

## **Mayor's Report June 22 - July 6**

**June 24**

**REDI**

### **Northwest Commodities Report**

- Mary Joan Aylward made a presentation on the Energy Sector from the Northwest Commodities Report
- The presentation was very dismal for the energy sector in Canada, mainly because the USA has transformed from our major buyer... to our main competitor, not getting our oil to tidewater, tanker bans on our west coast and finally the east coast buying oil from other countries and not Canada.
- Received the final Forestry Commodity report.

### **Broadband Conference Information**

- CCI is currently drawing up a proposal to create We fibre in High level.
- Arrow Communications has been working with North and South Tall Cree to extend fibre optic cable to their reserves, an extension of the Alberta backbone Supernet infrastructure.
- Apparently, TELUS is looking at putting a 5G internet tower in La Crete.
- Elon Musk's SpaceX applied to CRTC for a basic International Telecommunications Services (BITS) license, for high-speed internet using low lying satellites to provide Internet services to rural Canada.

### **Pea Processing Plant**

- Information on the "Pea Processing Plant" has been set up at the La Crete Seed cleaning plant and will hopefully be placed at Richardson Pioneer.
- Investigating ways to help the businesses in Fort Vermilion.

**June 24**

**Tourism Strategy Review**

- **Met with Town Staff to discuss a three-year Tourism strategy**

**June 25**

**MFTA**

**“Move Up” Magazine Showcase**

Choices must consider of the following:

- Members in good standing,
- Have a story that appeals to readers
- Need to be from across the region,
- Need to be seasonal relevant
- Have a relevant special event or anniversary
- First time selections

**Travel Alberta Webinars**

- Travel Alberta is offering weekly webinars
- On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Travel Alberta launched **Alberta At Home**, a project we hope will become a source for:

**Partnership with Move Up Magazine & Travel Alberta – GRANT APPLICATION**

- Working on a Grant application for Travel Alberta with some assistance from Travel Alberta Staff.
- The Strategy uses the Attention, Interest, Desire, Action (AIDA) Model.
- *Total Budget – Grant Request: \$47,000.00*

**Stay in the Frontier Campaign & Publication**

Staycation – Stay in the Frontier

- Mackenzie Frontier will continue to work with our local contractor to develop a ‘Stay in the Frontier’ publication – print and digital.
- *Total Budget \$29,100.00*

**History Check - Taking History Check to the People**

- History Check is a Northern Alberta Developed App. ‘Alberta’s Ultimate Heritage and Travel Companion’
- Take an Alberta Road trip (attractions, history) [historycheck.ca](http://historycheck.ca)

**June 26**

## **Boreal Housing**

### **Mackenzie House**

- In June, inside the building scopes progressed well and mainly concentrated on finishes.
- Millwork is complete and painting and flooring is completed on the second floor.
- Scope of work progressed well in the Kitchen and dining area.
- Final elevator inspection was completed.
- Some consultant inspections were performed and Contractor continues to rectify issues noted in site reports.
- The project had experienced labour impacts due to COVID-19.
- Krawford has indicated material disruptions are no longer anticipated as critical materials are on site. Although the Contractor is facing some labour impacts due to Covid,.
- the disruptions due to recovering as a result of the Province's "re-launching" plan and the Contractor is managing the disruptions well.
- Due to mechanical contractor performance as well as scheduling conflicts duct cleaning and air balancing have been scheduled one week later than previously anticipated.
- As a result, the current schedule shows a July 27, 2020 interim acceptance and a move-in date of residents for August.

### **Housing In Fort**

- We are now replacing furnaces and hot water tanks; the crawl spaces have been dried out and treated.
- We have also filled in most of the sinkholes in the front and back yards of some of these units.
- We have hired summer students who are trying to get the grass and weeds under control and are starting to win the battle.
- Maintenance is busy painting some units so they can be clean and fresh for when the tenants can start coming home.

- In total 7 families that have returned home, 3 families moved into units in High Level, 14 families are living in temporary housing in Fort Vermilion, and a few are still in hotels or living in their camper units.

### **Seniors and Housing Woes**

- The Covid-19 rules for Supportive Living have not yet allowed visitors into the Heimstaed Lodge.
- A Townhall meeting with Dr. Hinshaw was set up so the seniors could listen to the questions/answers and comments of other persons calling into the meeting.
- The seniors said that they have a lot to be grateful for and now understand that all facilities across Alberta have the same rules that must be followed
- The seniors in Altenheim, Pioneer Homes and White Spruce Village are doing a great job following their restrictions set out by Dr. Hinshaw, they are positive examples to all our communities.
- We asked MLA Williams to speak with the Health Minister and expedite our request of allowing two visitors into the lodge
- .MLA Dan called the Housing Minister instead of the Health Minister...not sure how he mixed that request.
- Our CAO received a call, recommending that we do not open before Dr Hinshaw changes her order.
- We would be setting ourselves up for big fines if we break the order.
- In Central Alberta a Housing Management Body (HMB) was charged \$100,000 for the first offence, the visitor did not come into the facility, but the visitor spotted her mom in a small group for outside activity. The visitor pulled into the parking lot, got out of her car (but remained standing beside the car door) and spoke to her mom who remained in the group. They were never closer than 25 feet together but a neighbor had witnessed this and reported it. This incident happened before outside visiting was allowed or clients were allowed to leave with family. The HMB was able to get this fine cancelled (with a lot of talking and fancy talking) but the person who got out of her car was fined \$12,000, and has to pay her fine.

**June 27**

## **Local Authorities Election Act**

Alberta is updating the **Local Authorities Election Act** that outlines election rules in municipalities, school boards, Métis Settlements and irrigation districts.

- **Bill 29: The Local Authorities Election Amendment Act**, was introduced on June 24 to make further amendments, including allowing people to donate to as many candidates as they choose.
- **Bill 23, An Act to Renew Local Democracy in Alberta** was passed on December 5, 2018 to limit campaign contributions, ban corporate and union donations and improve transparency and accountability.
- These changes are supposed to support basic democratic principles of fairness, accountability and transparency and address the concerns raised by Albertans, municipalities and school board partners during GOA townhalls.

If passed, Bill 29: *The Local Authorities Election Amendment Act* would allow:

- People to donate up to \$5,000 per candidate and support an unlimited number of candidates
- Allow candidates to:
  - self-contribute up to \$10,000 per year to their campaign
  - raise \$5,000 per year outside of the campaign period, up from \$2,000
  - donate campaign surpluses over \$1,000 to charity
  - continue filing disclosures after election day, as required
  - require a chartered professional accountant review financial statements before submitting them to the municipality or school board if they received or spent more than \$50,000
- third party advertisers participate more freely by changing advertising rules

Alberta has reinstated Senate nominee elections to allow Albertans to choose who would best represent them in the Senate.

- **Bill 13:** The Alberta Senate Election Act came into effect on July 18, 2019 to bring back Senate nominee elections so voters can decide who will best represent them in the Senate and fight for Alberta's interests in Ottawa.
- **Bill 27:** the Senate Election Amendment Act, 2020 was introduced on June 23, 2020 to amend the Alberta Senate Election Act, which allows Senate elections to be held during municipal elections, during provincial elections or stand alone.
- Under the previous law, which expired in 2016, Alberta held Senate nominee elections from 1989 until 2012. During this time, 10 nominees were elected and 5 were appointed to the Senate. Alberta currently has 6 representatives in the Senate.

### **If passed, Bill 27 would:**

- allow the Minister of Municipal Affairs to make directives during a senate election when held in conjunction with a municipal election

### **The *Alberta Senate Election Act* took effect in July 2019 to:**

- allow voters to elect a Senate nominee:
  - as part of provincial or municipal elections
  - as a stand alone process
- name the registered federal political party that a candidate is aligned with on the ballot
- limit the number of candidates elected to 3, unless otherwise set out in the election order
- reduce the number of signatures required for an election nomination from 1,500 to 500
- limit campaign spending to \$500,000 per candidate
- allow provincial political parties to support candidates, but the party's spending cannot exceed 20% of the candidate's spending limit

- apply third-party advertising rules to Senate nominee elections**S**