



**Mackenzie County**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

**FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER 31, 2022**

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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 2022.

The Report contains the Audited Financial Statements from 2022, highlights from various departments as well as statistics on multiple services provided by the County.

In this Report we are reflecting on 2022 and highlights of 2023.

Unfortunately 2022 started off with continued COVID restrictions that harmed so many families, individuals and businesses. The effects on mental health will be evident for years to come and unfortunately for some it was the final straw.

Mackenzie County chose to deal with the COVID situation in a manner that was quite different than the Federal and Provincial Governments, this was done in a spirit of openness and honesty. It is important to note that this was done with support from a strong majority of it's ratepayers.

Fortunately, in 2022, we witnessed the lifting of most COVID restrictions, bringing a sense of relief. My heartfelt wish and prayer are that both Albertans and Canadians will be spared from such experiences in the future. May those in positions of leadership be granted the wisdom to navigate whatever challenges lie ahead.

Regulations that restrict or completely prevent investment in parts of our municipality have certainly had a negative effect on our municipality, potential investors and investor confidence. We are actively working towards finding a solution to this problem.

Seeing continued provincial government downloading such as RCMP costs which is now close to a MILLION DOLLARS annually accompanied by cuts to grant funding that was previously used to fix and maintain roads and bridges forced Mackenzie County Council to make some decisions that weren't easy, cutting overdue planned, merited projects.

The burdensome federal government carbon tax, with its overreaching and unethical nature, has significantly impacted the operations of municipalities and businesses in Alberta, just as it affects hardworking taxpaying men and woman across the country. Its negative effects are felt on both household finances and business operations.

There is plenty of reason to be optimistic for the opportunities for success, today and in the future.

With the election of premier Smith, there is restored hope in having a government that puts its people first and will take a bold stand against the attacks all too frequently delivered by Ottawa.

2022 was a fairly slow year as far as projects are concerned. The Fort Vermilion mitigation and home relocation continues to move forward with a substantial completion date hopefully to be met by 2024.

Some minor road repairs, a few drainage projects and a few hamlet projects conclude 2022.

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).



WARD	NAME	SALARY	BENEFITS & ALLOWANCES	2022	2021
Ward 1	Josh Knelsen—Reeve	74,960	219	75,179	71,109
Ward 8	Walter Sarapuk—Deputy Reeve	34,940	2,056	36,996	35,728
Ward 2	Darrell Derksen	40,590	2,019	42,609	11,058
Ward 2	Anthony Peters	-	-	-	23,211
Ward 3	Peter Braun	47,570	4,434	52,004	53,414
Ward 4	David Driedger	40,940	4,103	45,043	42,127
Ward 5	Ernest Peters	34,650	3,788	38,438	33,548
Ward 6	Garrell Smith	38,540	2,019	40,559	10,001
Ward 6	Eric Jorgensen	-	-	-	40,557
Ward 7	Cameron Cardinal	68,050	5,458	73,508	60,134
Ward 9	Jacquie Bateman	35,150	219	35,369	33,219
Ward 10	Lisa Wardley	65,450	4,271	69,721	65,067
	Chief Administrative Officer	64,612	9,260	73,872	266,511
	Chief Administrative Officer - Contract	-	-	-	37,819
	Interim Chief Administrative Officer	143,155	24,420	167,575	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 (Fort Vermilion, La Crete, Zama)
Number of Dwelling Units .....	3,382
Number of Full-Time Positions .....	73
Number of Part-Time Positions .....	4
Number of Summer/Seasonal Positions .....	13
Length of Roads .....	2134 km
Length of Water Mains .....	174.9 km
Length of Wastewater Mains .....	73.6 km
Length of Storm Water Drains .....	11.6 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.) .....	70 (cost ≥ \$5,000/unit)



# MACKENZIE COUNTY: THE ORGANIZATION

## 2022—2023 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.

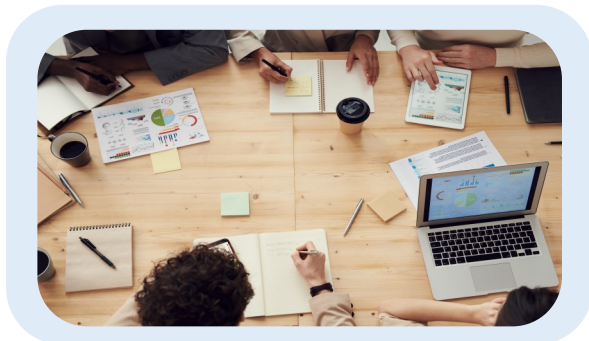
Council appoints Members-at-Large to various boards and committees depending on the committee terms of reference, either in an advisory capacity or as the result of statutory requirements. Some of these include the Municipal Planning Commission, Mackenzie County Library Board, Community Streetscape Committees, 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
- Flood Recovery Steering 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



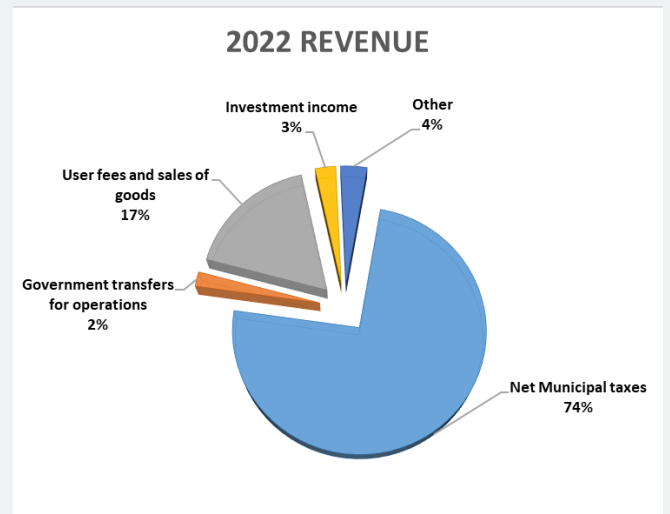
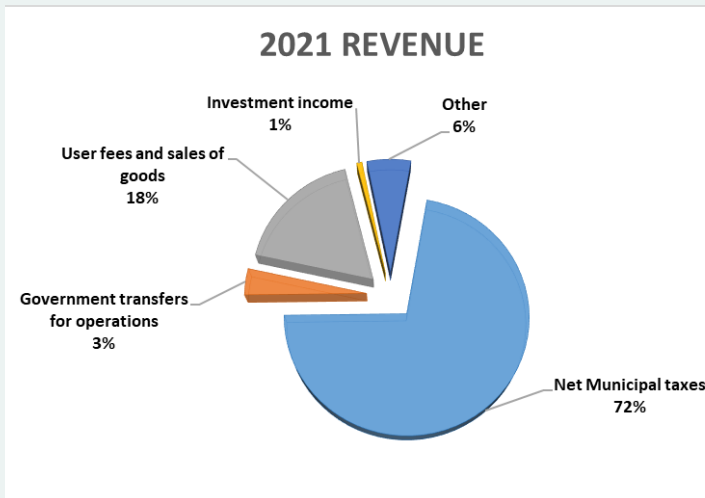
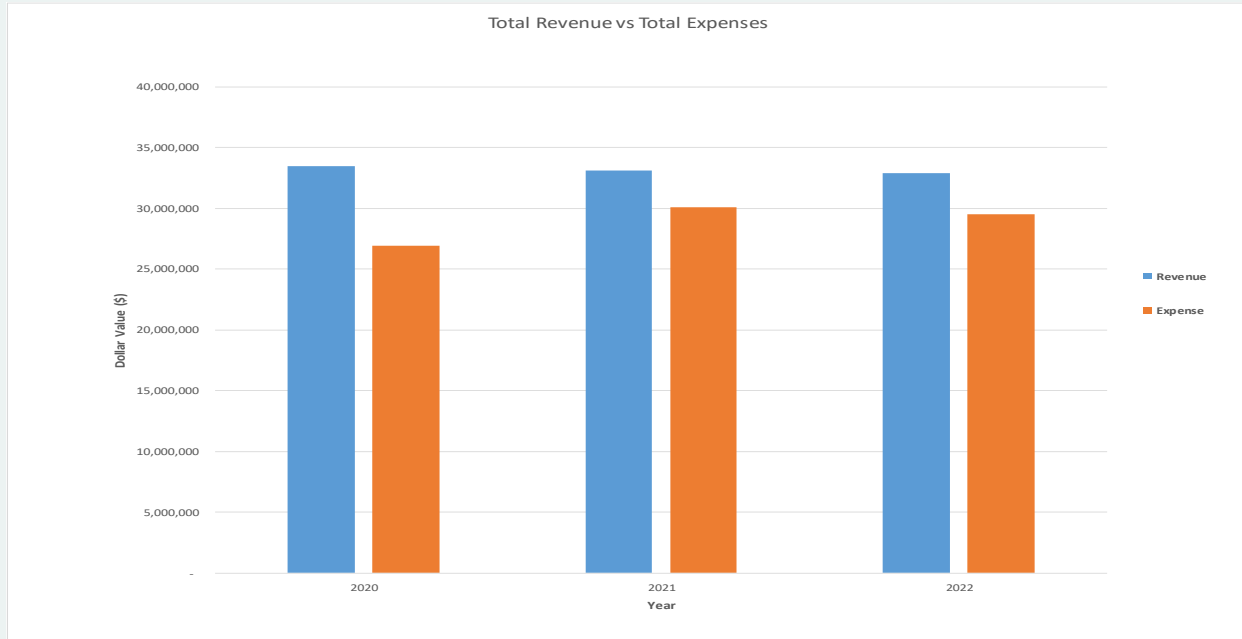
### External Boards/Committees

- Boreal Housing Foundation
- Community Futures Northwest
- FCSS Fort Vermilion
- FCSS La Crete
- FCSS Zama City
- Hay-Zama 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)
- Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP)
- The Northern Lights Forest Education Society
- Upper Hay Regional Forests Public Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Veterinary Services Incorporated (VSI)
- Water North Coalition (WNC)

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 2022 AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS

Below is a snapshot of the year end details for 2022. The deadline to submit our Audited Financial Statements to Alberta Municipal Affairs is May 1st, 2023. A copy of the 2022 Audited Financial Statement has been posted on our municipal website.



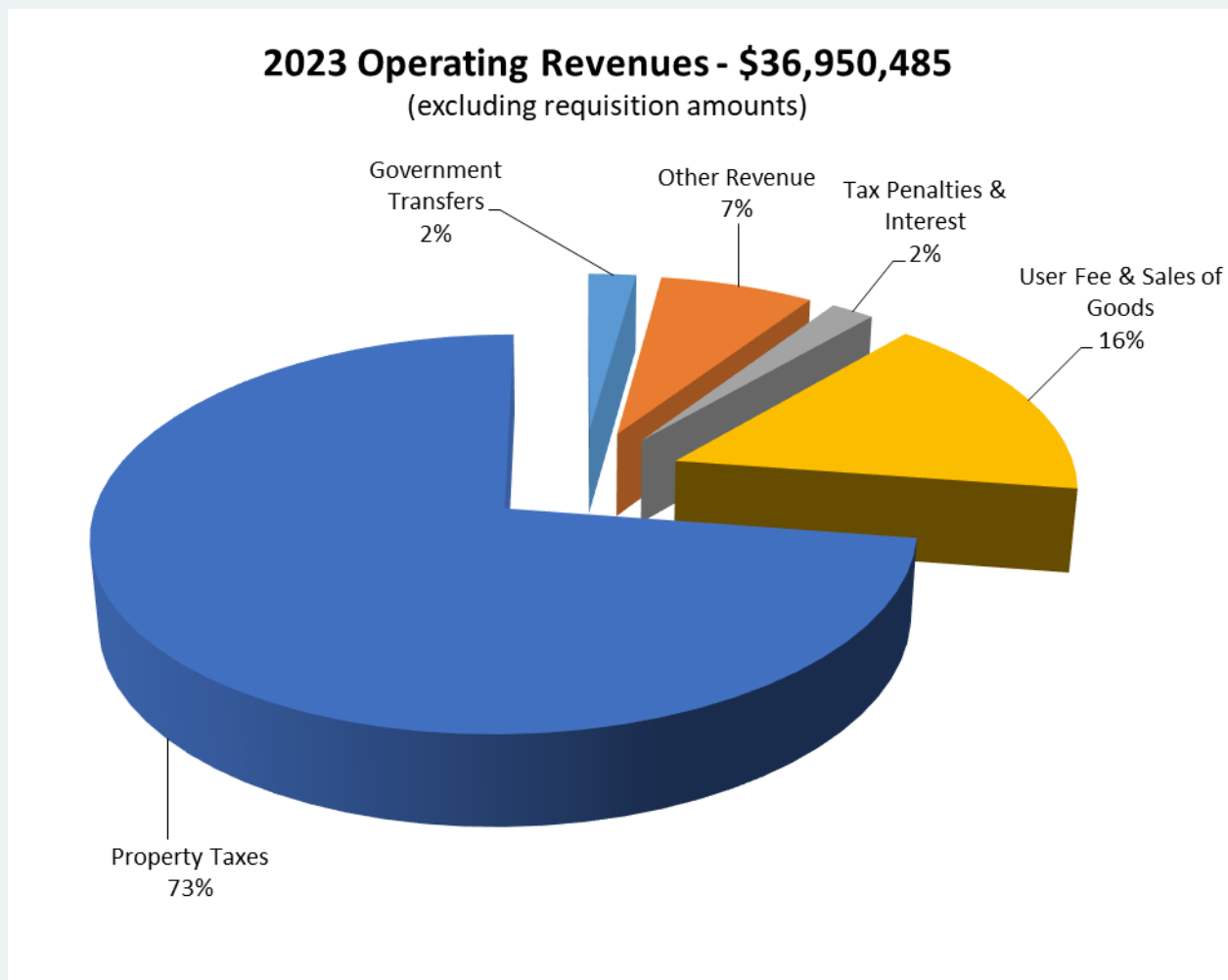
# 2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## 2023 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 2023 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 continued to develop the 2023 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 some reductions in government funding programs, while limiting the impact to the residential and non-residential mill rates. This is again a budget that prioritizes maintaining essential services and programs and supports initiatives to help decrease the burden on our residents unless services are chosen. This budget continues to be forward-thinking, ensuring our investments support community sustainability and a quality of life residents enjoy.

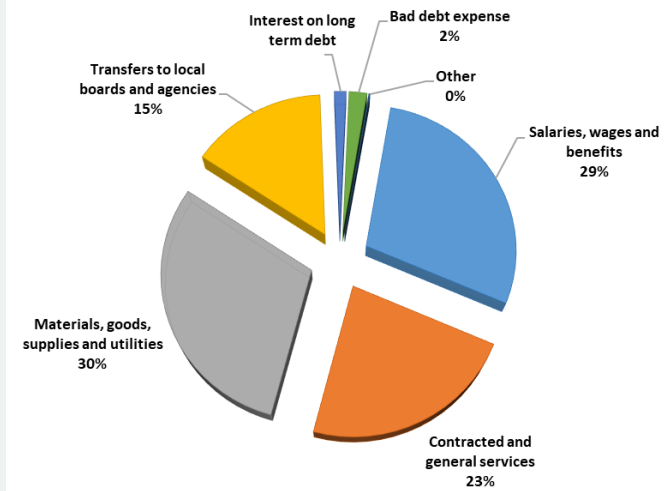
Total operating revenues are projected to be \$36.95 million (primarily due to growth and inflation).



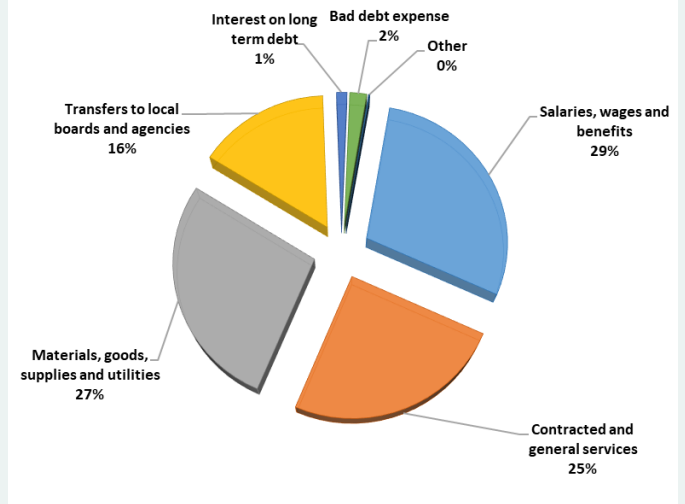


# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 2021 EXPENSES

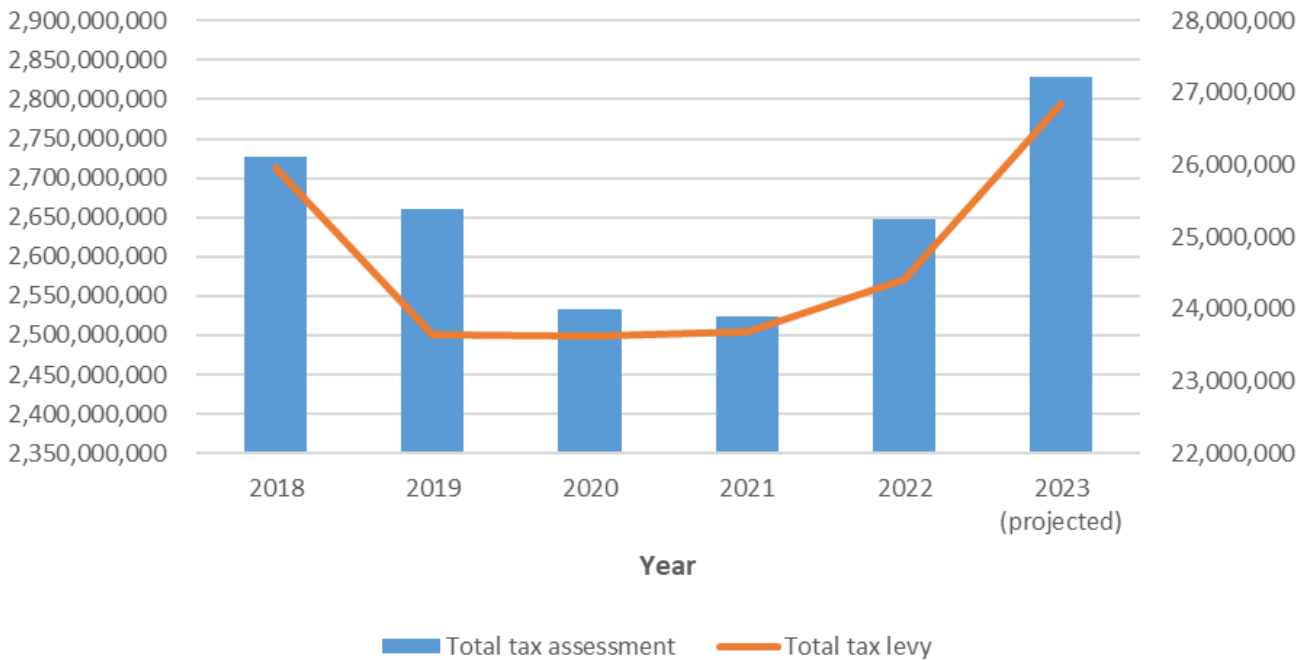


## 2022 EXPENSES



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. Municipal growth, and inflation increased assessment in the 2023 tax year.

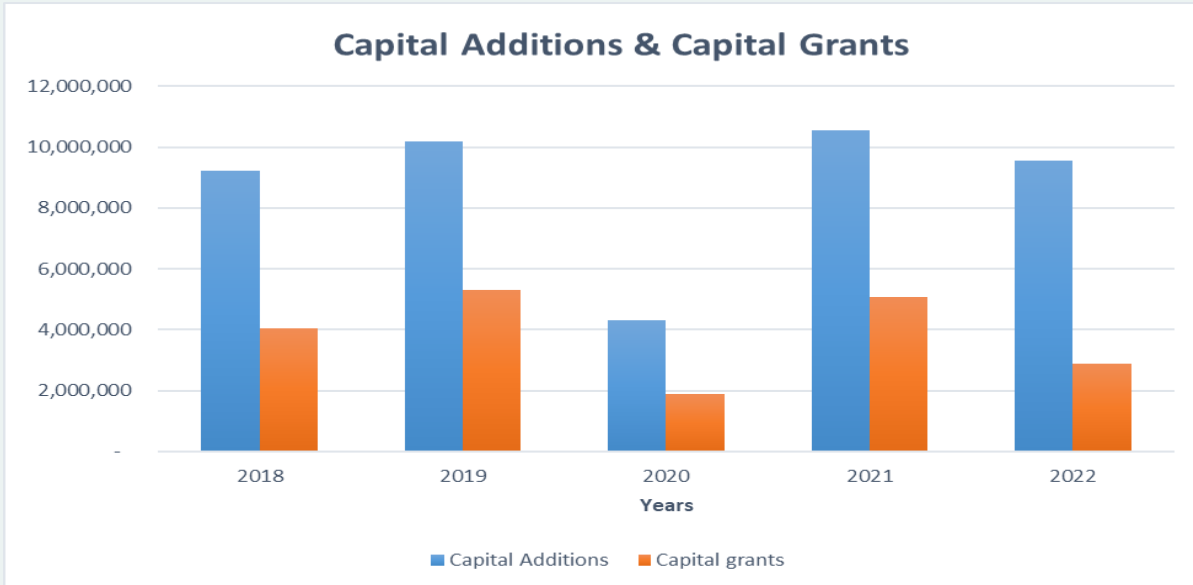
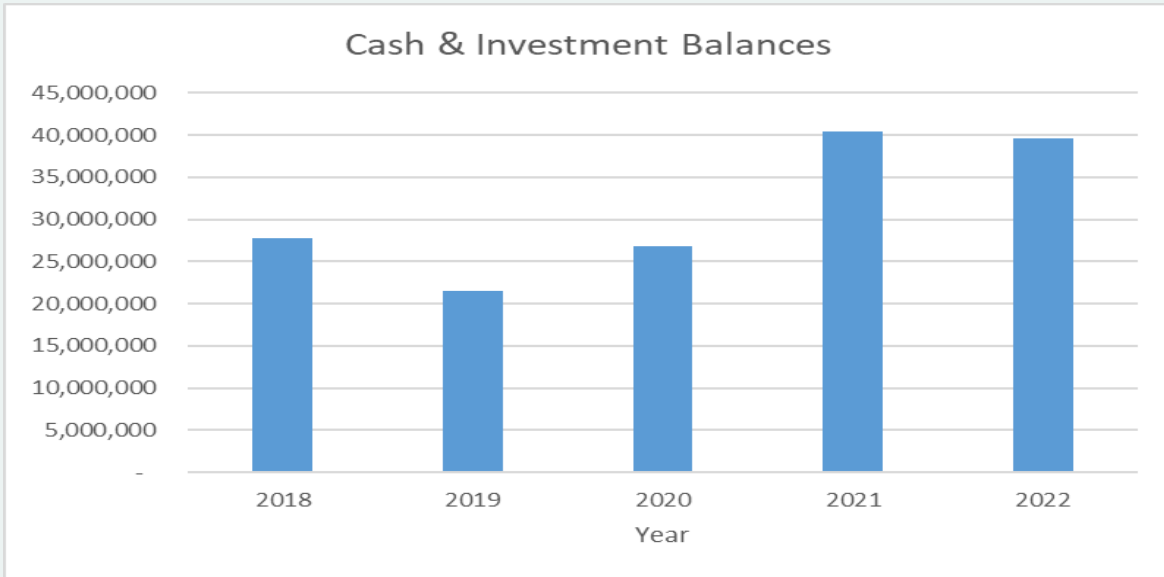
## Total Tax Levy vs Total Tax Assessment



# 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)

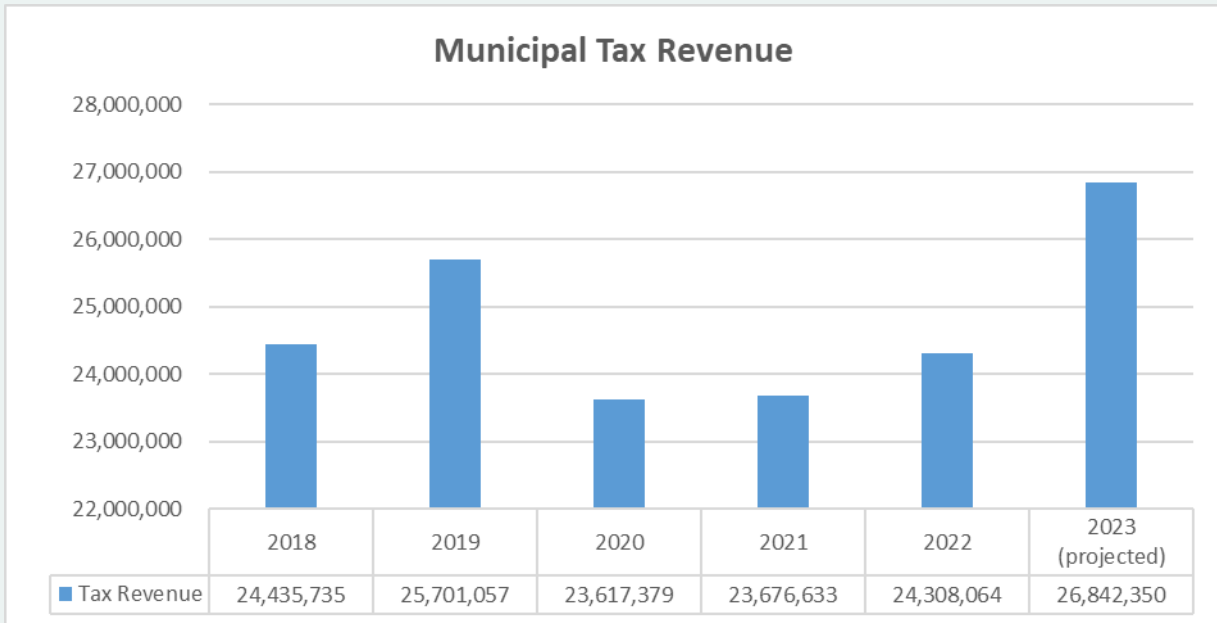
Under the MGA, municipalities are required to develop a 5 year capital plan. The municipality has chosen to budget for and fund these projects over numerous years as to not negatively impact one base year of any project.



## 2022 Significant Projects

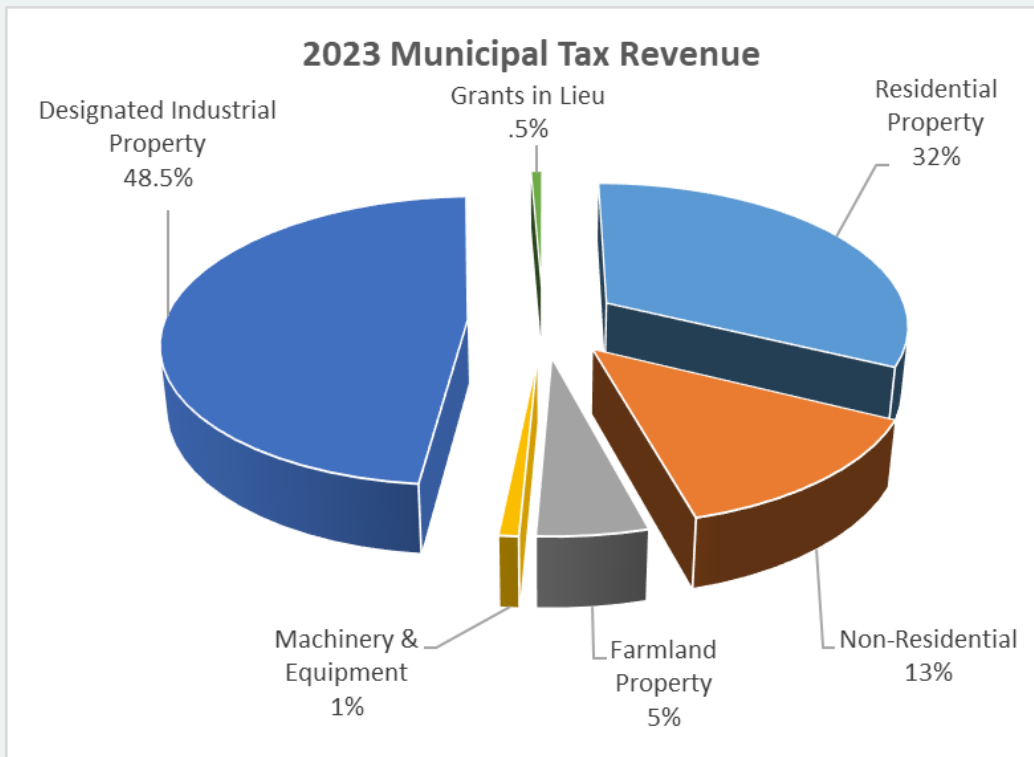
- Range Rd 181 Culvert Replacement
- 2 Electric Charging Stations (FV & LC)
- Bottle Filling Station La Crete Fire Dept.
- 10" pumps x 2
- Air conditioning Fort Vermilion Community Hall
- Electric Zamboni
- Air Conditioning & Heating—Zama Office/Library
- Waterline Oversizing Projects x 2

# 2023 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.



# 2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## 2023 OPERATING EXPENSES

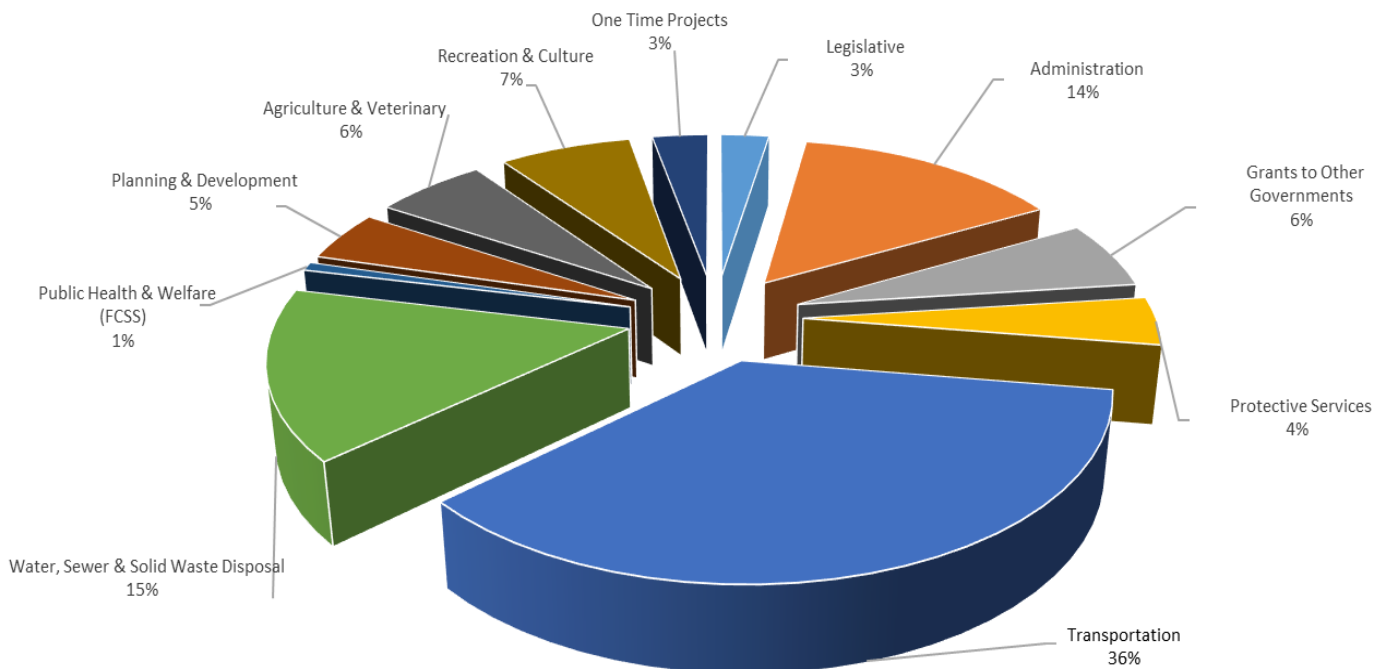
Total operating expenses, excluding requisition transfers but including amortization of tangible capital assets, are projected to be \$46.9 million, which is an overall 3.5% increase from 2022. The increase is primarily due to the increases in fuel, utilities, costs of goods & supplies, carbon tax and police funding.

The schools requisition transfer is \$6,379,443 (2022 - \$6,612,516), and there is no seniors lodge requisition transfer request in 2023, as the deficit was primarily funded by the provincial government (2022-\$815,695).

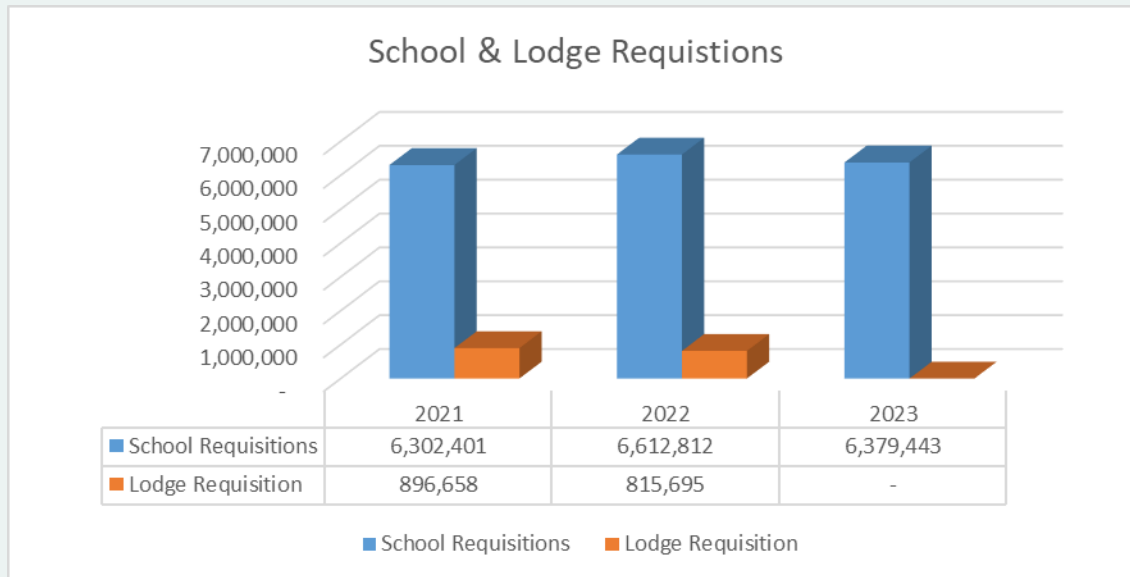
As non profit organizations play a large part in municipal recreation and support to residents, Council approved operating expense grants of \$669,450 to various non-profit groups and bursaries, \$373,353 to FCSS (Family and Community Support Services), a total of \$1,170,354 to 3 recreation boards, and \$262,082 to the Mackenzie Library Board operating 3 municipal libraries.

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 2023 transfer to these local governments is projected to be \$2,250,000.

2023 Operating Expenses



# 2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



## 2023 PROJECTS

### Administration

- ◆ Photocopier
- ◆ Dell Server

### Airports

- ◆ Heated Airport Storage Building (La Crete)

### Fire Department

- ◆ AFRRCs Radio System
- ◆ Thermal Imaging Search & Rescue Drone

### Transportation

- ◆ Buffalo Head Prairie/Blue Hills Road
- ◆ Angle Road South Rebuild
- ◆ 98 Street/98 Avenue Asphalt
- ◆ 109 Avenue Traffic Light
- ◆ Bridge Maintenance
- ◆ Culvert Erosion Repair TWP RD 109-0 RGE RD 15-0

### Transportation (continued)

- ◆ Lambert Point Intersection TWP RD 108-5 RGE RD 12-2
- ◆ Common Equipment
- ◆ Sidewalk Sweeper
- ◆ Graders 3 x 160M AWD

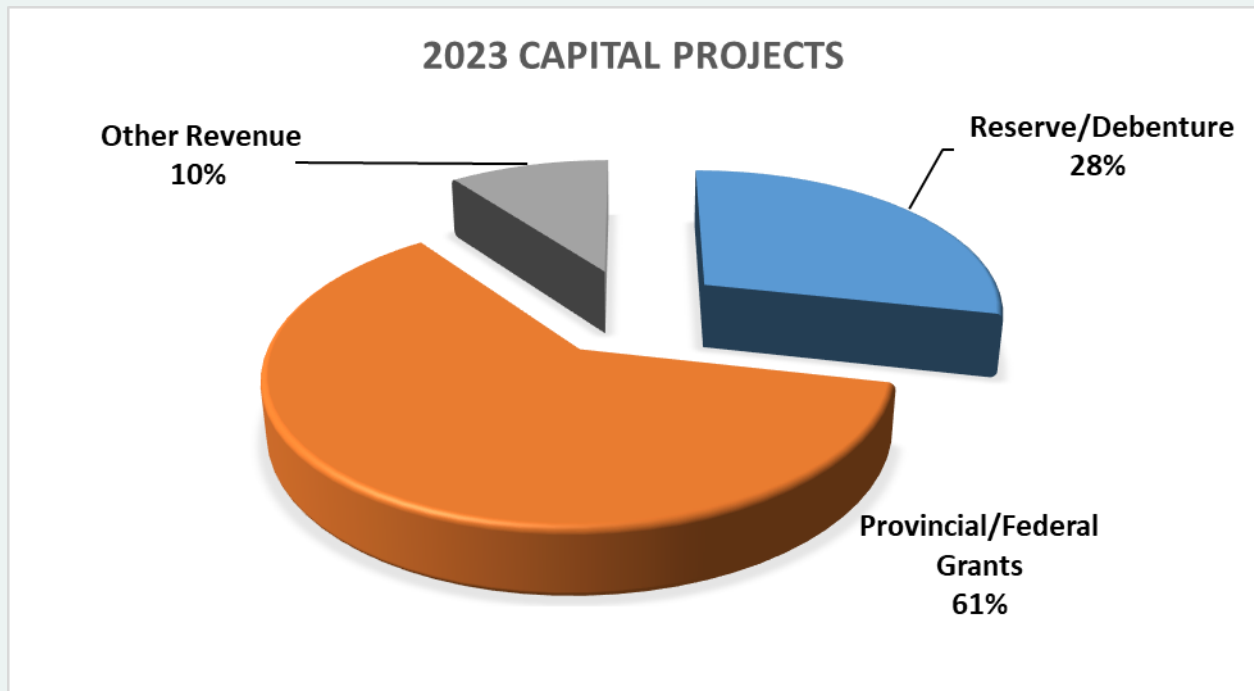
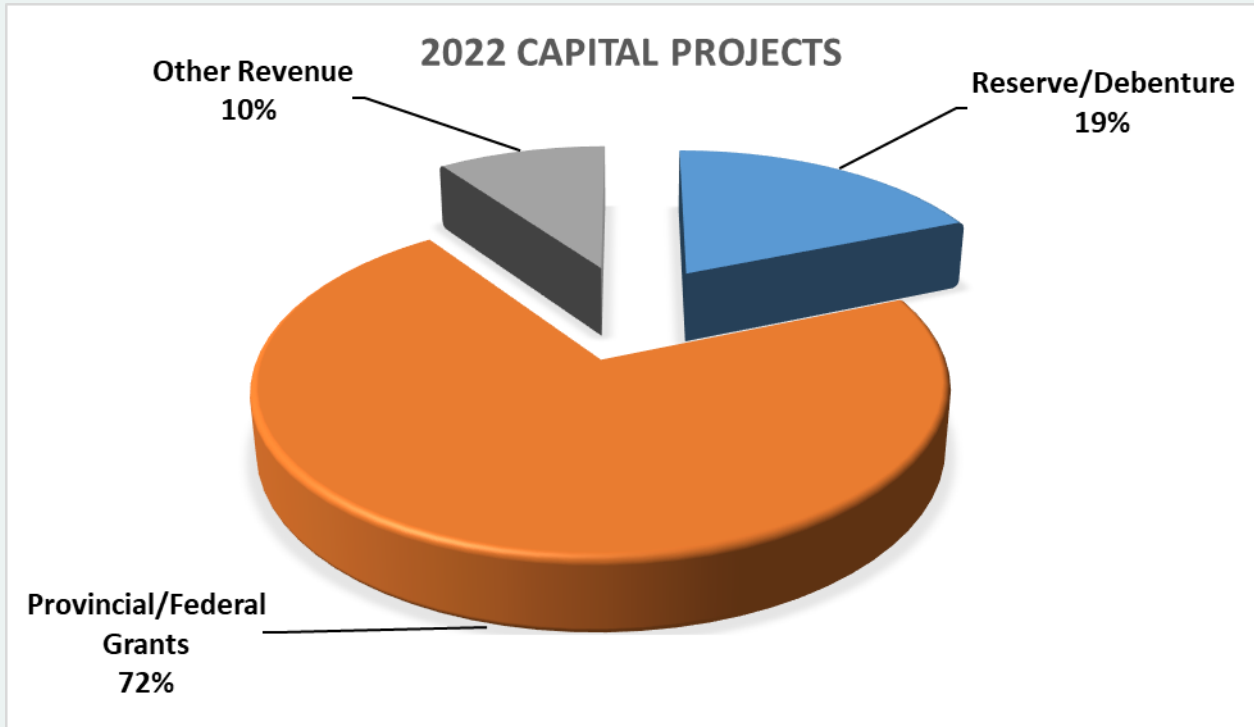
### Water / Sewer Treatment & Distribution

- ◆ Clarifier Valves—Water Treatment Plant (Fort Vermilion)
- ◆ Water Point Building Replacements (Buffalo Head Prairie)
- ◆ Scada Upgrade (Zama)

# 2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

**Debenture**—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 debentures 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.

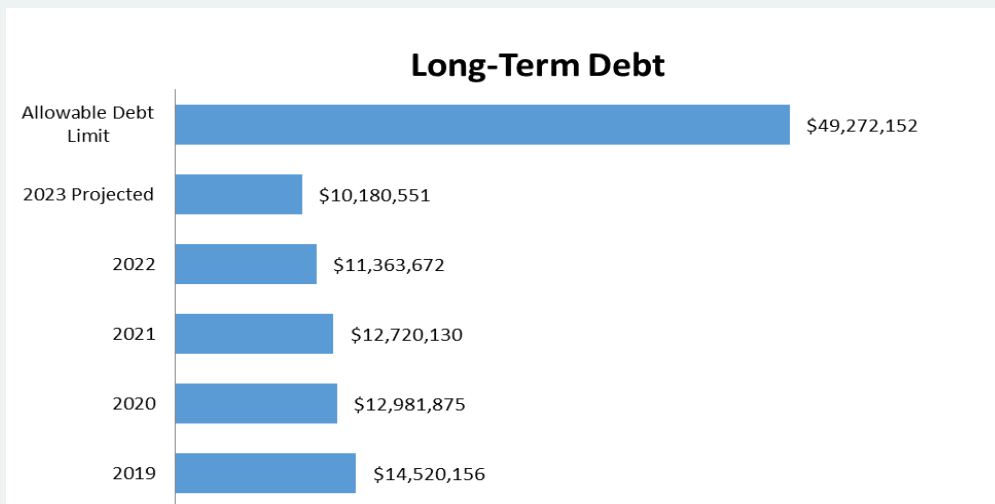


# 2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## 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.

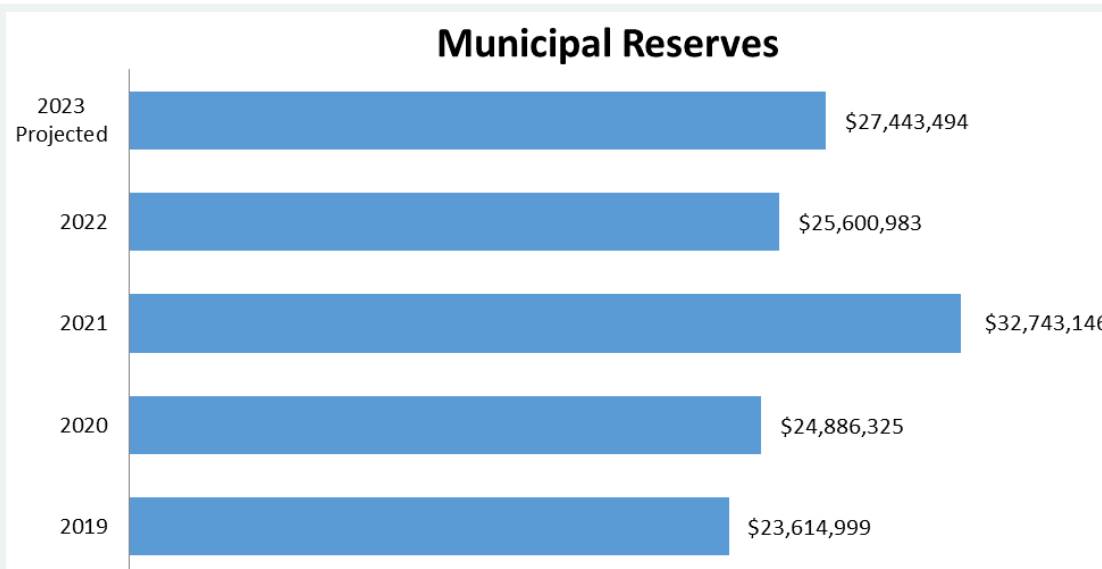
The Municipal Government Act and Alberta Regulation 255/00 defines the debt limits for municipalities. If the borrowing takes place as intended based on the preapproved bylaws, the County will be at 21% of its allowable debt limit under Provincial Legislation on December 31, 2022 as permitted under MGA, 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.



# 2023 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

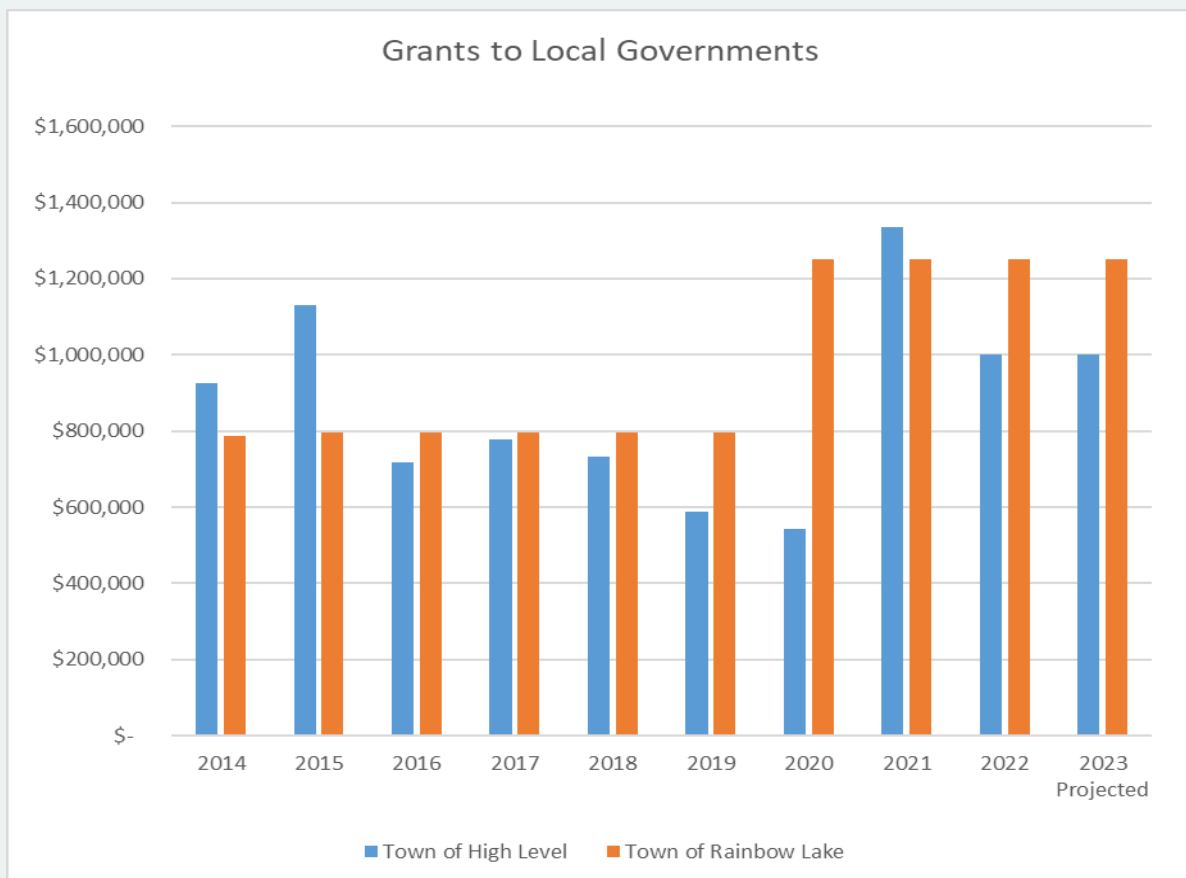
Mackenzie County has a Regional Service Sharing Agreement (RSSA) and an Inter-Municipal Development Plan (IMDP) agreement with the Town of High Level. The purpose of the RSSA is to share certain services provided by the Town to the County's residents residing within close proximity to the Town and/or 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 the annexation of lands north of High Level to the airport.

### 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 promote 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 2014.





# 2023 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 2023 operating budget includes \$2,475,239 in funding that will be provided to FCSS, Recreation Boards, and numerous other non-profit organizations.

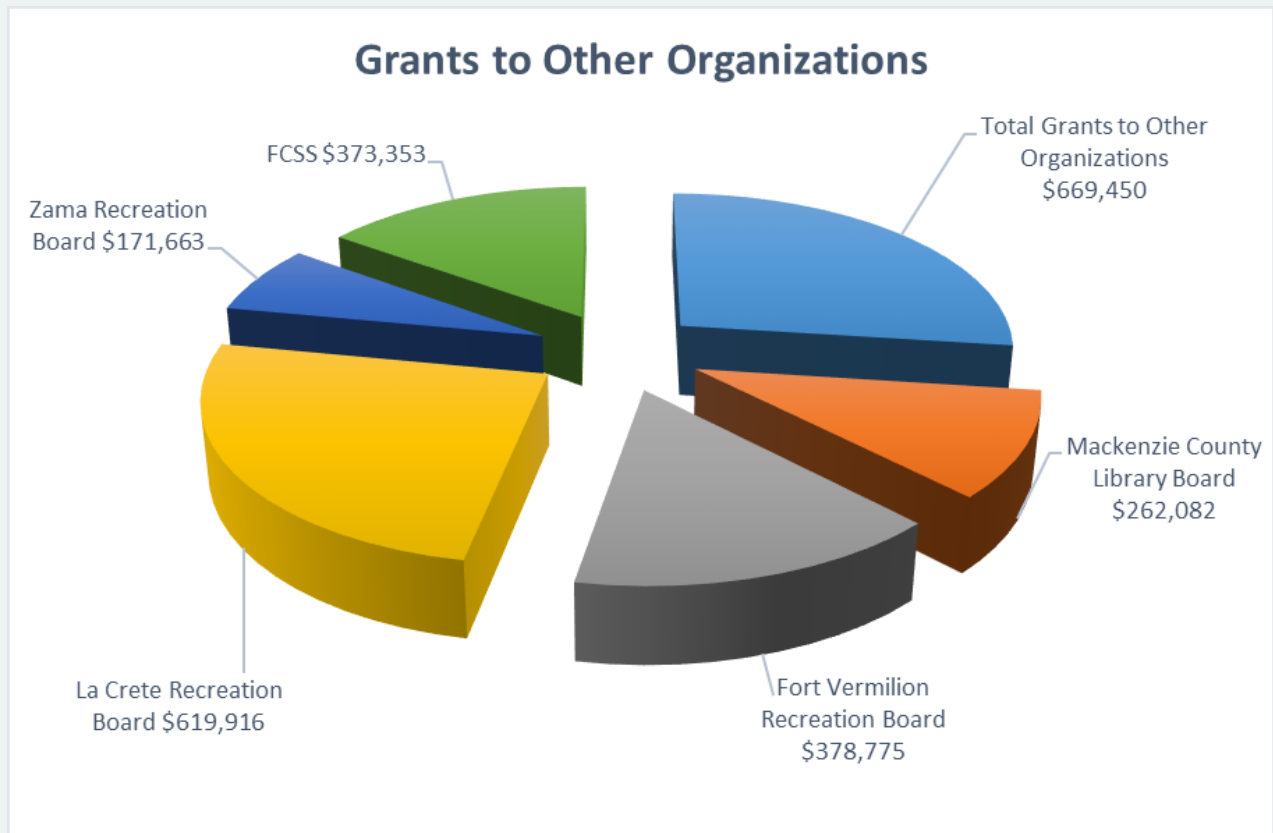
The chart below identifies the Council approved grants during budget deliberations.

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 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.



# 2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## GRANTS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS (continued)

Organization	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2021 Budget
Fort Vermilion Agricultural Society - Heritage Centre	\$27,750	\$27,750	\$27,750
Fort Vermilion Area Board of Trade	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$17,000
Fort Vermilion Friends of the Old Bay House Society	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500
Fort Vermilion Grazing Reserve	\$40,000	\$0	\$0
Fort Vermilion Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 243	\$8,000	\$31,637	\$8,000
Fort Vermilion Seniors' Club	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
High Level Agricultural Exhibition Association	\$4,900	\$7,000	\$10,000
High Level Rural Community Hall	\$0	\$16,000	\$17,500
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	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
La Crete Ferry Campground Society	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
La Crete Field of Dreams Stampede Committee	\$0	\$9,000	\$0
La Crete Meals for Seniors	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
La Crete Polar Cats	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$7,500
La Crete Seniors Inn (drop-in centre)	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Mackenzie Ski Hill Society	\$30,000	\$0	\$0
Rainbow Lake Youth Center	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Rocky Lane Agricultural Society	Gravel + \$25,000	Gravel + \$25,000	Gravel + \$25,000
Tompkins Improvement Board	\$31,200	\$0	\$0
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	\$60,000	\$65,000
Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI)	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000
High School Bursaries	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Cemeteries	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600
Miscellaneous Support of Events	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$22,500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$669,450</b>	<b>\$611,487</b>	<b>\$584,350</b>
Mackenzie County Library Society (incl. utilities)	\$262,082	\$282,265	\$243,000
Fort Vermilion Recreation Board	\$378,775	\$366,379	\$372,539
La Crete Recreation Board	\$619,916	\$565,083	\$557,640
Zama Recreation Board	\$171,663	\$154,076	\$156,964
<b>Total Grants to Other Organizations</b>	<b>\$2,101,886</b>	<b>\$1,979,290</b>	<b>\$1,914,493</b>

# 2022 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

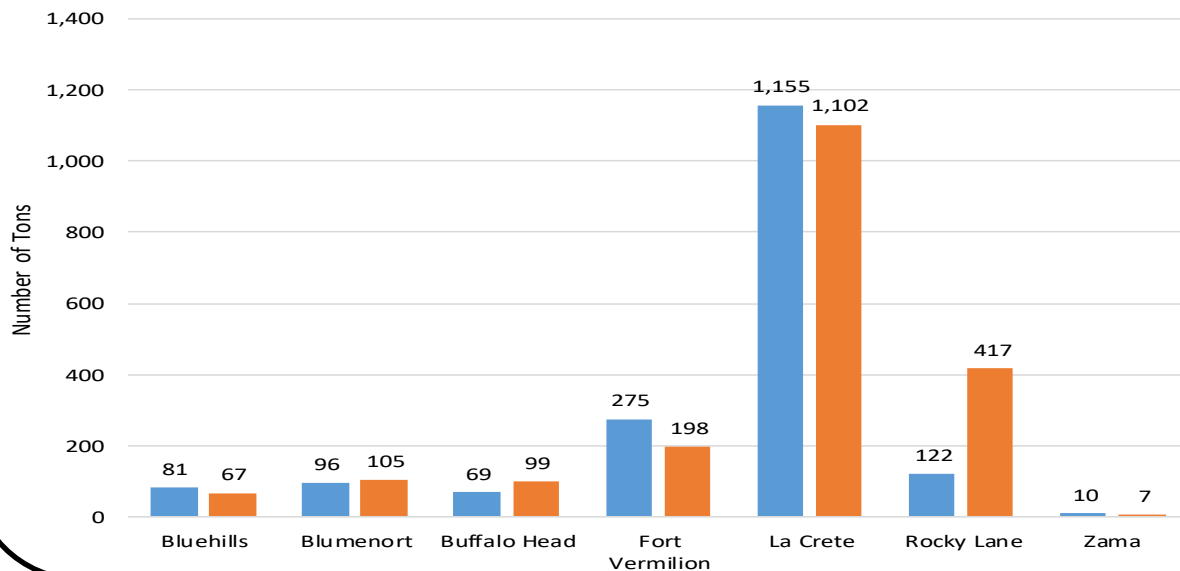
### Waste Transfer Stations

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.

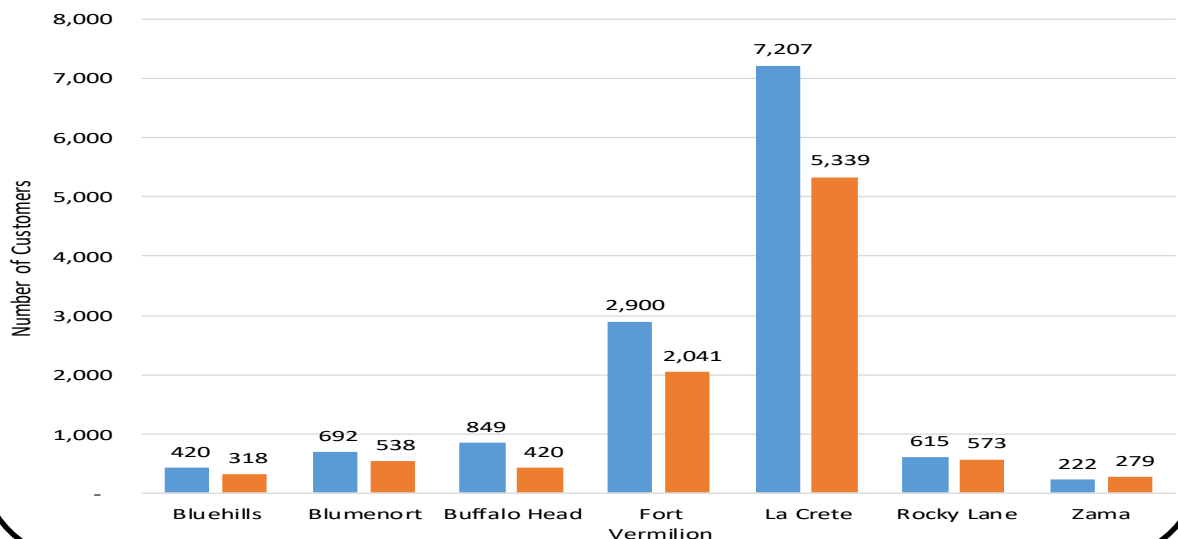
The County also contracts the transportation of waste from each transfer station to the Mackenzie Regional Landfill. The Mackenzie Regional Landfill is administered by a Commission of equal representation from Mackenzie County, Rainbow Lake and the Town of High Level.

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 (2021 & 2022)



#### Waste Transfer Station Customer Count (2021 & 2022)



# 2022 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)

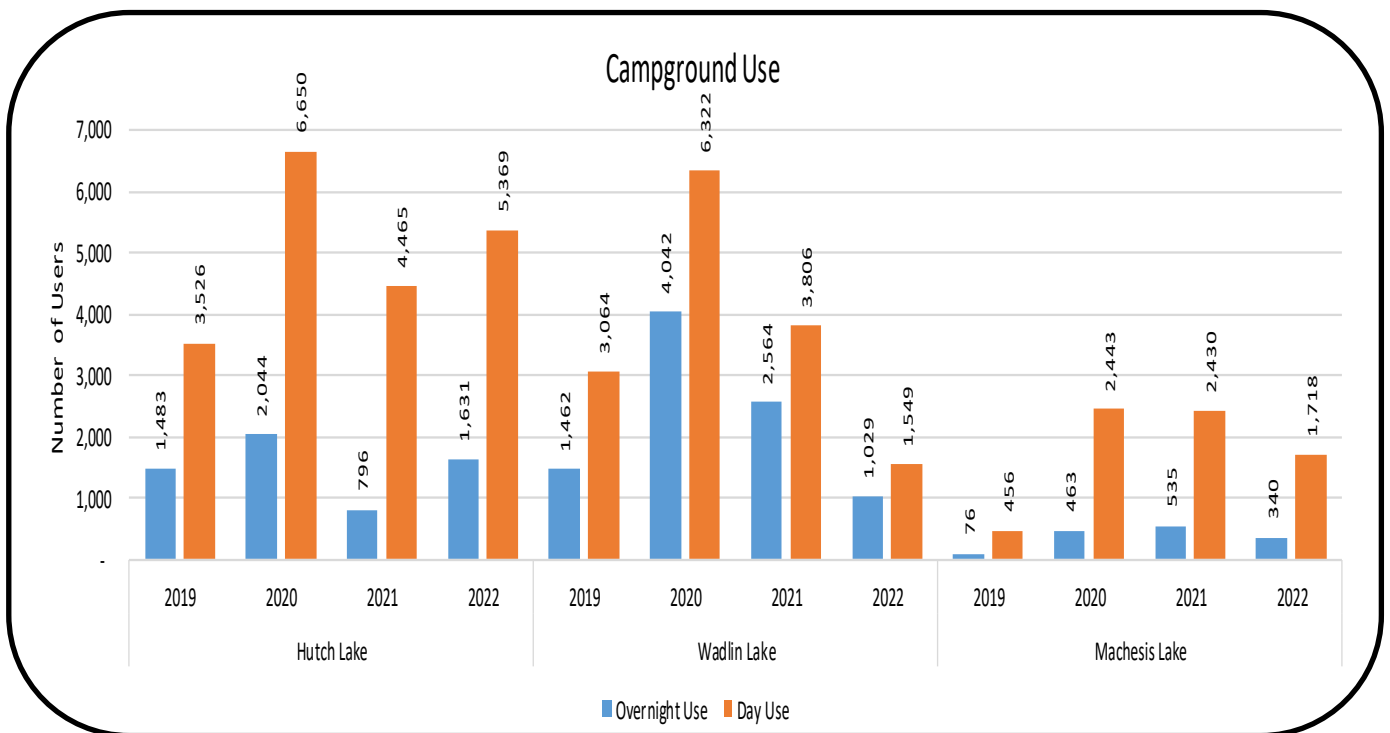
Maintenance of these facilities are provided by the Mackenzie County, these duties include:

- 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.



# 2022 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.

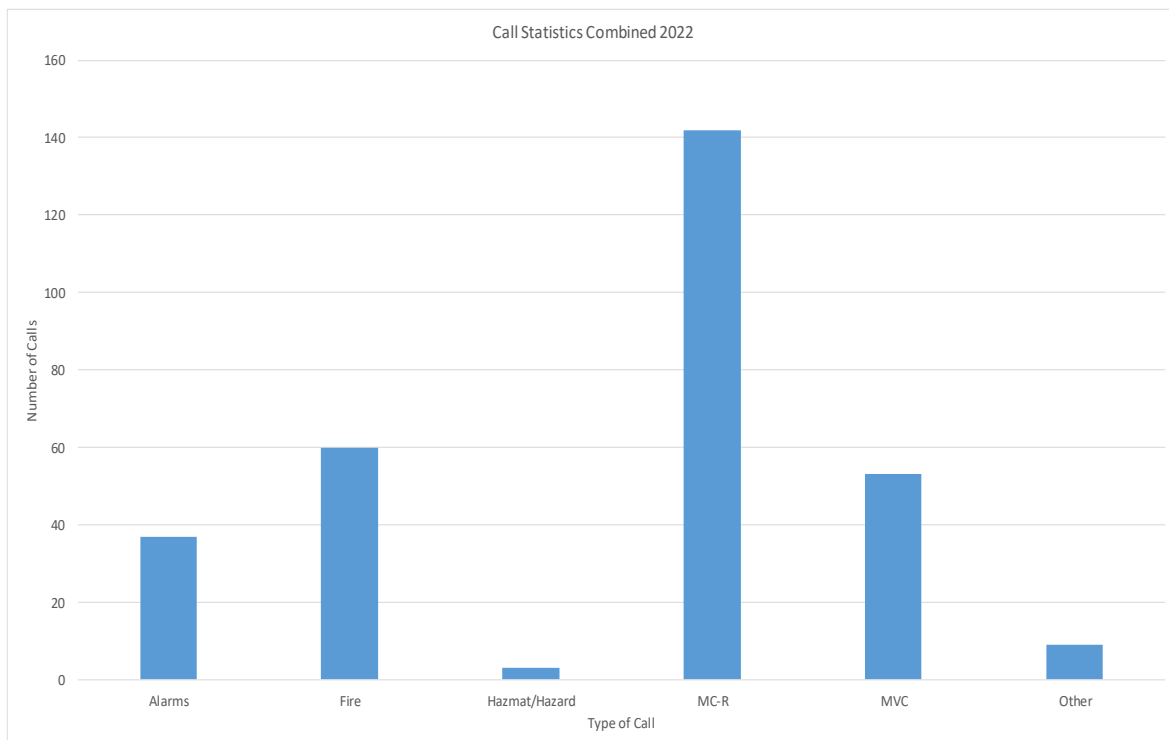
- Fort Vermilion—16 active members
- La Crete/Tompkins—36 active members
- Zama— 6 active members

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 types of call that the fire departments respond to are categorized in six types of responses; Alarms, Fire, Hazmat/hazard, Medical Co-response, Motor Vehicle Collision and Other (mutual aid, etc.).



# 2022 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

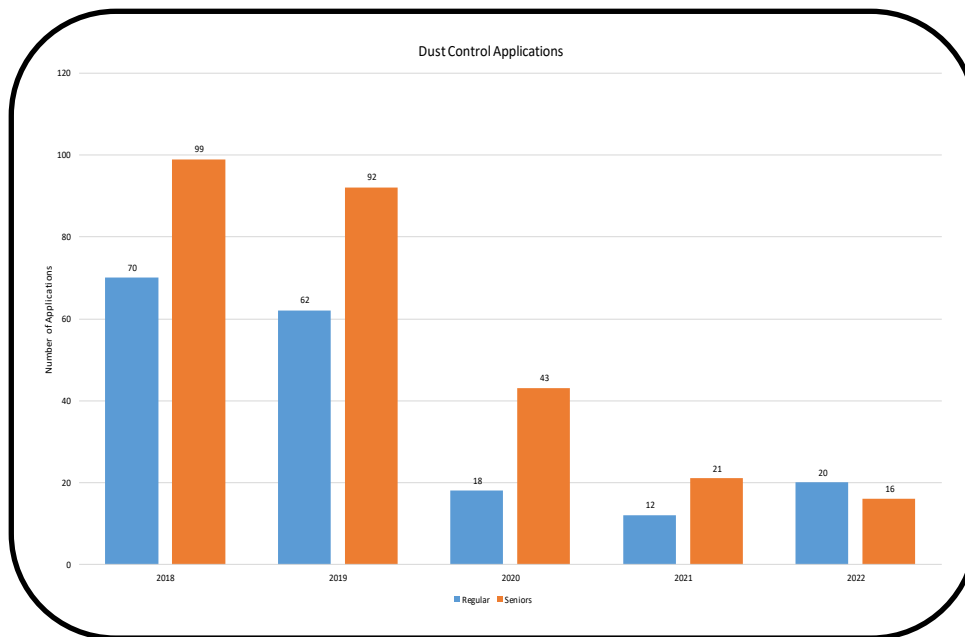
## OPERATIONS

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.

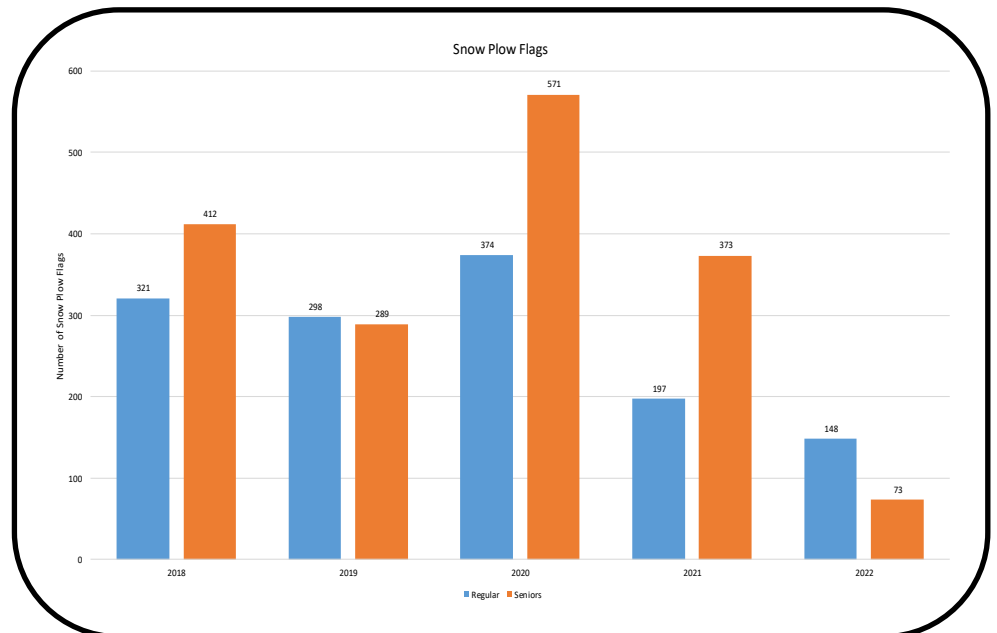
### Dust Control Applications & Rural Residential Snowplowing

The County applies dust control, typically calcium chloride, 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 \$1,500 + GST per 200 linear meters, for seniors (65 years and older) the fee is \$500 + GST per 200 linear meters. For 2022, there were a total of 36 applicants for the calcium chloride product.

Mackenzie County has a winter maintenance program which offers plowing service (up to 1/4 mile) to rural residents. Residents may apply for snowplow flags for \$100, for seniors (65 years and older) the fee is \$40. In 2022, the County completed services 73 times for seniors and 148 times for other residents.



**PLACE YOUR FLAG IN THE SNOWBANK FOR EASY RETRIEVAL BY GRADER OPERATORS**



# 2022 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Grader Beat Hours

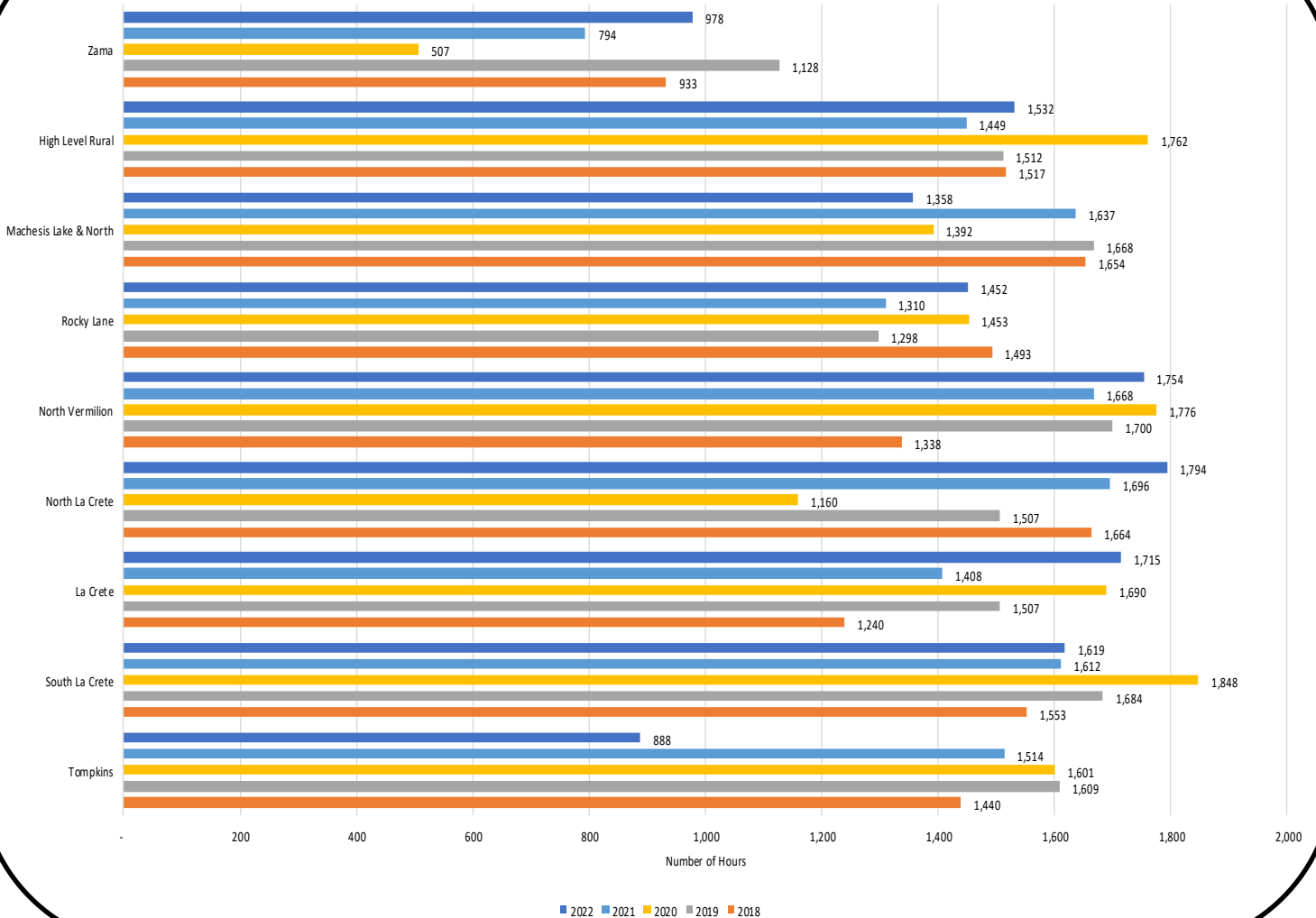
Mackenzie County has nine grader beats. The Zama grader was used for multiple projects beginning in April 2020; it returned to Zama in July of 2022 resuming its regular beat. Hours of operation are indicated on the graph below.

Hours indicate machine hours in use, this does not include contracted or replacement graders. Other variances in unit hours are due to weather, number of dust controlled areas, staff vacancies, etc.

The average grader beat is 205 kilometers.



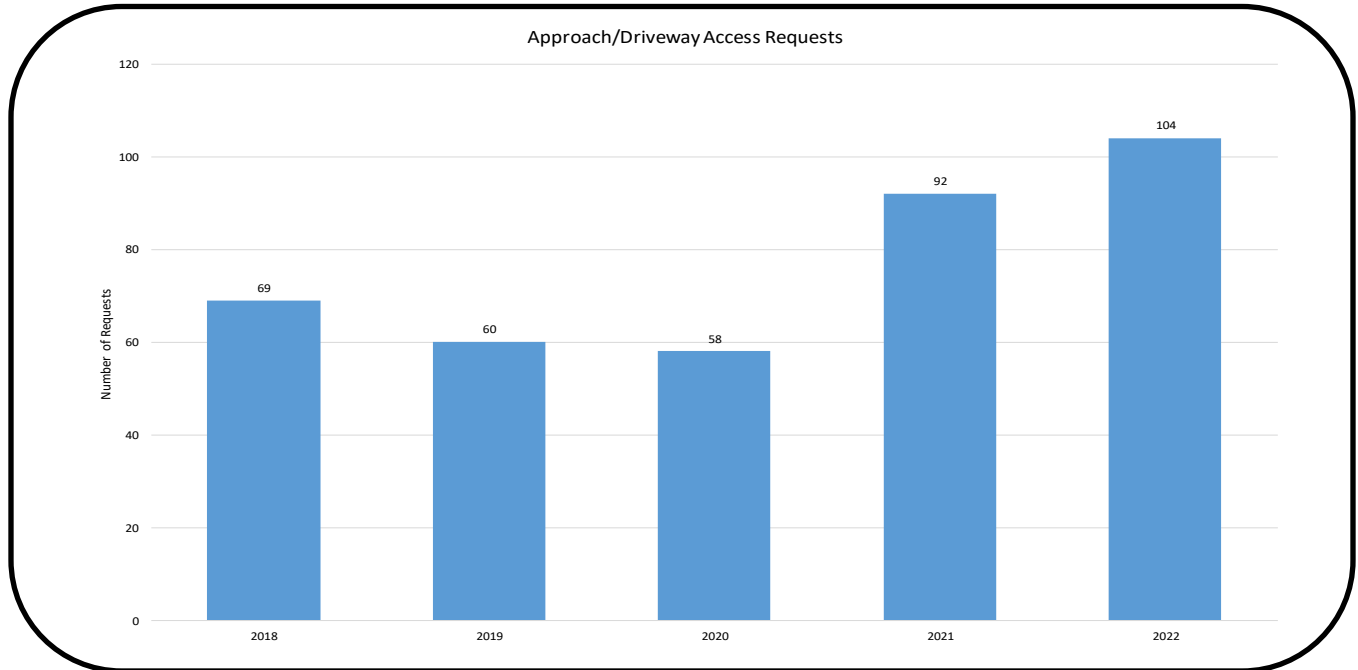
Grader Beat Hours



# 2022 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Approach/Driveway Access Requests

Accesses to quarter sections and new subdivisions require approval from 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 years). The chart below identifies the opening and closing dates from winter of 2017/2018 to winter of 2022/2023, as well as the date the ice-bridge reached its maximum capacity of 63.5 tonne.

2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020	
Date	Tonne	Date	Tonne	Date	Tonne
Jan. 15	5 Tonne	Jan. 2	5 Tonne	Dec. 24	5 Tonne
Feb. 19	63.5 Tonne	Feb. 11	63.5 Tonne	Feb. 18	63.5 Tonne
Apr. 14	CLOSED	Mar. 28	CLOSED	Apr. 11	CLOSED

2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023	
Date	Tonne	Date	Tonne	Date	Tonne
Jan. 2	5 Tonne	Dec. 22	5 Tonne	Dec. 16	5 Tonne
Feb. 19	63.5 Tonne	Jan. 27	63.5 Tonne	Feb. 6	63.5 Tonne
Apr. 7	CLOSED	Mar. 26	CLOSED	Apr. 4	CLOSED

### LEGEND

OPEN LIGHT TRAFFIC



MAXIMUM TONNE



CLOSED FOR SEASON





# 2022 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

MDP is expected to be approved in 2023, once consultation is complete. This project has been delayed due to competing priorities and operating demands in the department.

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.



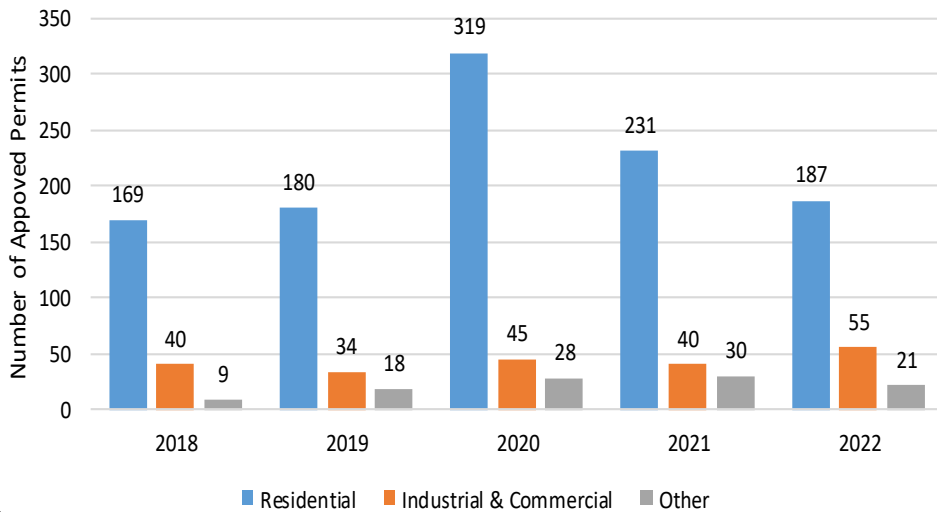
# 2022 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Development Permits/Safety Codes

In terms of operations, the number of development permits in 2022 had slightly declined at 263 approved development permits. 46 of those permits were for new residences which include single family homes, manufactured homes, and multi-family homes.

There were two development appeals in 2022.

### Approved Development Permits

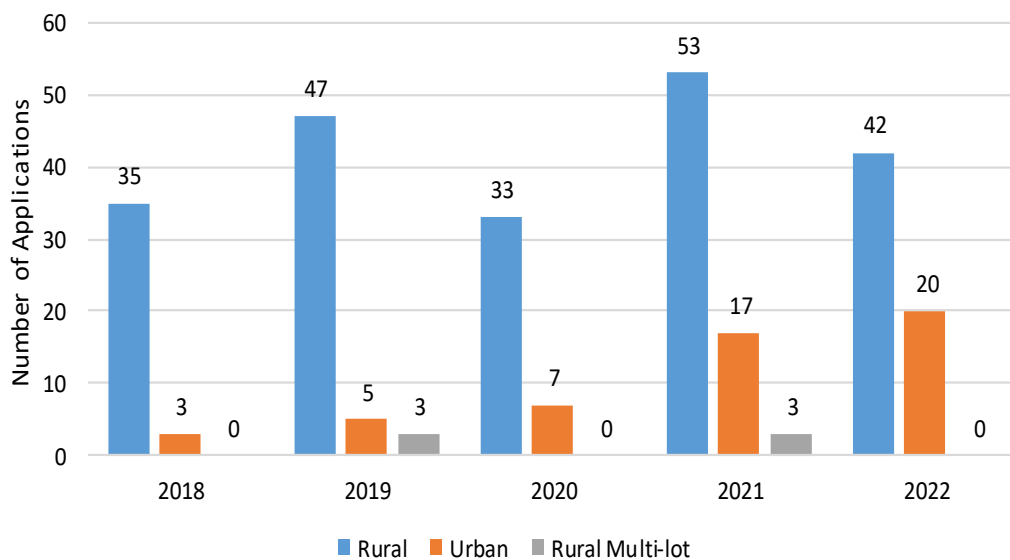


The number of development permits did decrease in 2022. This is a direct impact of the inflation rates and the high costs of living. It is worth noting that there has been an increase in industrial and commercial development permits which means there is still active investment in the region.

## Subdivisions

Subdivision applications remain steady with both urban and rural lot development. This number is a direct indication of the population growth of the County.

### Subdivision Applications



# 2022 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## PROJECTS & INFRASTRUCTURE

### Asset Management

Munisight has been rebranded as Catalis as of September 2022.



During the summer of 2022 Mackenzie County completed a Rural Road Study to determine the condition of all road types within the County. This study was conducted by two employees that assessed the conditions of each road by segments. This information can now be viewed on the AMP map and when the road segment is clicked on, the assessment information on the road is available for staff to review. A picture of the road is also included with the assessment conditions.

Below is a basic summary of the 1413 kilometers of road assessed.

Mackenzie County has continued in collecting data for critical assets. GIS staff is crucial for data entry in Asset Management and the GIS position has been vacant for the last few months. The County has now filled that position and we are eager to begin data entry once again.

Some culvert data was collected during the summer and entered into AMP which staff can access to review culvert condition. The goal is to continue with adding more culvert data in the future.

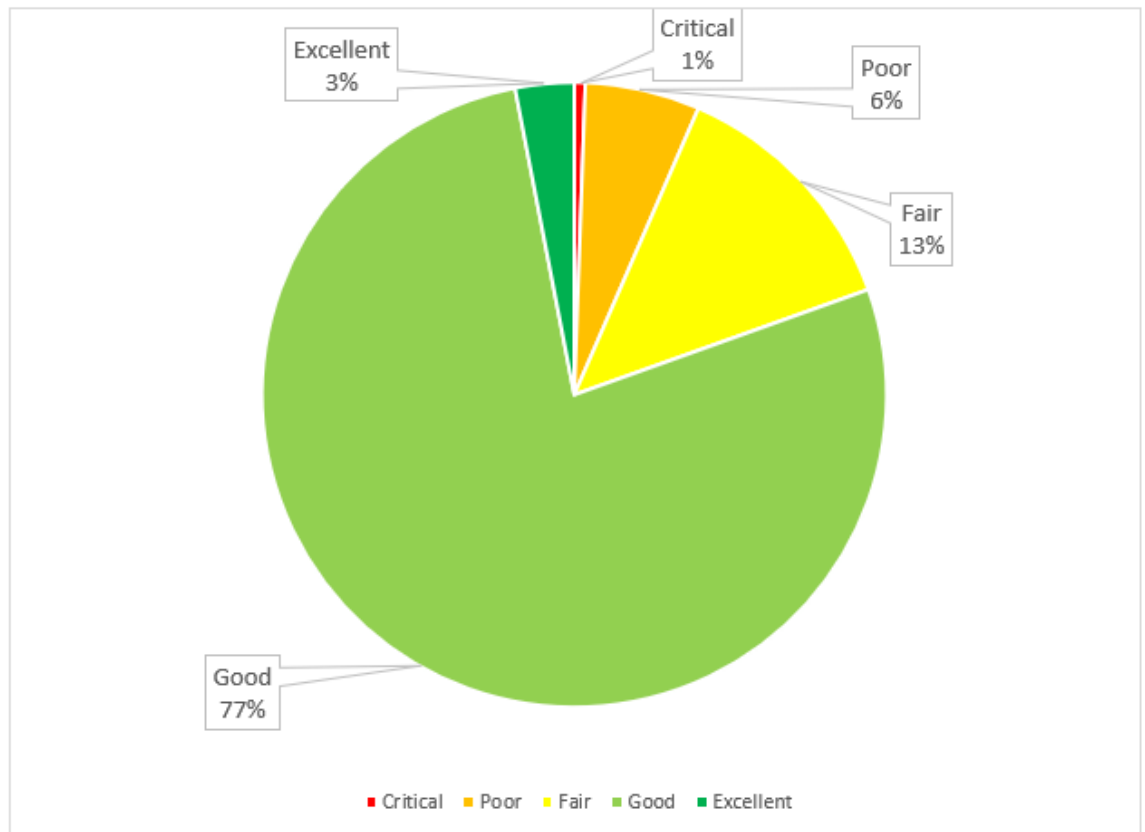


Figure 1: Overall Condition of All Road Segments

Figure 1 above shows the overall condition of all road segments assessed at 1413. This includes all surface types assessed: gravel, dirt, oiled and paved. The large majority of the segments assessed are "Good" at 77% which equates to 1094/1413. The total counts of assessed segments are as follows: 8 are Critical, 84 are Poor, 184 are Fair, 1094 are Good and 43 are Excellent.

# 2022 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Storm Pond A

### Why did we construct it?

Storm pond A was designed to mitigate flooding that occurs during the spring run-off, in the area west of 101<sup>st</sup> Street behind Co-op.

A ditch was constructed to drain the area north to the new storm pond.

The current storm system east of town is already at capacity and could be overwhelmed if more water was diverted to that location. As additional lands are developed in that area of La Crete, the runoff intensity will continue to increase. The pond has the capacity to handle the additional runoff for lands in that area, that will occur as they are developed.



# 2022 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 2022, our department worked on several water projects throughout the County. The La Crete Water Treatment Plant upgraded their electric motors that run the pumps, with VFD's and Soft Starters. This will improve energy efficiency as these motors are our biggest energy consumption item at the La Crete Water Treatment Plant. It will improve cardlock customers experience as it won't be as hard on their hoses and fittings when starting a fill. Construction on a fourth well continued in 2022, due to supply chain issues it is expected to be complete by the end of 2023. The four combined wells will support La Crete and the surrounding area's needs as they continue to grow and expand.

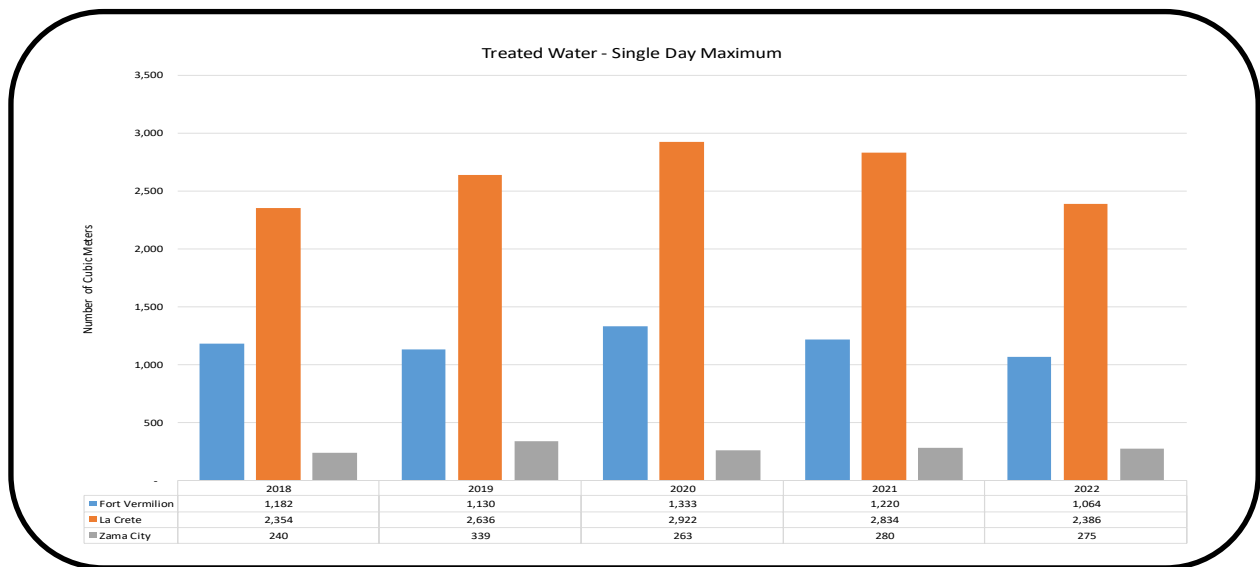
The Tompkins Landing Rural Waterpoint building was replaced. A new Buffalo Head Prairie Waterpoint building was built and will be replace the current one in Spring 2023. The old buildings were from the 1980's and were in the need of replacement.

The Zama Water Treatment Plant Upgrade which replaces old infrastructure is 98% complete and expecting completion by Spring of 2023.

In Fort Vermilion we are continuing to correct water service freezing issues by increasing ground cover, insulating or a combination thereof. This will help us conserve more water through the elimination of trickle systems. The Fort Vermilion Rural Truck Fill had new pumps installed 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.

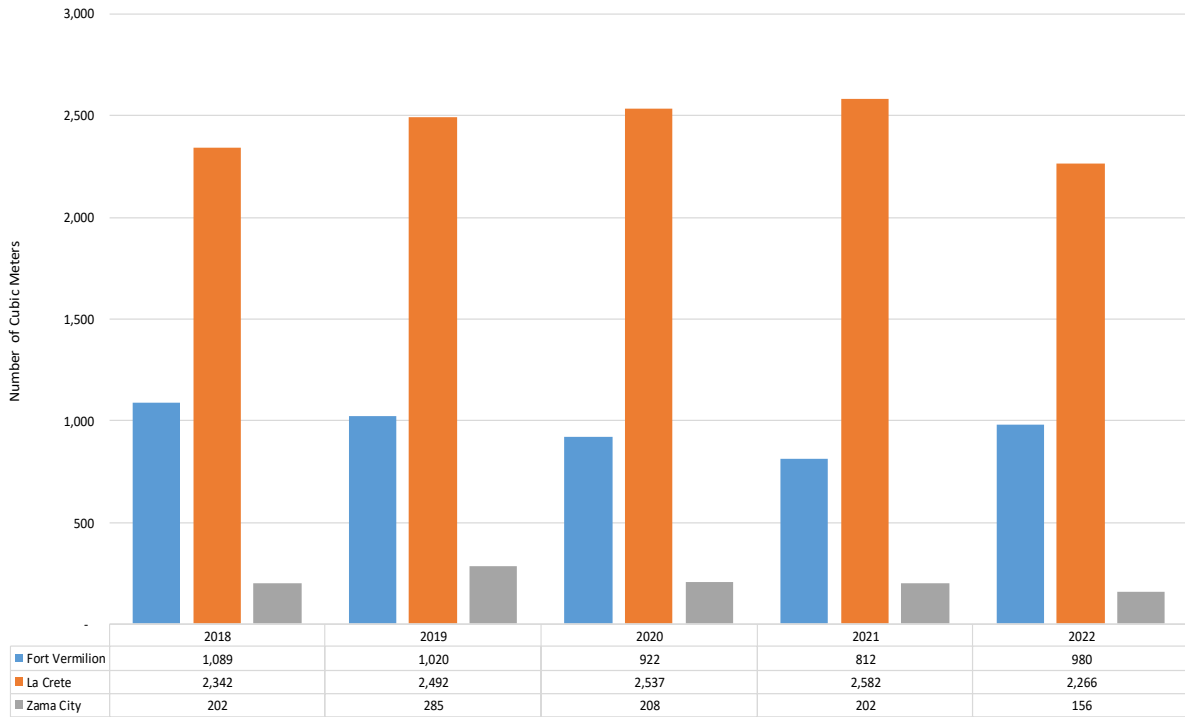
### Utility Services Rendered - 2022

- New Installs = 25
- Meter Changes = 58
- Water Meter Service Calls = 177
- CC Locates/Repairs/On or Off = 205
- Miscellaneous Service Calls = 242
- Miscellaneous Sewer = 27
- Main Service Line Tie In = 3
- CC Service Tie In = 17
- Rural Service Tie In = 9

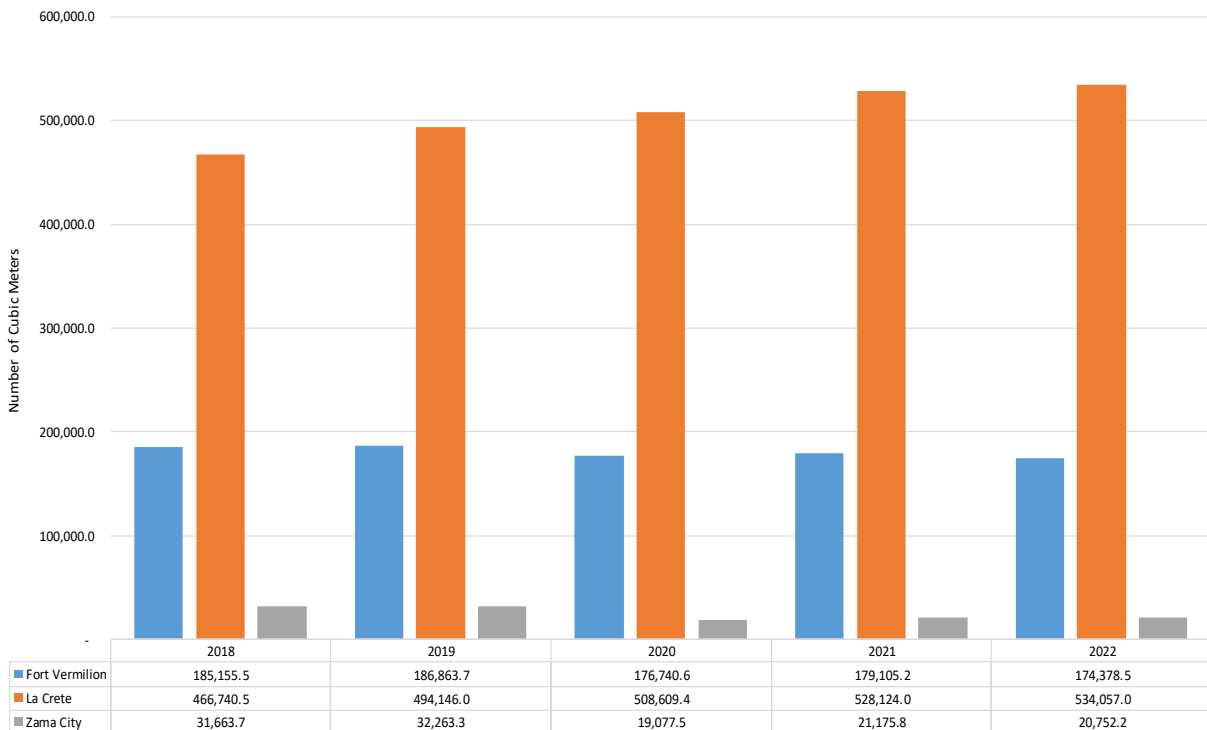


# 2022 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Treated Water - 3-day Peak Average



Treated Water - Annual Total



# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

## AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD (ASB)



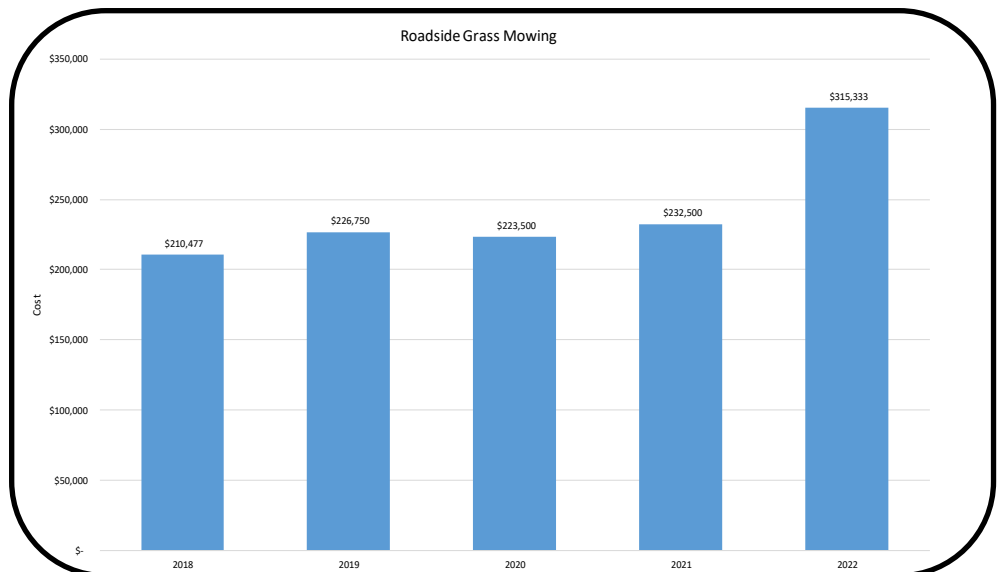
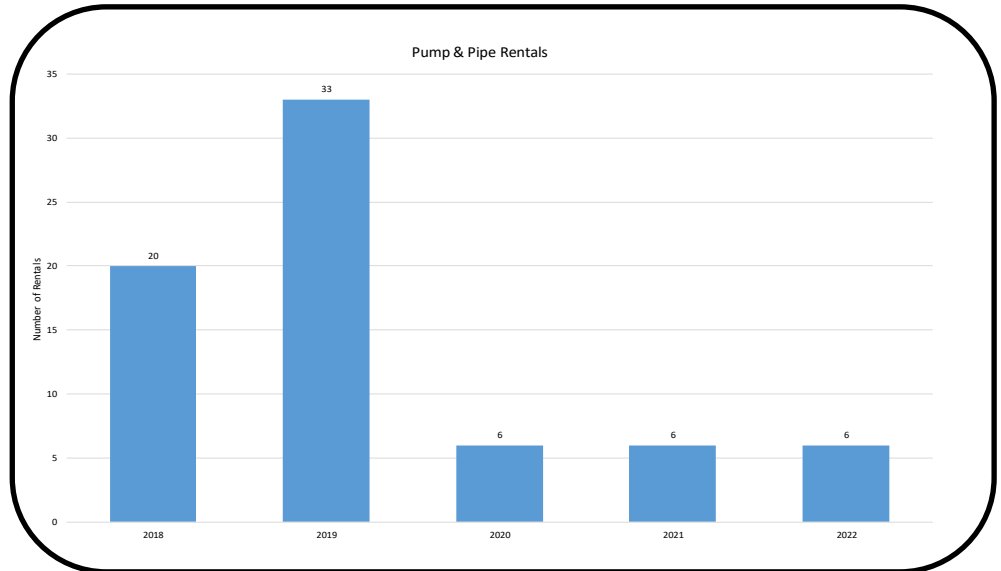
Mackenzie County's Agricultural Service Board (ASB) consists of two municipally appointed Councillors and three municipally appointed members at Large.

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.

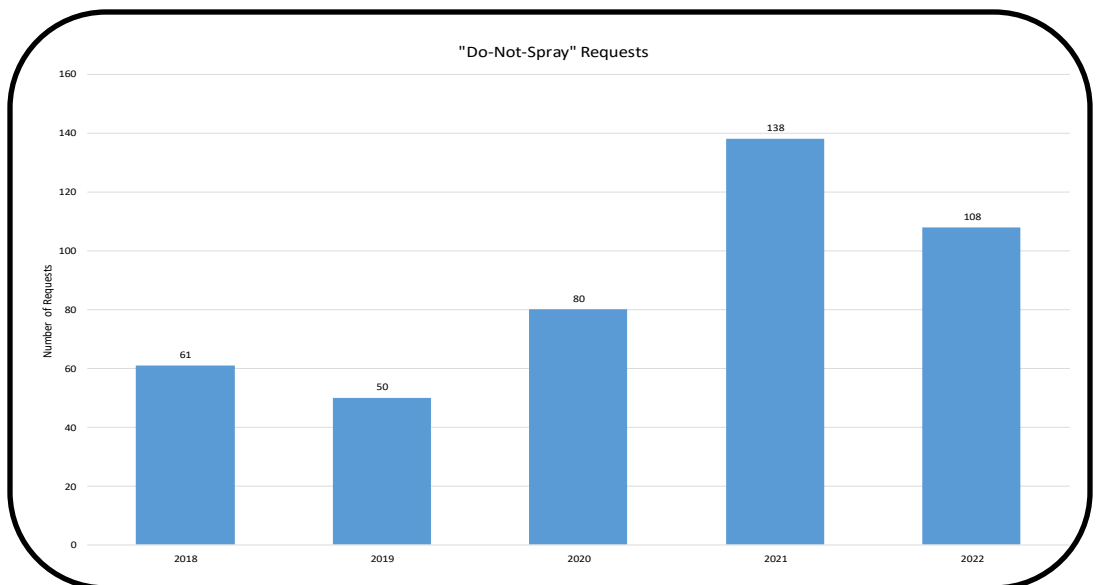
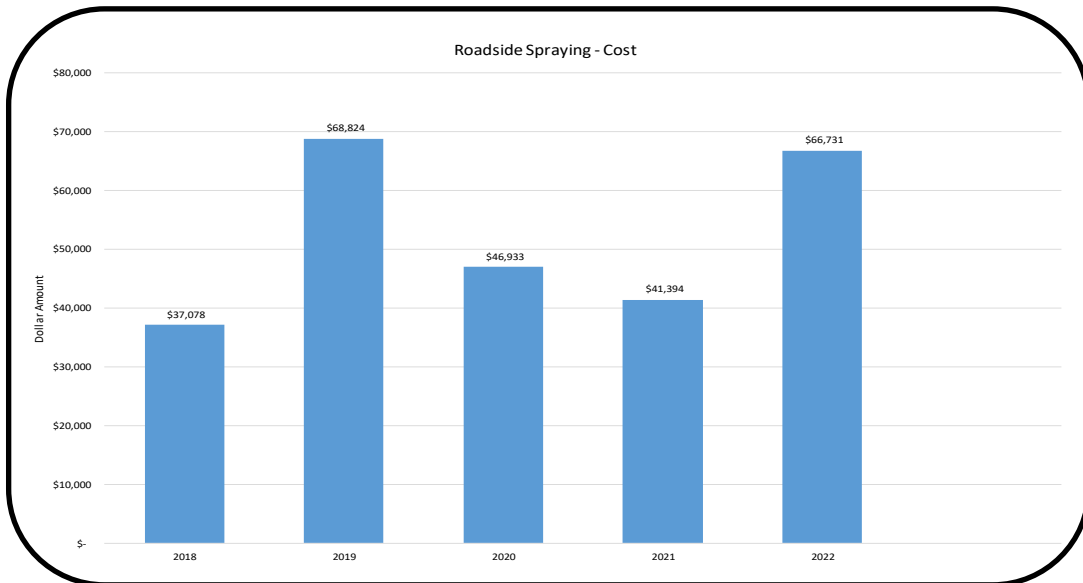
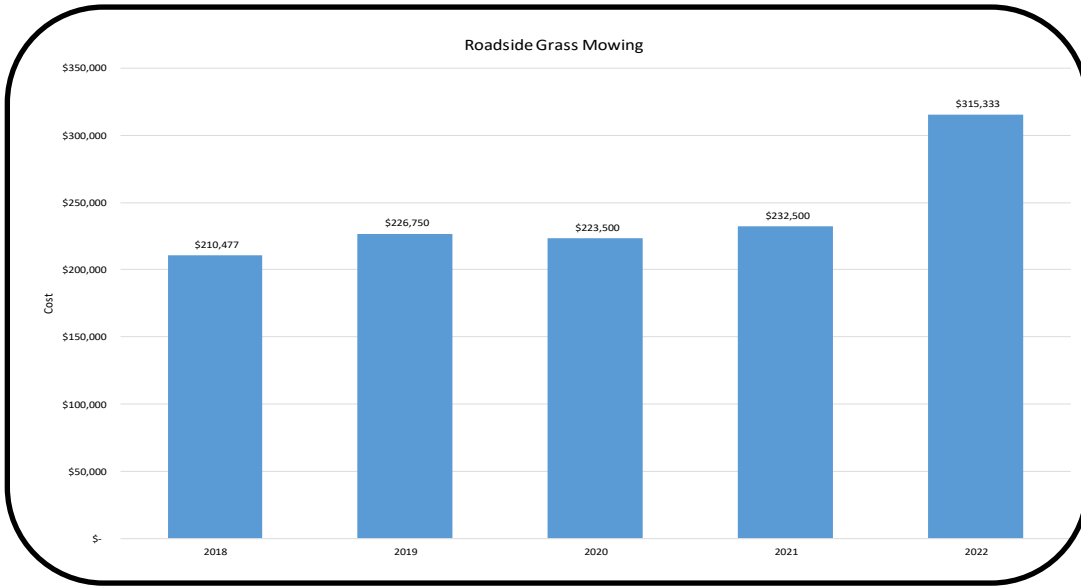
- Encourage development of new value-added agricultural farms and agri-businesses.
- Promote sustainable agricultural policies and practices.
- Strong internal policies and programs to support responsible agricultural land development.
- Appropriate land uses within the County.
- Continuing agricultural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

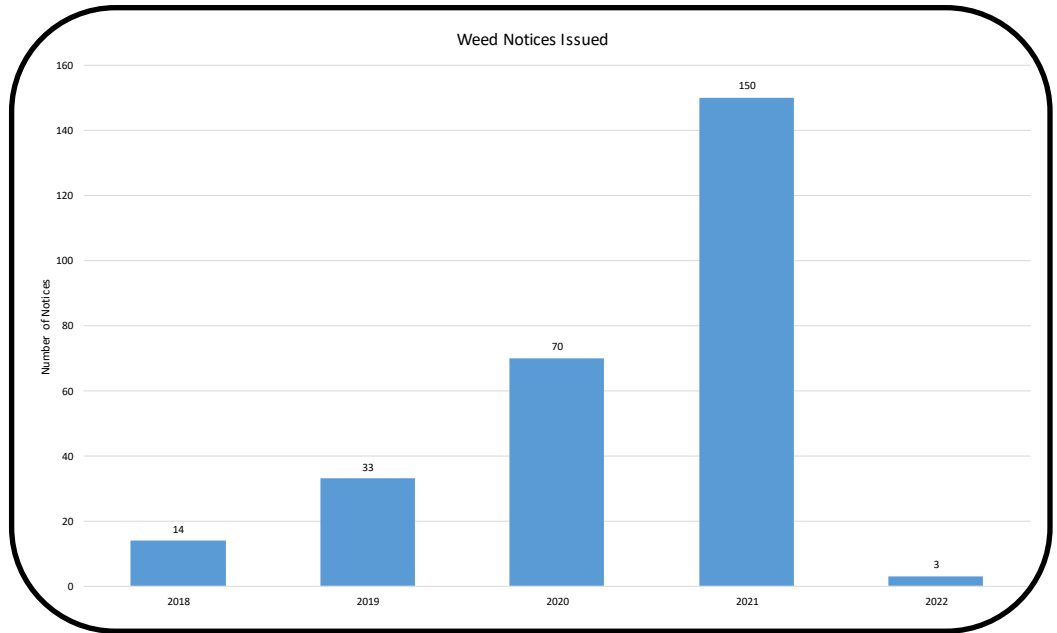


# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES





# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES



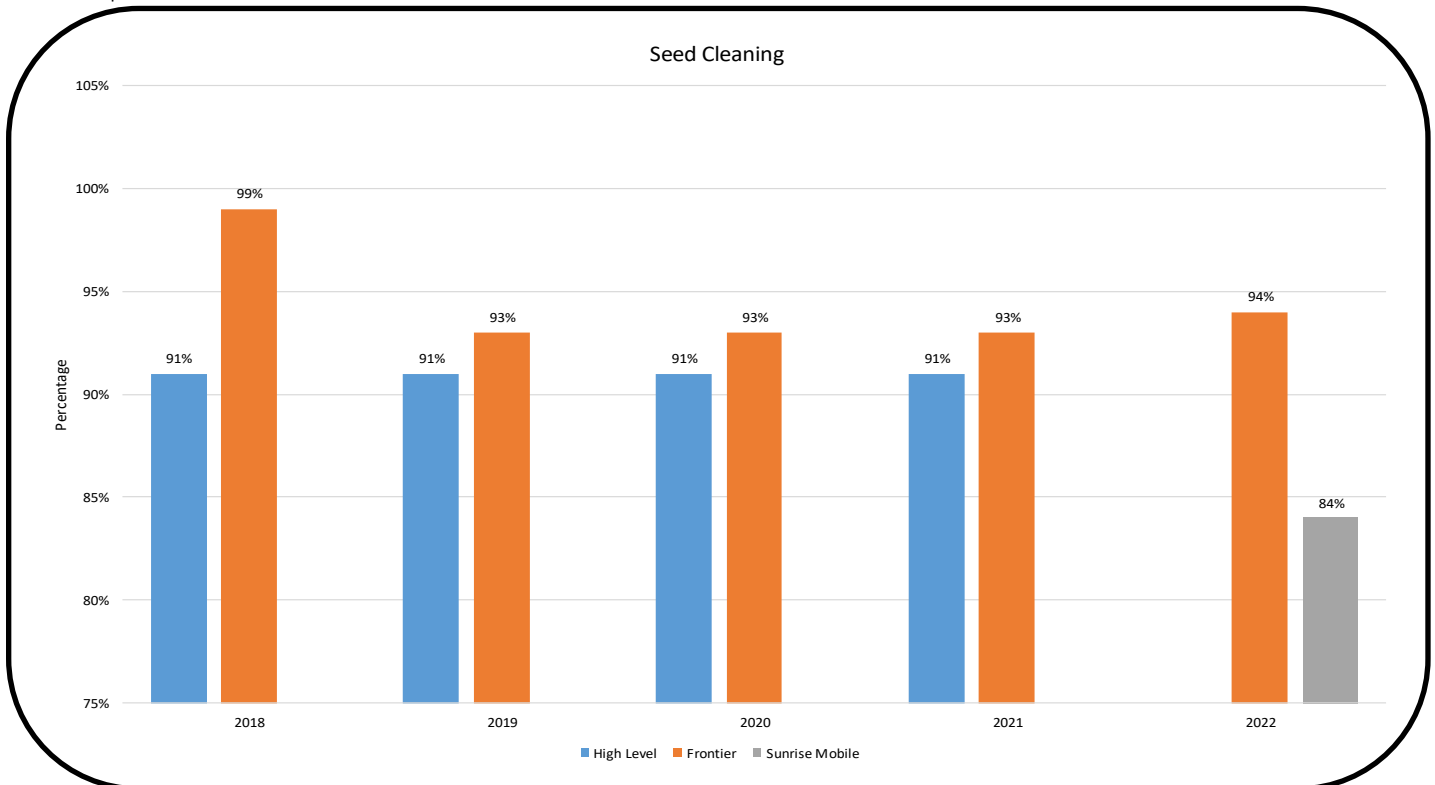
## Seed Cleaning Plant Inspections

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

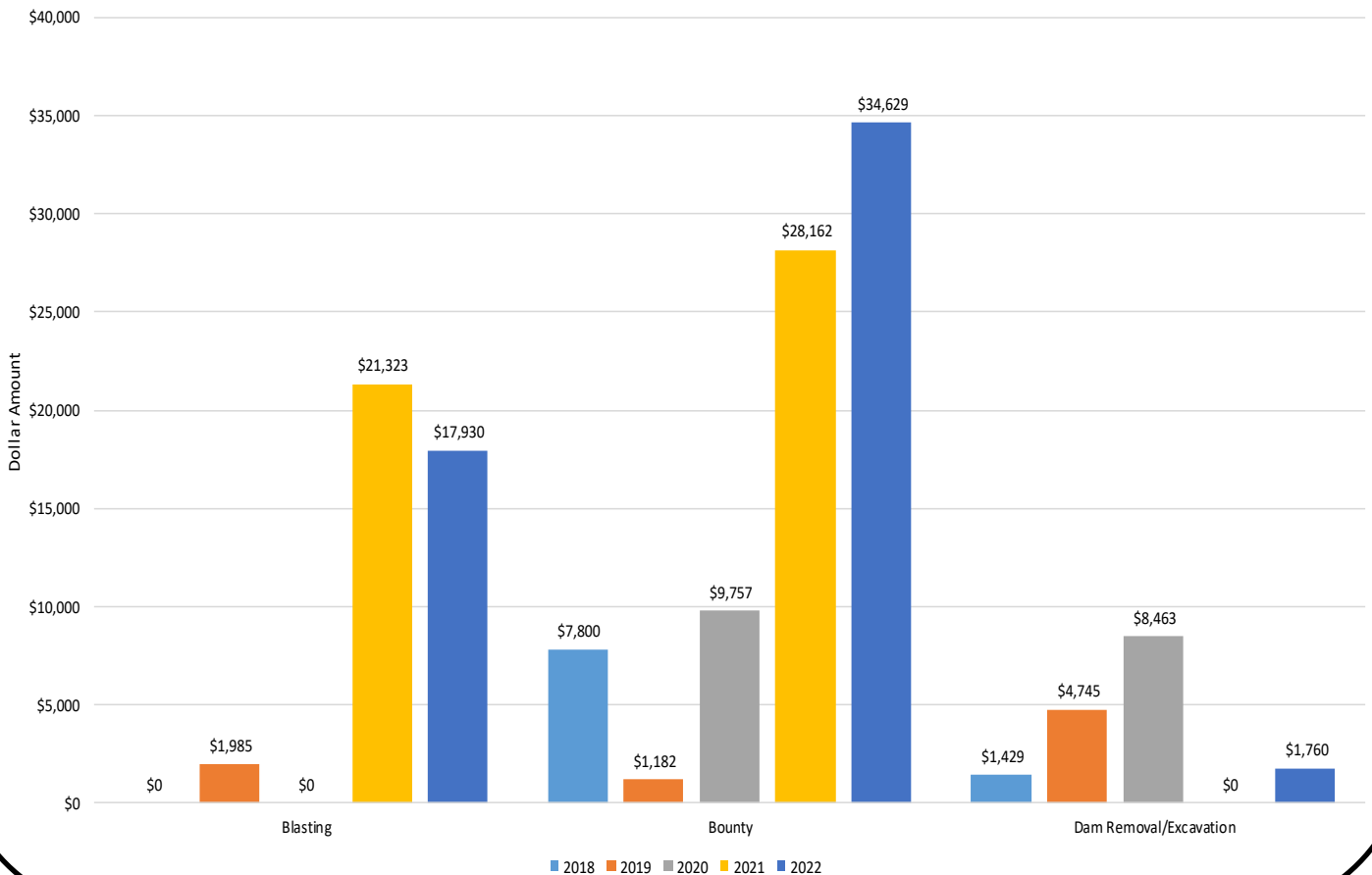
## Beaver Control

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.



Beaver Control



# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mackenzie County applied for two grants under the Northern and Regional Economic Development (NRED) Program Grant in January 2023. The provincial government released this new grant in December 2022 to fund initiatives that promote regional economic development and diversification.

Administration submitted one application with regards to tourism development. The second application's primary focus was on growing the County's agricultural sector and taking the next steps with Mackenzie Agriculture. The grant is competitive, so the chances of receiving both grants was limited. The County was successful in receiving grant funding for tourism development.

### REDI

#### 2022 Recap

Invest Alberta works directly with investors globally to start or scale up in Alberta. They bring industry, government partners, and economic development organizations together to provide an effortless service to make it easy for investment to flow into the province. Invest Alberta provides a resource for communities to attract investors by showcasing their local assets.

REDI and Invest Alberta toured the region with a focus on investment attraction. The emphasis was on identifying and qualifying potential investors and investment opportunities for the region that align with our growth plans. The conclusion will help diversify the economy, which in turn could create innovative business portfolios, new jobs and empower communities.

REDI promoted the northwest region to U.S. site selectors at the Site Link Conference in Whitecourt. Site Link is a chance to network with economic development professionals in a smaller environment. REDI's goals were to increase awareness of the region's investment opportunities, local amenities and providing statistics that support economic diversity, local job creation and foreign investment.

Northwest Alberta has a passionate entrepreneurial community spirit that is always exploring new homegrown business ideas. REDI wants to spark that creativity and innovation by developing economic opportunity profiles and business cases that clear the way for local investment.

REDI sought to appeal to our local entrepreneurial spirit and present options for business case scenarios with a funding investment of under five million dollars. We have narrowed down a list of promising economic opportunities that build off of our regional strengths and may help entice new local entrepreneurs to gain a foothold in new industries.

Below is a list of these business cases that are well suited to our Northwest Alberta communities:

1. I-Beam – Floor Joists / Laminate
2. Peat moss
3. Honey
4. Micro Brewery
5. Rare Earth Minerals (Zinc)
6. Small Scale Canola Crushing (Plant)
7. Silviculture (Tree Seedling)
8. Mulch – Forestry Residues
9. Industrial Green Houses
10. Lithium

In partnership with Community Futures Northwest Alberta (CFNWA), REDI applied for a grant from "The Business Link" in July 2021. With this grant funding REDI hired a summer student in 2022 for the Digital Service Squad. Fifty percent (50%) of the project was completed in 2022, with the rest being completed in the summer of 2023. The Digital Service Squad provided services and technical support to eligible small businesses in the REDI geographical region at no cost to the business. These services could range from technical support, Google business profiles, website development, social media support, and more.



# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

## REDI (continued)

### Looking Ahead to 2023

REDI will work with Invest Alberta on the 'Alberta CAN: Regional Investment Initiative,' a collaborative venture aiming to raise the REDI region's profile as a high-impact, high-value investment destination. The Initiative is designed to enhance investment attraction capacity, identify investment opportunities, and provide an avenue for ongoing, mutually beneficial collaboration. A series of collaborative information workshops will take place with Invest Alberta representatives playing the role of investors/site selectors and providing feedback on what assets and information investors are searching for during a tour of the community.

The objective is to create a community investment portfolio highlighting the opportunities in Alberta's Northwest. REDI plans to identify eleven certified sites across six communities and will develop promotional material for each site. Community profiles will be created with demographics and employment stats along with other relevant information for the community. The promotional and educational material will be available on the "Invest Alberta" website.

Also, in the works is a video series on the region's successful businesses, focusing on companies that process raw natural resources into commercial products. REDI would like to also create a regional foreign direct investment video to entice foreign investors to the region.

REDI is concentrating on northern transportation infrastructure and its effect on the region's ability to move local products to market. This coming year, emphasis will be on building awareness amongst governments and industry on the potential value of several infrastructure prospects.

### REDI Pillars

REDI's mission is to *promote and strengthen Northwest Alberta's economy by highlighting and investing in our key industries.*

- *Agriculture ~ Our region offers exceptional agricultural potential, and Northwest Alberta agriculture accounts for a large part of the local economy.*
- *Forestry ~ Northwest Alberta has vast timber resources. Forestry activities in our region employ a significant portion of the area's labour force.*
- *Energy ~ Strong petroleum reserves in our region allow Northwest Alberta oil & gas development to contribute significantly to Alberta's economy.*
- *Transportation ~ Important work is being done in and around Northwest Alberta all the time. We've got the infrastructure that it takes to transport what's needed.*
- *Tourism ~ Northern Alberta tourism has become popular with those looking for outdoor adventure. There's plenty to do in our unique region all year round.*
- *Communities ~ Our commitment to a strong and diverse economy allows our residents to enjoy a high quality of life in any one of our small but active communities.*

Visit Regional Economic Development Initiative, Northwest Alberta online, [www.rediregion.ca](http://www.rediregion.ca)



# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Administration has been working towards updating all outstanding dispositions for crown lands within the County. This includes coordinating applications with Alberta Forestry, Tourism and Parks and working with our neighbouring First Nations through the First Nation Consultation process. The department is ensuring that all municipal assets on crown land is secured through active lease agreements. The County has also been working towards acquiring new leases for future recreational opportunities and supporting local non-profits and private entities with their applications.

Mackenzie County continues to be an active member of the Northwest Species at Risk Committee (NWSAR) which is mandated to collectively provide and share information, ideas and resources relating to the continued and future prosperity of Northwest Alberta. Instill effective regional adaptive management and transparency, which allows all stakeholders to play a vital role in shaping our collective future. Develop tangible solutions founded upon an evidence-based approach, to ensure a balance of smart economic growth, a sustained quality of life, and an enhanced natural environment for all of our businesses, communities and wildlife.



The NWSAR has also shared the landscape monitoring results in January 2022. To support the acquisition of new and more accurate data related to Woodland Caribou, NWSAR worked with the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI), Manning Forest Products, Boucher Bros Lumber Ltd. and Zavisha Sawmills to develop the best available information on the status of caribou habitat within two caribou ranges. This project primarily focused on the Chinchaga and Caribou Mountains caribou ranges within Northwest Alberta, and sought to address the following questions:

1. What is the accuracy of existing human footprint data?
2. What is the state of vegetation growth on vegetated footprint types?
3. Where should habitat restoration efforts on seismic lines be targeted?

This information was prepared through data collection, data processing, human footprint data analysis, vegetation data analysis, restoration prioritization analysis, and “bang for buck” habitat restoration analysis. The results are available for public viewing 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.



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

## Annual Report 2022

Contributing to a total of over <b>150,449 trackable checkouts</b> (up 45,574 from 2021)!	<b>6164 library active cardholders</b> , that encompasses over <b>48% of our current population!!</b>	All three libraries offered unique programs and events over the year	We continued to add to and promote our e-services in 2022!

The libraries added <b>4067 new items</b> last year	Bringing the total in-house collections to <b>81,541 items</b>	Music downloads & streaming. eBooks, Comics Magazines, Languages	The library had <b>3347 open hours</b> in 2021! Plus program partnerships and events!

Inter-library loans within our region <b>647 times</b>	Services delivered by <b>14 Dedicated staff</b> and over <b>1300 Volunteer Hours!</b>	Our libraries have <b>11 public computers</b> and over <b>700 sq m of space</b>	There were also <b>100's of connections</b> to our WiFi, many connecting from the parking lots

In 2022 Our Funding came from: <b>68% Municipal</b> <b>18% Provincial</b> <b>14% Library /Other</b> 2022 total budget for all our libraries is <b>\$357,918</b> (not including building and utility contributions)	Non-traditional lending like cake pans, snowshoes and even items like a jerky gun and an egg incubator!	Community support of our programs, outreach and non-conventional lending continues to grow!	More home-schooling and community supports!

# PROVINCIAL PROJECTS

## PROVINCIAL PROJECTS

### Highway 697 Bridge at Tompkins Landing

A functional planning study was completed and identified a recommended alignment of the bridge.

The recommended alignment is of a bridge that spans more than 800 metres over the Peace River with the construction of approximately 10 kms of new road. The precise location/alignment at this time has not been finalized.

After a final alignment has been selected the project will require an estimated five to six years for consultation, planning, design, utilities/land, permitting and construction. The project was in Budget 2023 to receive a three-year total of \$162 million; \$43 million in 2023-24, \$71 million in 2024-25 and \$48 million in 2025-26.



### Highway Improvements

There are many highway improvement projects in our County that have been completed or are in the beginning stages.

The rehabilitation and paving portion of highway 58 was completed during the summer of 2022.

HWY 88 Rehabilitation Project, will see HWY 88 being repaved from the intersection of HWY 58 and HWY 88 to the hamlet of Fort Vermilion.

Rocky Lane Intersection Improvement will be constructed along with the HWY 88 Rehabilitation Project. The project will incorporate acceleration and deceleration lanes.

Wabasca and Boyer River Bridges Replacement will begin in 2023 with construction of substructures and the anticipation of the new bridge opening by the end of 2024. The existing bridges and final clean-up will occur in 2025.

### La Crete Maternity and Community Health Centre

Plans are still in the beginning stages. Building floor plans are being carefully thought out, to get it right the first time and thinking about future expansion if necessary. Covenant Health Senior Executives and the Deputy Premier and Minister of Infrastructure met with Administration and Councillors in February 2023.

La Crete Maternity and Community Health Centre is set to receive \$64.4 million over three years; \$9.4 million in 2023-24, \$21.2 million in 2024-25 and \$33.7 million in 2025-26.

The new health centre will provide access to primary care, mental health services and physiotherapy, as well as include an Emergency Medical Facility with ambulance bays. Construction is set to begin in 2024.

### Roundabout and Widening Highway 697

Alberta Transportation (AT) is in the preliminary stages leading up to the construction of the HWY 697 and TWP RD 1062 Roundabout. This roundabout should alleviate the congestion of this intersection without hindering traffic flow. AT has considered that larger vehicles use this corridor and the design of the roundabout will reflect that. Funding for this project has not been confirmed as of yet.

Widening of HWY 697, engineering is nearing completion, construction funding confirmation has not been announced.