and community members is an example of applying a "rural lens" to an important debate about a large change in policy direction in rural Alberta. Evidence suggests that the time is now to have these conversations to ensure that social service delivery truly works for rural Albertans. The team heard too many examples that speak to the ways it currently does not.

4. Ensure that Social Service Policy in Alberta is Designed with Meaningful Contributions from Rural FCSS Programs

Building upon the previous point, "applying a rural lens" to policy discussions amounts to more than a study conducted from afar by urban-based policy makers. To apply a rural lens is to meaningfully engage, consult, and listen to the true "experts" in this field: the directors and staff in rural FCSS offices who are living the realities described in this report. Most recent social service-related policy decisions have been made without this type of engagement — a process that goes some way towards understanding how Alberta has ended up in this situation. In fairness, recent work around the creation of a new FCSS Accountability Framework engaged a wide cross section of rural FCSS directors, and one of the goals of the process was to better plot ways to improve coordination with social service agencies located in other ministries. But more must be done by the GOA to intentionally engage rural FCSS offices when making broader social service delivery decisions that will inevitably impact rural communities and, of course, the rural FCSS programs that are actually in the community and will be tasked, formally or informally, with dealing with the on-the-ground consequences.

✱ CONCLUSION

FCSS is a crucial service in towns, villages, and rural communities across Alberta. Relying on the efforts of dedicated staff and supported by municipal decision-makers, FCSS offices in every corner of the province support strong families, connected seniors, and healthy children. In other words, FCSS is a massive part of what makes Alberta's rural communities great.

This report shows that the efforts and passion of FCSS leaders in doing whatever it takes to support everyone in their communities, even the most vulnerable, has been compromised by systematic provincial downloading of responsibility and underfunding of FCSS services. FCSS services are doing more than ever before without the requisite training, funding, and capacity support. This situation leads to unfair pressure on municipalities, unreasonable expectations on FCSS staff, and additional stress to vulnerable rural Albertans.

The RMA will continue to advocate to government for proper funding of FCSS services, and adequate local availability of social services that are the responsibility of the province to deliver. This report tells an indisputable story: FCSS offices are going above and beyond to soften the local impacts of provincial underfunding and service level reductions.

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Meeting: October 2, 2023
Agenda Item: 5.1

Bylaw 1375/23 to amend Land Use Bylaw 1246/13 – 2nd Reading

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to revert the redistricted area known as Phase I of the Lancaster Landing Area Structure Plan (PTN NE 16-16-28 W4) from Multiple Residential – R3 and Public Institutional – PI to Agricultural Transitional – AT.

BACKGROUND:

Resolutions from the July 10, 2023, Regular Meeting
RESOLUTION # 195 - 23/07/10 - Todd
Moved to read the Town of Nanton Bylaw #1375/23 a bylaw to amend Land Use Bylaw #1246/13, to redesignate a portion of NE ¼ SEC 16 TWP 16 RGE 28 W4M from Multiple Residential – R3 and Public Institutional – PI to Agricultural Transitional – AT, for the first time. CARRIED

RESOLUTION # 196 - 23/07/10 - Miller
Moved to hold a Public Hearing in regards to Town of Nanton Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw #1375/23, on August 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm at Council Chambers in the Tom Hornecker Recreation Centre. CARRIED

Resolution from the August 14, 2023, Regular Meeting
RESOLUTION # 204 - 23/08/14 - Dozeman
Moved to amend **Resolutions #196-23/07/10 and #198–23/07/10** to reschedule the Public Hearing in regard to Town of Nanton Bylaw #1375/23 and Bylaw #1376/23 to 7:00 pm September 18, 2023 at Council Chambers within the Regular Meeting of Council and further that the deadline for submissions for the Public Hearing is noon September 13, 2023. CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING
Note: Councillor Dozeman was not present for the hearing (Section 184 of the Municipal Government Act requires that a councillor must abstain from voting on the bylaw if absent for the public hearing.)

Council heard from two individuals, opposed, at the hearing and were also provided written submissions in the meeting package.

Council, having given consideration to the feedback, can make amendments by resolution to a bylaw prior to its final adoption.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
On March 5, 2012 Bylaw #1239 was given third reading as a first step in the implementation of the Lancaster Landing Area Structure Plan (adopted October 17, 2011 under Bylaw #1235). Its purpose was to redistrict the first Phase of the ASP from “Rural General” to Multiple Residential – R3 and Public – P. These land use district changes were subsequently incorporated into the 2013 re-write of the Town’s Land Use Bylaw (#1246/13).

More recently, a subdivision application for Phase I was received by the Town (2021-0-056) which prompted an updated review of the development's density assumptions in relation to the Town's infrastructure capacity. The associated costs for municipal water and sewer to serve the area, as contemplated by the Lancaster Landing ASP, would unfortunately come at a significant cost to both the Municipality and to the Developer.

The land has been used as normal Agricultural Transitional land ever since it was annexed over a decade ago.

2.12 **Agricultural Transitional – AT**

This district is intended to ensure lots typically on the periphery of existing developments are allowed limited uses and maintain parcels of larger sizes to give maximum flexibility for use and development when the land is required for urban development.

PERMITTED USES
- Dwelling, single-unit
- Home occupation 1
- Intensive horticultural operation

DISCRETIONARY USES DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
- Accessory structure
- Accessory building
- Shipping container, temporary
- Signs

DISCRETIONARY USES
- Accessory use
- Alternative energy, solar
- Alternative energy, wind
- Community garden
- Campground
- Day home
- Extensive agriculture
- Home occupation 2
- Manufactured home
- Moved-in building
- Moved-in dwelling
- Prefabricated dwelling
- Secondary suite
- Shipping container, permanent

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION # 1

That Council proceed to subsequent reading of this bylaw if ready.

CAO Comment:

The Agricultural Transitional use appears to be fairly set in stone for this land now and in the years ahead. That should be reflected in its districting before we initiate the overall Land Use Bylaw rewrite open houses and subsequent process.

DECISION OPTIONS:

☒ #1 – SECOND READING (THIRD READING OPTIONAL)
Move to read the Town of Nanton Bylaw #1375/23 a bylaw to amend Land Use Bylaw 1246/13, to redesignate a portion of NE ¼ SEC 16 TWP 16 RGE 28 W4M from Multiple Residential – R3 and Public Institutional – PI to Agricultural Transitional – AT, for the second time.

If desired, third reading may follow second reading if no amendments to the bylaw are required.

☐ #2 – DELAY Further Reading(s) to allow further changes to be made to the bylaw for consideration at a later date. Please specify what changes are required.

☐ #3 - DEFEAT the motion by voting *against* OPTION 1's resolution for first reading (not recommended).

OPT 3 Implication: This defeats the bylaw and ceases the bylaw amendment process.

ALTERNATIVES:

REFER the matter to (Administration or Committee) ______________________________
DEFER the matter to the council meeting of (date) ______________________________

Financial:

Communications/PR: Advertising requirements have been met under the MGA.

Applicable legislation: MGA ss. 187, 191, 606, 606.1, 692, Land Use Bylaw1246/13

Attachments: Bylaw 1375/23, Aerial photo

Prepared By: Georgina Sharpe, Planning and Development Officer September 27, 2023

APPROVED BY: **Neil Smith, Chief Administrative Officer:**

NANTON STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT			
☐	OPERATIONS	☐	EMERGENCY SERVICES
☒	PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	☐	COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
☐	GOVERNANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES	☐	NOT APPLICABLE
PRIORITY OR ACTION:			

Aerial Photo Date: May 14, 2021

LAND USE DISTRICT REDESIGNATION SCHEDULE 'A'

FROM: Public Institutional PI
TO: Agricultural Transitional AT

FROM: Multiple Residential R3
TO: Agricultural Transitional AT

PORTION OF NE 1/4 SEC 16, TWP 16, RGE 28, W 4 M
MUNICIPALITY: TOWN OF NANTON
DATE: JUNE 27, 2023

Bylaw #: 1375/23
Date: ____________

MAP PREPARED BY:
OLDMAN RIVER REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION
3105 16th AVENUE NORTH, LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA T1H 5E8
TEL. 403-329-1344
"NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS OR OMISSIONS"

OLDMAN RIVER REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

0 Metres 50 100 150 200

NANTON EST 1903

BYLAW

Bylaw Number:1375/23

A BYLAW OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE TOWN OF NANTON IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO AMEND BYLAW 1246/13 BEING THE LAND USE BYLAW.

1. PURPOSE:

1.1 WHEREAS Pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, Chapter M-26, Revised Statutes 2000, Council of the Town of Nanton in the Province of Alberta (hereinafter called the "Council") has adopted Land Use Bylaw 1246/13;

1.2 WHEREAS, Council deems it desirable to amend Land Use Bylaw 1246/13;

1.3 AND WHEREAS the purpose of the proposed amendment is to redistrict a portion of the Lancaster Landing Area Structure Plan (Bylaw #1235/11);

1.4 NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Municipality of the Town of Nanton in the Province of Alberta duly assembled enacts as follows:

2. ENACTMENT:

2.1 THAT the Lands, illustrated on Schedule "A", as attached to this bylaw, and legally described as:

Portion of NE 1/4 Section 16 Township 16 Range 28 W4M

be redesignated from "Public Institutional – PI" to "Agricultural Transitional - AT"; and from "Multiple Residential - R3" to "Agricultural Transitional – AT"; and

2.2 THAT Schedule 1, Land Use District Map, will be amended and the changes be consolidated to Land Use Bylaw 1246/13 to reflect this redesignation as per the attached Schedule 'A'.

3. INTERPRETATION:

3.1 This Bylaw will be cited as Land Use Bylaw 1246/13 amending Bylaw 1375/23.

4. EFFECTIVE DATE AND READINGS:

4.1 This bylaw comes into effect upon the date of final reading and signing thereof.

4.2 Read a first time this 10th day of July, 2023.

TOWN OF NANTON

____

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL

____

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

4.3 Read a second time this ____ day of ______________, 2023.

TOWN OF NANTON

____

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL

____

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

4.4 Read a third time this ____ day of ______________, 2023.

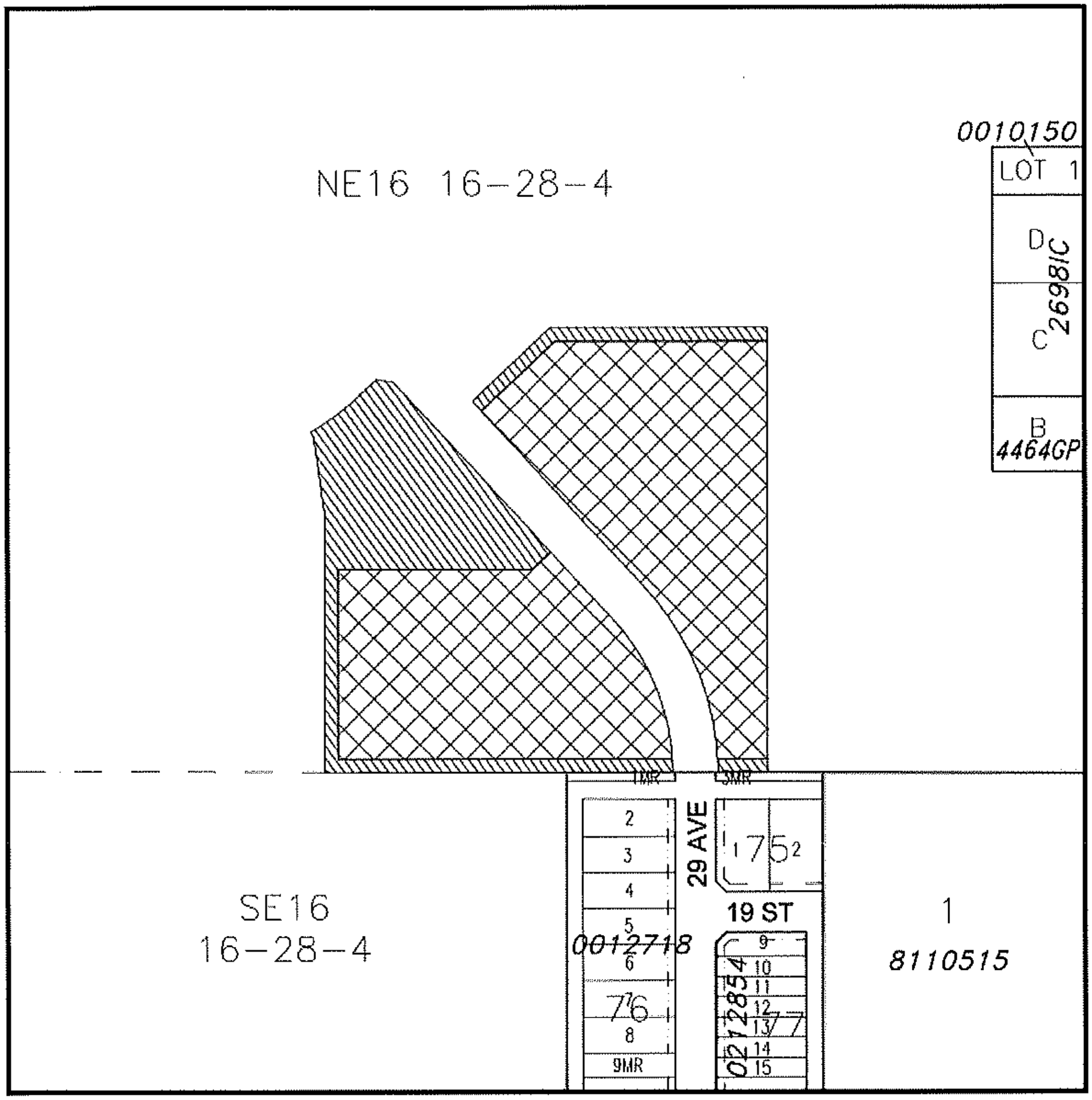
TOWN OF NANTON

____

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL

____

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



LAND USE DISTRICT REDESIGNATION SCHEDULE 'A'

FROM: Public Institutional PI
TO: Agricultural Transitional AT

FROM: Multiple Residential R3
TO: Agricultural Transitional AT

PORTION OF NE 1/4 SEC 16, TWP 16, RGE 28, W 4 M
MUNICIPALITY: TOWN OF NANTON
DATE: JUNE 27, 2023

Bylaw #: 1375/23
Date: ____________

MAP PREPARED BY:
OLDMAN RIVER REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION
3105 16th AVENUE NORTH, LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA T1H 5E8
TEL. 403-329-1344
"NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS OR OMISSIONS"

OLDMAN RIVER REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

0 Metres 50 100 150 200

June 27, 2023 N:\Willow-Creek-MD\Nanton\Nanton LUD & Land Use Redesignations\Nanton - Pln of NE 16-28-4.dwg

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Meeting: October 2, 2023
Agenda Item: 5.2

Bylaw 1376/23 to Repeal an Area Structure Plan (ASP) – 2nd Reading

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the proposed bylaw is to repeal the Lancaster Landing Area Structure Plan. The Area Structure Plan (2011) is being considered for repeal for the following reasons:

- It gives all stakeholders an opportunity to start over with something that could both work for Nanton and be in the general public interest.
- It is a full public process where the property owner and the public are able to comment within the confines of MGA process before Council passes bylaws.
- It removes significant theoretical costs from the off-site levy calculations.
- It is important to have an up-to-date off-site levy bylaw in place to inform developers of their obligations with clarity.

BACKGROUND / IMPLICATIONS:

Resolutions from the July 10, 2023, Regular Meeting
RESOLUTION # 197 - 23/07/10 - Dozeman
Moved to read the Town of Nanton Bylaw #1376/23 to repeal Bylaw #1235/11, the Lancaster Landing Area Structure Plan Bylaw, for the first time. CARRIED

RESOLUTION # 198 - 23/07/10 - Miller
Moved to hold a Public Hearing in regards to Town of Nanton Repeal Bylaw #1376/23, on August 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm at Council Chambers in the Tom Hornecker Recreation Centre. CARRIED

Resolution from the August 14, 2023, Regular Meeting
RESOLUTION # 204 - 23/08/14 - Dozeman
Moved to amend **Resolutions #196-23/07/10 and #198–23/07/10** to reschedule the Public Hearing in regard to Town of Nanton Bylaw #1375/23 and Bylaw #1376/23 to 7:00 pm September 18, 2023 at Council Chambers within the Regular Meeting of Council and further that the deadline for submissions for the Public Hearing is noon September 13, 2023. CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING:
Note: Councillor Dozeman was not present for the hearing (Section 184 of the Municipal Government Act requires that a councillor must abstain from voting on the bylaw if absent for the public hearing.)

Council heard from two individuals, opposed, at the hearing and were also provided written submissions in the meeting package.

Council, having given consideration to the feedback, can make amendments by resolution to a bylaw prior to its final adoption.

Statutory Plan Repeal Process

Council is granted authority under the Municipal Government Act (MGA) (Section 191) to amend or repeal bylaws, including those for an Area Structure Plan (ASP). From a procedural perspective, s. 191(2) is important. It provides as follows:

> The amendment or repeal must be made in the same way as the original bylaw and is subject to the same consents or conditions or advertising requirements that apply to the passing of the original bylaw, unless this or any other enactment provides otherwise.

Therefore, for both the rezoning of the Phase I portion of the ASP to Agricultural Transitional - AT (Proposed Bylaw #1375) and repealing of the Lancaster ASP Bylaw, the bylaws need to be advertised in accordance with s. 606 of the MGA and a public hearing held in accordance with s. 692 of the MGA prior to second reading. Notices and letters were used to notify the public for both the initial and for the rescheduled hearing dates.

There also needs to be consistency between statutory plans and the Land Use Bylaw (s. 638 of the MGA). The Intermunicipal Development Plan and the Municipal Development Plan will be reviewed for update and amended, as required, after the final reading of the repeal bylaw.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION # 1
That Council proceed with subsequent readings if ready to do so.

CAO Comment:

This should not be interpreted as the end for those with aspirations for more ambitious uses of these 100 plus acres. It is a recognition that the current ASP simply does not fit with Nanton's capacities to accommodate in the near or medium term. I think it likely that a new ASP could be developed with the owners in due time. Based on the feedback, Council should feel able to choose between either rescinding this bylaw or providing some additional time for the owner to propose a revised ASP.

DECISION OPTIONS:

☒ #1 – SECOND READING (THIRD READING OPTIONAL)
Move to read the Town of Nanton Bylaw #1376/23 to repeal Bylaw #1235/11, the Lancaster Landing Area Structure Plan Bylaw, for the second time.

If desired, third reading may follow second reading if no amendments to the bylaw are required.

☐ #2 – DELAY Further Reading(s) to allow further changes to be made to the bylaw for further consideration at a later date. Please specify what changes are required. A delay could also be used to give time for the Developer to propose a revised ASP.

☐ #3 - DEFEAT the motion by voting *against* OPTION 1's resolution for first reading (not recommended).

OPT 3 Implication: This defeats the bylaw and ceases the adoption process.

ALTERNATIVES:

REFER the matter to (Administration or Committee) ______________________________
DEFER the matter to the council meeting of (date) ______________________________

Financial:

Communications/PR: Advertising requirements have been met under the MGA.

Applicable legislation: MGA ss. 187, 191, 606, 606.1, 692

Attachments: Bylaw 1376/23

Prepared By: Georgina Sharpe, Planning and Development Officer September 27, 2023

APPROVED BY: **Neil Smith, Chief Administrative Officer:**

NANTON STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT			
☐	**OPERATIONS**	☐	**EMERGENCY SERVICES**
☒	**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**	☐	**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
☐	**GOVERNANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES**	☐	**NOT APPLICABLE**
PRIORITY OR ACTION:			

NANTON
EST 1903

BYLAW

Bylaw Number: 1376/23

A BYLAW OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE TOWN OF NANTON IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO REPEAL BYLAW #1235/11 KNOWN AS THE LANCASTER LANDING AREA STRUCTURE PLAN BYLAW

1. PURPOSE:

1.1. **WHEREAS**, Section 191 of the Municipal Government Act, Chapter M-26, Revised Statutes 2000, of the Province of Alberta provides:

(1) The power to pass a bylaw under this or any other enactment includes a power to amend or repeal the bylaw,
(2) The amendment or repeal must be made in the same way as the original bylaw and is subject to the same consents or conditions or advertising requirements that apply to the passing of the original bylaw, unless this or any other enactment provides otherwise;

1.2. **NOW THEREFORE**, the Council of the Municipality of the Town of Nanton in the Province of Alberta duly assembled enacts as follows:

2. CITATION:

2.1 This Bylaw will be referred to as the Repeal Bylaw #1376/23.

3. ENACTMENT

3.1 Town of Nanton Bylaw #1235/11 is hereby repealed.

3.2 This bylaw comes into effect upon the date of final reading and signing thereof.

3.3 Read a **first** time this 10th day of July, 2023.

TOWN OF NANTON

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

3.4 Read a **second** this ____ day of __________________, 2023.

TOWN OF NANTON

____
CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL

____
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

3.5 Read a **third** and final time this this ____ day of __________________, 2023.

TOWN OF NANTON

____
CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL

____
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Municipal District of Willow Creek

Office of the Administrator

www.mdwillowcreek.com
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Box 550, Claresholm Alberta T0L 0T0

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Toll Free: 888-337-3351

September 28, 2023

The Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26 Agricultural Service Board (ASB) will be hosting the:

30th LEGACY OF OUR LAND BANQUET
November 3, 2023
Fort Macleod, Community Centre
Doors open at 5:30 – Prime Rib Dinner to Follow

Each year, the MD of Willow Creek Agricultural Service Board hosts this event to celebrate our agricluture producers. This evening recognizes their dedication to agirulculture and thanks them for being a vital part of the community.

The ASB would like to provide 2 tickets to each of the town's within the Muncipal District of Willow Creek as well as the neighbouring MD's and County's. Please notify the MD ASB (see below) of the names of the 2 people you would like to send and we will have their tickets available at the door. Please RSVP by October 26, 2023.

Our guest presenter this year is Dr. Digver Jayas, President and Vice Chancellor, University of Lethbridge. He will be speaking about the"Internet of Things for Managing Agriculture" and educational oppportunities at the University of Lethbridge.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to call Carla Preachuk, Agricultural Fieldman (403) 625-1656 carla@mdwillowcreek.com or Sheena Johnson, Admin for ASB (403) 625-3351 ext 221.

Regards,

Carla Preachuk

Carla Preachuk
Agricultural Fieldman
Municipal District of Willow Creek