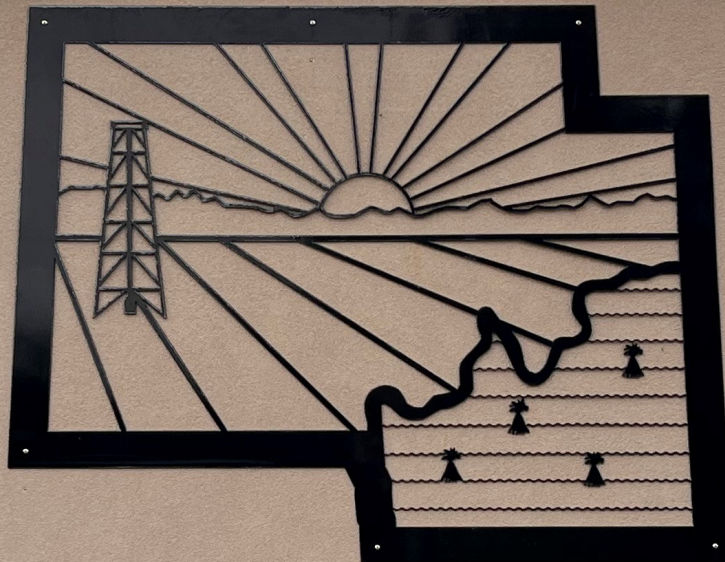




Mackenzie County

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER 31, 2021



**MACKENZIE COUNTY**  
4511 46 AVENUE

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## FORT VERMILION CORPORATE OFFICE

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Fort Vermilion, AB, T0H 1N0  
Phone: 780-927-3718  
Fax: 780-927-4266

## LA CRETE SUB-OFFICE

9205-100 Street, Box 1690,  
La Crete, AB, T0H 2H0  
Phone: 780-928-3983  
Fax: 780-928-3636

## ZAMA CITY SUB-OFFICE

1025 Aspen Drive, Box 11,  
Zama City, AB, T0H 4E0  
Phone: 780-683-2378  
Fax: 780-683-2450

## HIGH LEVEL SUB-OFFICE

10709-93 Street,  
High Level, AB, T0H 1Z0  
Phone: 780-926-5600  
Fax: 780-926-4080

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## *Our Vision...*

AN ENHANCED QUALITY OF LIFE,  
CHOICES IN COMMUNITY  
OPPORTUNITIES AND HEALTHY  
ECONOMIC CLIMATE.

## *Our Mission...*

THROUGH THE EFFECTIVE USE OF  
RESOURCES, PROVIDE A REASONABLE  
AND EQUITABLE LEVEL OF SERVICE AND  
ENDEAVOR TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE  
ECONOMIC CLIMATE.

## *Our Values...*

EFFICIENT, FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE  
ORGANIZATION THAT IS SINCERE AND  
APPROACHABLE, TREATS PEOPLE WITH  
RESPECT AND MAINTAINS A HIGH  
DEGREE OF INTEGRITY.

# MESSAGE FROM THE REEVE

On behalf of Mackenzie County Council, I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report for 2021.

The Report contains the Audited Financial Statements from 2021, highlights from various departments as well as statistics on multiple services provided by the County.

The last Annual Report presented in November of 2021, reflected on the Audited Financial Statement for 2018, 2019 and 2020 including department highlights and statistics. For this Report we are reflecting on 2021 and highlights of 2022.

2021 came with some challenges, though not as volatile as the three years prior. Just to recap;

- Ongoing Mitigation Projects for the flood-affected area, constructing new subdivisions and getting residents into homes
- Overwhelming overland flooding in nearly all areas for the County

Thankfully, after challenges we are often blessed with good news. The Provincial Government's announcement of the long awaited birthing center in La Crete was remarkable news for our area. I had the privilege of being in attendance when Premier Kenney attended the sight of the new Health Facility back in April of this year, such tremendous news for the area.

We completed many projects this past year! Several rural roads received upgrades in the form of rebuilds, culvert upgrades and ditching. Some intersections received upgrades including traffic and crosswalk lights. New equipment purchased was a plow truck and mill razor. The water treatment plant SCADA & communications tower upgrade was greatly needed to achieve better communication with our well pumps, lift stations etc. and to make this an easily accessible tower for repairs. I have been and continue to be encouraged with the progress in our County.

Already in 2022 we have completed some projects and have many that are in progress! I'm excited for the improvements in our campgrounds and parks and some additional road repairs. To stay informed and current on services and all information pertaining to the County check out our website at: [www.mackenziecounty.com](http://www.mackenziecounty.com). Additionally, much information is posted on our social media platforms; Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Like and follow us for news, updates and events!

This Report is the perfect opportunity to thank our Councillors and Staff. For our newest Councillors, it has been nearly a year of service, time sure flies! There has been significant changes in staffing over the last year and into this year, I am truly grateful to those that stay and have a growing interest in Mackenzie County. I continue to look forward to working with our newest and seasoned Councillors and Staff as we continue to plan for the future of Mackenzie County.

Thank you all for your continued support and contributions to Mackenzie County! Together we will strive to make Mackenzie County a wonderful place to live, work, play and pray.

Respectfully,

Reeve Josh Knelsen



# MACKENZIE COUNTY: THE ORGANIZATION

## GOVERNANCE

Mackenzie County is divided into ten electoral areas called wards. Each ward has a Councillor that has been elected by citizens within his/her ward boundaries. Each Council member serves a four-year term. The elected Council then elects a Reeve and Deputy Reeve from within, on an annual basis at their Organizational Meeting.

In addition to attending Regular Council Meetings (two per month during regular business hours). Council Members also attend community functions and serve on various internal and external committees. The Reeve is ex-officio for all Council committees and boards, while Councillors select representatives for these committees during their annual Organizational Meeting.

Council provides direction, makes strategic policy decisions, represents the public's interests, and performs the duties of Councillors as per the Municipal Government Act.

Council's effectiveness depends on Councillors providing input on their areas while thinking and voting for the whole municipality.

## COUNCIL 2021-2025 TERM

Reeve Josh Knelsen—Ward 1, Blue Hills/Buffalo Head Prairie  
 Deputy Reeve Walter Sarapuk—Ward 8, Rocky Lane  
 Councillor Darrell Derksen—Ward 2, La Crete Rural  
 Councillor Peter Braun—Ward 3, La Crete  
 Councillor David Driedger—Ward 4, La Crete/La Crete Rural  
 Councillor Ernest Peters—Ward 5, Blumenort  
 Councillor Garrell Smith—Ward 6, Fort Vermilion Rural  
 Councillor Cameron Cardinal—Ward 7, Fort Vermilion  
 Councillor Jacquie Bateman—Ward 9, High Level Rural  
 Councillor Lisa Wardley—Ward 10, Zama

## SALARY AND BENEFITS DISCLOSURE

Disclosure of salaries and benefits for municipal officials, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and designated officers (table below).



Missing from photo: Ernest Peters—Ward 5, Blumenort

WARD	NAME	SALARY	BENEFITS & ALLOWANCES	2021	2020
Ward 1	Josh Knelsen—Reeve	70,890	219	71,109	74,959
Ward 8	Walter Sarapuk—Deputy Reeve	33,480	2,248	35,728	38,774
Ward 2	Anthony Peters	21,488	1,723	23,211	34,944
	Darrell Derksen	10,362	696	11,058	-
Ward 3	Peter Braun	48,730	4,684	53,414	49,029
Ward 4	David Driedger	37,980	4,147	42,127	41,868
Ward 5	Ernest Peters	29,810	3,738	33,548	36,303
	Eric Jorgensen	40,338	219	40,557	41,849
Ward 6	Garrell Smith	9,782	219	10,001	-
	Cameron Cardinal	55,130	5,004	60,134	55,245
Ward 9	Jacquie Bateman	33,000	219	33,219	33,319
Ward 10	Lisa Wardley	60,950	4,117	65,067	61,786
	Chief Administrative Officer	240,009	26,502	266,511	241,375
	Chief Administrative Officer - Contract	37,600	219	37,819	-
	Interim Chief Administrative Officer	8,478	1,286	9,764	-

# MACKENZIE COUNTY: THE ORGANIZATION

## ESTABLISHMENT HISTORY

Mackenzie County became an incorporated municipality on January 1, 1995, when it was formed as a Municipal District from being an Improvement District.

The County received specialized municipality status on June 23, 1999, to address concerns about municipal government and management in a municipality that serves a number of unique communities within a very large territory. Therefore, provisions of the MGA and other enactments are modified.

Under the Specialized Municipality status, the following matters are not valid unless passed at a council meeting to which 2/3 of the Councillors present at the meeting vote in favour of the bylaw or resolution:

- a) Procedures of the Council of the municipality;
- b) Remuneration of Councillors;
- c) Property tax;
- d) Changing the number of Councillors, the boundaries of wards or the methods of selecting a chief elected official;
- e) Appointing and terminating the chief administrative officer;
- f) Adopting a budget;
- g) Any other matter designated by the Council pursuant to the procedure as established under clause (a).

Then on March 8, 2007, the municipality's name was changed from Municipal District of Mackenzie No. 23 to Mackenzie County.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Population .....	12,804 (2021 Federal Census)
Total Area of Municipality .....	8,186,963 hectares
Total Area of Farmland .....	790,000 acres
Number of Hamlets .....	3 (La Crete, Fort Vermilion, Zama)
Number of Dwelling Units .....	3,756 (2021 Federal Census)
Number of Full-Time Positions .....	73
Number of Part-Time Positions .....	4
Number of Summer/Seasonal Positions .....	13
Length of Roads .....	2022 km (incl. 104 km of paved roads)
Length of Water Mains .....	173.66 km
Length of Wastewater Mains .....	72.8 km
Length of Storm Water Drains .....	11.59 km
Vehicle Fleet (incl. fire equip) .....	61 (cost ≥ \$5,000/unit)
Equipment (incl. graders) .....	181 (cost ≥ \$5,000/unit)
Building Structures .....	88 (cost ≥ \$5,000/unit)
Bridges (incl. culverts > 5' in dia.) .....	73 (cost ≥ \$5,000/unit)



# MACKENZIE COUNTY: THE ORGANIZATION

## 2021—2022 BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

In addition to regular duties, members of Council serve on several boards and committees. These boards and committees can be internal (created by Council for a specific reason) or external (where the County has been invited by an outside organization to participate). Members of Council represent the interests of the municipality while serving on these boards and committees, and report back to the rest of Council.

Council currently has approximately 15 internal boards and committees. Meeting frequency and the number of Council appointees depends on the committee's terms of reference. Generally, the Reeve serves as ex-officio (appointed by position) on all County boards and committees. Council also participates on approximately 25 external boards and committees.

Council appoints Members-at-Large to various boards and committees depending on the committee terms of reference, either in an advisory capacity or as the result of statutory requirements. Some of these include the Municipal Planning Commission, Mackenzie County Library Board, Community Streetscape Committees, Appeal Boards and the Boreal Housing Foundation. Advertisements are placed in September of each year for available positions with appointments being made at the annual Organizational Meeting in October. Below is a list of the current boards and committees on which Councillors sit. Some committees are more active than others.

### Internal Boards/Committees

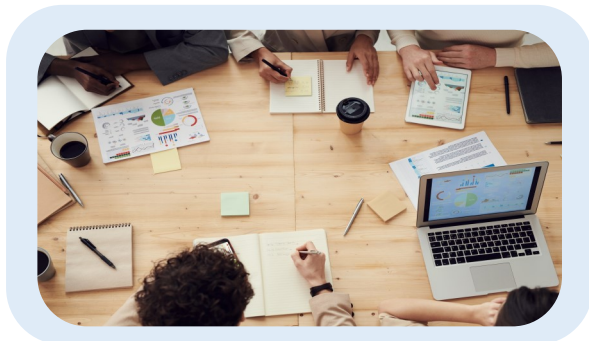
- Agricultural Appeal Board
- Agricultural Service Board (ASB)
- Assessment Review Board
- Committee of the Whole
- Community Services Committee
- Community Streetscape Committee - Fort Vermilion
- Community Streetscape Committee - La Crete
- Emergency Advisory Committee
- Indigenous Liaison Committee
- Inter-Municipal Planning Commission
- Inter-Municipal Subdivision & Development Appeal Board
- Mackenzie County Library Board
- Municipal Planning Commission
- Northwest Alberta Regional Emergency Advisory Committee
- Subdivision & Development Appeal Board

### Ad Hoc Committees

- Development Ad Hoc Committee
- Inter-Municipal Agreement Committee— Town of High Level

### External Boards/Committees

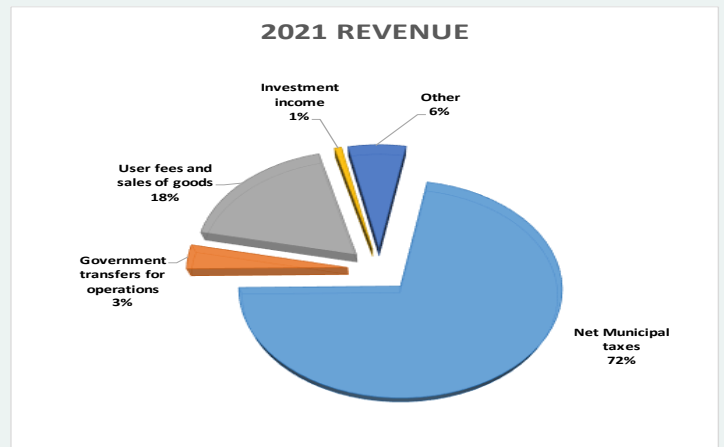
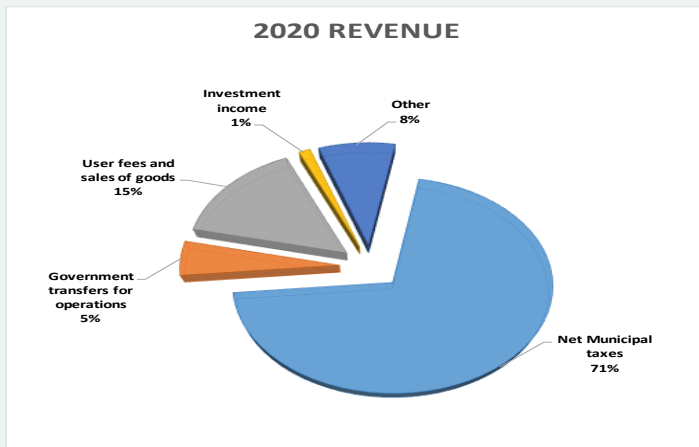
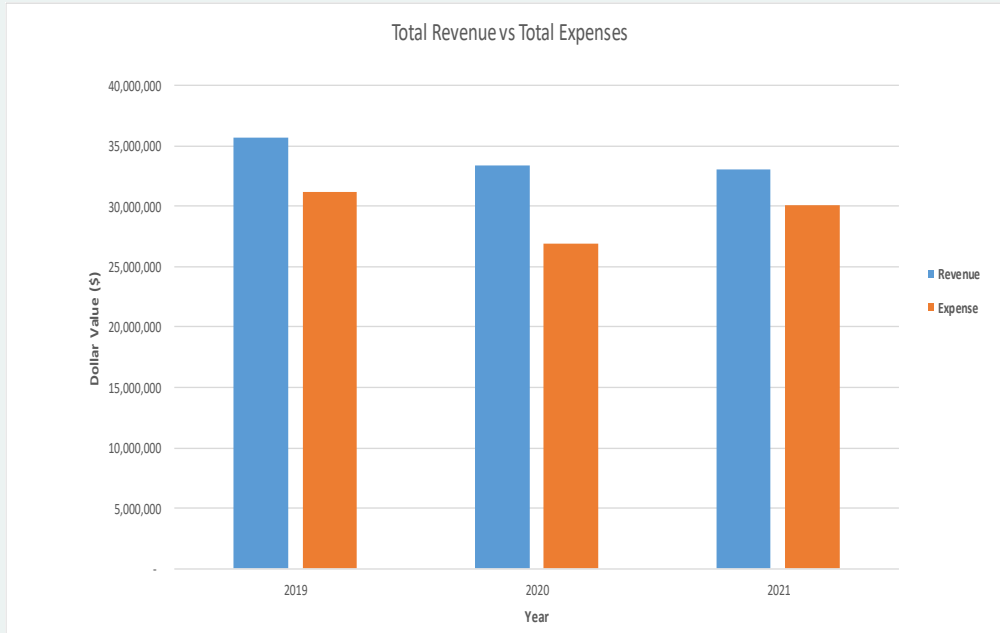
- Boreal Housing Foundation
- Community Futures Northwest
- FCSS Fort Vermilion
- FCSS La Crete
- FCSS Zama City
- Hay-Zama Committee
- High Level Forests Public Advisory Committee
- High Level Recreation Facility Task Force
- Indigenous Joint Mutual Aid Committee
- La Crete Community Adult Learning Council
- Mackenzie Applied Research Association (MARA)
- Mackenzie Frontier Tourist Association (MFTA)
- Mackenzie Regional Community Policing Society (Victim Services)
- Mackenzie Regional Waste Management Commission
- Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance
- Northern Lakes College CEC, Fort Vermilion
- Northern Lakes College CEC, High Level
- Northwest Species at Risk (NWSAR)
- Recreation Board, Fort Vermilion
- Recreation Board, La Crete
- Recreation Board, Zama City
- Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI)
- Veterinary Services Incorporated (VSI)
- Water North Coalition (WNC)



# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 2021 AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS

Below is a snapshot of the year end details for 2021. The deadline to submit our Audited Financial Statements to Alberta Municipal Affairs is May 1st, 2022. A copy of the 2021 Audited Financial Statement has been posted on our municipal website.



# 2022 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

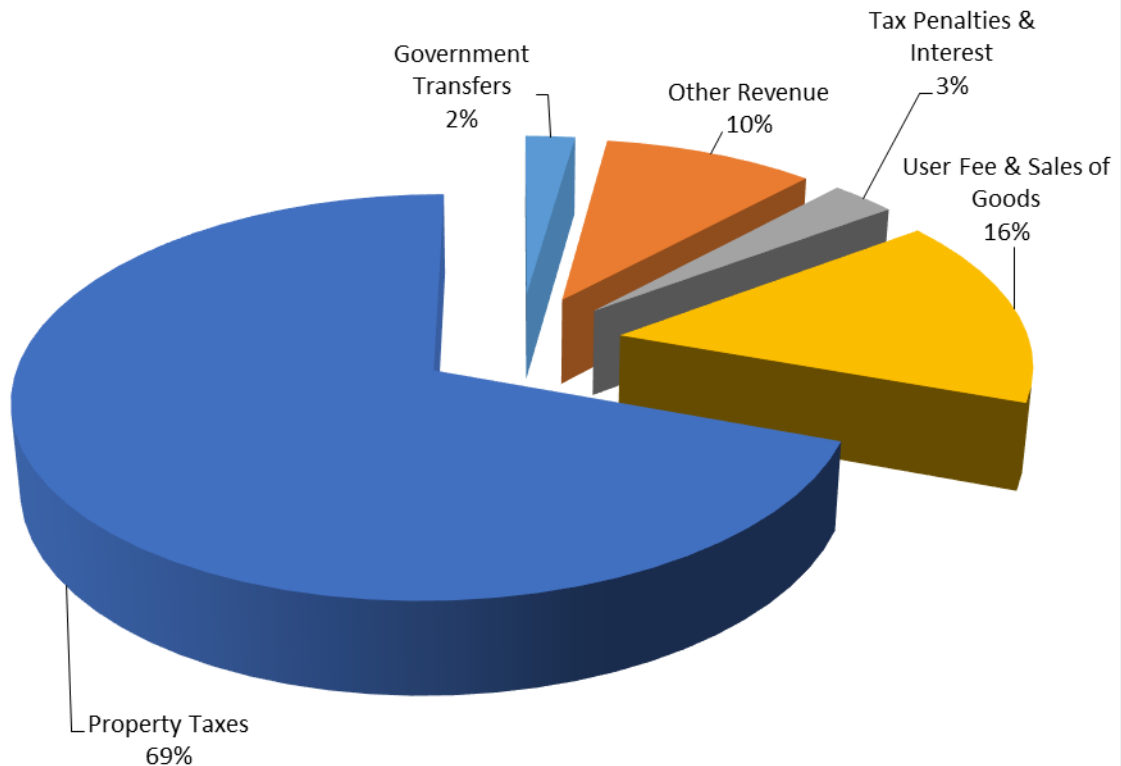
## 2022 OPERATING REVENUES

Under the Municipal Government act, each council must adopt an operating and capital budget for each calendar year. Mackenzie County Council reviewed, deliberated and adopted the 2022 operating and capital budgets. Council has the drive and energy to build a fiscally responsible, results oriented culture and enjoy working in a publicly accountable environment.

Council developed the 2022 budget on a tax and user pay supported budget, while limiting the effect of service levels. User pay revenue increases assisted in offsetting the shortfall in revenue from tax levies, from the loss in oil & gas revenue, bad debt or write off of uncollected taxes, while not negatively impacting the residential and non-residential mill rates. This is a budget that prioritizes maintaining essential services and programs and supports initiatives to help decrease the burden on our residents unless services are chosen, during these challenging times. It is also forward-thinking, ensuring our investments support community sustainability and quality of life today.

Total operating revenues are projected to be \$35.05 million (an increase of \$1 million funding the gravel crushing in 2022).

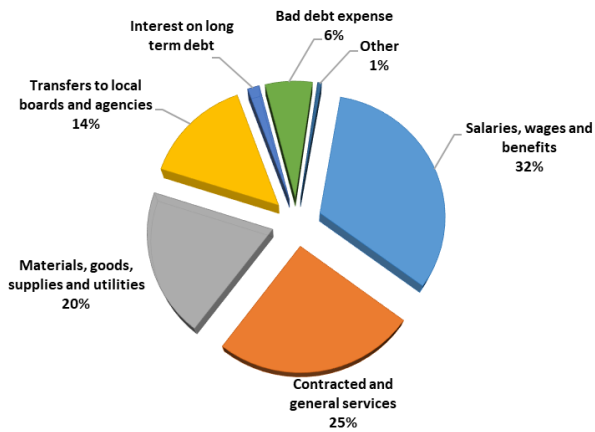
**2022 Operating Revenues - \$35,054,848**  
(excluding requisition amounts)



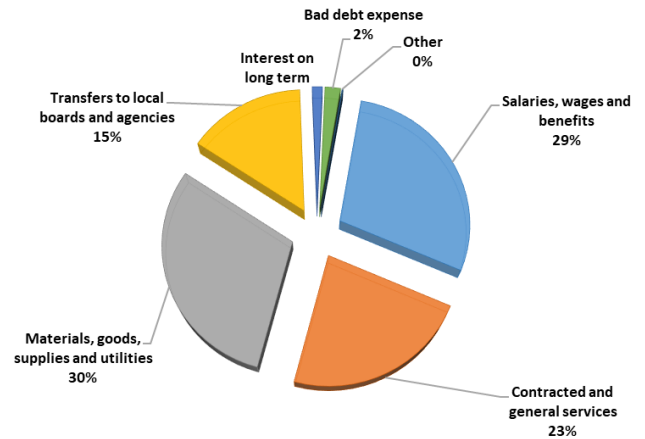


# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 2020 EXPENSES

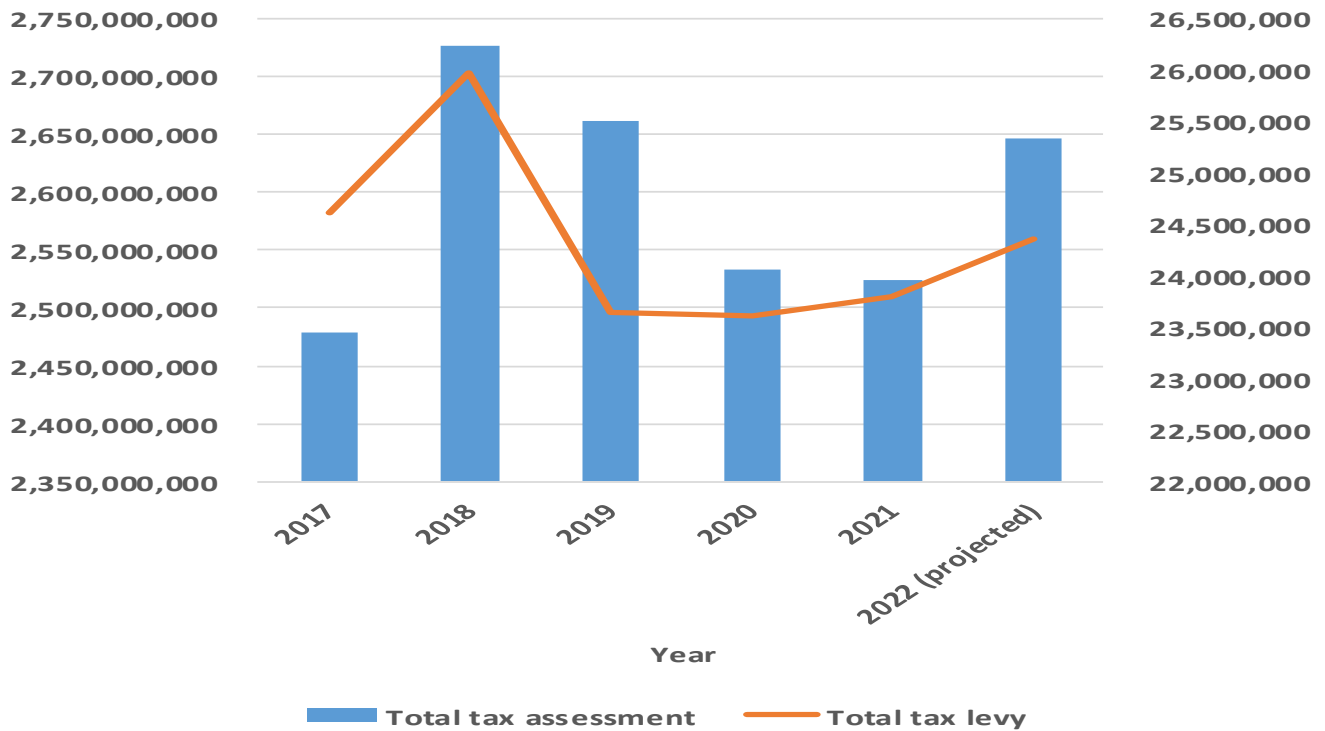


## 2021 EXPENSES



Mill rates and tax revenue to fund operations is calculated on assessment. Council reviewed operational requirements and funded operations on a user pay service and mill rate calculation. In 2019 there was a reduction allocated to the residential mill rate to fund operations.

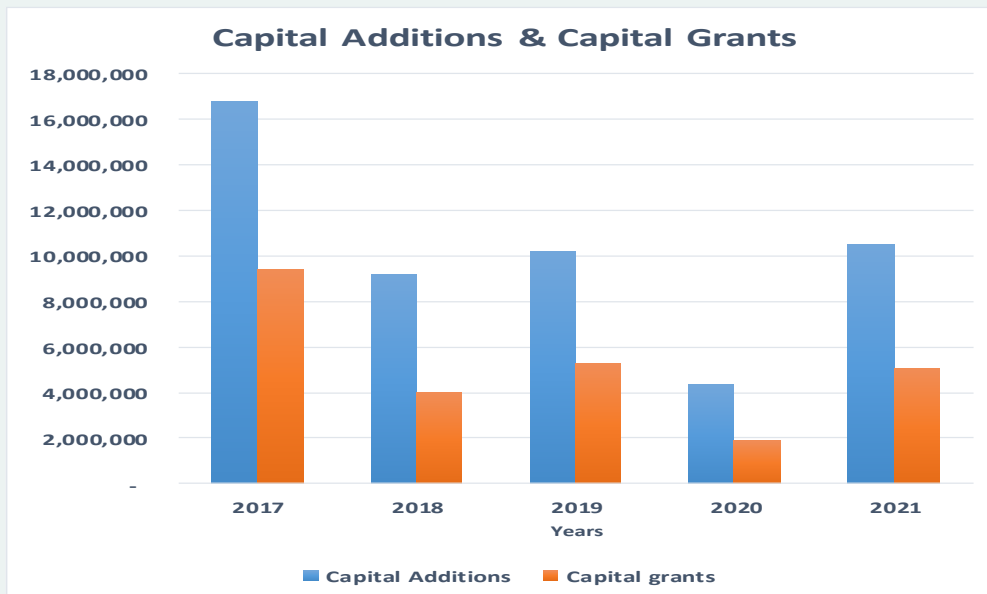
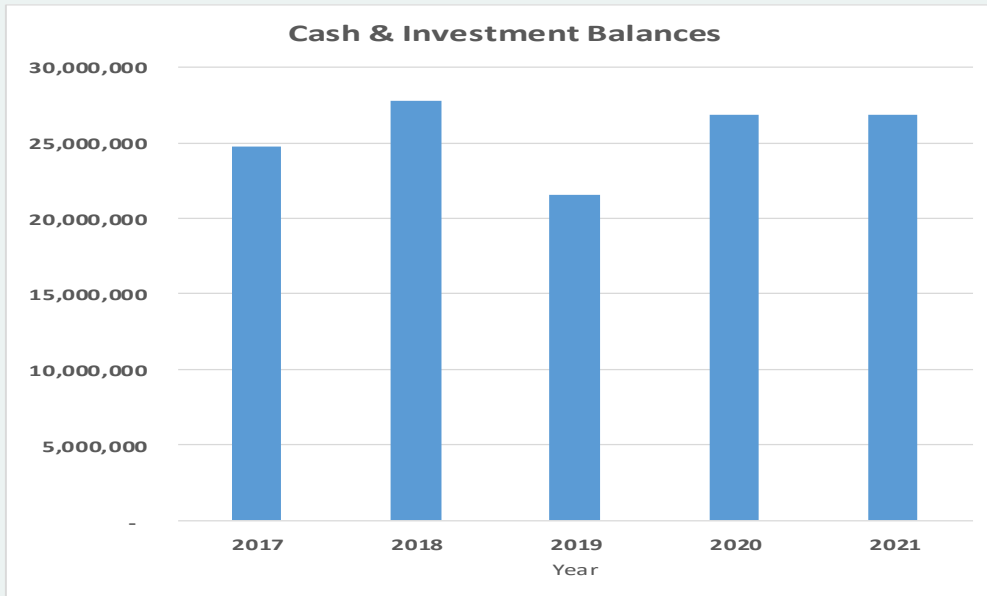
## Total Tax Levy vs Total Tax Assessment



# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Funds are used to pay for capital projects, future anticipated projects such as road repairs and gravel crushing. Some funds are invested longer term for better rates to assist with funding future projects. (See page 13)

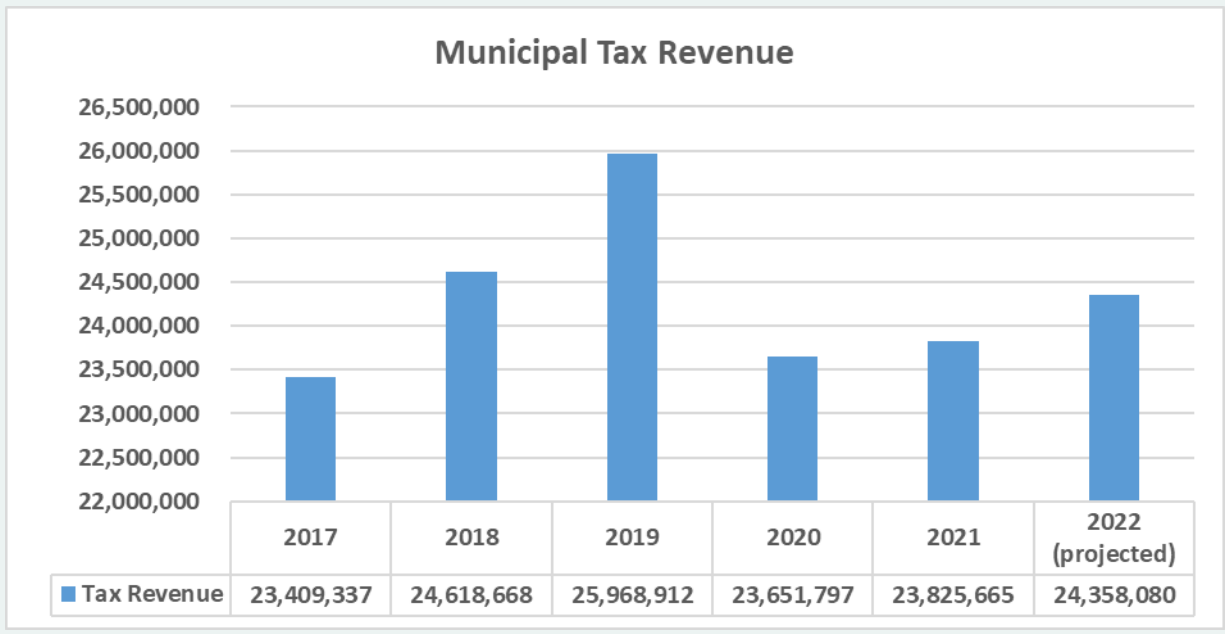
Under the MGA, municipalities are required to develop a 5 year capital plan. The municipality has chosen to budget for and fund these projects over numerous years as to not negatively impact one base year of any project.



## 2021 Significant Projects

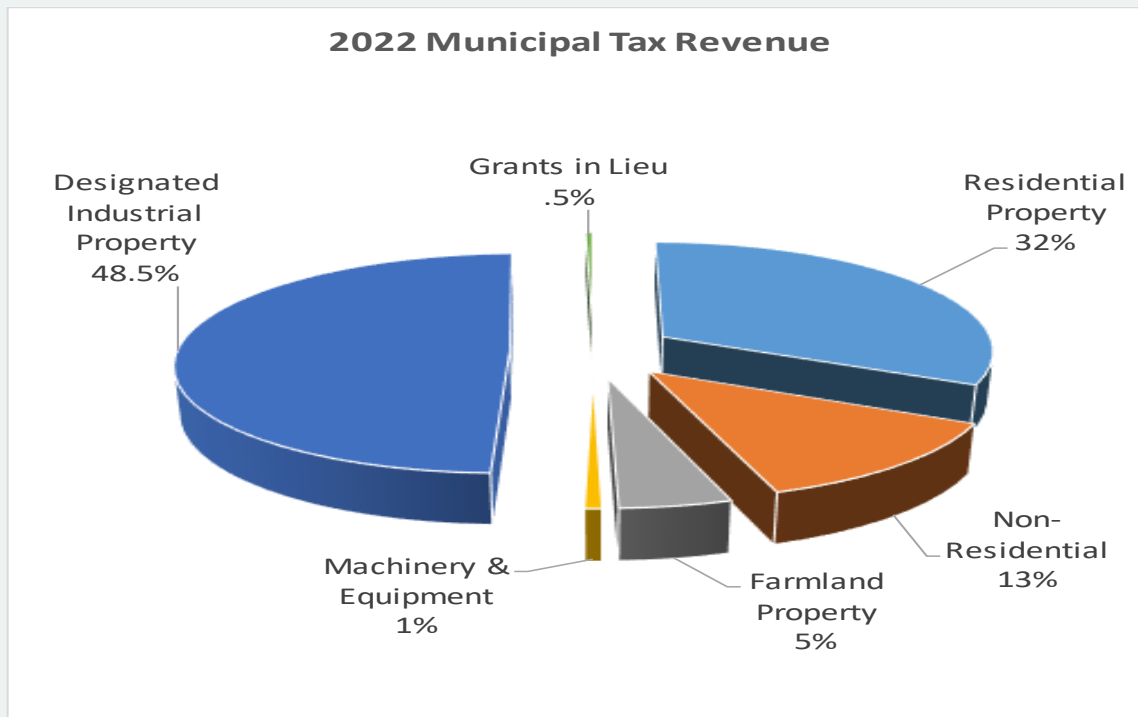
- Plow Truck
- Mill Razor
- Water Treatment Tower Replacement
- Sanitary Sewer Expansion
- Intersection Upgrades including Traffic and Crosswalk Lights
- Numerous Roads Projects
- Drainage Ditches X 2

# 2022 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



This chart does not include requisitions.

Designated Industrial Property is assessed by the Provincial Assessor. These property types are defined as, facilities regulated by the Alberta Energy Regulator, National Energy Board (now called Canadian Energy Board) and Alberta Utilities Commission. Most commonly recorded as linear, previously.



# 2022 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## 2022 OPERATING EXPENSES

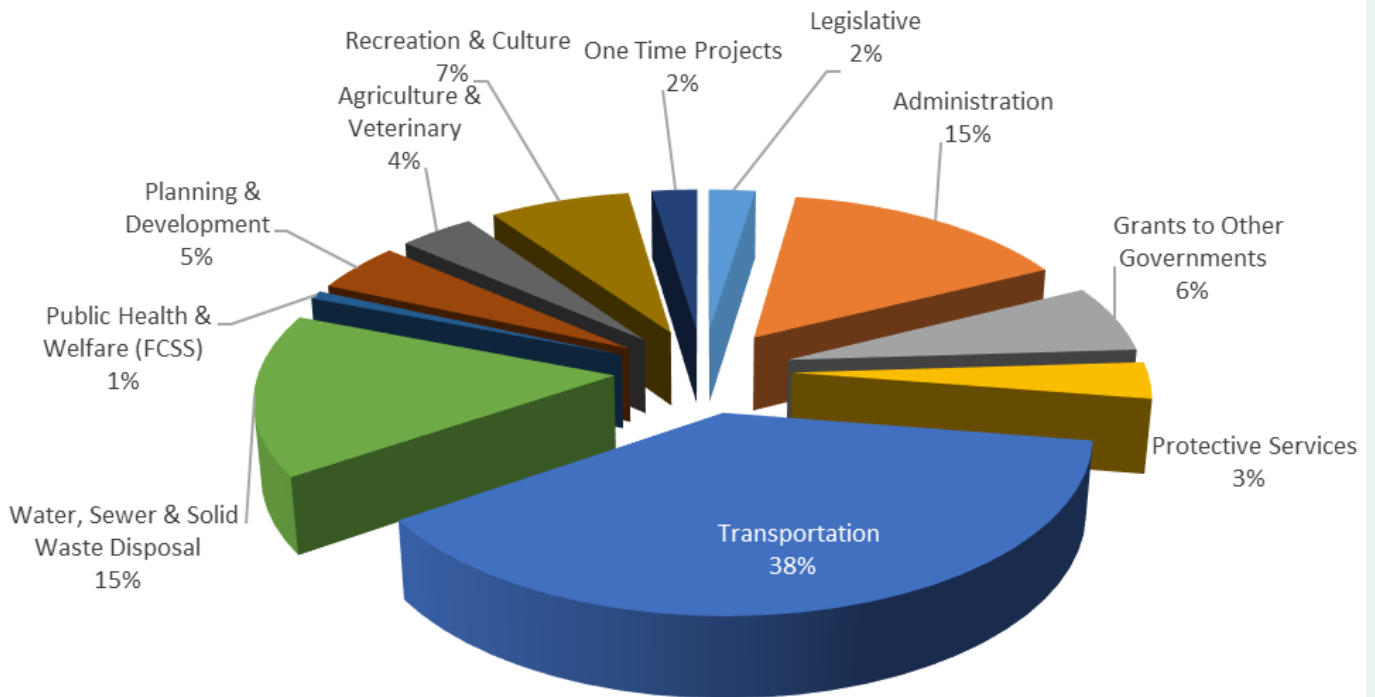
Total operating expenses, excluding requisition transfers but including amortization of tangible capital assets, are projected to be \$45.3 million, which is an overall 2.5% increase from 2021. The increase is due to the gravel crushing program, which is scheduled to be completed every 3 years. This program was undertaken on year 4 due to gravel pit overburden removal undertaken in 2021, in preparation for crushing.

The schools requisition transfer will be \$6,612,576 (2021 - \$6,302,401), and the seniors lodge requisition transfer will be \$815,695 (2021 - \$896,658).

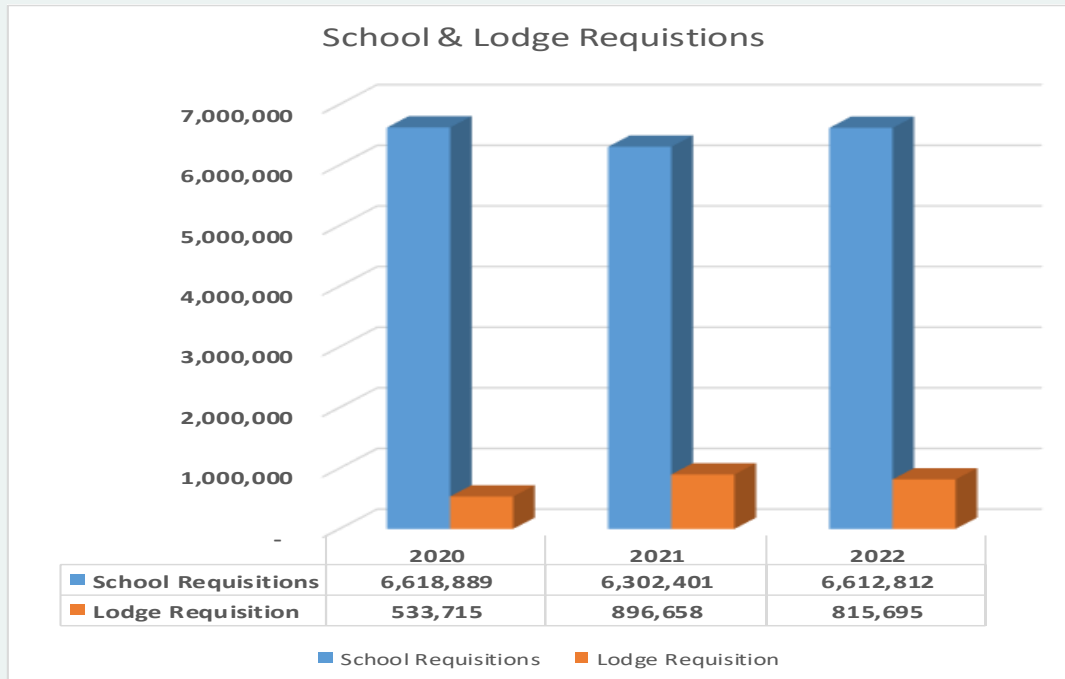
Operating expenses include \$896,658 in grants to non-profit groups and bursaries, \$373,353 to FCSS (Family and Community Support Services), \$1,115,171 to recreation boards, and \$266,751 to the Mackenzie Library Board.

In order to support the regional services provision, the County entered into agreements with the neighbouring municipalities of the Towns of High Level and Rainbow Lake. The 2022 transfer to these local governments is projected to be \$2,250,000.

2022 Operating Expenses



# 2022 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



## 2022 PROJECTS

### Administration

- ◆ Photocopier
- ◆ Zama Building - Air Conditioning & Heating

### Fire Department

- ◆ LC - Air Compressor - Bottle Filling Station

### Parks & Playgrounds

- ◆ Major Campground Improvements
  - ◇ Wadlin Lake Campground
  - ◇ Hutch Lake Campground
  - ◇ Bridge Campground
  - ◇ Machesis Lake Campground
  - ◇ Zama Campground
- ◆ Hamlet Parks Development

### Planning & Development

- ◆ GIS Computer & Plotter

### Recreation Facilities

- ◆ Community Hall Air Conditioning & Heater
- ◆ Ball Diamond - Water Line
- ◆ 3 Industrial Snow Blowers for Outdoor Rinks
- ◆ Beach Volleyball Court
- ◆ Cabin Utilities & Development

### Transportation

- ◆ TWP RD 1050 (27th Baseline) 2 Miles
- ◆ 113 Avenue Reshape & Shoulder Pull
- ◆ Zama Pavement Repair
- ◆ BF 78209 NW-17-105-14-W5M - Teepee Creek

# 2022 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

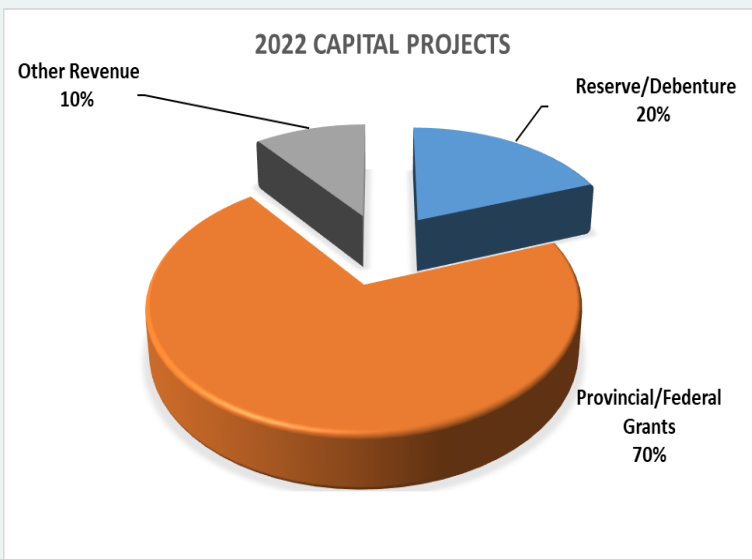
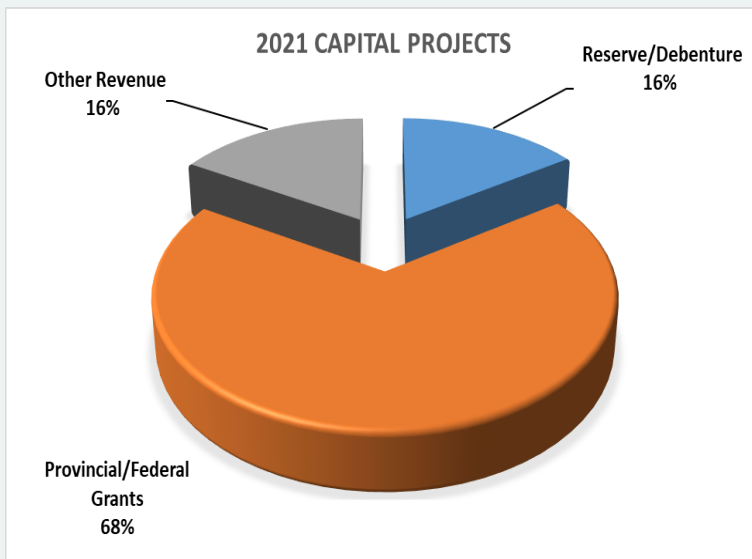
## Transportation (continued)

- ◆ Range Road 154 - In TWP 108-15
- ◆ Rebuild 2 Miles Heliport Road (TWP RD 1102 - RGE RD 184-190)
- ◆ Machesis Lake - Road Rebuild and Section Repairs
- ◆ Blue Hills - Road Rebuild and Section Repairs
- ◆ Rebuild Fox Lake Road (2 miles) - Spot Repair
- ◆ Roller Packer
- ◆ Pick Up Trucks x 3

- ◆ Zero Turn Mower
- ◆ 10" Pump x 2

## Water / Sewer Treatment & Distribution

- ◆ Motor Starters
- ◆ Water Point Building Replacements (Buffalo Head Prairie, Tompkins, Rocky Lane)
- ◆ East Waterline Oversizing SE-10-106-15-W5M
- ◆ Sewer Upgrades



**Debtenture**—Is a form of unsecured debt that the County has and can use to fund longer term projects at a reasonable interest rate. The repayment of the debtentures are undertaken over multiple years (3-25 years), (See page 8).

**Reserves**—Are funds allocated by Council motion to assist in funding future capital and operational needs.

# 2022 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## LONG-TERM DEBT

The County has an option to borrow funds for major capital projects, if fiscally responsible to do so. Currently, all of the County's debentures are arranged through the Alberta Capital Finance Authority who offers low fixed rates.

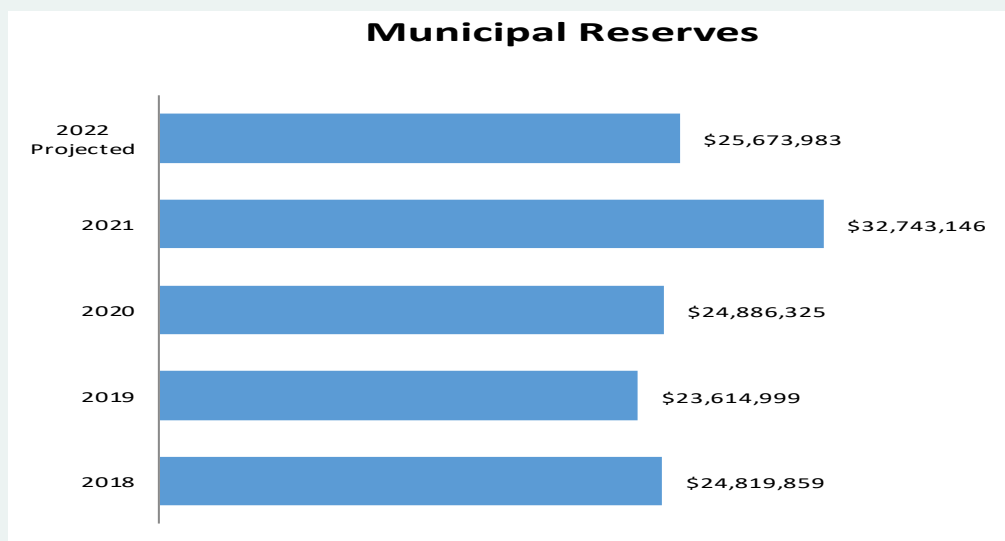
The Municipal Government Act and Alberta Regulation 255/00 defines the debt limits for municipalities. If the borrowing takes place as intended based on the preapproved bylaws, the County will be at 23% of its allowable debt limit under Provincial Legislation on December 31, 2021 as permitted under MGA, AR 255/00.



## MUNICIPAL RESERVES

In general, establishing reserves and setting aside a specified amount of funds annually assists in long term financial planning, and assists in maintaining a stable taxation structure. Council has established various reserve policies. These policies define the purpose, permitted uses (must have a motion of Council), targeted minimum and maximum reserve levels, and the annual minimum contributions.

Under the MGA, municipalities are required to develop a 5 year capital plan, The municipality has chosen to budget for and fund these projects over numerous years as to not negatively impact one base year of any project.



# 2022 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## REGIONAL COLLABORATION

The Mackenzie Region has three incorporated municipalities within its boundaries: Mackenzie County, Town of High Level and Town of Rainbow Lake. Three municipalities are continually working together on regional sustainability initiatives.

### Agreements with the Town of High Level

Mackenzie County has a Regional Service Sharing Agreement (RSSA) and an Inter-Municipal Development Plan (IMDP) agreement with the Town of High Level. The purpose of the RSSA is to share certain services provided by the Town to the County's residents residing within close proximity to the Town and/or regionally. These services are recreation, airport, fire protection, and potable water (Footner line north of the Town).

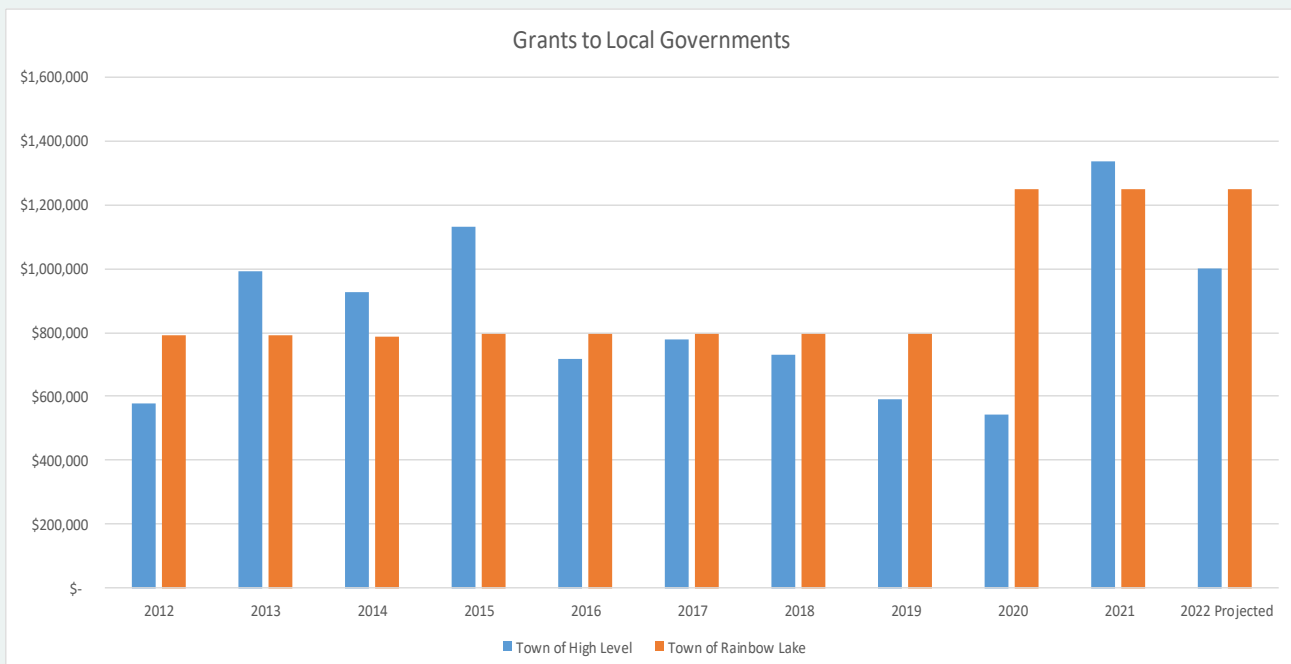
The County continued deliberations with the Town of High Level regarding proposed amendments to the Regional Service Sharing Agreement as it was up for renewal at the end of 2020.

The purpose of the IMDP is to jointly control the development within an area around the Town of High Level. This is accomplished through a joint Inter-Municipal Planning Commission that meets on a monthly basis to review the proposed developments within the specified area.

### Agreement with the Town of Rainbow Lake

Mackenzie County Council recognizes the small urban centre, "one industry town" challenges experienced by the Town of Rainbow Lake. Therefore, the County and the Town entered into a revenue sharing agreement. The agreement is meant to assist the Town through a consistent and predictable funding source. The Town uses this funding for provision of services to their residents. The current agreement began in 2020, and funds the Town of Rainbow Lake with \$1,250,000 annually.

Alberta municipalities are encouraged to collaborate with each other for the provision of services. Cooperation and collaboration promotes effective and efficient use of resources and reduces duplication of services. The chart below shows the cost-shared amounts provided by Mackenzie County to the Town of High Level and the Town of Rainbow Lake since 2011.





# 2022 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## GRANTS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

County Council recognizes the value of volunteers and the non-profit groups operating within the region and the wide range of services and events offered by each and every organization. The County offers grants to non-profit organizations to assist in capital projects, operations or event based services. These applications are available in the fall of each year with a deadline of October 15th. The 2022 operating budget includes \$2,352,643 in funding that will be provided to FCSS, Recreation Boards, and numerous other non-profit organizations.

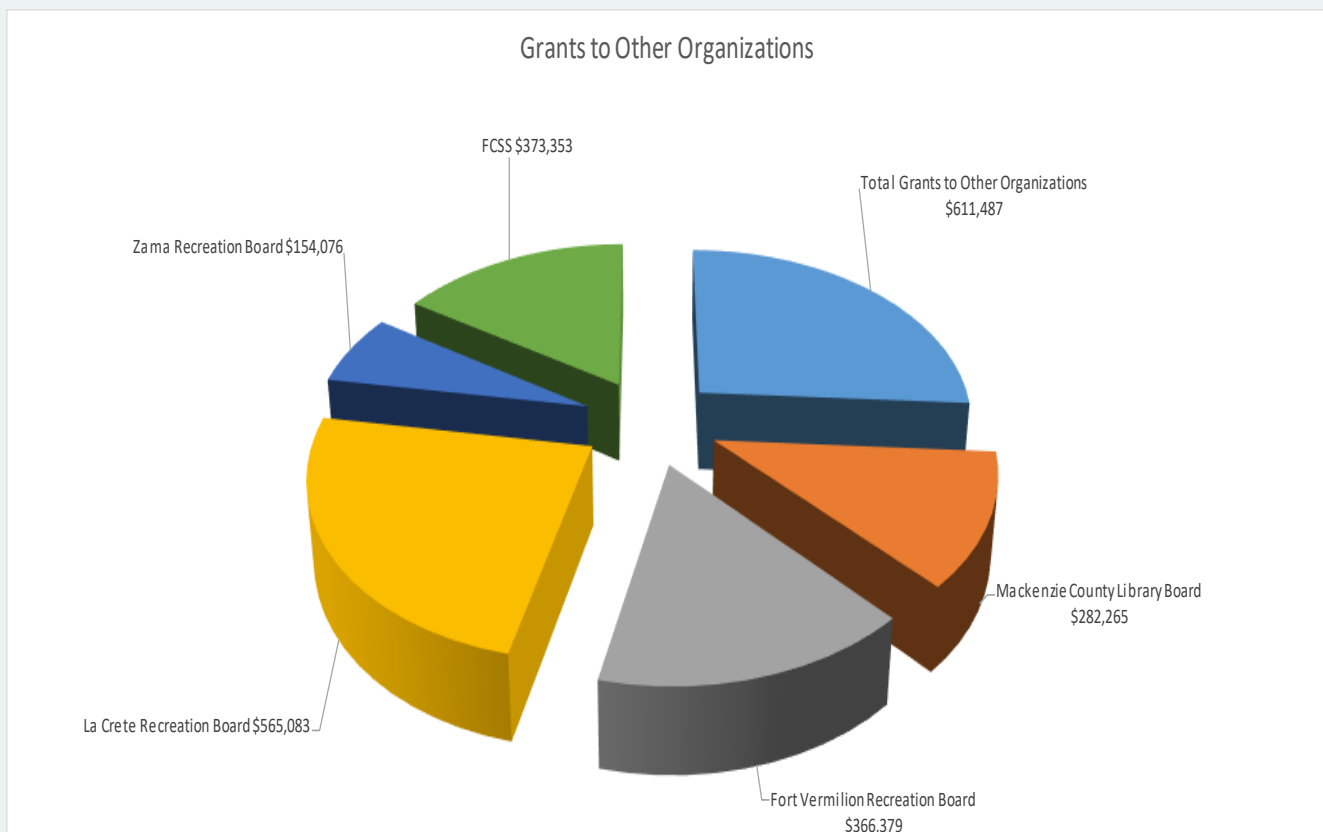
The chart below identifies the Council approved grants during budget deliberations.

The County has an operating agreement with many of the local non profit groups whereby the County pays all conventional utilities. These groups include the La Crete Agricultural Society, the La Crete Heritage Centre, Fort Vermilion Recreation Board, La Crete Recreation Board, and Zama Recreation Board, the La Crete Equine Centre, the Old Bay House, the Rocky Lane Agricultural Society Indoor arena, and the 3 local Library facilities.

The County provides operating and capital funding to the Fort Vermilion, La Crete, and Zama recreation boards. The recreational boards operate the County-owned facilities and provide a range of programs and activities to local residents and visitors.

The County provides funding towards the provision of FCSS programs and activities which is 80% funded by the provincial government grants.

The County has a cemetery funding policy whereby each cemetery that is located within Mackenzie County receives a \$600 maintenance grant annually.



# 2022 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## GRANTS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS (continued)

Organization	2022 Budget	2021 Budget	2020 Budget
Fort Vermilion Agricultural Society - Heritage Centre	\$27,750	\$27,750	\$27,750
Fort Vermilion Area Board of Trade	\$16,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
Fort Vermilion & Area Seniors' and Elders' Lodge Board 1788	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fort Vermilion Friends of the Old Bay House Society	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Fort Vermilion Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 243	\$31,637	\$8,000	\$8,000
Fort Vermilion Seniors' Club	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$18,000
High Level Agricultural Exhibition Association	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
High Level Rural Community Hall	\$16,000	\$17,500	\$20,000
L.A. on Wheels Society	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
La Crete Area Chamber of Commerce	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
La Crete Agricultural Society	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$103,000
La Crete Community Equine Centre	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
La Crete Ferry Campground Society	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,000
La Crete Field of Dreams Stampede Committee	\$9,000	\$0	\$0
La Crete Meals for Seniors	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
La Crete Polar Cats	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$5,000
La Crete Seniors Inn (drop-in centre)	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Rainbow Lake Youth Center	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Rocky Lane Agricultural Society	Gravel + \$25,000	Gravel + \$25,000	\$28,000
Zama Chamber of Commerce	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Mackenzie Frontier Tourist Association	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500
Frontier Vet Services	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$85,000
Fort Vermilion Mackenzie Applied Research Association (MARA)	\$60,000	\$65,000	\$65,000
Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI)	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000
High School Bursaries	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Cemetaries	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$5,400
Miscellaneous Support of Events	\$20,000	\$22,500	\$22,500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$611,487</b>	<b>\$584,350</b>	<b>\$590,650</b>
Mackenzie County Library Society (incl. utilities)	\$282,265	\$243,000	\$243,000
Fort Vermilion Recreation Board	\$366,379	\$372,539	\$441,619
La Crete Recreation Board	\$565,083	\$557,640	\$584,818
Zama Recreation Board	\$154,076	\$156,964	\$153,887
<b>Total Grants to Other Organizations</b>	<b>\$1,979,290</b>	<b>\$1,914,493</b>	<b>\$2,038,974</b>

# 2021 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

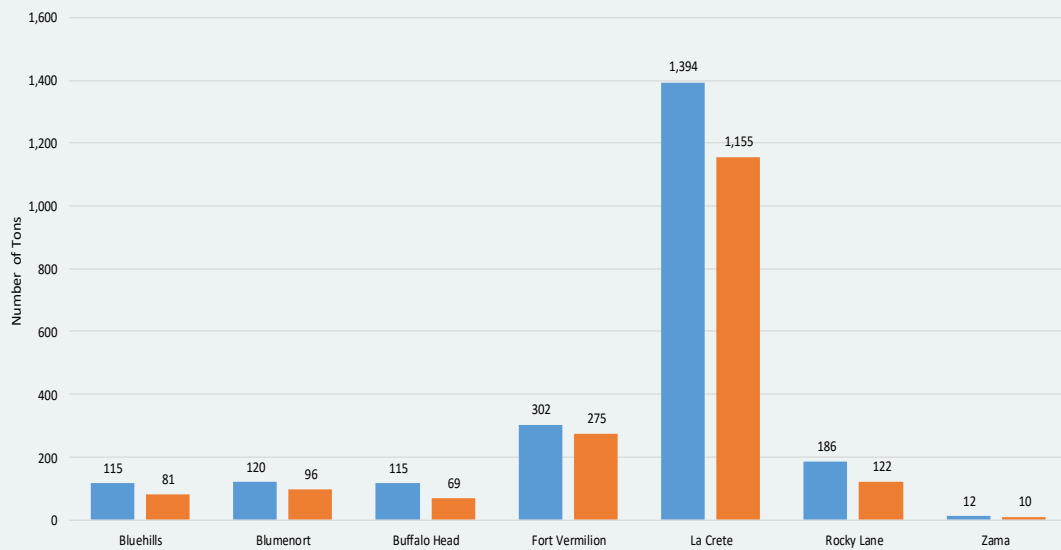
### Waste Transfer Stations

Mackenzie County owns and operates seven solid waste transfer stations. Each transfer station has a contracted attendant responsible for the daily operations. The type of refuse that is allowed to be disposed of at the transfer station is regulated by policy set by Council.

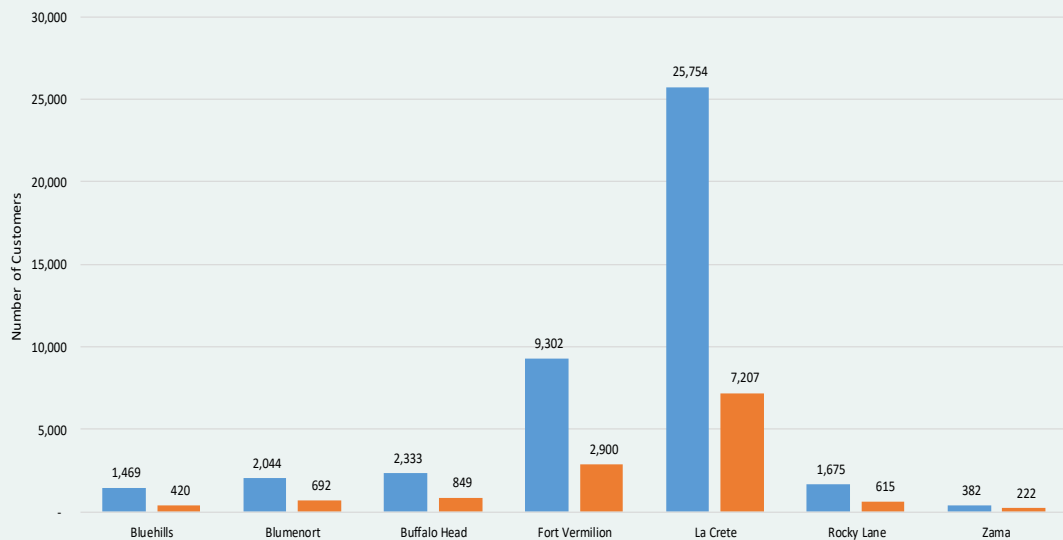
The County also contracts the transportation of waste from each transfer station to the Mackenzie Regional Landfill. The Mackenzie Regional Landfill is administered by a Commission of equal representation from Mackenzie County, Rainbow Lake and the Town of High Level.

Mackenzie County is responsible for all costs of solid waste (generated within the County) that is disposed of at the Landfill with the exceptions of commercial and industrial waste. This includes waste that is collected from waste transfer stations, rural residential and hamlet residential areas. Tonnage amount for La Crete includes the waste collected from the residential reciprocals each week.

Waste Hauled from Transfer Stations (2020 & 2021)



Waste Transfer Station Customer Count (2020 & 2021)



# 2021 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Campgrounds, Green Spaces & Parks

There are a number of parks, green spaces and campgrounds within the area that are operated by the County, or through partnerships with local Recreation Societies, Non-Profits and Volunteers. These include:

- Arena Parks (La Crete & Fort Vermilion)
- Atlas Landing
- Bridge Campsite (Fort Vermilion)
- Buffalo Head Tower Day Use Area
- D. A. Thomas Park (Fort Vermilion)
- Hutch Lake Campground (High Level)
- Jubilee Park (La Crete)
- Knelsen Park (La Crete)
- La Crete Ferry Campground (Partnership)
- Machesis Lake Campground (Rocky Lane)
- Mackenzie Housing Park (Fort Vermilion)
- Pioneer Park (Fort Vermilion)
- Reinland Park (La Crete)
- The Big Backyard Park (La Crete)
- Tompkins Landing Day Use Area
- Tourangeau Lake Day Use Area (La Crete)
- Wadlin Lake Campground
- Walking Trails (La Crete & Fort Vermilion)
- Zama Park & Campground (Partnership)

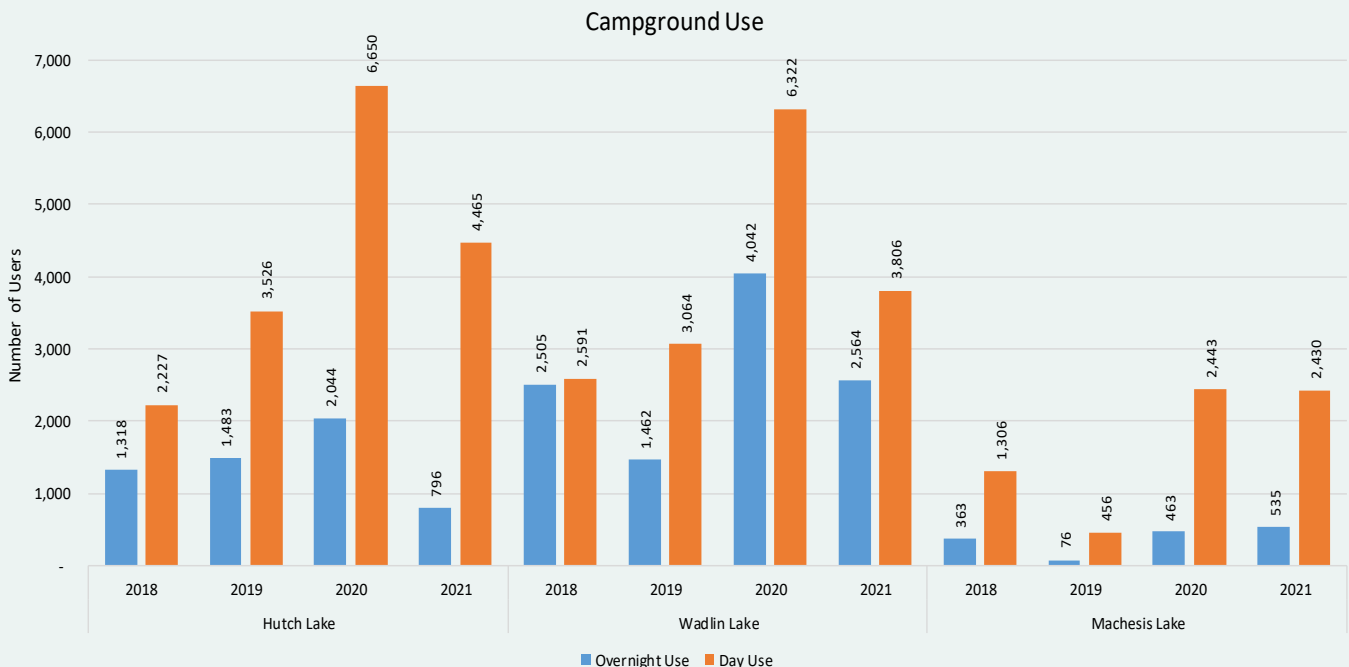
Maintenance of these facilities are provided by the Mackenzie County, these duties include:

- Grass trimming
- Grass cutting
- Weeding
- Flower beds
- Maintenance of playground equipment
- Boat launch care
- Garbage disposal
- Supply firewood

The Campgrounds operate from approximately mid May to late September. We track our visitors through postal codes and have logged visitors from all provinces of Canada, including two territories, United States, England, and Germany.

In partnership with Alberta Parks, the Machesis Lake Equine Campground opened in July 2016 with eight sites for overnight horse camping. This is the only facility of its kind north of Grande Cache and is adjacent to over 20 kilometers of trails.

In 2019, the Machesis Lake Campground was primarily unavailable to the public. The Campground was utilized while fighting the Chuckegg Fire.



# 2021 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Fire Services

Mackenzie County operates four fire stations located in Tompkins Landing, La Crete, Fort Vermilion, and Zama. High Level rural residents are served by the Town of High Level Fire Department under a Regional Service Sharing Agreement.

Members on the various fire departments are volunteers and are paid an honorarium by the County.

- La Crete/Tompkins—33 active members
- Fort Vermilion—13 active members
- Zama— 7 active members

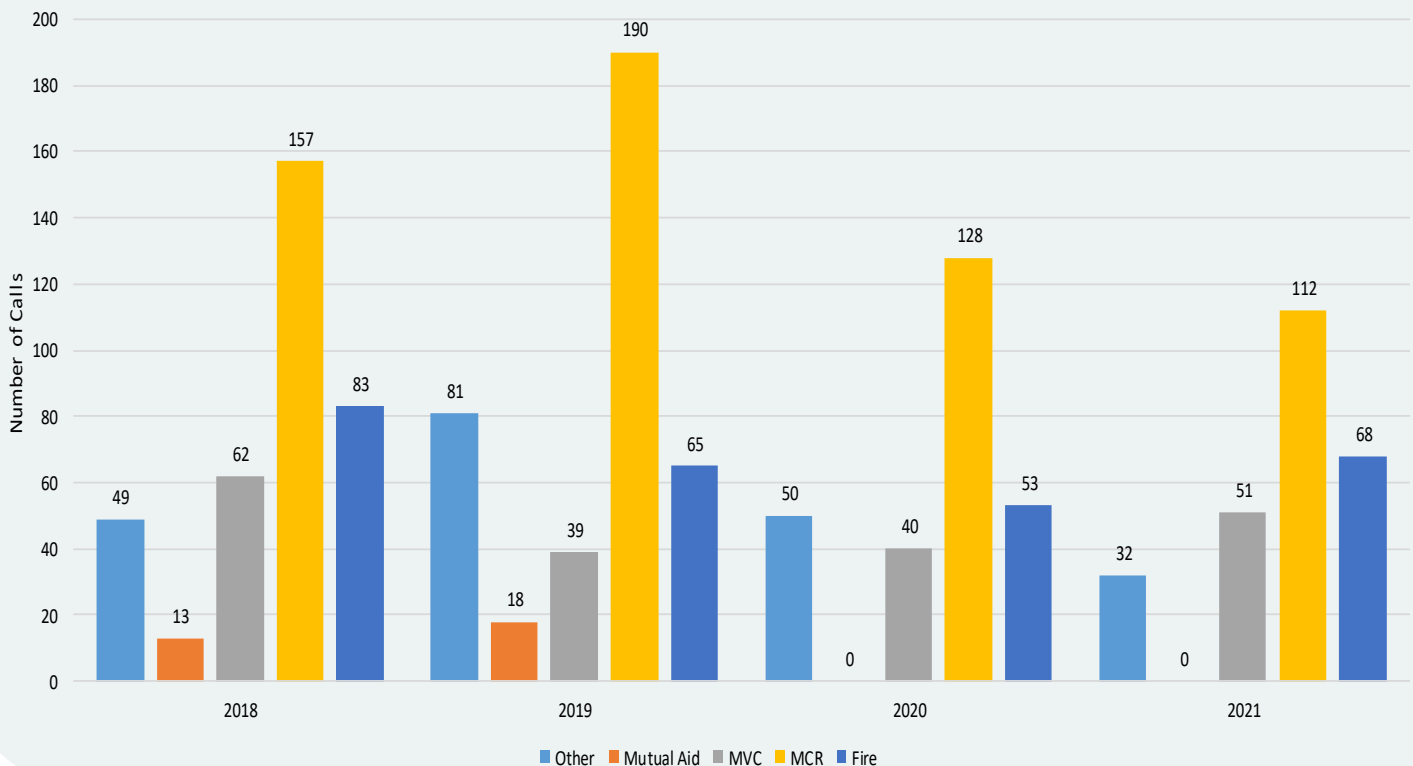
Becoming a firefighter requires a considerable amount of commitment and availability. Some of the expectations and duties of a member are as follows:

- Attend training nights in order to maintain and build skills.
- Obtain appropriate fire/emergency training as per the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).
- Respond to emergency calls, not only within the County, but also those in other fire districts.
- Be on voluntary call.
- Be a team player.
- Help maintain an organized and neat station, as well as the maintenance of equipment.

*If you are interested in joining please contact your local Fire Department.*

The type of calls the department respond to are categorized in five types of responses. Fire, Medical Co-response, Motor Vehicle Collision, Mutual Aid and Other (Alarms, Hazards, etc.)

Fire Department Calls by Type



# 2021 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## OPERATIONS

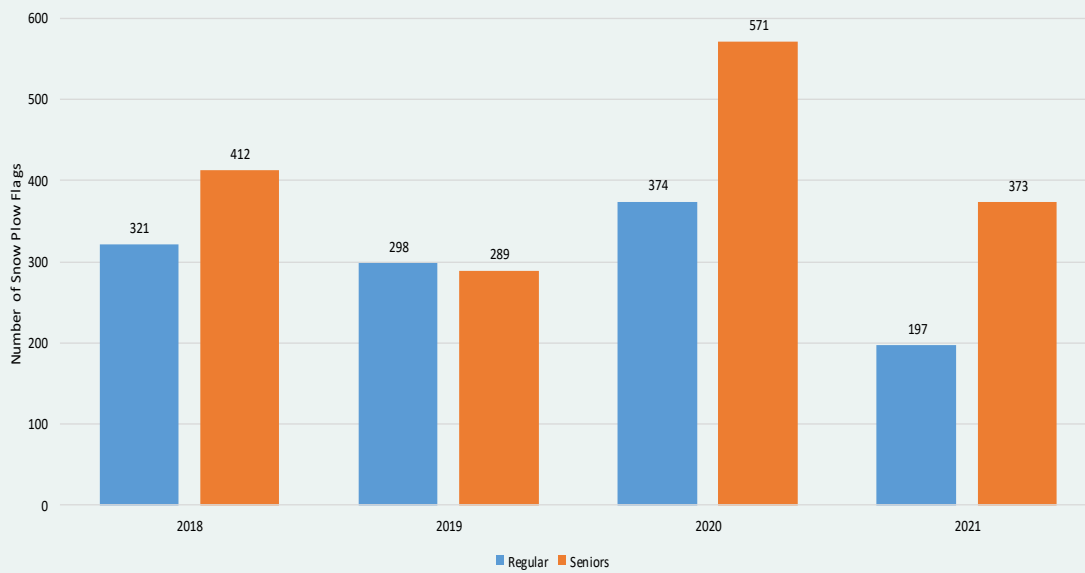
Mackenzie County provides a variety of operational services year round. The following graphs are intended to provide a glimpse into the daily operations of our municipal services.

### Snow Plow Flags & Dust Control Applications

Mackenzie County has a winter maintenance program which offers plowing service (up to 1/4 mile) to rural residents. In 2021, the County completed services 373 times for seniors and 197 times for other residents. The snow plowing fee increased in January of 2022.

The County applies dust control along gravel roads, one passing zone every 30 km, major intersections, and other identified areas. Residents within the County may apply for dust control at a cost of \$1,350 + GST per 200 linear meters with calcium chloride, and \$450 + GST per 200 linear meters for seniors (65 years and older). In 2021, there were a total of 31 applicants for the calcium chloride product. The fee for calcium chloride increased in December of 2021.

Snow Plow Flags



Dust Control Applications



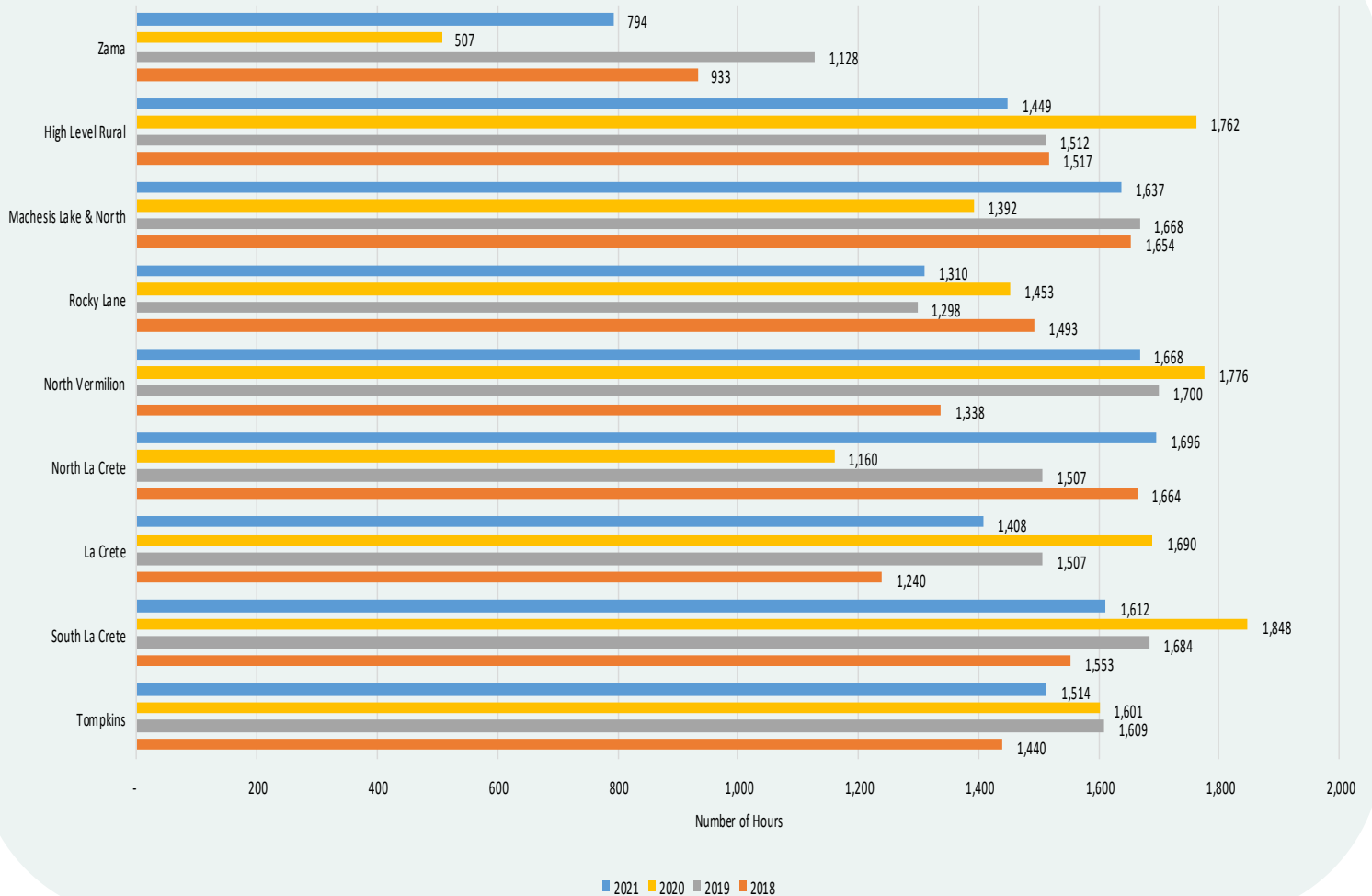
# 2021 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Grader Beat Hours

Mackenzie County has nine grader beats, however the Zama grader was used for projects beginning in April 2020 and 2021. Hours of operation are indicated on the graph below. The variances in unit hours are due to weather, number of dust controlled areas, staff vacancies, etc.



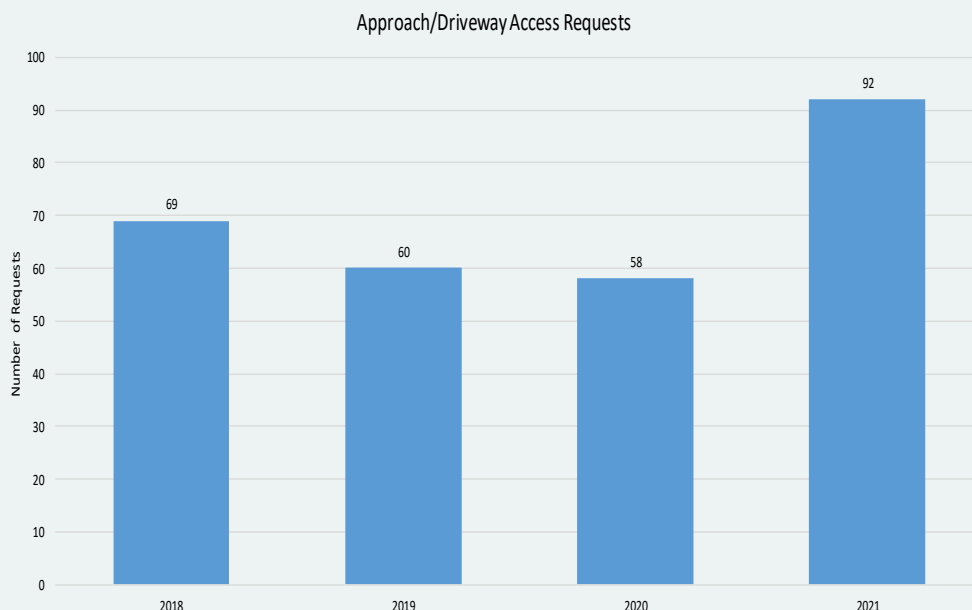
Grader Beat Hours



# 2021 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Approach/Driveway Access Requests

Accesses to quarter sections and new subdivisions require standards set out by the County. Standards for accesses/driveways can be found in Policy PW039 Rural Road, Access Construction and Surface Water Management Policy. The policy also outlines the application and approval process.



## Tompkins Crossing Ice-Bridge

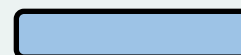
Mackenzie County has an agreement with Alberta Transportation for the construction and maintenance of the ice-bridge on the Peace River at the Tompkins Crossing. The County subsequently tenders the contract work locally (typically every three year). The chart below identifies the opening and closing dates since winter of 2016/2017 to winter of 2021/2022, as well as the date the ice-bridge reaches its maximum capacity of 63.5 tonne.

2016-2017			2017-2018			2018-2019	
Date	Tonne		Date	Tonne		Date	Tonne
Dec. 28	5 Tonne		Jan. 15	5 Tonne		Jan. 2	5 Tonne
Feb. 21	63.5 Tonne		Feb. 19	63.5 Tonne		Feb. 11	63.5 Tonne
Apr. 1	CLOSED		Apr. 14	CLOSED		Mar. 28	CLOSED

2019-2020			2020-2021			2021-2022	
Date	Tonne		Date	Tonne		Date	Tonne
Dec. 24	5 Tonne		Jan. 2	5 Tonne		Dec. 22	5 Tonne
Feb. 18	63.5 Tonne		Feb. 19	63.5 Tonne		Jan. 27	63.5 Tonne
Apr. 11	CLOSED		Apr. 7	CLOSED		Mar. 26	CLOSED

### LEGEND

OPEN LIGHT TRAFFIC



MAXIMUM TONNE



CLOSED FOR SEASON





# 2021 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The Planning and Development department is responsible for the operational functions of development permits, safety code permits, subdivision applications, Land Use Bylaw revisions including rezoning, mapping/GIS, engineering standards, future planning, environmental and regional planning. The department is based out of the La Crete office and provides service to other areas of the municipality at the request of the client.

The Planning and Development department is actively working on the Municipal Development Plan, Land Use Bylaw, and Fort Vermilion Redevelopment Plan. The project was awarded to O2 Planning and Design to update these existing documents that are outdated.

The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is the statutory document used to regulate land use in Mackenzie County. Mackenzie County's MDP is a document that provides clear direction for growth and development in the County over the next 20 years. Working in tandem with the Land Use Bylaw and other statutory plans, the MDP provides a framework for the County's future and is an important decision-making tool for Council, County Administration, developers, residents, and other stakeholders. The intent of this MDP is to support well-managed and fiscally sustainable growth and development that will ensure a high quality of life for all County residents now and in the future.

The County has grown substantially over the past several years and is anticipated to grow to 26,000 people over the next 20 years.

The pillars within the MDP are:

- Expanding the economy and industry
- Supporting agriculture
- Growing our communities
- Responding to a changing environment
- Building partnerships

Administration has hosted 2 open houses in each hamlet and 2 different online surveys to gain feedback. Feedback has been limited due to last year's COVID regulation but administration will be hosting additional opportunities for public participation. The MDP is expected to be approved in 2022 once consultation is complete.

After the MDP is approved, administration will work towards the completion of the Land Use Bylaw and the Fort Vermilion Redevelopment Plan. The MDP is the overarching plan and all other municipal plans must align with the objectives within the MDP.



# 2021 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Development Permits/Safety Codes

In terms of operations, the number of development permits remained high at 301 approved development permits. 139 of those permits were for new residences which include single family homes, manufactured homes, and multi-family homes. There was one development appeal in 2021.

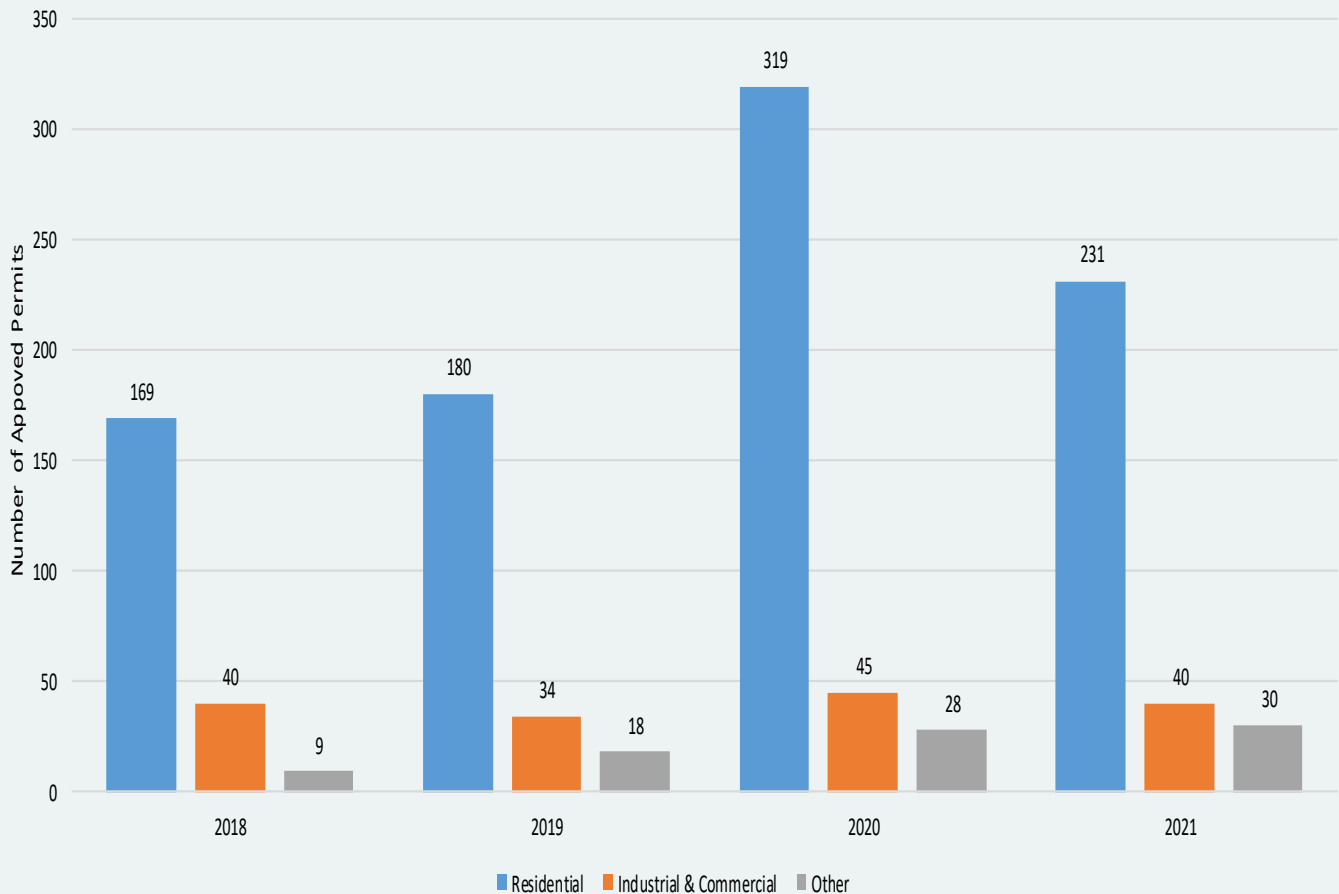
The number of development permits has increased in 2021. However, in 2020 there was a significant increase as 105 of them were as a result of the 2020 Fort Velmilion Flood. There were 94 new homes in the County in the form of houses and manufactured homes.

Wayne Allen, the Building, Plumbing, and Gas SCO for Superior Safety Codes has retired at the beginning of this year. He had worked in our Municipality for over 25 years. He will be greatly missed by all who worked with him. Mackenzie County has welcomed a new building SCO, Steve McMinn. Steve is a huge asset as he is qualified for both residential and commercial projects.

Homeowners affected by the 2020 flood now inhabit phase 1 lots. The coordinated effort to plan, create, service and move on the homes has been a massive success.

2021 was a very busy and exhilarating year for building. Some highlights are a new fire base for Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, a franchise restaurant, an addition to Blue Hills School, a bulk fertilizer plant, bulk fuel station, and a new church just to name a few.

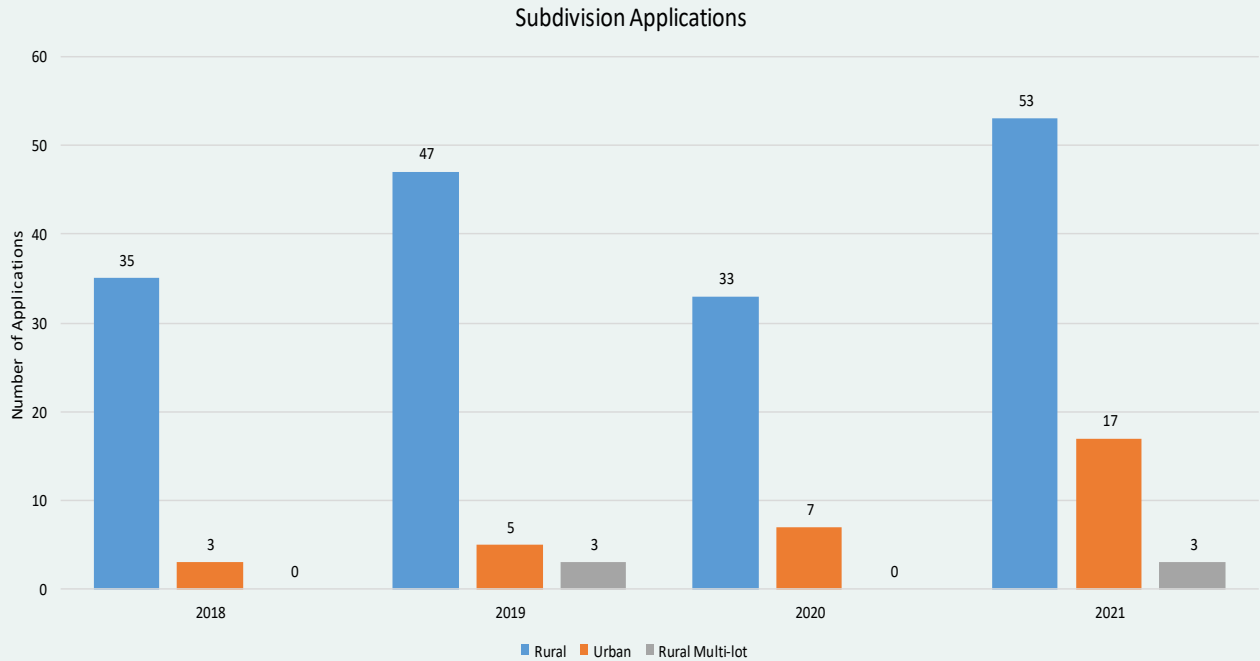
### Approved Development Permits



# 2021 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Subdivisions

Subdivision applications have increased steadily these past few years for both rural and urban areas. This number is a direct indication of the population growth of the County.



Subdivision in progress.



# 2021 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## PROJECTS & INFRASTRUCTURE

### Asset Management

Mackenzie County received a grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in the amount of \$50,000. This grant will be utilized for a Rural Road Study (RRS) for our municipality. During the summer, staff will be collecting data on our county roads and entering it into MuniSight. This data collection will include traffic counts on some urban roads but is more focused on rural roads. The County will be operating a multi-lane bidirectional traffic statistic gathering device for the RRS.



MuniSight is the software that Mackenzie County has been using for Asset Management. Asset data entry has already begun on critical assets within the County. This is a slow and steady process with multiple departments collaborating on data collection. The Asset Management data will benefit the County with budgeting for future asset replacement and mitigating loss of service on failing assets.



### La Crete North Sanitary Trunk Sewer

Phase 1 is the first out of three phases that includes a sanitary sewer-servicing concept which will service the following sanitary sub-basins within the La Crete:

- Section 16-106-15-W5M
- West half of 15-106-W5M

Phase 1 will roughly include 2885 m of gravity mains ranging in diameter and depth. There will be a new lift station required near the lagoon, along with a short force main that will service the sanitary collection for Phases 1,2 and 3 developments in the Hamlet of La Crete. This project is not included in the 2022 budget but an offsite levy bylaw has been passed to recoup funds for the project.

# 2021 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Storm Pond A

Storm Pond “A” and the ditch to the South of 109<sup>th</sup> Avenue were needed due to the existing drainage problems in the servicing area, the current development activities which were magnifying the drainage problems and anticipated future growth of the area. The solution is to direct runoff to series of ponds, named A, B & C. Pond A will connect with B through an equalization pipe and function as one pond. Any discharge from Pond A will flow east through ditches and culverts into Pond C. Controlled discharge from Pond C will be directed east to the lagoon site.

Construction has begun on Storm Pond “A” and there is no proposed construction timeline for Ponds B or C. Pond “A” will function as intended even without the completion of the future ponds, but the overall storage capacity is significantly reduced.



# 2021 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## UTILITIES

The Utilities Department is responsible for managing the water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer systems. Operationally this includes water and wastewater treatment, distribution and collection maintenance programs like hydrant flushing, sewer flushing and valve exercising. Other areas of operations include account connects/disconnects, meter installs and repairs. The department also plans for growth by following consumption and population trends to secure water supply and ensure that infrastructure and services are prepared for the growth within in the County.

Under provincial regulations the department is required to operate in accordance with the Alberta Environment Protection and Enhancement Act, Water Act, Potable Water Regulation, as well as Code of Practice for Wastewater Systems Using a Wastewater Lagoon. Additionally, we are also required to operate within the Federal requirements such as the Fisheries Act and Wastewater Effluent Regulations.

In 2021, our department worked on several water projects throughout the County. The La Crete Water Treatment Plant communications tower was replaced with a 50-foot higher tower in order to have better communication to rural truck fills, wells and booster stations along with fire department communications.

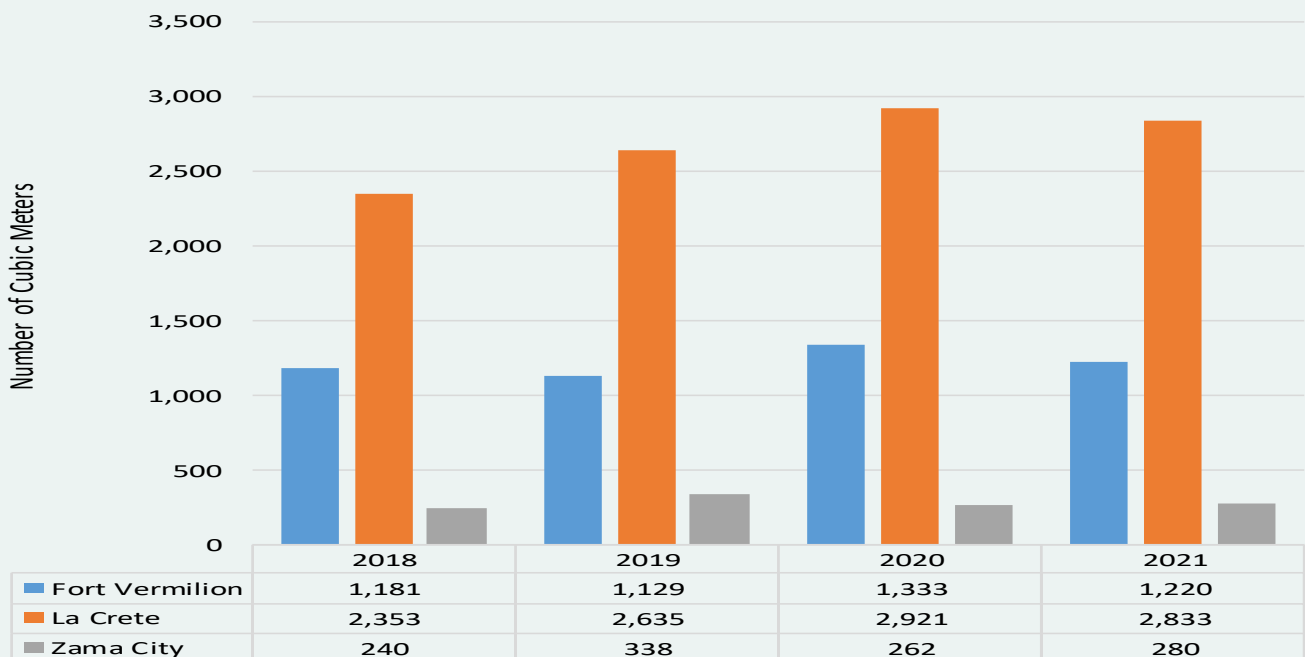
The Zama Water Treatment Plant Upgrade which replaces old infrastructure is in progress and expecting completion by the end of 2022.

In Fort Vermilion we are continuing to correct water service freezing issues by increasing ground cover, insulating or combination thereof. This will help us conserve more water through the elimination of trickle systems. The Fort Vermilion Truck Fill received pumps in order to service more rural customers south of Fort Vermilion that are currently being fed by La Crete. This would take some pressure off of the La Crete Water Treatment Plant.

### Utility Services Rendered - 2021

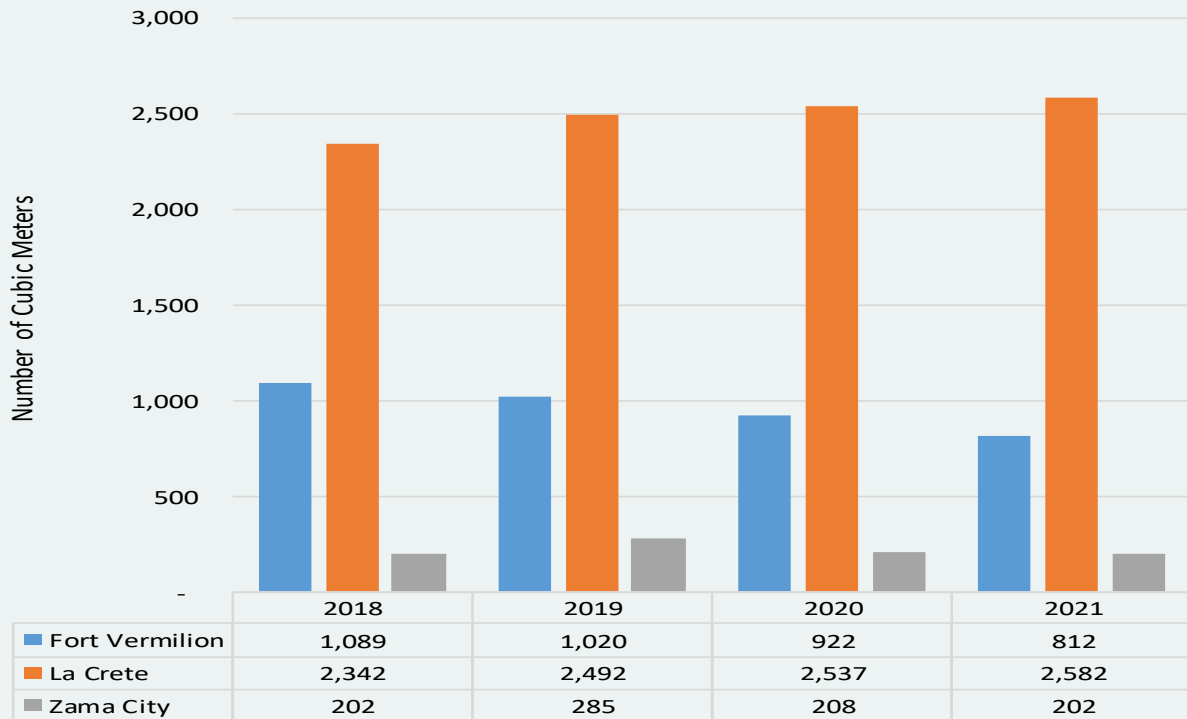
- New Installs = 53
- Meter Changes = 189
- Water Meter Service Calls = 285
- CC Locates/Repairs/On or Off = 119
- Miscellaneous Service Calls = 63
- Miscellaneous Sewer = 20
- Main Service Line Tie In = 0
- CC Service Tie In = 24
- Rural Service Tie In = 15

Treated Water - Single Day Maximum

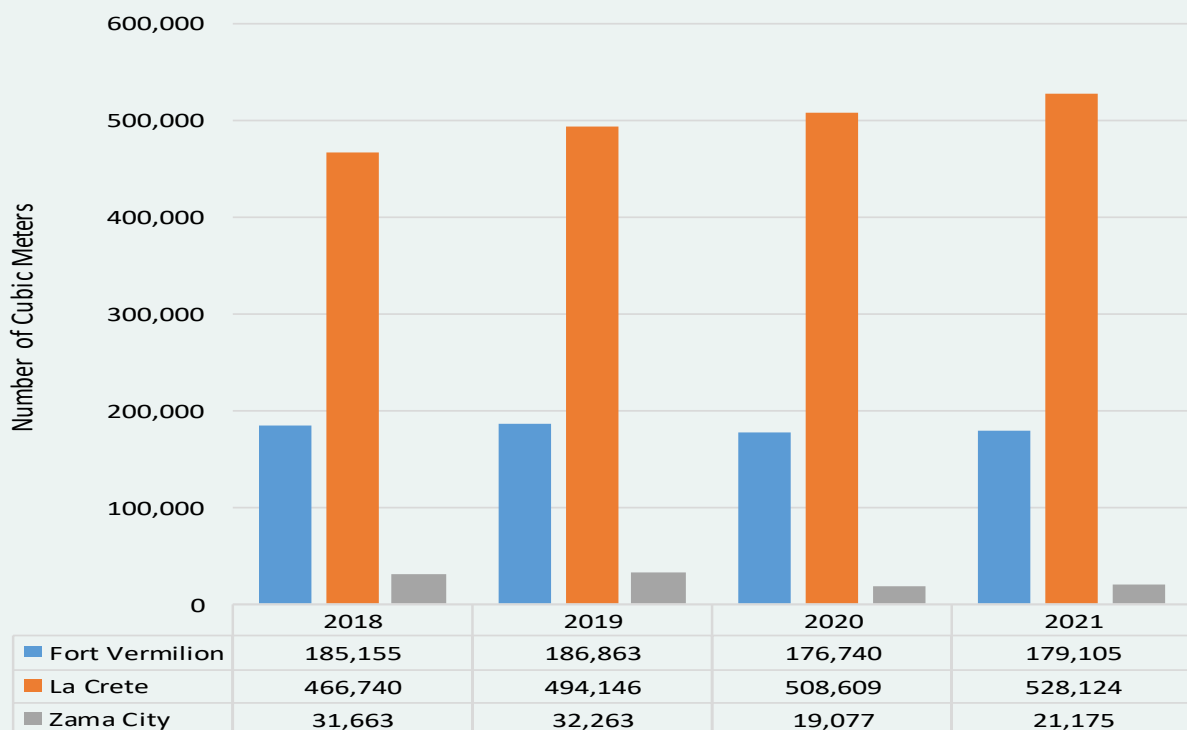


# 2021 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Treated Water - 3-day Peak Average



## Treated Water - Annual Total



# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

## AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD (ASB)



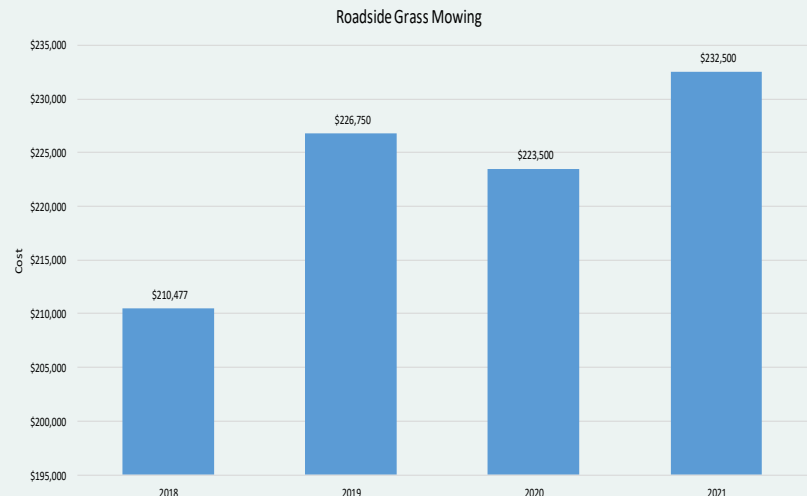
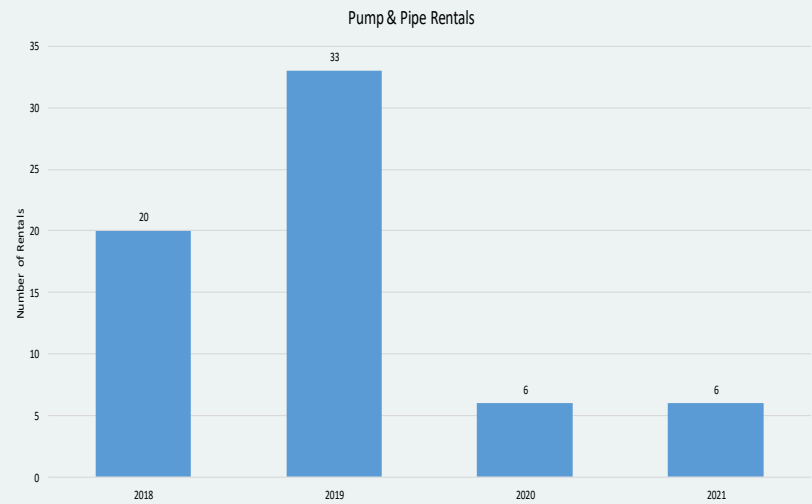
Mackenzie County's Agricultural Service Board (ASB) consists of two municipally appointed Councillors and three municipally appointed members at Large.

ASBs are established under the Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act and are responsible for administering and enforcing the provincial agricultural related acts; Weed Control Act, Agriculture Pest Act, Soil Conservation Act, Livestock Disease Act, and the Agricultural Service Board Act. This is achieved through our business plan (available on the Mackenzie County website) where goals and strategies are outlined. The business plan is updated on a regular basis, but our main goals remain the same.

- Encourage development of new value-added agricultural farms and agri-businesses.
- Promote sustainable agricultural policies and practices.
- Strong internal policies and programs to support responsible agricultural land development.
- Appropriate land uses within the County.
- Continuing agricultural land expansion.

The ASB works closely and provides financial assistance to Mackenzie Applied Research Association (MARA).

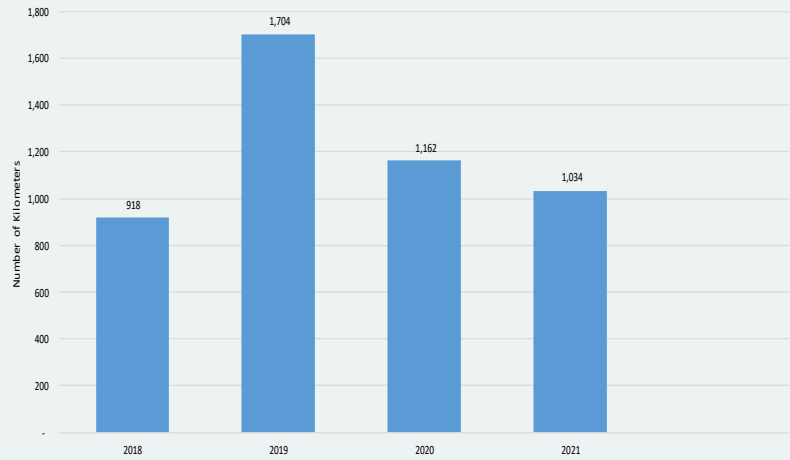
MARA coordinates and conducts all applied agricultural and environmental research and provides extension services to local agricultural producers all from their farm in Fort Vermilion. This research is greatly beneficial for all producers in Mackenzie County in all aspects of agriculture operations. As a non profit, MARA relies heavily on Grants supplied by Mackenzie County. These Grants include a continuous \$50,000 operating grant and also a \$10,000 environmental streaming grant that is in budget until 2025.



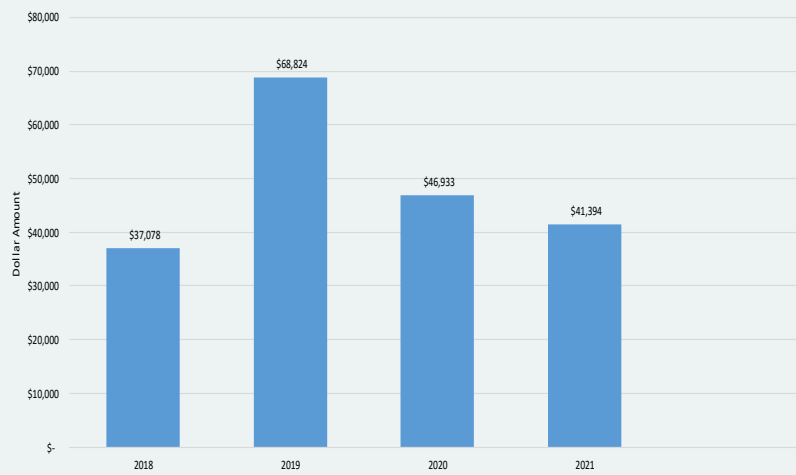


# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

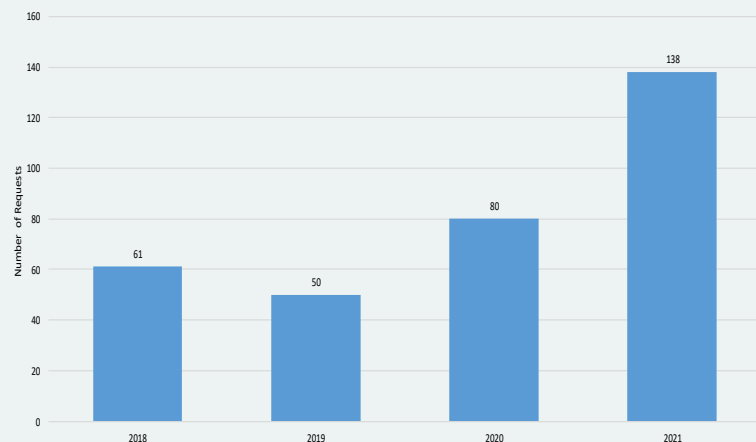
Roadside Spraying - Kilometers Covered



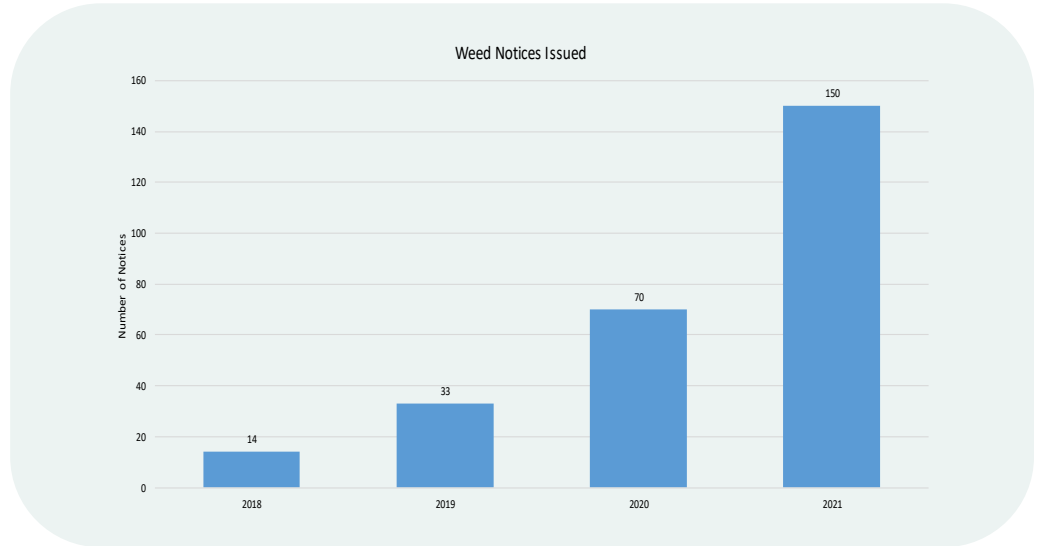
Roadside Spraying - Cost



"Do-Not-Spray" Requests



# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES



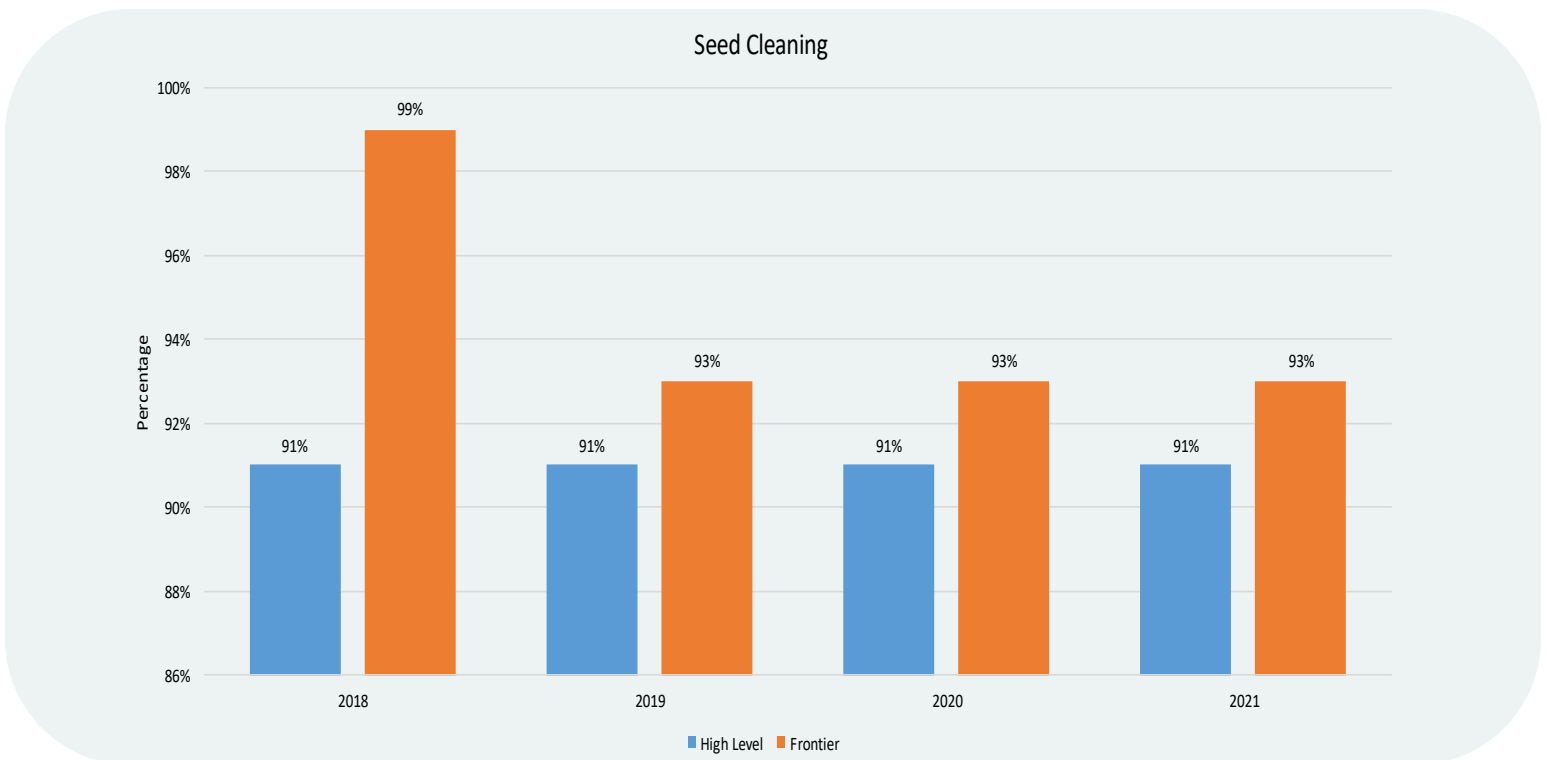
## Seed Cleaning Plant Inspections

Licenses are issued to Seed Cleaning Plants under the authority of the Weed Control Act. The purpose of licensing is to protect users from the spread of weeds due to faulty practices, design or maintenance of seed cleaning plants.

Plants are rated in two categories:

1. The design, maintenance and operation of the plant relating to the prevention of cross contamination of seeds.
2. The quality of the end product or seed produced.

The chart shows the scores of the High Level Seed Cleaning Co-op and the Frontier Seed Cleaning Co-op inspections. Plants must achieve at least 50% to operate.



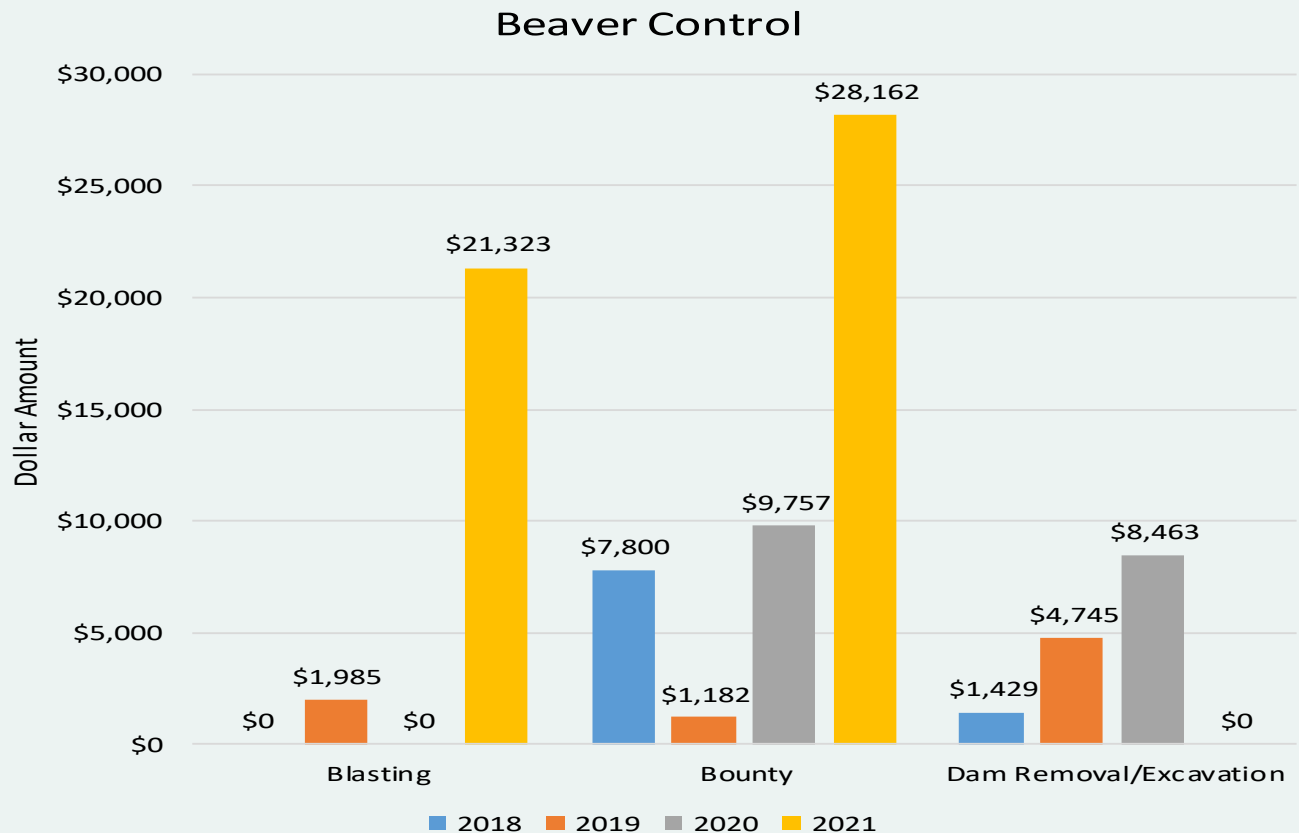
# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

## Beaver Control

The County has a beaver bounty program to help agricultural producers deal with problem beavers that are flooding their agricultural land.

When a complaint is received from a landowner, the Agricultural Fieldman will inspect the area and decide which method of dam removal is appropriate (backhoe or blasting). Members from one of the two Local Trappers Associations will remove the beaver from the problem area to help ensure that the problem dam will not be recurring. The Local Trapper's Association receives a \$50 bounty for each beaver tail collected from problem areas.

In 2021, 85 beaver dams were removed to alleviate flooding.



# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Mackenzie County continues to collaborate with Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) to improve and sustain economic development success in the region. The Regional Economic Development for Northwest Alberta (REDI) formed in 2002, is celebrating their 20th Anniversary in 2022!

REDI is one of nine Provincial recognized Economic Alliances. This registered not-for-profit is made up of Mackenzie County, Town of High Level, Town of Rainbow Lake, Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement, La Crete Chamber of Commerce, Fort Vermilion Board of Trade, High Level Chamber, Zama Chamber Committee, Northern Lakes College, Community Futures Northwest Alberta. The main source of revenue for REDI is the Provincial partnership funding and membership fees.



REDI has Six Pillars that they focus on; **Agriculture, Forestry, Energy, Transportation, Tourism and Communities**

We urge you to visit the [www.rediregion.ca](http://www.rediregion.ca) website as there is so much information available there. Videos, community profiles, and project updates. Whether you are an employer, a new business, a business looking to relocate to our region, a entrepreneur with a business idea or a citizen who loves the Mackenzie Region, you will find something for you and probably learn a few things along the way.

**Vision:** REDI will be the region of choice for current and future generations. We will boast a sustained and diversified economy that creates prosperity and opportunity for all residents. REDI will achieve this vision through a vibrant economy that capitalizes on abundant natural resources, promotes strong business relationships, and supports cooperative partnerships.

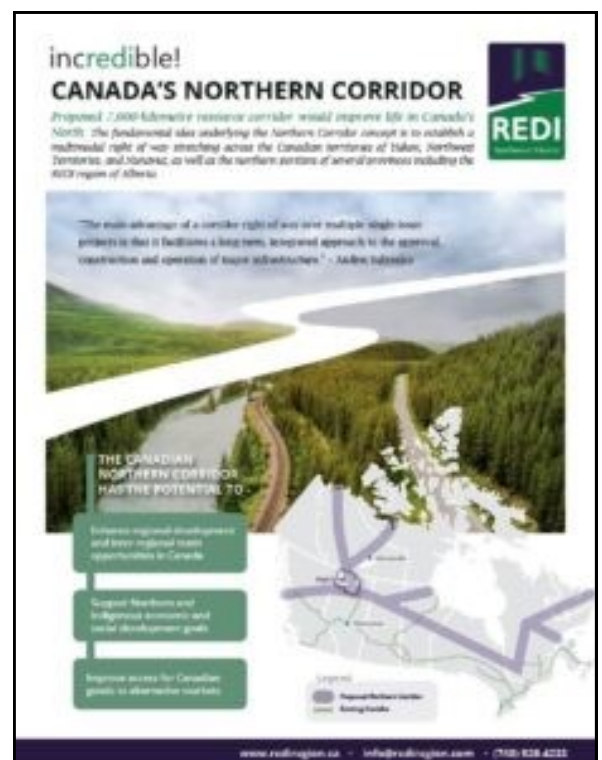
**Mission:** To promote, support and enhance economic growth and diversification in northwest Alberta through regional cooperation and partnerships.

## REDI

### Economic Transportation Corridors

Transportation is one of the biggest challenges of the REDI Region and over the years projects from Rail, to the extension of Hwy 58 West have been undertaken. In 2021, REDI was given the chance to be a part of a Provincial Economic Corridor Task Force, our Chair ended up being the Northern Team Lead. The Recommendation Report is now in the hands of the Provincial Cabinet.

University of Calgary's School of Public Policy has amped up their work on Northern Corridors as well, and ties in with the Provincial work. The proposed 7,000-kilometre resource corridor would improve life in Canada's North. The fundamental idea underlying the Northern Corridor concept is to establish a multimodal right of way stretching across the Canadian Territories; Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, as well as the northern portions of several provinces, including the REDI region of Alberta. As the REDI Region is a center connection point in the proposed Northern Corridors, REDI is working on ensuring that we have what we need to ensure that the REDI Region is ready.



# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

## REDI (continued)

### Keep Alberta Rolling—Mackenzie Region Film Ready

Filed entirely in the REDI Region, Guitar Lessons, The Movie, starring Corb Lund and Conway Kootenay makes great use of some local talent and locations. Guitar Lessons, The Movie is set to be released late fall of 2022, you can see the imdb listing at this address <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt15288700/>



The Alberta Film industry is heating up and additional incentives around filming in Alberta are being rolled out, REDI created TV and film attraction documents to showcase the Northwest region and encourage the Alberta screen industry to undertake film shoots in the north. The goal was to increase awareness of local amenities, filming locations and create fantastic opportunities for local job creation, economic diversity, and foreign investment. We hope that KeepAlbertaRolling.ca will continue showcasing and promoting our region for future film locations. The next step is to work with our Municipalities to create seamless rules, policies and permits for the film industry.

### Mackenzie County Organic Success Program

Organic Alberta's focus on Mackenzie County stems from our region's capabilities of growing organic crops. In 2018, the number of organic farms grew from 180 to 272. Mackenzie County has 40% of the total organic operations in the province. The Mackenzie County Organic Success program's goal is to provide support for local producers to have success in crop production, marketing and diversification.

The program holds various activities tailored towards the region's farming community. Organic Alberta holds monthly grain marketing information sessions as well as field days, workshops, trade shows and conferences dealing with organic crops. Sharing knowledge on marketing strategies and real-world agronomics. For those that prefer a phone call rather than the internet, they can call in every second Wednesday of every month to get updates on crop markets, and hear from the buyers and processors on what they are looking for.

One of REDI's main pillars is Agriculture and have a robust list of Agriculture projects from Hemp to Oats. REDI will be investigating the potential for Pulse Crops in our region, both harvesting and processing opportunities. Maximizing the Partnership with Mackenzie Agriculture to promote our region, the future of Agriculture is bright!



### Tourism & Communities

With the Provincial Tourism Strategy projecting to double the current tourism GDP, attracting and building tourism investment to the region is paramount to ensure that the north becomes part of that doubling and benefits. REDI works closely with Mackenzie Frontier Tourist Association (MFTA) and is utilizing their "My Freedom, My Frontier. Tourism Opportunities Report" to promote tourism opportunities and partnerships within the Region. To build on the success of our communities and industries, REDI will be creating a series of promotional videos. These videos will highlight our region's tourism, industries, and residential centers and will be used as a component of our promotional packages.



# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

## REDI (continued)

### Mackenzie Ski Hill

The Ski Hill Study was one of the first projects that REDI worked on and with determination of our region and the partnerships fostered the Ski Hill is now a reality, proving that it might take a while, but staying the course and not giving up proves beneficial for all. In 2008, REDI created the Northern Alberta Downhill Ski Facility Site Selection Study, highlighting the best ski hill location in Northwest Alberta. Then in 2017, the Mackenzie Ski Hill Society was formed, and REDI contributed towards the cost of a development master plan in the Buffalo Head Hills. Within a short time, the societies' ski hill vision has come to be a reality, with the construction of a winter recreation ski trail network, a base area, including day lodge, parking lots and maintenance area. The ski hill was open to the public this past winter. Crowds of excited outdoor enthusiasts enjoyed skiing the slopes. A ski hill development video was commissioned to showcase the collaboration between the Mackenzie Ski Hill Society and REDI.



# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Alberta Northwest Species at Risk Committee (NWSAR) was formed in response to the Government of Alberta's 2016 Action Plan to recover Boreal Caribou across the Province. Of note, the Action Plan included the permanent protection of 1.8 million hectares of land in Northwest Alberta – which encompassed land within the geographic boundaries of NWSAR's five municipal members. Since the formation of the NWSAR Committee, the committee members and administration have worked tirelessly to ensure local voices and perspectives are included in higher-level government-led decision-making regarding species at risk recovery planning and policy. That governments are utilizing the best quality and current socio-economic and environmental datasets, when planning for long-term multi-species management and/or recovery.

NWSAR is a proactive Committee made up of our Municipal Founding members and eleven Associate Municipal members. In addition, external expertise includes; Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Alberta Trappers Association, Natural Resources Canada as well as industry partners in Tourism, Agriculture, Forestry and Energy. NWSAR directly helped change the course of our future in Northwest Alberta.

# ALBERTA NWSAR COMMITTEE

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NORTHWEST SPECIES AT RISK



# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING (continued)

Local voices and local knowledge. This is one of the aspects that collectively as a region was critical for the Province to include in their decision making, NWSAR has secured seats at the Provincial Sub-Regional planning tables. The Sub-Regional Plans take into account much more land than the Caribou ranges, the planning areas are outlined on the maps in red. These Task Forces will draft recommendations for planning that will set the course for land-use long term and NWSAR representatives are one of the local voices ensuring that our local knowledge is included and that the plans create space for working-landscapes and focus on multi-species preservation and growth.



<<<<Bistcho Sub-Regional Plan Area

Chinchaga Sub-Regional Plan Area>>>>



The Bistcho Sub-Regional Plan is completed and the Chinchaga Sub-Regional Plan is underway and the goal is to be wrapped up by year-end.

This past year the NWSAR completed a State of the Region report. The purpose of this State of the Region Report is to provide the socio-economic and environmental conditions of the NWSAR region as of 2020. This report is a working document that outlines the gaps in data that as a region we need to collectively work to fill. These datasets are used by other levels of Government in their decision making, along with our municipal governments, businesses, non-profits and service entities. This report builds on government statistics and documents, and provides an understanding of critical economic, social and environmental needs, challenges and opportunities within the NWSAR region. Environmental data and analyses demonstrate the current environmental state and the natural vulnerabilities of the region, which have direct relationships to the socio-economic landscape of the NWSAR region.

The NWSAR has also shared the results of the Year 1 Caribou Range Research which was conducted to support the acquisition of new and more accurate data related to Woodland Caribou. Our Forestry Partners supported and helped fund this 3-year project. NWSAR worked with the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) and the Alberta Trappers Association (ATA) to deploy remote cameras and autonomous (audio) recording units to collect data on ungulates and predators for density estimation in two Woodland Caribou ranges in Northwest Alberta; Chinchaga and Caribou Mountains.

The NWSAR reports, findings and information are all available on the NWSAR website <https://albertanwsar.ca/>



# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

## LIBRARIES

**MISSION STATEMENT** *To enrich lives and communities through universal access to knowledge, lifelong learning and literacy.*

**VISION STATEMENT** *To develop strong libraries that are dynamic community destinations for knowledge, inspiration, innovation and cultural awareness.*



The Mackenzie County Library Board (MCLB) was jointly created by the Province of Alberta and Mackenzie County on November 12, 1998. We are governed under the Provincial Libraries Act which sets out the powers and duties of the Board, and gives the Board full management and control of public library services within Mackenzie County. The Alberta Libraries Act charges library boards with providing 'comprehensive and efficient service' to their communities, while allowing the ability to adapt and be responsive to community needs

The MCLB has three member libraries located in the Hamlets of Fort Vermilion, La Crete and Zama City. The MCLB has a reciprocal partnership agreement with the Town of High Level Library to offer services across jurisdictional lines. The MCLB partners with the La Crete Library and Zama City Library Societies to provide day to day operation of their respective libraries, through detailed operating agreements. The MCLB recently assumed the operation of the Fort Library in conjunction with the Librarian.

Over the past 10 years we have seen a steady growth in library patronage, awareness and support throughout the region. **In 2022 our combined patron cardholders rose to over 6,782, which represents 53% of our total County population, with the above average under 18 population and a high rural population this number is truly extraordinary, and an envy of many of our Provincial peers!** This is so much more than a number... it means that 53% of our population walks through our doors, accesses library services from home, finds value in the services that we provide and is engaged in our regional library services. We are so proud of this and it has taken a lot of dedication and work to get to this point, and we aren't done yet! We will continue to strive to steadily increase patronage, support and awareness of the importance of libraries. The next big project on the list is assisting the La Crete Library Society with building an amazing addition to their space. This will enhance the collection space but more importantly provide the critical programming space that they are lacking.

We are not part of a larger library system, we are continuing to build our own process of delivery including in-house as well as a suite of electronic library services, using a team approach and within a budget that is sustainable. We are doing something right! Our patronage numbers and support that we have show that. Our libraries are all uniquely positioned to be strong community hubs, that foster a sense of community and enable lifelong learning and barrier free access. Our library team works together to foster local and regional partnerships and build relationships to enhance all that libraries have to offer.

### Mackenzie County Libraries 2021 Statistics La Crete ~ Fort Vermilion ~ Zama City

In 2021 our libraries had over 104,875 trackable checkouts (up 12,269 from 2020). That is an average of 287 items a day for every-day of the year!

The libraries added 3,559 new items last year. Bringing the total in-house collections to 82,543 items! With the ability of Inter-Library Loan between libraries there is something for everyone!

Continue to add electronic services and non-traditional lending like cake pans, snowshoes, games, puzzles and even items like a jerky gun and an egg incubator!

In 2021 Our Funding came from:

69% Municipal 29% Provincial 2% Self-Generated  
(Self-Generated down from 14% from 2019)

The libraries were open 2,647 hours in 2021, even through COVID restrictions we served our patrons!

Services delivered by 13 dedicated staff, our amazing Library Society members and even through COVID, 100's of Volunteer Hours!

More home-schooling and community supports! Growing community support of our programs, outreach and non-conventional lending continues to amaze our library peers across the Province!

2022 total budget for all our libraries is \$361,920 which operates Three Stand-Alone Libraries, MCLB Board & Regional-Wide funding and our partnership agreement with the High Level Library.

# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

## TOURISM

Mackenzie County proudly supports and partners with Mackenzie Frontier Tourist Association, who is celebrating 10-Years this year!



MFTA is a not-for-profit, industry led, collaboratively managed organization. With the full support of founding municipal partners: Mackenzie County, Town of High Level, and Town of Rainbow Lake add to that the many business members across the region, Mackenzie Frontier is becoming a leader in Tourism in Alberta. MFTA works in partnership with Travel Alberta and other tourism destination marketing organizations such as Mighty Peace Tourism and Northwest Territories Tourism to partner and promote our beautiful corner known as the Mackenzie Frontier. MFTA uses local photographers, writers and designers. Watch for the MFTA features in every edition of the MoveUp Magazine showcasing tourism operators from across the Frontier.

If you are interested in becoming a Tourism Operator or add on to your existing tourism business, the Tourism Partnership & Development Report that is available of MFTA website may be able to help.

You can find publications about the Mackenzie Frontier at County offices, museums and businesses across the region or online at [www.mackenziefrontier.com](http://www.mackenziefrontier.com). You can follow MFTA on Facebook and Instagram.



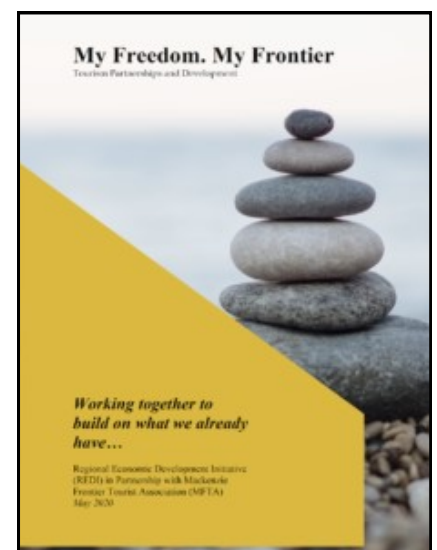
**My Freedom. My Frontier. Tourism Partnerships and Development (Report Available on MFTA Website, a great resource for anyone looking at starting or expanding a Tourism business)**

The Provincial Tourism Strategy is targeting to increase tourism revenue to 20 Billion by 2030, that is double what exists today. Tourism in the Frontier is building and hasn't seen the growth that other parts of the Province has but the possibilities are endless.

A tourist is defined A tourist is defined as someone who travels more than 40 km one way from their place of residence. With a region the size of New Brunswick, our residents are tourists too when they attend events or explore the region.

The 'tourism mindset' is the first step in creating an atmosphere of regional and community buy in and investment whether that be fostering ideas, financial, manpower or visitor support. **Something we see as ordinary; some would view as extraordinary and would love to experience it...** keeping this concept and 1) taking what we have, know and love; 2) develop, package and promote these ideas; 3) using experiences, events and facilities is one of the keys to success.

Tourism growth across the Frontier could and will look different depending upon which area of the Frontier you happen to be in. As the region is the size of an Atlantic Province... diversity, differing partnerships, culture and ideas are abundant... from Rainbow Lake to Fox Lake and from Zama City to Wadlin Lake the Frontier is a beautiful place full of remarkable people and amazing possibilities!



# PROVINCIALY FUNDED PROJECTS

## NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mackenzie County has been working closely with the Government of Alberta to increase development in the region. The following projects are provincially funded.

### La Crete Maternity and Community Health Centre

The Government of Alberta announced it is providing \$79 million for the new La Crete Maternity and Community Health Centre, including \$46 million in support over three years from the 2022 budget.

The La Crete Maternity and Community Health Centre will be attached to the existing continuing care facility. The health centre will provide services for mothers that are considered low risk pregnancies to give birth with support from midwives, within their community. Other services for mothers that will be provided at the health centre will include ultrasounds, prenatal classes, and a lactation program.

The health centre will be operated by Covenant Health, which will include offices for family doctors, mental health services and therapists, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. A larger EMS response facility and residential apartments for clinical staff will also be added.

### Highway 88 High Load Corridor

A network of highways across North America are designated as High Load Corridors. A Government of Alberta study recently identified that Highway 88 should become part of this network. As a result, the two blue bridges along the highway need to be replaced in order to accommodate oversized loads. This work is expected to begin in fall 2022 and be completed by end of 2023.

### Highway 697 Bridge at Tompkins Landing

The Alberta Government announced in 2020 the potential to construct a bridge over the Peace River near La Crete to replace the ferry at Tompkins Landing. The ferry during the warmer months and the ice bridge during the winter are the only means of crossing at this location. These seasonal means of crossing results in the crossing being closed for 30% of the year, depending on the weather. Fog, wait times and mechanical breakdowns also caused delays.

The expected cost of the bridge is \$200 million. A road user fee approach is being explored as a way to finance the project.

The province is currently in consultations regarding this project.



### Highway 88 Improvements

Alberta Transportation continues to invest on highways throughout our region. This summer they will be completing a rehabilitation and paving of a large portion of Highway 58, including many intersection improvements. The engineering for Highway 697 widening from La Crete to Highway 88 is also well underway, and this also includes several intersection improvements.