

Mayor's Report - December 13 -January 10

December 10 **RCMP Meeting**

- Met to discuss the monthly issues and statistics.

December 10 **Council Meeting**

December 15 **Rainbow Lake Roadshow**

- These Workshops of which there were 3; are about municipal leaders and stakeholders meeting to explore how their communities can participate in the energy transition.
- Across the province, they are discussing hydrogen, carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS), geothermal, battery materials, and other emerging industries.
- As Alberta evolves its energy mix, every community and region will be presented with new opportunities and challenges.
- This workshop was designed and delivered in collaboration with Rainbow Lake, and was tailored to Rainbow's unique needs and capacities.
- I was in a geothermal discussion and learned that geothermal can only travel 10km. It could be used to provide energy to the community and lower costs.

December 15 **Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI)**

- REDI will apply for a Woman's Entrepreneurship Grant
- The Women's Economic Recovery Challenge Grant funds initiatives to support Alberta women and girls in their economic recovery from COVID-19.
- For a project to be eligible, it must create a measurable impact and align with one or more of the following
 1. Increase women and girls representation in STEM.
 2. Increase women and girls representation in entrepreneurship.
 3. Decrease barriers women face in the workplace.
 4. Foster ease of women's career transitions, employment skills and labour entry or re-entry.
- REDI is looking to hire a facilitator to complete a Strategic Plan
- Andrew will also take a Course at the U of A entitled **Leading Strategic Planning** from Feb 03, 2022 — Feb 24, 2022.
- REDI will retain its membership in the **Hemp industry**
- That REDI moved to accept the final versions of the CanExport Video.

December 16 **Meeting Minister Wilson**

Disaster Recovery Program

- We had a discussion on the Disaster Recovery Program and the outstanding balance of \$2.6 million and the fact that the Town has lost approximately \$600,000 in Opportunity costs not including any human resource costs.

Inequity in Mental Health and Wellness

- Discussions on how the Northwest Alberta is facing a huge crisis in relations to addictions and mental health, even though we are higher than the provincial average
- Staff relocations of mental health workers and ongoing organizational changes in mental health services...have left the Northwest with 1.4 Mental Health Therapists for 30,000 people.
- Recently another blow to our region was delivered when AHS did not renew Dr. Paul Soper's (Psychiatrist for FVSD) contract.
- AHS's solution is not a solution...to provide the region with locums. This is inadequate for a region suffering from addiction and mental health issues!
- FVSD, High Level, Rainbow Lake and Mackenzie County all sent letters to Dr. Verna Yu, CAO of AHS requesting a meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 13th with the North Zone Medical Director, Dr. Brian Muir.

Recognizing First Nations Partnerships

- We discussed how the Dene Tha and The Town of High Level and the Dene Tha' First Nation have worked very closely on several projects. Unfortunately, some projects have been stalled because the province **does not recognize** a First Nation as a municipal partner.
- Recent examples of the rejection: of our application under the Alberta Community Partnership to create a joint emergency response plan and difficulties moving forward on a joint wastewater system.
- The Town of High Level also respectfully requests your assistance in lifting the barrier and having the province classify First Nations; as partners for funding applications.

Multi-Purpose Facility

- Finally we requested that Minister Wilson discuss with his counterpart the Honourable Marc Miller of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs the importance and urgency of this facility.
- This facility is needed for:
 - Mental Health/Addictions wellness of our children, our adults
 - Evacuation Facility for regional and possibly Territories
 - Cultural facility with an Elder in Residence Program
 - Educational space for the Secondary School
 - Attraction of staff for the Regional Hospital, Education, RCMP, TOLKO,
 - West Fraser, Pelleting Plant and many more.
 - Provide COVID Recovery jobs in would provide (257 jobs an 650,000 hours work for people in our region.

December 17 Town Christmas Party

- Huge thank you to our Social Committee for organizing a long overdue and well-deserved Christmas party for the Town staff.

December 18 Meeting Dr. Oluwa

- AHS and the physician leadership group for High Level requested that we show a prospective Family Medicine physician and her husband around High Level and area.
- I am happy to state that Dr. Oluwa loved High Level and signed a contract with AHS.

December 22 Boreal Housing/Local AHS

- Met to discuss requirements by AHS for renovations and receiving a Nursing Contract for SL and SL4D clients.

December 30 Municipal Elected Official Course

- The Municipal Elected Officials (MEO) course is designed to provide councillors with a background on emergency management principles, key players in emergency management and the legislation that delegates legal responsibilities to the local authority in emergency situations.
- The course is online and takes between two to four hours to complete with a quiz at the end.

December 31 Basic Emergency Management

- The Basic Emergency Management (BEM) course was exactly like the MEO course, but I signed up for it, so I completed it.

January 1 Incident Command System - 100 Course

- This is an introductory course and overview of the Incident Command System.
- The course takes an average of 2 to 4 hours to complete and I really enjoyed the course and learned a lot about what I wish I would have known before the Chuckegg fire.