



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Reeve Monthly Report

Reeve: Amber Link

Division: 2

Reporting Period: December 2019

Report Date: December 31, 2019

November 26 Meeting with Town of Strathmore Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CAO

Discussed recreation funding, CRISP agreement, and Wheatland Housing.

November 27 Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSSAA) Conference and AGM

Attended the 2019 Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSSAA) Conference: **Resilient People – Strong Communities** with fellow WFCSS Board members in Edmonton.

As the only province in Canada to have FCSS, we are extremely fortunate. We appreciate the Province of Alberta's continual support with this Provincial-Municipal partnership. Each FCSS program is slightly different, because each community is uniquely diverse.

Key note speaker Dr. Roger Epp, a professor of political science at the University of Alberta spoke about **The Work of Neighbours: A Community Ethos for Difficult Times**. Focusing on the idea of neighbouring as a counterpoint to the volatile, divisiveness some people are feeling lately, he spoke of neighbouring as part of our rural code, a learned skill, which can be squandered and lost if we're not committed to its continuance. Dr. Epp quoted Town of Strathmore Mayor Pat Fule's Letter to the Editor where Mayor Fule wrote, "Until we can admit that racism is here — and due to the recent murder, our neighbours now worry about coming to Strathmore — we can't improve." I continue to be proud of our Strathmore and Siksika Nation neighbours and their commitment to neighbouring well. My hope is that as both of their neighbours we can join them in their commitment to breaking down racism and building bridges and relationships amongst us.

"We live at a time when anger has become the dominant tone of public life – when communities divide so deeply over everything from climate change to addiction treatment to refugees to schools and sexual identity; when the hard, urgent work of resetting relations with Indigenous communities is met with indifference; when political rhetoric masks our anxieties and deflects an honest conversation about the long-term future of the oil-and-gas economy, well-paid work, and our public finances; and when much of rural Alberta continues to experience the loss of people and core services. The resulting stresses will shape the work of family and community support agencies for the next generation. In my talk, I want to name those stresses and explore how an old-fashioned ethical subject – the neighbour – might generate the kind of "ordinary virtue" that helps set another course, built around local practices of reciprocity, collaboration, care, and inclusion."

At the **Calgary Bow River Regional Meeting**, Dmitri Dimopoulos from Rocky View FCSS Board was elected as our regional representative. The Resolution from Red Deer FCSS was reviewed and discussed. Updates were provided from the board. Canmore FCSS offered to host the spring regional meeting. Our WFCSS board chair raised concerns around cyber security issues and available insurance, as well as questions regarding a new framework which involves Expression of Interest for Family Resource Network services (following cancellation of Parent Link Centre and early childhood development funding) and reporting expectations.

November 28 Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSSAA) Conference and AGM

After breakfast with some provincial MLAs to showcase our work and thank MLAs for their ongoing support we heard an inspiring message from the Honourable Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Community and Social Services. Minister Rajan Sawhney shared that provincial reporting shows FCSSs have served over 1.25 million Albertans last year. That's 1 in 4 Albertans! We are grateful to the Government of Alberta for maintaining their commitment to the funding partnership that supports the critical programs FCSS provides!

Suicide is the leading cause of injury death in Western Canada. In Alberta, at least one person dies by suicide every day, approximately 500 a year in Alberta (imagine a plane crashing every year), and 75% are men. **Tough Enough to Talk About It** helps prevent suicide by reducing the stigma of mental health issues, providing information about how to help, and providing resources for people with mental health concerns. The program began in 1999 under the name Men at Risk. The original program was created because statistics identified that a high percentage of suicide deaths in northern Alberta occurred in industry, trades and agriculture. By 2016, industrial workplaces had evolved to include a significant number of female employees, and the program was re-branded Tough Enough to Talk About It in recognition of this changing dynamic. Tough Enough offers workplace presentations, Safer Workplaces seminars, and videos to address mental health in the workplace – starting conversations that may save lives. Tough Enough to Talk About It is directed to men and women working in Trades, Industry, Agriculture, and all occupations. Agriculture is high risk occupation. Women often talk about issues, many times men don't. Stigma can lead to isolation, increased substance use, and unhealthy avoidance. People who die by suicide don't want to die, they want the pain of living to end and think it's best for everyone involved (not selfish).

In our session, by Neil Harris (background in Social Work and currently employed with Alberta Health Services as a Health Promotion Facilitator in the area of Addiction Prevention and Mental Health Promotion. Neil is the coordinator of the Tough Enough To Talk About It Program in East Central Alberta. Neil is passionate about promoting Mental Health in the workplace and supporting Workplace and Community Wellness.), we learned how to watch for signs of stress and depression, how to recognize the signs for suicide and what to say and do with a person who is at risk. We explored how stress and mental health problems can contribute to a worker being unsafe on the job site. This presentation delivered information and ideas for healthy ways of coping with problems and also provided resources for getting help when needed.

<https://www.sp-rc.ca/tough-enough-to-talk-about-it>

At some point in our lives, all Canadians are likely to be affected by a mental illness, whether it's through a family member, a friend, a colleague, or through personal experience. And many people face these mental health issues during their working years. Promoting mental well-being at work

makes good business sense. According to the Mental Health Commission of Canada, 1 in 5 Canadians experience a mental health issue each year, equating to 500,000 employees unable to work every week. Over 20% of the Canadian workforce is currently experiencing mental health issues, 30% of disability claims are due to mental health, \$51 billion is the annual economic impact cost that is impacted by mental health, and 77% of employees fear discussing their illness with their employer.

Mental health issues impact job performance, employee retention, productivity, sustainability, & growth. They impact cost of health benefit premiums and recruitment costs.

These statistics may be surprising, but they're important. Because people matter.

"Mental health is not binary – in that people either have issues or not; it lies along a continuum and can change depending on the challenges we face," said Dr. Howatt. "It's critical that employers consider the mental health of the entire workforce and develop a strategy that addresses all levels of mental health programming, including preventative measures to keep employees healthy, early intervention to navigate through challenges, and supportive policies to aid in effective transition back into the workplace."

Telephone Resources:

Health Link (24 hour)	1-866-408-5465
Mental Health Help Line	1-877-303-2642
Support Network Crisis Line	1-800-661-4606
Credit Counseling of AB	1-888-294-0076
The Debt Stress Line	1-800-463-3328
Addictions Info & Support	1-866-332-2322

Internet Resources:

In Crisis Now	www.metanoia.org
Mood Gym	http://moodgym.anu.edu.au/
Blue Pages	http://bluepages.anu.edu.au/
Beyond Blue	www.beyondblue.org.au/
Dep Net	http://www.depnet.org/
Man Therapy	http://mantherapy.org/

Legal Aid Society Alberta (dial toll free 310-0000 then 780-361-1331)

Family Violence Information Line 310-1818 (AB only)

Personal Resources and Recommended Books:

1. I Don't Want To Talk About It, Overcoming The Secret Legacy of Male Depression
Terrance Reel.
2. Is He Depressed or What? What To Do When The Man You Love Is Irritable,
Moody and Withdrawn. David Wexler, PhD
3. Living With A Black Dog – His Name is Depression by: Matthew Johnstone

Social Connection, Hope and Resiliency, by Scott Cameron - what if we could shift our paradigm and the way we think about social change - at the system level and at the personal level? What if we had the power to shift the way we support people? All of us, not just service providers. Scott is actively researching a concept that ties together the relationship between social connection, hope and resiliency founded on the belief that social connection can be a key to sustaining hope and building the resiliency necessary to emerge from challenging social conditions (i.e. addictions, poverty, homelessness, etc.). Inspired by the voices of people with lived experience, Scott is deepening his understanding of the way in which we can achieve sustainable social change.

Social Media in the Workplace by Matthew Woodley with RMRF Barristers Solicitors - This session looks at the new realities and risks of social media in the workplace with new technology legislated by old laws, and the ways in which social media use can be used for disciplinary matters. This session discusses the importance of social media policies and provides tips for drafting. It's key that this policy be reviewed regularly and should be worded to be technology neutral. Discussion surround implied "duty of loyalty". Occupational Health and Safety legislation implications were discussed as well as investigation process. Need to balance with privacy interests and rights.

Simple Connections, Stronger Families by Lorelee Marin – we look to our families for love, support and enjoyment and we rely on our families when times are tough. Families shape us as we grow, and families shape our society. So why not make Alberta families as strong and resilient as possible? Resilient families are better able to cope with life's challenges and provide the best environments for individuals to flourish. Simple Connections, Stronger Families can help families by focussing on protective factors that will help build stronger, more resilient families. In this fun, interactive session you will learn how to apply the research behind Simple Connections, Stronger Families to everyday life. You will understand how to use the concepts, tools, and resources in your community, in your workplace, or with your family and know that the simple things we do every day can make a difference.

An evening awards ceremony celebrated the exemplary work of those who were recognized in two categories: Awards of Excellence and Outstanding Individual Achievement Award, both Volunteer and FCSS Staff.

November 29 Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSSAA) Conference and AGM

Diana Lowe, Executive Counsel to the Chief Justice shared a vision for reimagining our **Family Justice System**, which integrates research on adverse childhood experiences, brain development, and resilience. <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/aces-and-toxic-stress-frequently-asked-questions/>

RESILIENT LEADERSHIP: BUILD ACCOUNTABILITY • FOSTER TRUST • EMBRACE CHANGE by David Irvine

Leave this thought-provoking and inspiring keynote presentation with practical insights and strategies for building your leadership capacity in your community by learning better ways to build accountability, foster trust, and embrace change. Resilient communities start with resilient leaders. As FCSS directors, staff, and Board members, you are the stewards of your organization and the communities you serve. As such, you are entrusted with the well-being of your communities through advocacy, programs, services, and resources. Take this opportunity to step back and gain a new perspective on resilient leadership. Leave this thought-provoking and inspiring session with practical insights and strategies for leading your community with greater accountability, trust, and the ability to embrace change.

»» Learn to build trusting relationships that sustain your energy, inspire action, and build confidence amidst change and chaos.

»» Be inspired with a renewed vision of accountability that fosters true citizenship in an age of entitlement and consumerism.

»» Discover what it means to work in true, authentic partnerships with those we depend on and upon those we depend.

»» Leave with practical tools for building strong and lasting partnerships through the power of authentic leadership.

Annual General Meeting

Message from the president.

Reports - FCSSAA Initiatives and Activities in 2019, Directors' Network, and Treasurer's Report (including adoption of 2019 Audited Financial Statements – good clean report, Appointment of Auditors for 2020, approval of 2020 Budget).

Provincial update by Ken Dropko, Executive Director of the Family and Community Services Branch in the Ministry of Community and Social Services – working on 3 year funding agreement, however will be based on provincial budget forecasts and will vary based on allocations, noted prevention is hard to measure, more agencies coming for assistance, increased scrutiny on expenditure alignment, new technology system coming, 30 program reviews completed this year (typically capacity for 12), work on Clare's Law and human trafficking (sex, labour, and organ).

Karen Grosvold from County of Grande Prairie was elected President. Introduction of the new Board.

Resolution passed regarding continuous multiyear funding.

RESOLUTION No: 2019-01

TOPIC: CONTINUED FUNDING WITH MULTI-YEAR FUNDING CYCLES

SUBMITTED BY: Red Deer & District FCSS Board

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSSAA) advocates to the Government of Alberta to commit to continual financial support of Family and Community Support Services on multi-year budget cycles that reflect cost of living, and evidence-based statement of need, and other commensurable factors.

RATIONALE

In accordance with the *Municipal Government Act 2017*¹, municipalities are required to adopt, at minimum, three-year operating plans and five-year capital plans and

Recognizing that Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is an 80/20 financial partnership between the Government of Alberta and participating municipalities or Metis Settlements and

Recognizing the Blue Ribbon Panel on Alberta's Finances Report recommendations to "explore new approaches and alternatives for delivering public services, improve Alberta's competitive position, and focus on achieving a sustainable financial situation and long-term results for Albertans"² and

Recognizing that the Red Deer and District Family and Community Support Services Board Funding Guide commits to the principle of *Responsiveness* meaning that consideration is given to the need for stable funding and the ability to address emerging issues through a three year funding cycle for all local projects and

Recognizing that the method of allocating provincial funding to participating municipalities and Métis Settlements was last revised during the 2006 FCSS Program Review as stated in the FCSS Handbook³ and

Finally, that the Government of Alberta is committed to the principles of efficiency, accountability, volunteerism, and supporting a civil society which are the foundational pillars of the Family and Community Support Services Program.

¹ http://www.qp.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=M26.cfm&leg_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779811519

² <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/081ba74d-95c8-43ab-9097-cef17a9fb59c/resource/257f040a-2645-49e7-b40b->

462e4b5c059c/download/blue-ribbon-panel-report.pdf

3 <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/18ffaf4e-db3b-476c-8901-9a9d825c366b/resource/2589adce-09c5-4830-9ba2-406c5ae4f4c7/download/2010-family-and-community-support-services-fcss-program-handbook.pdf>

This conference was a great opportunity to learn from the speakers, attend interactive workshops and network with other board members and staff.

December 3 Council Meeting

Full agenda packages (with back up documentation) are available on our website:

<https://wheatlandcounty.ca/wheatland-county-council/agendas-and-minutes>

You can also watch the recording on our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRJrvIs0eygNM7zERLnviOg?view_as=subscriber

Public Hearings and second and third readings were passed for 2 land redesignation bylaws, including Bylaw 2019-25, a bylaw for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw 2016-01 to redesignate +/- 128.74 ac. County owned land within Plan 0813350, Block 1, Lot 1; from Agricultural General District to Industrial General District. Council also requested administration investigate options for an 'alternate' site for effluent discharge from the Gleichen Sewage Lagoon and bring back a report to Council.

An amended version of the Fire Board Bylaw was approved to include village representatives from Hussar, Rockyford, and Standard, and to remove the following statement from section 3: 'Members of the Fire Board where possible shall not be a member of a Volunteer Fire Department or an employee of a Fire Department.'

Council and staff reports. SDAB members and designate officer were approved. Economic Development Board members approved. Funding was approved for the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train event.

Councillor Wilson presented a verbal report providing a 'revised' copy of the previously proposed 'Alberta First Resolution'. Note: the first draft of the resolution was presented to Council on Nov. 5th at which time Council accepted the resolution 'in principle'. Discussion followed. As information, I reviewed highlights from my report providing clarity regarding 'what a resolution is', and the 'resolution process' – If a resolution is supported at the district level, then it is brought forward to a Provincial Rural Municipalities of Alberta Conference to be voted on. Discussion continued; Council agreed that more public engagement is needed. In closing, Councillor Wilson advised Council of his intent to bring forward a motion to the Dec. 17th Council meeting to request that Wheatland County accept the 'revised' Alberta First Resolution and proceed with submission of the resolution to the Central Rural Municipalities of Alberta – District 2 General Meeting for endorsement consideration.

Interim CAO reported that the Cluny Fire Hall is now in good condition.

December 3 Standard Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) Committee Meeting

The Standard Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) committee met and reviewed the draft IDP and

timelines for completion, including anticipated dates to approve at both Council, a date was set for community engagement – Open House on January 27, 7-8pm in Standard.

December 4 CP Holiday Train Meeting

Further planning for the big event.

December 5 Community Futures Wild Rose Board Meeting & Christmas Party in Rockyford

Financial variance reports were approved, monthly loan report, and the Operations report and budget were reviewed. Board training options were discussed with consensus we would pursue Community Economic Development for our module this year based on survey feedback.

December 6 Central Rural Municipalities of Alberta District 2 Director's Meeting in Three Hills

Re-elected Bruce Beattie as Chair and Jim Wood as Vice Chair, elected resolution committee. Discussed potential education and legal session topics for Spring General Meeting.

I was chosen to apply for FCM Committee candidacy. If Council so chooses I will need a Council resolution to endorse the nomination.

Reports from District 2 Director and RMA President. Of particular note is that District 2 Director is working on an Alberta Energy 101 Presentation, can't wait to see his work. Round table on ICF progress. Discussed state of agriculture across District. Discussed police funding model.

December 7 Wheatland County Christmas Party

A fantastic event to celebrate the season with staff and council.

December 9 Fair Deal Panel – Red Deer Town Hall

“The Fair Deal Panel is consulting Albertans on how best to define and secure a fair deal for Alberta. They're exploring ideas that give us a bigger voice within the federation, increase our power over areas of provincial jurisdiction, and advance our vital economic interests, such as building energy pipelines.

Albertans are frustrated with the federal government and the barriers they're imposing on our economy. We've been the biggest contributing province to Canada's prosperity by far, but some provinces that are profiting from our resources now seem determined to landlock our industries.

Alberta isn't asking for a special deal, just a fair one.

Specific areas being explored include:

- Establishing a provincial revenue agency to collect provincial taxes directly by ending the Canada-Alberta Tax Collection Agreement, while joining Quebec in seeking an agreement to collect federal taxes within the province.
- Creating an Alberta Pension Plan by withdrawing from the Canada Pension Plan.
- Establishing a provincial police force by ending the Alberta Police Service Agreement with the Government of Canada.
- Emulating Quebec's practice of playing a larger role in international relations, in part by seeking Alberta representation in treaty negotiations that effect Alberta's interests.
- Emulating Quebec's legal requirement that public bodies, including municipalities and school boards, obtain the approval of the provincial government before they can enter into agreements with the federal government.
- Using the existing provincial power to appoint the Chief Firearms Office for Alberta.
- Opting out of federal cost share programs with full compensation, such as the federal government's proposed pharmacare program.
- Seeking an exchange of tax points for federal cash transfers under the Canada Health and Social Transfers.
- Establishing a formalized provincial constitution."

From: <https://www.alberta.ca/fair-deal-panel.aspx>

December 10 Range Road 254 Landowner Meeting

Outline details of Maintainable Road Oil application, timelines for the potential project, and what to expect as an adjacent landowner. Outlined fiscal factors influencing capital projects, including transportation plans.

December 11 CP Holiday Train Meeting

Further planning for the big event.

December 12 Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB) Strategic Meeting

Discussion regarding personnel and strategic direction of the CMRB.

December 12 Wheatland Lodge Resident Christmas Party

A lovely evening with the staff and residents of the Wheatland Lodge.

December 13 Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Meeting

Town of Cochrane presented their Municipal Context Report, of interesting note was their joint use recreation facility with Rocky View County, run by an arm's length non-profit, their tech incubator – home to several start-ups, and the strong vision Mayor Genung shared.

The Environmentally Sensitive Areas Background Study and Stormwater Background Report were approved as input for the Growth Consultant.

The Messaging Platform and Vision Statement were discussed and referred back to the Joint Committee meeting in January for further review.

Growth Plan Workshop What we heard summary was reviewed and approved with edits.

December 17 Council Meeting

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A public hearing and 2nd and 3rd reading for a Bylaw for Land Use redesignation was approved. The Public Hearing for the Kneehill/Wheatland County IDP was opened and recessed, to explore ways to mitigate concerns raised. First reading and a public hearing was scheduled to amend the DC District for Lakes of Muirfield. A new Addressing Bylaw was approved.

A public input session was held regarding the Alberta First Resolution. Several ratepayers spoke both for and against the proposed resolution. Council approved the Resolution and it will be brought forward to the Central Rural Municipalities of Alberta District 2 Meeting in February.

The interim Operating and Capital Budget were approved.

Canadian Badlands Tourism presented.

December 18 Canadian Pacific Holiday Train in Gleichen

The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train made its final stop of its tour in Gleichen on December 18th and it was amazing! We are so grateful to Canadian Pacific for their Holiday Train that spreads Christmas cheer across our nation.

Thank you to everyone who came and thank you for supporting both Wheatland County Food Bank and Siksika Nation Ittasinno'P Food Banks. Your generous support contributed \$3211.00 and 435 lbs of food, which along with the \$3000 corporate donation by the Canadian Pacific Railway, will make a difference for families struggling with food insecurity right here in our communities. Since 1999, the Holiday Train has raised more than \$15.8 million and 4.5 million pounds of food for North American food banks! "The CP Holiday Train is a program that our 13,000-strong CP family has immense pride in bringing to communities every year. Access to nutritious food is a basic necessity, and food bank

usage is on the rise across North America. The CP Holiday Train program is our way to help in the fight against hunger by growing awareness of this issue and providing a fun and engaging way for the public to show their support.” says Keith Creel, CP's President and Chief Executive Officer.

This event showcases what regional collaboration can do when passionate communities and organizations partner. The real magic of this event is the groups and communities involved and working together to host the CP Holiday Train. It provides Wheatland County the opportunity to work with Siksika First Nation, which allows us to continue to grow our relationship and understand Siksika's community organizations and vice versa. The collaboration with this event expands the working relationships into other projects and increased communication to support each community's goals. We appreciate CP providing our region this event to work with Siksika and our community groups in the Wheatland County region.

It was a fantastic concert, performed by Meghan Patrick, Tanika Charles, and Kelly Prescott. With a whole evening of family fun including music, horse drawn wagon rides, First Nations dancing and drumming, free hot chocolate and cookies, and a market.

Words can't convey my gratitude for all the people who helped make this happen. A heartfelt thanks to the hardworking volunteers, the Gleichen District Community Association members, everyone from Siksika Nation (Chief and Council, Health Services, Community Wellness, Fire & Rescue, Security, Parks & Recreation, Public Works, SN7 who coordinated children's activities, Justice, and Family Services), Wheatland County (Council, Peace Officers, Public Works, Economic Development Officer - Infinite WC, Community Services Coordinator, and Communications Specialist) Gleichen RCMP, Firefighters from multiple departments, Wheatland EMS, Wendy with Community Futures Wild Rose, we couldn't have done it without each of you. FortisAlberta, Aspen Crossing, RE/MAX, ABC Waste, and Waste Management through the support of Colin Huxted, and Hammer Hill Stables, all provided corporate donations that contributed to the success of the event, thank you! We couldn't hold events like this without community minded businesses like you.

December 20 Strathmore Seed Cleaning Plant Board Meeting and Christmas Party

The Board reelected Dan Munro as Chair and Dane Hilton as Vice Chair, financial review, CEO report, and chair's report.

December 21 Roger's Hometown Hockey

It was my honour to join our neighbours and represent Wheatland County throughout the weekend at the Kick Off Party, Charity Hockey Game Puck Drop and Opening on the Main Stage

Rogers Hometown Hockey came to The Town of Strathmore, Saturday, December 21, and Sunday, December 22!

The weekend started off with a Kick Off Party organized by the Strathmore & District Chamber of Commerce. Free pancake breakfast, hockey skills competition, dignitary ribbon cutting, a s'more competition, fire pits to warm up, and live entertainment.

Saturday night was the Charity Hockey Game, local emergency services members played local female minor hockey and ringette teams, with NHL legends! All proceeds went to charities, Jumpstart and the Wheatland County Food Bank.

The whole weekend was filled with a fun, free festival, featuring hockey-related activities, NHL Alumni appearances, music, food and fun for the whole family.

The festival wrapped up with an outdoor viewing party on Sunday, a LIVE NHL BROADCAST from the Sportsnet Mobile Studio, onsite with Ron MacLean and Tara Slone. The broadcast featured the Calgary Flames vs Dallas Stars, NHL hockey game that was played in Dallas December 22nd.

For more information on Rogers Hometown Hockey across Canada, visit www.hometownhockey.com.

Would you like more information on Strathmore? Take 2 minutes to check out their Winter Community Profile: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pB7E_AtAFgw

December 23 Meeting with Developer regarding waste water solution

Signature: Amber Link