



Agenda
Village of Nampa
Council Meeting
September 19, 2023
Village of Nampa Council Chambers
7:00 p.m.

1. Call the meeting to order

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

- 3.1 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held August 15, 2023

4. Business Arising out of the Minutes

- 4.1 RFD: AEMA Training for Council and Staff

5 New Business

- 5.1 RFD: Carol Broadribb, CSR, ATCO Electric, August 25, 2023 Re: 2022 Distribution & 2024 Estimated
- 5.2 Mayor Elaine Manzer, Town of Peace River, August 21, 2023 Re: PRHARC Request for \$2000.00 Annually from Municipalities
- 5.3 RFD: John Lembryk, Manager, ATCO Gas, August 30, 2023 Re: ATCO Gas & Pipelines Ltd Natural Gas Distribution Franchise Agreement
- 5.4 RFD: Application to Propose Amendment to Land Use Bylaw Re: Plan 8021462 Lots 2 & 3 Block 13
- 5.5 Stephen Covey, Chief of Police and Chief Security, Canadian National Railway, Re: Rail Safety Week Proclamation Request from September 18 - 24, 2023
- 5.6 RFD: Amber Houle, Director of Community Services, Northern Sunrise County, September 13, 2023 Re: Christmas Gift Card Program, Christmas Gift Card Program Update, & Christmas Gift Card Donation Request

6 Reports

- 6.1a Cheque Listing for Council August 11, 2023 - September 12, 2023 # 20230313-20230362
- 6.1b August 2023 Bank Rec
- 6.2 CAO Report
- 6.3 Public Works Report
- 6.4 Mayor/Deputy Mayor/Councillor Reports & Upcoming Meetings

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 Vanessa Sheane, NWP Acting President & CEO, August 10, 2023, Re: Responses to questions raised on July 12 & July 27, 2023
- 7.2 Thank You card from Nampa & District Daycare Society Board
- 7.3 Reeve Phil Kalodychuk, Municipal District of Fairview No 136, August 31, 2023 Re: PREDA Meeting at Northwestern Polytechnic

- 7.4 North Peace Housing Foundation Board Meeting Synopsis, September 6, 2023
- 7.5 Jim Rennie, NAEL Chair, Executive Director, September 13, 2023, Re: NAEL Letter to Justice Minister; Corrections Inmate Release, Ministers Brief
- 7.6 Lynn Florence, Economic Development Officer, Northern Sunrise County, September 13, 2023 Re: Economic & Tourism Development Report April to June 2023 & Broadband (Internet) Services for Northern Sunrise County

8. Closed Session

9 Adjournment



Agenda Item #4.1

Request for Decision (RFD)
Council Meeting September 19, 2023

Topic: AEMA (BEM & ICS 100) Training for Council & Staff

Background:

At last month's meeting of council Administration was directed to find out more information on the BEM & ICS 100 training and to bring back to next scheduled council meeting on September 19, 2023

It was advised that training could be done either over 2 days back-to-back or distributed (1 day one week and one day the following), whichever would work best. The best time would be the last week of November and first week of December, could also possibly fit one or both in on November 8, 9, 10 as well.

There are no other costs involved other than providing lunch and snacks.

Administration is asking direction from council on how they would like to proceed

Administration Recommendation:

For discussion

August 24, 2023

Village of Nampa
Attn: Dianne Roshuk
Box 69
Nampa AB
T0H 2R0

Re: Distribution Revenue Forecast for 2024 Franchise Fee

Dear Dianne Roshuk,

Your Franchise Agreement allows for an annual change to the franchise fee percentage. However, specific procedures must be followed before the fee can be changed and take effect. This letter is intended to provide you with an overview of the franchise fee change procedure as follows:

1. Your Municipality must decide if a change is required and what the new fee percentage should be. ATCO Electric will provide revenue estimates to help you with this (if the new fee is greater than the pre-approved cap in your franchise, a different process is required).
2. In accordance with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) Decision approving your Franchise Agreement, you must publish a public notice of the proposed change in the local newspaper with the greatest circulation. This notice must include the effect of the proposed change for the average residential customer. ATCO Electric can estimate the new charges and the impact on an average customer bill. We recommend that fee change notices be published before **October 10, 2023**.
3. Residents must have at least 14 days from the publication of the notice to make their concerns known to the Municipality and the Municipality is to respond to these concerns.
4. The Municipality will advise ATCO Electric by letter the new desired fee percentage. This letter must include a copy of the public notice with publication details (date and name of newspaper), and any comments the Municipality wants to include on the public response.
5. ATCO Electric will apply to the AUC to change the rate. Copies of the Municipality's letter and public notice will be included with the application. ATCO Electric must receive the municipality's request (complete with a copy of the notice) by **November 15, 2023**, in order to obtain AUC approval and commence billing of the new fee effective January 1, 2024.
6. The AUC must approve the change to ATCO Electric's rates. Provided the Commission is satisfied that proper notice was given they do not receive any objections or concerns from the public, the approval is anticipated to be issued quickly.
7. Once the rate change is approved, ATCO Electric will commence charging and remittance of the new fee.

The following information will help you decide the appropriate fee percentage for your community.

Current Fee Percentage	Current Fee Cap	Distribution Revenue Previous calendar year	Estimated 2023 Distribution Revenue	Estimated 2024 Distribution Revenue
2% of distribution revenue	20%	\$735,494	\$707,477 Estimated on first 6 months of data	\$728,701

To estimate the franchise fee amount, multiply the Estimated Distribution Revenue by the fee percentage. When calculating your revenue requirements please remember that this fee is paid in addition to the linear taxes on the distribution system.

Estimated revenues are calculated based on the best available information and are subject to change due to AUC final approved tariffs, Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) flow-thru charges or changes in load growth.

We are available to discuss this with you in more detail if required. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 780-219-6558.

Yours truly,



Carol Broadribb
Customer Sales Representative
ATCO Electric
780-219-6558
Carol.Broadribb@atco.com



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

TOWN OF PEACE RIVER



August 21, 2023

Village of Nampa
PO Box 69
Nampa, Alberta
T0H 2R0

Dear Council,

RE: PRHARC Peace Regional Health Attraction and Retention Committee

In support of the recruitment and retention of all health care providers in the North, the Peace Regional Health Attraction and Retention Committee continues to develop strategies and tools to promote this goal.

After discussion at the last PRHARC meeting on August 1, 2023, a motion was made as follows:

MOTION 2023-19

P. Skrlík moved that the Peace Regional Healthcare Attraction and Retention Committee (PRHARC) request municipalities allocate \$2,000 annually from their budgets starting in 2024, as noted in the Terms of Reference under Financial Resources point #2.

The PRHARC is requesting that each municipality please include \$2,000 in its 2024 budget to go towards the committee's initiative to attract and retain healthcare workers in our area.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mayor Elaine Manzer
Town of Peace River
Chair of the Peace Regional Health Attraction and Retention Committee

Elaine Manzer
Mayor, Town of Peace River
Phone: 780-624-3988
Email: emanzer@peaceriver.ca

Town Administration Office
P.O. Box 6600, 9911-100 Street
Peace River, AB T8S 1S4
Phone: (780) 624-2574 Fax: (780) 624-4664
Website: www.peaceriver.ca

General Email: info@peaceriver.ca

30 August 2023

Village of Nampa
PO Box 69
Nampa, AB, T0H 2R0

Attention: Ms. Dianne Roshuk, Chief Administrative Officer

RE: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. Natural Gas Distribution Franchise Agreement

As you are aware, ATCO Gas pays the Village of Nampa a franchise fee. The franchise fee is collected from customers in Nampa and is based on a percentage of our Delivery Tariff. In Nampa, this percentage currently is 16.84%.

In 2022, our Delivery Tariff revenue in Nampa was \$175,730. Our forecast Delivery Tariff revenue for 2024 is \$158,958. Therefore, based on the current franchise fee percentage, your forecast 2024 franchise fee revenue would be \$26,769.

Please note that the forecast 2024 Delivery Tariff revenue can be impacted by changes in customer operations and weather. Additionally, ATCO Gas has utilized forecast 2024 delivery rates, however, they are not yet approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission. ATCO Gas commits to providing updated franchise fee revenue forecasts at a future date should there be material impacts related to the update of these forecast assumptions.

Pursuant to our franchise agreement, you have the option to change the franchise fee percentage in 2024. A request to change the franchise fee must be received by ATCO in writing prior to November 1, 2023. If you are considering changing the franchise fee in 2024, please contact us as soon as possible to begin the process.

We trust you will find this information useful, and, if you have any questions or require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me at John.Lembryk@atco.com.

Yours truly,



John Lembryk
Manager, District Operations Northwest
ATCO Natural Gas Division



Agenda Item P- #7

Request for Decision (RFD)
Council Meeting September 17, 2023

Topic: Application to Propose Amendment to the Land Use Policy
Map # 8001462 Lots 1 & 2 Block 3

Background:

The Nampa Gospel Fellowship owns 3 lots - Plan #8001462 Lots 1, 2, & 3 (Block #3, copy of plan attached). The Gospel Fellowship Church is located on Lot 1 and is zoned Residential-Careless.

They are wanting to extend the church (to the west) and are wanting to rezone lots 2 & 3 from Residential-Careless to Residential-Corridor.

If council approves the application a Policy will have to be developed, as well as a Public Hearing will have to be held.

Administration Recommendation:

For discussion



The Village of
Nampa
A Place Close To The Heart

Application No. _____
(For Office Use Only)

**APPLICATION TO PROPOSE AMENDMENT TO THE
LAND USE BYLAW**

I/We hereby make application to amend the Land Use Bylaw.

Applicant

Name: Josh Warkentin Telephone: 780 618 6727

Address: Box 479 Nampa, AB T0H 2R0

Owner of Land:

Name

If different from applicant: Nampa Gospel Fellowship Telephone: 780 322 3865

Address: Box 232 Nampa, AB T0H 2R0

Address of Property: 10302-95 St, Nampa, AB

Land Description: Lot: 2 & 3 Block: 13 Plan: 802 1462

AMENDMENT PROPOSED

FROM: R-1 TO: R-G

Reasons in Support of Application for Amendment:

Nampa Gospel Fellowship wishes to have all three
lots zoned as R-G in order to facilitate additional
expansion as needed.

I/ We enclose \$ 25.00 being the application fee.

Aug 28, 2023

Date

Aug 28/23

Date

[Signature]

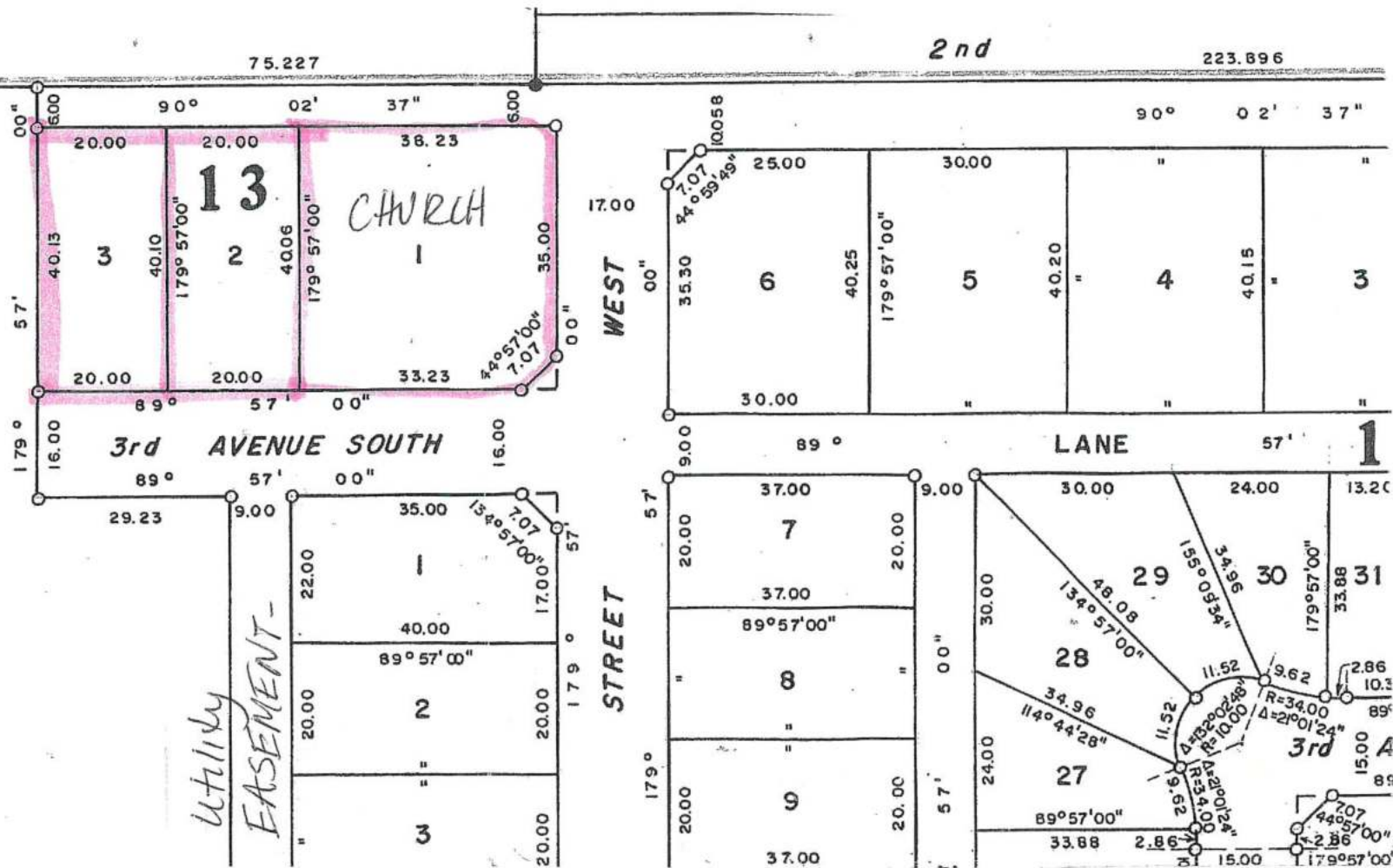
Applicant Signature

[Signature]

Registered Land Owner Signature (if different from applicant)



Church - Lot 1
 zoned Res general
 Lot 2+3 -
 zoned Restricted
 Residential



From: Stephen Covey <stephen.covey@cn.ca>
Sent: July 20, 2023 11:46 AM
To: Dianne Roshuk
Subject: Rail Safety Week 2023 | Proclamation request
Attachments: RSW2023_EN_Resolution_Canada.pdf; RSW2023_FR_Resolution_Canada.pdf

5.5



cn.ca

Dear Ms. Roshuk:

Every year, more than 2,100 North Americans are killed or seriously injured because of unsafe behaviour around tracks and trains. By adopting the attached draft proclamation, you can help raise awareness for rail safety in your community.

Working safely is, by far, the most important thing we do each day at CN. Every employee deserves to go home safely. Every community needs to know they will not be put in harm's way. At CN, we aspire to zero – zero fatalities, zero serious injuries, zero harm. We need your help. We firmly believe that all crossing and trespassing related incidents are preventable. By working together, we can help save lives.

Rail Safety Week will be held in Canada and the United States from September 18-24, 2023. This is an opportunity for us all to educate the public on rail safety. As a leader in your community, your council plays a key role in improving public awareness about the dangers around tracks and trains.

Rail safety is a shared responsibility. We are asking you to engage with your communities about rail safety and to sign the enclosed proclamation highlighting your community's commitment to rail safety. We would like to publicly recognize your commitment. For us to do that, we ask that you please return the signed proclamation by e-mail to Marie-Pier.Triganne@cn.ca.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Julianne Threlfall, your local CN Public Affairs representative, at julianne.threlfall@cn.ca

For more information:

- Questions or concerns about rail safety in your community, contact our Public Inquiry Line at 1-888-888-5909
- For additional information about Rail Safety Week 2023 visit cn.ca/railsafety or operationlifesaver.ca
- Let us know how you promote rail safety in your community by visiting www.cn.ca/RSW2023

Janet Drysdale

Senior Vice-President and Chief

Stakeholder Relations Officer

Stephen Covey

Chief of Police and Chief Security

Officer

RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF RAIL SAFETY WEEK

WHEREAS *Rail Safety Week* is to be held across Canada from September 18 to 24, 2023;

WHEREAS 262 railway crossing and trespassing incidents occurred in Canada in 2022 resulting in 66 avoidable fatalities and 47 avoidable serious injuries;

WHEREAS, educating and informing the public about rail safety (reminding the public that railway rights of way are private property, enhancing public awareness of the dangers associated with highway at grade crossings, ensuring pedestrians and motorists are looking and listening while near railways, and obeying established traffic laws) will reduce the number of avoidable fatalities and injuries caused by incidents involving trains and citizens; and

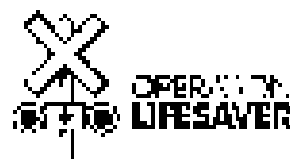
Whereas Oakville Fire & Rescue is a public/private partnership whose aim is to work with the public rail industry government and other services and agencies to raise rail safety awareness;

Whereas CN has requested City Council adopt this motion in support of its ongoing efforts to raise awareness, save lives and avoid injuries in communities including our municipality;

That passed by Council on _____

Recorded by Council on _____

It is hereby **RESOLVED** to support national *Rail Safety Week* to be held from September 18 to 24, 2023.



www.operationlifesaver.ca

From: Amber Hartz | Chief Executive Officer | Northern Simulated County 5.6
Sent: Sunday, 31.12.2023 1:00:54 AM
To: ceo@nampa.ca
Subject: Christmas Gift Card Program 2023
Attachments: Gift Card Program 2023.pdf; Christmas Gift Card Program Update Dec 13.pdf; Gift Card Program Donation Request - MAY 2023.pdf

Zoe McMillan-DiRra,
Manager/Assistant Manager/Coordinator/Assistant organizing the Christmas Gift Card program once again this year. Have attached a poster with complete details, the 2023 Update which highlights the individuals so far and donations received, as well as a donation request for 2023.

For additional information on the program, I will gladly make myself available to present at a future County meeting.



Amber Hartz | Director of Community Services | Northern Simulated County
1st Floor, Plaza Street 204 | Canada | T5S 1Y9
CH: 780 626 3257 Fax: 780 624 0323

ceo@nampa.ca www.nsimulated.ca

Need help?
Canada Suicide Prevention Service 1-833-456-4566
Alberta Mental Health Help Line 1-877-303-2642

September 13, 2023

Dear Mayor and Council,

Nampa/Northern Sunrise County Community Services is organizing the Christmas Gift Card program once again this year. The goal of the program is to assist individuals and families who are struggling financially during the holiday season. The program can be accessed by Northern Sunrise County and Village of Nampa residents. To access the program residents are asked to visit or call their local Nampa/Northern Sunrise County Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) office to nominate others or to find out how they can benefit from the confidential Christmas Gift Card Program. We chose gift cards, as the most common wishes we see, are for help with items that are sometimes best chosen and purchased by families and individuals on their own, such as gas, groceries, household goods and toiletries.

We rely on donations from local government, community organizations and individuals to facilitate this program. The amount of Christmas Gift Cards given out is dependent on the amount of donations and applications received.

In 2022, we served 71 individuals and families through the Christmas Gift Card Program. Of the 71 served, 25 were from the Village of Nampa.

We would like to approach the Village of Nampa Council for a donation towards the Christmas Gift Card program this year. In 2022, we received \$1,000 from the Village of Nampa Council. We would be grateful for whatever Council wishes to donate to the program, if any.

I want to thank the Village of Nampa Council for their past financial contributions and continual support of our programs and services.

Sincerely,



Amber Houle
Director of Community Services
Nampa/Northern Sunrise County Community Services



Christmas Gift Card Program

Nampa/Northern Sunrise County Community Services is once again organizing the Christmas Gift Card Program to help families and individuals in need during the Christmas Holidays.

In need of assistance?

If you are in need of a helping hand this Christmas season or know someone who needs help, visit or call your local Nampa/Northern Sunrise County Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) office to nominate others or to find out how you can benefit from our confidential Christmas Gift Card Program.

Want to donate?

Would you like to help make Christmas brighter for those who need some extra help? If so, please visit or call your local Nampa/Northern Sunrise County Family FCSS office.

Program opens October 2, 2023

Deadline to donate or register is December 8, 2023

For more information call 780-625-3287 or email ahoule@northernsunrise.net



Nampa/Northern Sunrise County
Family and Community
Support Services

Christmas Gift Card Program Update

Since March of December 13, 2022

To date, Nampa/Northern Sunrise County Community Services has received \$13,810 in donations for the Christmas Gift Card Program which assists individuals and families in financial need. There are currently 71 individuals and families registered to receive gift cards to local grocery stores during the month of December. Gift Cards will be mailed out with Christmas cards this week of December 12, 2022.

Previous program data:

Year	Number of Individuals or Families Assisted
2018	37
2019	46
2020	69
2021	87

Program Demographics:

Of the 71 served, 25 are from the Village of Nampa:

Adults: 8

Seniors: 12

Families: 5

The remaining 43 are from Northern Sunrise County:

Adults: 14

Seniors: 16

Families: 20

Area Breakdown of Northern Sunrise County Residents:

Cardell/Lake: 7 (3 families & 2 seniors)

Hermion Valley: 4 (2 seniors & 2 families)

Little Buffalo: 15 (2 seniors, 6 adults, & 7 families)

Marble River: 2 (3 seniors, 1 adult, & 2 families)

Northern Rural: 2 (1 senior & 1 family)

St. Isidore: 5 (2 seniors, 1 adult, & 2 families)

Three Creeks: 4 (2 seniors & 2 adults)

Wenatchee: 3 (1 senior, 1 adult, & 1 family)

Program Sponsors:

Gift Cards and monetary gifts were provided on National Northern Sunrise County Community Service from the following sponsors:

Northern Sunrise County	\$10,000
Village of Nanapa	\$1,000
Proulx Family	\$1,000
Nanapa Gospel Woman's Ministries	\$900
Blue Star Thrift Store	\$180 (12 gift cards to Red Apple Diner)
Steve Weaver	\$60 (Four gift cards to Tim Hortons)
Judy Rasmuk	\$70
Marie Kohn Cultural Society	\$510
Elbow River Marketing	\$1,500
Sagehen Sodel Club	\$300
Wanda Goumer	\$100
Carry over from 2021	\$090.00
Total Donations Received:	<u>\$15,810.00</u>
Last Year's Donations:	\$16,000.00
Difference	-\$240.00

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VILLAGE OF NAMPÁ

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Check List of Fox County

614.

[illegible]



VILLAGE OF NAMPA

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Cheque Listing For Council

6/18

Cheque		Vendor Name		Invoice #	Invoice Description	Invoice Amount	Cheque Amount
20220329	2022-06-12	FRANK YR GOWN WASTE MANAGEMENT	MP 01675	2327	WASTE TRANSFER STATION JULY 2022	661.55	1,357.37
20220330	2022-06-12	FIFTY ONE		400001	FIFTY ONE FIFTY ONE FIFTY ONE	77.33	1,434.70
20220331	2022-06-12	FRANK YR GOWN WASTE MANAGEMENT	MP 01675	2327	WASTE TRANSFER STATION JULY 2022	661.55	1,496.25
20220332	2022-06-12	FRANK YR GOWN WASTE MANAGEMENT	MP 01675	2327	WASTE TRANSFER STATION JULY 2022	661.55	1,562.80

Total 135,109.34

MP 01675

Chief Administrative Officer Report

6.2

August 16, 2023 - September 19, 2023

Meetings/Events Attended

August 21- 25 - Vacation

September 13 - Met with CNJ insurance adjuster, Craig Evashenko, Jason & Doug Schuler, PW staff, and Mayor Matiasiewicz

September 14 - IC meeting with NSC

September 19 - Regular Council Meeting

Village Signage Update - Signs and solar paneling are installed; waiting on material to finish column on north end sign. The signs are awesome and light up brightly at night! Administration is looking at getting the sign at Civic Centre replaced as it is very worn and needs replacing.

NW Quadrant Project - Unfortunately this project won't take place until next Spring, as it is too late in the season to start. PW still needs to do some work before the project can start; locate and expose 3 valves to make sure that the valves exist. This has been slow going.

Peace River Art Club - Niki Gour dropped off 2 tickets for the 1st Annual Art Gala being held on October 20th. Any council members wishing to attend please advise Administration so extra tickets can be purchased.

Door prize donation of a sash bag bought at the Nampa Museum gift shop was donated to the Suicide Prevention Gathering event on September 13th as per council direction.

Organizational Meeting - Administration is asking direction from council on when they would like to hold the organizational meeting. The last day for municipalities to hold an organizational meeting is October 30th.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

September 27-29 - Alberta Municipalities Convention - Edmonton

October 20th - Art Hub 1st Annual Art Gala

September 2023

Public Works Month End Report.

63

- mow & weed cut grass in Village
- cut dead trees in campground.
- drill mount 4x4 posts with cement to install solar panels & battery box with lights on signs
- start laying fill dirt around new signs to lay washed rock.
- flush fire hydrants in Village
- street sweep in main routes
- fill in dig holes at CVS shop - clean up

Councillor Committee Report

Name: Brian Bielopotocky

Date: Sept/2023

Meetings/Events Attended:

Aug 15/23 Council Meeting

Aug 17/23 CAO Appraisal

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Oct 13/23 ASB Meeting Water Presentation (9am, Might not be able to attend)

Oct 17/23 Council Meeting

Oct 18/23 Seniors Supper

Oct 30/23 WAC Meeting

Councillor Committee Report

6.4

Name: Sharon Lee

Date: 09 13 2023

Meetings/Events Attended:

Mackenzie Municipal Services Advisory, Manning <i>-email to CAO with details</i> <i>-County of Northern Lights firefighting video</i> <i>-Manning Beautification</i> <i>-Berwyn infrastructure plans include main street beautification w/ practicality</i> <i>-Premier agrees with localized health boards</i> <i>-policing in the north; crime, even if 'situations are handled' must be reported</i>	August 24/ 23	10:00am
Nampa & District Historical Society Meeting <i>-budget, ideas, and suggestions for upstairs</i> <i>-review of upcoming plans including casino</i> <i>-live theatre was huge success</i> <i>-summer student was asset</i> <i>-Beautification suggestions relayed</i>	September 12/ 23	7:00pm
Economic Development and Tourism Board	September 13/ 23	5:30pm
Village of Nampa, Regular Meeting	September 19/ 23	7:00pm

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Beautification and Branding	September	TBD
Nampa & District Historical Society Meeting	October 10/ 23	6:30pm
Economic Development and Tourism Board	October 11/ 23	5:30pm
Village of Nampa, Regular Meeting	October 17/ 23	7:00pm
Village of Nampa hosting Mackenzie Municipal Services Advisory Mtg	December 8/ 23	10:00am

Name: Evan Matiasiewicz

Date: September 13, 2023

Meetings/Events Attended:

VON/CNJ – Sept 13/23

RCMP CAC - Sept 13/23

- Round Table Discussions
- Traffic Safety Concerns
- Alberta has gone to “No Fault Insurance”

ICF – Sept 14/23

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Golden Pioneers Seniors

RCMP CAC

Peace Waste Management



Councillor Committee Report

6.4

Name: Agnes Roshuk

Date: 09/13/23

Meetings/Events Attended:

8/25/23-Nampa and District Day Care.

Day care is open and they have 4 employees. We need more kids as of now, 10 are registered but could use more.

9/05/23-Library Board Meeting:

Things here are running. Cathy does a synopsis as to how many patron she has had for each month and why they were there and the numbers are down but I think that is Library's everywhere. There seems to be something happening with the boiler system and she is waiting on Max Brennan to get back to her.

9/05/23- CAO Evaluation.

9/12/23 – FCSS

We are just starting to meet since June and fall programming is starting to happen. Conference is coming in November, held in Edmonton. Amber is looking for any swag that we may have to put into Welcome Wagon bags that she is putting together. She is talking about bringing back the "Unconscious Bias" program in the spring.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

9/14/23- IC Meeting

9/14/23- Ag Society

9/16/23- Peace Library System

9/19/23- Council Meeting

9/25/23- Day Care Meeting

9/26-29/23- Conference

cao@nampa.ca

From: admin@peacecountrycanada.com
Sent: August 28, 2023 3:52 PM
To: admin@peacecountrycanada.com
Cc: preda@peacecountrycanada.com; Sheane, Vanessa - NWP President
Subject: Letter from Northwestern Polytechnic to PREDA - Dr. Vanessa Sheane
Attachments: NWP Letter to PREDA 10Aug23 - From Dr. Vanessa Sheane.pdf

Importance: High

Good day PREDA Members,
 Please see attached.

My apologies: this response was in my spam. Dr. Sheane sent this out 2 weeks ago.
 Any questions please don't hesitate to call,

Much appreciated, Joni



Northern Transportation Advocacy Bureau

Mary Joan Aylward - MSc, CBA
 Research & Operations
 10128 95th Ave
 Grande Prairie, AB
 T8V 0L4
 Voice: 780-527-6232
 PREDA Website: <https://peacecountrycanada.com/>
 Video Connect: <https://meet.goto.com/MaryJoanAylward>
 Teleconference: 1 (647) 497-9391 Access Code: 354-747-613



Dan Dibbelt, Executive Director
Peace Region Economic Development Alliance (PREDA)
Box 389
4202-50th Street
Spirit River AB T0H 3G0

delivered electronically to ddibbelt@mdspiritrivier.ab.ca

August 10, 2023

Re: Responses to outstanding questions raised on July 12, 2023 and July 27, 2023

Dear Dan,

Thank you again for PREDA's support in hosting meetings on NWP's Fairview Campus on July 12th and July 27th. NWP recognizes the vital contribution of the Fairview Campus to Alberta post-secondary students, regional communities, and the economy. It is clear that PREDA and the individual municipalities share the goal of growing enrolment at both of our campuses.

There were a few outstanding questions that I took away and am happy to provide a response or an update on these now. The table below provides the question and the response.

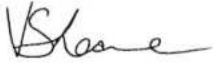
Question	Response
How much money has NWP invested into Fairview Campus?	We need more time to pull this information. Our budget is not split between the two campuses and many expenses are shared. We continue to work on this and will share the historical capital investments into Fairview Campus when available.
Can NWP share the Campus Master Plan with all attendees?	Yes. The Campus Master Plan is posted on NWP's website along with the other plans. It can be found here . The navigation path from the webpage is: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ www.nwpolytech.ca<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ About<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Administration<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Plans & Reports<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Campus Master Plan
How are NWP's Board of Governors Executive Members appointed?	According to the terms of reference for the Executive Committee, the committee would consist of at least three members. The members on the committee would include the President, Chair, Vice Chair and the chairs of the other board committees.

Question	Response
Why was the turf grass program suspended?	<p>The Golf Course Turfgrass Management program was last offered by NAIT in 2007-2008 with 3.5 full-load equivalent students. Rationale for not offering it again was that there was not sufficient student demand to successfully offer the program.</p> <p>This program was never offered by GPRC.</p>
How is NWP's Centre for Entrepreneurial Excellence (CEE) different than what PREDA did with the Centre for Research and Innovation (CRI) years ago?	<p>The CEE is comprehensive with a wider focus. The CEE will support small and medium sized businesses and entrepreneurs in accessing business innovation services and mentoring, leveraging and commercializing innovations, and achieving economic growth goals. It will facilitate collaborations between entrepreneurs, existing organizations (locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally), and students. The CEE is modeled after other successful centres that have demonstrated increased success of new ventures, larger export sales for the region, job growth, increased private investment, and stronger connections between entrepreneurs, students, faculty, and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The CRI was focused solely on innovation and applied research (ie: product/ technology/ intellectual property development).</p>
How does NWP's CEE fit within your mandate?	<p>According to the Post-Secondary Learning Act, a polytechnic institution may undertake research and scholarly activities that are focused on strengthening economic development in the Province (section 102.6, (3), (b)). Scholarly activity refers to, but is not limited to, problem solving practices, innovation, product development; technology development, patents, technology transfer and commercialization, and; developing standards, guidelines and best practices. The CEE aligns to this mandate for polytechnic institutions in Alberta.</p>

I am comfortable with you sharing this letter with the attendees of the July 12th and July 27th meetings. I have reached out to regional municipalities to foster relationships with more effective and transparent communication and have scheduled meetings accordingly. Please note that at times, NWP emails are directed into the Junk folders of the recipients, if the elected municipal leaders have not received an email from me, I encourage them to check their Junk folders or reach out to me directly.

I remain committed to fostering a constructive and supportive environment where feedback is valued and taken seriously. Together we can make our collaboration even more successful and achieve the shared goals that we have set.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Sheane, PhD, RN
NWP Acting President and CEO

C: NWP Board of Governors
PREDA Admin

thank you

Now all Village
of Nampa
residents have
access to
affordable and
safe daycare
services



Thank you Village
of Nampa.

your generous support
with the wages for
our start up, allows
us to open up on
line

Thank you very much

Nampa and District
Daycare Society
Board



Municipal District of Fairview No. 136
 Box 189
 Fairview, Alberta
 T0H1L0
 Phone: 780-835-4903
 Fax: 780-835-3131
 Email: mdinfo@mdfairview.ab.ca

August 31, 2023

Council, Village of Nampa
 9902 102 Avenue
 Box 69
 Nampa, AB
 T0H 2R0

Via email to: evanmatwek@hotmail.com

Attn: Mayor, Village of Nampa

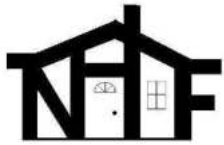
Re: PREDA Meeting at the Northwestern Polytechnic

The Council of the Municipal District of Fairview No. 136 wish to express their gratitude to you on attending the meeting at the Northwestern Polytechnic, hosted by PREDA.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

Phil Kolodychuk
 Reeve, Municipal District of Fairview No. 136



North Peace Housing Foundation

6780 – 103 Ave., Peace River, AB, T8S 0B6

Tel: (780) 624-2055 Fax: (780) 624-2065

Email: tammy.menssa@nphf.ca

North Peace Housing Foundation Board Meeting Synopsis – September 6, 2023

1. Executive Director

Asset Transfer

The Asset Transfer process for the 2 approved units in Peace River is complete and the Foundation has received the first installment (\$56,000.00) of the Capital Maintenance Reserve totalling \$70,000.00.

The Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) Report for one of the units cited fence deterioration as one of the capital maintenance components requiring remediation. Large sections of the fence were found to have weathered beyond repair; therefore, it was determined that the fence had reached the end of lifecycle and needed to be replaced. This contract has been awarded and will be completed this fall.

Nominal Sum Properties

We have not received any offers on the property located at 5201-42 Avenue in Grimshaw; we continue to advertise this house for sale.

The engineering firm has assessed the substantial deflection and cracking in the basement concrete foundation wall at the unit located at 4823-45 Street, Grimshaw. The total estimated cost of completion of the remedial work is \$14,030.00. Administration will present information to the Board once we have had the opportunity to fully investigate options.

Westview Development

Refer to Items for Information for Committee Meeting Minutes.

Del-Air Lodge Redevelopment

The last project meeting was held on August 18, and our regular meeting scheduled for Friday, September 1, 2023, was cancelled due to vacation schedules and the long weekend.

Drywallers are working on boarding and taping the south wing, taping the north wing, and starting T-bar installation; Mechanical is working on installing the fire dampers; the sprinkler contractor did not show up as per schedule, so follow up is required; concrete work for the assisted bath and commercial washer pad is complete; asphalt is scheduled the last week of August 2023 and will be installed prior to the curbs;

Electrical is completing rough-ins in the hallways and is working on relocating lines in the renovation area; painters are scheduled to return on August 27, 2023, to start on the North wing and coat the fir columns on the building exterior; exterior door installation has started; backing in the kitchen is ongoing; demolition in Phase 1 reno area is complete and framing is ongoing; exterior sitework was delayed due to ongoing rain in Manning.

Electrical rough ins for the nurse call system continue while we wait for the cable to be delivered; regular inspections are ongoing; the swale for proper road drainage has been installed; ATCO power installation is ongoing; the architects and electrical engineers are working on cabling the individual suites for TV; renovations are on hold until the sprinkler contractor can confirm modifications to meet the renovation design.

Full turn-over is scheduled for February 2024.









Community Housing Unit Demolition - Fairview

All utilities to the building have been disconnected. The contractor will start demolition in early September.

Regional Needs Assessment

Regional Needs Assessment has been moved to the Regular Agenda under New Business, i. North Peace Housing Option Analysis and Business Case for Consideration.

Human Resources

- We have made an official offer of employment for the Manager of Human Resources position and await a response.
- We are happy to announce that Zoe Worobetz has accepted the Administrative Assistant (Fairview) position temporarily, until we can find a permanent candidate. Zoe has worked with the Foundation since April 9, 2020, and has supported the Manager in a number of capacities including Health and Safety, COVID protocols, and other administrative duties.
- We are happy to announce that Karina Girard of Peace River started in the Community Housing Manager position on August 14, 2023. Please see Items for Information for her official announcement.
- Ashli Champeau resigned from the Director of Housing Operations and Special Projects position; her last day was August 25, 2023. The position has been posted and will remain open until we find a suitable candidate. We wish Ashli all the best in her future endeavours.

Avanti Time and Attendance Payroll System

Administration met with the Avanti team to finalize the Scope of Work and have formally entered into a service agreement for Time and Attendance implementation. We anticipate that work on the project will be starting soon.

Wi-Fi Availability

An RFP for the Harvest Lodge Wi-Fi project was released with a closing date of August 31, 2023. The Foundation received three bids which are currently under review. An update will be provided once the review process is complete and a decision on the successful proponent has been made.

Homesteader Lodge Emergency Back-up Generator

The 130-kW emergency generator has been ordered and is currently in the design stage; we do not have confirmation on the manufacture or delivery date. The Foundation ordered the generator and transfer

switch to speed up the process of manufacturing and to save on administrative fees. The total cost of the generator and transfer switch is \$84,767.00 plus GST.

The electrical company that was awarded the installation contract withdrew from the project, so we are reaching out for additional quotes and hope to have the information in by the second week of September.

Harvest/Homesteader Nurse Call System Replacement

Administration has been working with the ASCCI (All Systems Communications Contracting Inc.) North on the replacement of the Harvest Lodge Nurse Call system and determining what will be required with the existing phone and paging/intercom system. Much of the existing hardware is obsolete; however, there may be components that will integrate with the new equipment, allowing for cost savings.

After initial review, it has been suggested that the existing budget may allow for the replacement of both the Harvest and Homesteader Lodge Nurse Call Systems in 2023. ASCCI North is currently reviewing building and electrical drawings to determine a combined project cost.

Board Actions and Decisions

The Board directed that the Foundation enter into an agreement with Derek Weiss, Independent Consultant, to complete an options analysis and business case proposal for future housing requirements of the Foundation.

The Board adopted the North Peace Housing Foundation Remote Work Policy.

The Board supported Kayln Schug to be nominated as a candidate for the ASCHA Board of Directors.

Tammy Menssa
Executive Director

canon@nampa.ca

From: Northern Alberta Elected Leaders <northernaleaders@ginvil.com>
Sent: September 12, 2020 10:09 AM
To: Northern Alberta Elected Leaders
Subject: Re: NAEL Letter to Justice Minister.docx
Attachments: NAEL Letter to Justice Minister.docx; Corrections Form - Northern Alberta Elected Leaders; Submission 175-HE

Please find attached letter to the Minister of Justice from NAEL Chair Carolyn Kolosaba. As well, a background report from Peace River is attached.

Please keep Nov 13th open on your calendar for our next NAEL meeting in Kelowna. We are just finalizing date & time speakers.

Thanks
 Jim Rennie

Carolyn Kolosaba, Chair

Please find attached correspondence from Carolyn Kolosaba, Chair of the Northern Alberta Elected Leaders for Minister Arney.

Thank you,

Jim Rennie

Executive Director

Northern Alberta Elected Leaders

2000-101 Avenue, Suite 100

Edmonton, AB

 Word document icon



Northern Alberta Elected Leaders

59 Leedy Drive
Whitecourt, Alberta T7S 1X1
780-778-0202

September 11, 2023

Attention to the Ministry of Justice

Dear Honourable Mickey Amery,

The Northern Alberta Elected Leaders (NAEL) is a group of 40 municipalities in the north western corner of the province. We have communities that are small villages right up to cities such as Grande Prairie, and while our geography is diverse, our shared goals and challenges of leading communities have a lot in common in Alberta's north. At our last meeting of NAEL Mayors and Reeves, we heard about the challenges in the community of Peace River and the growing homelessness issue caused by the release practices of the Peace River Correctional Centre.

It seems that the real issue is that the Remand Prisoners are being released downtown, with no resources other than what was in their pockets at the time of arrest. While this problem exists in other areas of the province, Peace River is unique in that due to its size, it doesn't have the shelters and resources a larger metro centre would have, as well as very limited bus services for inmates to get back to their homes.

Peace River not only has the obligation to look after their community, they service a large drawing area of both rural and urban settings, as well as Metis and First Nation settlements. Using the stats shown in a recent report from the Town of Peace River (attached), they are on track to have over 300 inmates released into

downtown Peace River in 2023, which is an overwhelming amount for a community with a population of 6,500. In comparison, this would be equal to dropping off over 50,000 people a year in our homelessness in Edmonton.

Our northern region of the province stands united in requesting that you meet with the representatives from Peace River, and work towards a solution that will help the residents and businesses of their community, as well as show compassion and support to the men and women getting out of this Alberta Remand Centre.

Truly,



Carolyn Kolebaba

Chair

Northern Alberta Elected Leaders

NorthernAlbertaElectedLeaders@gmail.com

April 2023

Minister's Brief

Peace River Corrections Centre Releasing Inmates Into Homelessness in Downtown Peace River and the consequential impacts



**Issue: Peace River Corrections Centre releasing inmates into
homelessness in downtown Peace River and the consequential impacts**

April 21, 2023

Summary

Inmates remanded into custody at the Peace River Corrections Centre (PRCC) are being released

without adequate staff. Hence, they are therefore using temporary staff to be dropped off by bus at the Peace River where they are dropped off.

The frequency of inmate releases, and the number of inmates being released from businesses in downtown Peace River is increasing at an alarming rate -- in part because of increased numbers of inmate release programs, PPOC staffing shortages, and government policies.

Immediate action by the RCMP is needed to address the staffing issue and to address the social and economic burdens being disproportionately placed on our businesses and residents, as the number of inmates PPOC is releasing into the town of Peace River is continuing to rise.

There continues to be a significant gap in information being shared, particularly related to PPOC inmates being released without a means of transportation through family or friends, or escorted from one city to another without services and support available, as well as policies throughout RCMP-12, and inmates that the October 2022 decision no longer allowing PPOC to hold an inmate for 24 hours following release (the data reported in January for inmate releases) being very early released.

Background

PPOC is Alberta's most recently constructed facility, operating as a correctional and mental facility and also a housing and release facility. It is a modern, state-of-the-art facility. Though PPOC has capacity for 285 inmates, it currently operates below capacity. PPOC is located 150km from Edmonton and 130km from Grande Prairie, based on driving distance.

Currently, PPOC operates for day operations from the Town of Peace River for the City of Edmonton.

Inmate sign-out from court on the day throughout the province.

Between 20% and 40% of PPOC inmates are under restraint, and 20% to 25% are serving a sentence.

TOWN OF PEACE RIVER ISSUES SURROUNDING PEACE RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTRE INMATE RELEASE

PPOC Release Protocol

Detained inmates have planned release dates, and are given access to support services while being in custody and following release. Planned release dates are scheduled in relation to PPOC to a nearby close to home, or to a major city, by Alberta Sheriffs while still in custody. Sheriffs are required to transport inmates anywhere in custody, as required by the province.

Released inmates have no direct release dates, and are released at a later date. They are not provided access to any support services during or after the release. Release is at the will and time of the sheriffs and is often a matter of being left alone to be released. PPOC by Sheriffs prior to release, and is picked up from PPOC at the time of release, and in instances in which corrections staff are

unable to provide escort, released inmates are dropped off in downtown Peace River.

Currently, there is no legislated requirement for correctional or remand facilities to provide transportation to inmates upon release. Inmates are released with the clothes and belongings they had in their possession on entry into remand. This means that if they had no cash in their pockets upon arrest, they have no cash in their pockets upon release. The same holds true for clothing.

Between February 10, 2023 and April 8, 2023, release statistics provided by PRCC show that 127 inmates were released. Of those releases, 89 were unplanned. These unplanned releases have had damaging effects on the Town of Peace River, with 47 inmates released into homelessness in our downtown core over the span of just 57 days.

Aware of the overwhelming impact on the Town of Peace River, PRCC staff have begun collecting release stats to quantify the volume of inmates being released in town. Should this practice continue, based on the current trend of 47 inmates being released into town over 57 days:

- 300 inmates or more will likely be released into homelessness in downtown Peace River each year — equivalent to 4.38% of our population.

- These figures are projected to increase should PRCC inmate levels increase to full facility capacity.

TOWN OF PEACE RIVER
**ISSUES SURROUNDING PEACE RIVER
CORRECTIONAL CENTRE INMATE RELEASE**

Community Impact

Nearly all downtown businesses have been harmed financially and emotionally from the significant increase in nuisance or criminal activity taking place in direct correlation to inmates being released into downtown Peace River. Such activity includes breaking and entering, theft, loitering, vandalism, trespassing, petty theft, and ongoing intimidation of staff and customers. RCMP are spending exorbitant hours responding to calls for service in the downtown core, often involving the same individuals, multiple times per day.

Demonstrations of inappropriate behaviour; business entrances being blocked by persons who are unconscious (passed out); disrupting gatherings; and intimidating actions or outbursts on our downtown streets have become commonplace.

The downtown core no longer feels safe.

Recognizing that these problems are not necessarily solely driven by the release of inmates, there is an undeniable increase in crime and homelessness that appears to be correlated to PRCC (post-COVID) release practices, through which inmates are no longer escorted home, but rather transported to the Town of Peace River's downtown core. Unplanned releases into the community are not new; however, this

practice has only recently become detrimental to the community, largely for a number of key reasons:

1. *Post-COVID release protocols.* Throughout the pandemic, released inmates were given escorted transport from PRCC. In October 2022, PRCC staff were directed to no longer hold an inmate for 24 hours beyond release time. Prior to the new directive, the hold period is what had enabled PRCC staff the opportunity to arrange for escorted transport.
2. *Increased remand population.* The number of Alberta's inmates under remand has exploded, with reports suggesting an increase of more than 70% — most of which result in an unplanned release.
3. *Increased levels of violence among remanded inmates.* Bail reforms, and the level of violence demonstrated by inmates remanded into custody today, has increased when compared to those facing similar incarceration in the past. Remand cases have evolved to include those accused of more serious crimes, while crimes that previously resulted in an accused being remanded into custody are instead resulting in conditional release or house arrest.
4. *Transportation service availability.* Regular bus service departing from Peace River to points beyond nearby communities (such as Grimshaw, High Level, Fairview, and Grande Prairie) no longer exists. Limited bus service to Edmonton departs daily at 07:30h.



TOWN OF
PEACE RIVER
ALBERTA

TOWN OF PEACE RIVER
**ISSUES SURROUNDING PEACE RIVER
CORRECTIONAL CENTRE INMATE RELEASE**

5. *Northern-most correctional facility.* Unlike all other Alberta provincial corrections centres that are situated within major cities or urban centres, where support services are available and which are financially supported by the GOA through various grants and other means, PRCC is located in a remote northern hub with limited to no services of this sort. The nearest city with services is Grande Prairie, which is around a 198-km drive from Peace River.

6. *Staffing shortages.* PRCC is operating at roughly a 32% staffing vacancy rate, with 20 unfilled FTEs, combined with extended, sick, and vacation leaves. This results in less opportunity for correctional staff to escort inmates from PRCC. Job opening advertising is centralized, meaning that PRCC management is restricted from advertising available job opportunities. Application intake is digital, which requires high-speed Internet — a luxury that very few Albertans residing in northern rural communities enjoy. The application process is convoluted and the hiring process is drawn out.

**THE POPULATION OF ADULTS ON REMAND HAS INCREASED AND NOW
SURPASSES THE NUMBER OF SENTENCED ADULTS**

**IN 2015–2016, ADULTS IN REMAND ACCOUNTED FOR 59% OF THE
CORRECTIONAL POPULATION IN PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL**

FACILITIES, UP FROM 26% IN 1990–1991*.

To begin to address these amassing issues that are beginning to overwhelm our downtown core, Town of Peace River Council respectfully requests:

1. That the current practice of releasing inmates into downtown Peace River stop, and that Executive Director Crystal Wierl mandate PRCC staff to provide all inmates given unplanned release without means of transportation an escort from PRCC to their home or to the nearest city that has social supports and wrap-around services available, as was protocol during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. That the direction given to PRCC staff in October 2022, removing their authorization to hold an inmate 24 hours beyond their release time, be reversed. This 24-hour provision enabled PRCC staff time to arrange for escorted release of inmates given unplanned release, and who had no means of transportation home.

**Remand admissions have consistently surpassed sentence admissions over the last ten years: Bail Violations, AOJOs and Remand – JustFacts (justice.gc.ca)*



TOWN OF PEACE RIVER ISSUES SURROUNDING PEACE RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTRE INMATE RELEASE

3. That the Public Services Commission (PSC) implement a targeted recruitment strategy, including a retainment strategy uniquely applicable to the PRCC, and that those strategies be shared with the Town of Peace River administration to further advertising and promotion.
4. That PSC initiate mandatory placement of new corrections hires into Peace River, with preferential transfer location options after serving two years, until such time as the PRCC is fully staffed.
5. That the PRCC be designated as a training location for corrections staff.

Council, and the Town, feel these measures will have a tangible impact in bettering the situation we currently face, through which our downtown core has become less safe. With an increase of crime and homelessness, businesses have been negatively impacted, and effects are reverberating throughout the community. If projections hold true, this problem will consistently worsen in a very short period of time, carrying potential short- and long term economic and social implications for the Town of Peace River, many of which may prove difficult to reverse or irreversible.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elaine Manzer

Mayor

Barbara Miller, CGA, CPA, CLGM
Chief Administrative Officer

TOWN OF PEACE RIVER
**ISSUES SURROUNDING PEACE RIVER
CORRECTIONAL CENTRE INMATE RELEASE**



Economic and Tourism Development Report

April to June 2023

Business Directory

1. There are 331 businesses included in the Northern Sunrise County (NSC) and Village of Nampa business directory.

NSC Grants

1. **Entrepreneur Grant** Administration received one application for the 2023 intake of the Entrepreneur Grant. The entrepreneur is looking into opening a farm store and butcher shop on their property. Administration is working with a company called Lemon Social to offer coaching on marketing their company.
2. **Value-Added Agricultural and Tourism Grant** Administration received five applications for the two available grants. The committee will be reviewing the applications and awarding the grant(s) in July 2023.

Marketing for Northern Sunrise County

1. The Non-Residential Property Tax Incentive Bylaw for the Sunrise Gateway Business Park (SGBP) has been advertised in the next Move Up magazine edition, and local newspapers. Letters were mailed to all SGBP landowners. Administration ordered a moveable 6x8 sign to advertise along Highway 2. To date, Administration has not received any concrete expressions of interest for development in the SGBP, but the feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive. Many individuals have commended the County's forward-thinking approach. The SGBP undoubtedly stands out as a business park that offers advantages to do business in NSC. I spoke with a realtor at our last committee meeting, and it was noted that no other new development is happening in other neighborhoods.
2. New videos to showcase the trails and parks in NSC are coming soon.

Community Futures Peace Country's Lemonade Day

Lemonade Day was a remarkable event that empowered young entrepreneurs in the region. Lemonade University provided training to 90 students at the cost of \$1,000 that was sponsored by NSC. NSC Administration participated in the workshops and delivered lessons in French for the immersion classes at Good Shepherd School.

On June 17, 2023, Lemonade Day came to life with fourteen enticing lemonade stands throughout the Town of Peace River. The students gained valuable knowledge about



budgeting, calculating the retail cost of their lemonade to ensure profitability, marketing their business effectively, maintaining good hygiene practices, and engaging with customers.

To further stimulate real-world business experiences, these aspiring entrepreneurs obtained business licenses from the Town of Peace River, signed contracts with business owners who allowed them to set up their stands outside their storefronts and secured financial partners. It is worth noting that seven of these talented entrepreneurs were residents of NSC.

Lemonade Day served as a powerful platform for students to apply their newfound skills, unleash their creativity, and experience the joys and challenges of running a business. Through this initiative, Community Futures Peace Country and its partners nurtured a spirit of entrepreneurship and equipped young minds with essential skills for future success.

Economic and Tourism Development Committee (ETDC)

1. The Committee conducted a new strategy for topics of discussion for the future ETDC meetings. Three topics were selected: NSC tourism, attraction of people, and businesses. SWOT analyses were conducted, and committee members are expected to present innovative ideas and a timeline to formulate a comprehensive strategy for November.
2. In response to NSC's invitation for the Peace River Economic Development Committee to have one of their members join our committee, Layne Gardner, the committee's chair was selected and will be attending our meetings. This will foster collaboration and exchange of ideas between the County and the Town of Peace River
3. Invest in Alberta extended an invitation to local municipalities to gather at the St. Isidore Cultural Center for a meeting. Lynette Tremblay, the Chief Operating Officer, has strong connections to the region, having grown up in Dawson Creek and with her grandparents residing in Falher. Lynette shared her cherished memories of visiting the area and attending the annual Carnival in St. Isidore.

With offices worldwide, Invest in Alberta collaborates with foreign investors to establish their presence in Alberta. While many people are familiar with Canada, Lynette often finds that they lack awareness of Alberta. However, Lynette and her team are actively working to change this perception on a global scale. Recent tax incentives and exemptions introduced by the Provincial Government have resulted in a notable increase in investment in Alberta.

Recognizing the need for a united approach to attract new investments, Lynette and all participants at the meeting agreed to develop a collaborative investment attraction package for the region. NSC Administration contacted all local economic development committees and staff have been contacted to gauge their interest, and thus far, Northern Sunrise County Economic and Tourism Development Committee, the Peace River Economic Development Committee, County of Northern Lights, and Smoky River



Economic Development has shown their support. Administration is waiting to hear from Lac Cardinal Economic Development. Administration will organize a virtual discussion with Invest in Alberta to explore various possibilities and ensure that every municipality is prepared to attract investments effectively.

Economic Development

Broadband (Internet) Services for Northern Sunrise County



**NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY**



Administration has prepared a report regarding Broadband (Internet) services for Northern Sunrise County (the County). Page 4 outlines the recommendation from the County's Broadband Strategy Committee for moving forward.

We often hear that broadband is a catalyst for economic development, and during Covid-19 we recognized the importance of reliable and strong internet services for distance learning, virtual health, and working from home. There are many other benefits for access to high-speed internet such as: keeping up with technology, improving public services, social program delivery, helping to grow and diversify existing businesses, and helping industry maintain and upgrade their equipment and automation.

The average age of our County residents is 39. 24% of the population in the County are Millennials. We all know that Millennials are highly connected with social media and are very tech savvy. They are avid consumers and do a lot of online shopping. They are gamers, stream TV and spend a considerable amount of time on a computer or smart phone. They are very enthusiastic about technology and want the newest technology available. Our current residential internet broadband systems are still mostly set up for Boomers and Gen X. We want to retain our youth and attract Millennial residents or entrepreneurs to the County. To do this, the County requires better broadband connectivity.

Universal Broadband Fund (UBF)

The UBF grant was announced by the Federal Government on February 15, 2021, with an investment of \$1.75 billion. Council passed a motion to support specific broadband projects for the various providers as follows:

- IWantWireless: Upgrade equipment for wireless internet in St. Isidore.
- Xplornet: Fiber to homes in St. Isidore and Marie Reine, as well as fiber to towers for wireless internet and satellite service in remote areas.
- TELUS: Upgrades to the cell towers in NSC with 5G equipment.
- CCI Wireless: Fiber to the homes in St. Isidore and Marie Reine, along with new towers to provide wireless internet to residents in NSC.

After the closure of the UBF intake, the Provincial Government announced they were contributing \$369 million to the UBF grant.

To date, the Federal Government has announced some projects through the fast stream applications¹. On July 11, 2023, the provincial portion of the funds were allocated to municipalities and service providers. We are currently waiting for the allocation of the Federal portion.



Since the intake in 2021, the following developments have taken place:

- Xplorennet has acquired AB North, Wispernet, and CCI Wireless. However, residents have expressed concerns about their service quality. Administration has been in contact with Xplorennet, and it has been determined that equipment upgrades are required for the existing towers. Additionally, Xplorennet is transitioning to satellite service with the introduction of Jupiter 3, which is scheduled to launch in Fall 2023. Jupiter 3 will offer speeds of 100Mbps download/10Mbps upload. Xplorennet will have different package options available to their customers, including affordable plans for low-income residents. Unfortunately, due to the time gap with the launch, some residents have opted to switch to Starlink.
- IWantWireless was approached by the Federal government to submit a more comprehensive internet package to cover a wider area. They presented their project to Council, and a motion was passed to send them a letter of support. Council will still need to discuss the request from IWantWireless for the allocation of \$1,250 per household to transition to their new equipment.
- Administration had discussions with Canadian Fiber Optics (CFO), the provider of fiber-to-home services in multiple municipalities through their Aurora project. CFO has received provincial funds¹ but is still awaiting the allocation of the Federal funds. If the Federal funds are not received, the project will require funding for the remaining portion of the grant. In such a case, investment from municipalities or industry will be necessary to continue with the project.
- TELUS, with funding from NSC, has constructed two towers near St. Isidore and Marie Reine. However, residents in the St. Isidore area are expressing frustrations over dropped calls or no cell service. When speaking to the Seniors residing in the housing complex in St. Isidore, they have indicated that they have excellent cell service. Following the construction of the TELUS towers, the CRTC² updated their map to reflect the areas eligible for UBF funding to achieve speeds of 50Mbps download/10 Mbps upload. As a result, the St. Isidore and Marie Reine area show that it is now receiving the requirements of 50Mbps download/10Mbps upload. This prevents us or other providers from receiving any broadband funding for St. Isidore and Marie Reine.
- Administration has observed an increase in the NSC internet grant uptake for the reimbursement of Starlink equipment purchases. So far, we have assisted forty residents in acquiring Starlink equipment. Twenty-nine of those residents are 2023 applications.

¹ <https://www.alberta.ca/lookup/broadband-projects.aspx>

² <https://crtc.gc.ca/cartovista/internetcanada-en/>



The recommendation from the NSC Broadband Strategy Committee is to dissolve the Committee. The County is not interested in establishing its own broadband internet infrastructure and should continue to collaborate with telecom companies. These companies would be encouraged to reach out to Administration for further broadband grant applications. Unfortunately, after three years we are still awaiting for UBF announcements. This timeframe has caused significant delays for the northern rural municipalities. As a result, neighboring municipalities, who had previously developed their own broadband strategies, have now abandoned those strategies, and are now offering letters of support to internet companies.

The Committee firmly believes that the NSC Internet Supplement Grant program offers the most viable solution for our households. This grant does not enforce the use of a specific provider, instead, it allows residents to make an informed decision and choose which provider best suits their needs. Additionally, the Committee urges Council to consider amending Policy 1.20 Internet Supplement Grant to allow residents who have already received funds through the grant and are currently experiencing internet connectivity issues, the ability to apply for funding to upgrade their internet service. Technology advancements have occurred and what may have initially worked for certain residents during the application process may no longer be suitable for them now.

In addition, it is important for Council to maintain advocacy efforts with both the Provincial and Federal governments. The County should take the opportunity to communicate our experiences, both positive and negative, with Ministers and other municipalities. The County could share its challenges and acknowledge short falls. We can strengthen our case when seeking assistance from these higher levels of government by acknowledging that we recognize that the need for external support will underscore the urgency and importance of their involvement in our situation.