

BYLAW NO.1241-21

**BEING A BY-LAW OF
MACKENZIE COUNTY
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA**

**TO PROVIDE FOR HONORARIUMS AND RELATED EXPENSE
REIMBURSEMENT FOR COUNCILLORS
AND APPROVED COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, the Municipal Government Act, being Chapter M-26 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000, hereinafter referred to as the "M.G.A." provides for decisions of council to be made by resolution or bylaw, and

WHEREAS, the Council is desirous of establishing compensation of Councillors and approved committee members for their meeting time and their out of pocket expenses while on official municipal business,

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of Mackenzie County, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

DEFINITIONS:

"Council Meeting/Special Council Meeting" – refers to a duly called meeting according to the Municipal Government Act.

"Committee of the Whole Meetings" - refers to a duly called meeting sitting as a deliberative recommending body to Council.

"Committee Meetings" – refers to meetings related to Council Committee Meetings, Rural Municipalities of Alberta Zone Meetings, Tri-Council Meetings, Ratepayer Meetings, Mackenzie County Open Houses, and meeting invitations issued by the Chief Administrative Officer.

"Committee Members" – means a public member-at-large appointed by Council to a Council Board or Committee.

HONORARIUMS

1. Monthly honorariums shall be paid to each Councillor for their time spent conducting the daily local business of the municipality as follows:

(a) Reeve \$1,500.00 per month

(b) Deputy Reeve \$1,350.00 per month

(c) Councillor \$1,200.00 per month

2. Councillors in attendance at council meetings, approved council committee meetings, seminars and conventions shall be paid according to the following rates plus mileage and meal allowance, where applicable.

(a) Council Meeting/Special Council Meetings \$340.00

(b) Committee of Whole Meetings \$340.00

(c) Committee Meetings \$240.00

(d) Seminars/Conventions/Workshops \$340.00

2.1 Councillors attending less than half of a Council Meeting may claim only half the honorarium.

2.2 A combined maximum of two meetings may be claimed per day under Section 2 (a), 2 (b), and 2 (c).

2.3 Honorariums claimed under Section 2. (d) are all inclusive. Only one (1) per diem may be claimed per day.

3. The Reeve or designate is eligible to claim honorariums and expenses when representing the municipality at community or other functions.

4. Committee Members appointed to approved council committees shall be paid \$240.00 per meeting when in attendance at approved council committee meetings, seminars and conventions, plus mileage and meal allowance, where applicable.

5. Travel time to and from any council meeting, approved council committee meeting, seminar and/or convention shall be paid mileage and meal allowance, where applicable.

(a) Councillors or Committee Members driving to a seminar/convention shall be paid \$240.00 for one travel day there and one travel day back.

(b) An additional travel day may be allowed when travel is out of province and in excess of 1,000 kilometers from the individual's home and their destination via the shortest route.

6. Councillors are authorized to participate in two in class courses and two online courses per year, subject to successful completion, through the Elected Officials Education Program.

COMMUNICATION ALLOWANCES

7. Councillors are eligible for a monthly communication allowance as follows:
 - (a) an internet access allowance of \$75, and
 - (b) a laptop allowance of \$50, if compliant with policy ADM052 – Electronic Access and Acceptable Use, and
 - (c) a telephone allowance of \$60 for Councillors, and
 - (d) a telephone allowance of \$100 for the Reeve.

TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES

8. Mileage shall be paid at a flat rate of \$0.63 for each kilometer travelled by each Councillor or Committee Member who is travelling with their personal vehicle on business of the municipality or its committees. Such mileage shall be calculated from the place of residence of the Councillor or Committee Member to the place of the meeting and return. In addition, such mileage allowance shall apply to any approved convention or seminar.
9. Taxi fares, automobile rental, parking charges and public transportation fares will be reimbursed upon presentation of a receipt.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS

10. Where a Councillor or Committee Member is required to travel on municipal business and overnight accommodation away from his/her regular place of residence is necessary, he/she may claim in respect of the time spent on travel status
 - (a) Either
 - (i) reimbursement of the cost of accommodation in a hotel, motel, guest-house, inn or other similar establishment, on a receipt submitted with the municipal expense account form, or
 - (ii) an allowance of \$100.00 per night
 - (b) in respect of each breakfast, lunch, or dinner,
 - (i) a meal allowance may be claimed as follows:

Breakfast	\$25.00 including GST
	(if time of departure is prior to 7:30 a.m.)

Lunch	\$30.00 including GST (if time of return is after 1:00 p.m.)
Dinner	\$45.00 including GST (if time of return is after 6:30 p.m.)

11. Meal claims will be calculated based on reasonable travel times to get to and return from meeting commencement and conclusion times.
12. When the combined travel and session time exceeds 10 hours, overnight accommodation may be claimed.
13. A Councillor may claim reasonable government networking expenses while representing the County without prior approval. Reimbursement of these expenses will require approval by a resolution of Council based on the submission of actual receipts.
14. A Councillor or Committee Member may claim
 - (a) an allowance for personal expenses for each full 24-hour period on travel status (as per the Canada Revenue Agency Appendix C – Meals and Allowances 1.2 Incidental Expense Allowance).

ATTENDANCE AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

15. Councillors are eligible to claim expenses when representing the municipality at a County supplied ticketed event.

ATTENDANCE AT POLITICAL EVENTS

In accordance with the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act:

16. Should a member of Council be approved to attend a political event, on behalf of Mackenzie County, for which proceeds support a political party or candidate, Mackenzie County will reimburse the value of the meal or event upon submission of receipt. Mackenzie County will not reimburse any portion of a meal or event expense that constitutes proceeds to a political party or candidate. *(For example: If the individual charge is more than \$50, \$25 shall be allowed for expenses and the balance shall be considered as a contribution to the registered party, registered constituency association or registered candidate, as the case may be.)*
17. The individual purchasing the ticket may retain the tax receipt for his or her own purposes. The tax receipt issued by the party or candidate should be in the name of the individual purchasing the ticket.

18. Councillors are eligible to claim honorariums and mileage expenses to attend political functions.

BENEFITS

19. A group benefits package shall be made available to each Councillor at 50% of the cost of the benefit premiums.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

20. Administration shall have the authority to verify and sign the Reeve and Councillor expense claims and honorariums under the following conditions:
 - (a) Councillors have attended Council meetings in person or by teleconference.
 - (b) Workshops, conferences, conventions that have been approved by Council prior to submission of expense claim.
 - (c) Attendance at Committee meetings or Task Force meetings will be in accordance with the bylaws or Terms of Reference of that committee or task force.
21. In the event that a discrepancy is noted on an expense or honorarium claim, Administration shall recommend a resolution of Council for approval of the expense in question. If the expense in question is not approved, the amount will be deducted from their next expense claim.
22. Councillors and Committee Members must submit their expense claims by the 5th of each month in order to be paid in that month.
23. Expense claims submitted 60 days after the due date will not be paid, unless there are special circumstances. A resolution of Council shall be required prior to payment of the claim.
24. Councillors and Committee Members will submit their December expense claim and honorarium by December 15th in order to expedite the closing of the year-end accounts. Meetings held after the 15th shall be added to the January claim.
25. No expenses other than those listed in this bylaw may be claimed.
26. This bylaw shall come into effect the day that it is passed and rescinds Bylaw 1202-20 and all amendments made thereto.

First Reading given on the 7th day of December, 2021.

Second Reading given on the 7th day of December, 2021.

Third Reading and Assent given on the 7th day of December, 2021.

(original signed)

Joshua Knelsen
Reeve

(original signed)

Byron Peters
Interim Chief Administrative Officer
