

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT of

# Spirit River

The Spirit of Our Soil: News, Nature, and Neighbours

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## Spring Break-Up Fundraiser *a Powerful Show of Community Support*

The recent Spring Break-Up Fundraiser brought the Central Peace communities together in a remarkable show of generosity, compassion, and shared vision for the future. With over **400 attendees**, the evening—made possible through the efforts of the **Solution Services, NaR Environmental Ltd., and Rycroft Agricultural Society**—was not only a celebration of community spirit, but a meaningful step forward for several important local initiatives and families.

The event supported three primary recipients, each reflecting the heart of what makes this region so strong—caring for one another while investing in the future.



A significant portion of the evening's proceeds—**\$65,650**—was raised in support of the Boudreau family and their son, Kingston. At just 12 years old, Kingston is living with extremely rare and complex medical conditions, requiring extensive travel and specialized

care. His journey has included more than 100 medical visits in a short period of time, with trips to Grande Prairie, Edmonton, and Calgary becoming a regular part of life for the family.



Despite these challenges, Kingston's story is one of resilience and strength. His determination, alongside the unwavering support of his family, has deeply touched the community. The funds raised will help ease the significant emotional and financial burden associated with his ongoing care.

The fundraiser also supported the **Woking Outdoor Skating Rink Naming Rights**, raising **\$30,000** toward enhancing recreational opportunities in the region—an investment in community connection, wellness, and quality of life.

At the centre of the evening, however, was the continued momentum behind the proposed **Spirit River Regional Daycare Centre (Full Steam Ahead Academy)**. A remarkable total of **\$394,021.98** was raised for the project, underscoring its importance as a critical priority for the community and the broader region.

As Daycare Facilitator MaryEllen Norton shared during the event, "*Childcare isn't just a family issue—it's what keeps people working, businesses growing, and communities alive.*"

She emphasized that Spirit River is currently experiencing a childcare shortage, with no licensed spaces available—an issue that impacts not only families, but the local workforce and broader economic stability.



The proposed daycare facility aims to address this need by creating 102 licensed childcare spaces, supporting families with non-traditional work hours, and providing employment opportunities within the community. This project represents a regional collaboration, bringing together municipal partners, agricultural societies, and community leaders, all working toward a shared goal of strengthening the region for generations to come.

Reeve Tony van Rootselaar reinforced the importance of the project and the Municipality's commitment, announcing that the **MD of Spirit River will match funds raised for the daycare centre, dollar-for-dollar, up to**



**\$350,000**. This commitment effectively doubles the impact of every contribution made toward the project.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from front page 1)

“Every dollar you bid on an auction item tonight, and for every donation you make, it has double the power,” he shared. “Your \$100 becomes \$200, and your \$1,000 becomes \$2,000.”



This matching initiative represents not only financial support, but a strong vote of confidence in the future of the community and the families who call it home.

The Spring Break-Up Fundraiser was a clear reminder that when a community comes together, meaningful change happens. From supporting a local family in need, to investing in recreation, to building essential infrastructure for future generations—this event demonstrated what is possible through collective effort and shared purpose.

With the MD's matching contribution, the total amount raised for the daycare, including matching funds and additional fundraising efforts such as the 50/50 draw, now stands at **\$744,021.98**, making the **grand total raised \$839,671.98**.

With this momentum, the project now moves closer to the construction phase, bringing the vision of a regional childcare facility one step nearer to reality.

On behalf of all those impacted, thank you to everyone who attended, donated, volunteered, and supported this incredible evening. Your generosity is helping build a stronger, more vibrant future for the Central Peace.



## Fairview Campus Transition Moves Forward

Following last month's announcement confirming that the Fairview Campus would remain open, further details have now been released outlining what this transition will look like moving ahead.






Northern Lakes College has been named as the incoming post-secondary provider and is set to begin offering programming at the Fairview Campus in Fall 2026. Northwestern Polytechnic will continue operations through August, at which point programming will transition to the new provider.

Importantly, the campus itself will remain active, continuing its long-standing role as a hub for education and training in the Peace Country. Planned programming includes a combination of trades and apprenticeship opportunities, health-related studies, dual credit options for high school students, and flexible learning formats designed to meet the needs of rural learners.

This transition reflects a collaborative, community-informed approach, with regional stakeholders playing an active role in shaping the campus's future direction. While details will continue to evolve in the coming months, the outlook remains positive, with a shared commitment to maintaining strong, local access to post-secondary education.

### What programs will be offered?

Residents can expect a range of flexible and community-focused learning opportunities, including:

-  Trades and apprenticeship programming
-  Pre-employment and skills training
-  Health and community service programs
-  Dual credit opportunities for high school students
-  Flexible and online learning options

Currently, there are no agricultural programs. According to Northern Lakes College, it is still an ongoing process, but they have been receiving many inquiries about agricultural programs. The MD will continue to monitor developments and provide updates as they become available.

You may also stay apprised of the program list by periodically checking their website @ [www.northernlakescollege.ca/fairview-campus](http://www.northernlakescollege.ca/fairview-campus).



### IS THAT SPRING IN THE AIR?

#### FCSS is settling in at NEW OFFICE

4201 50th St Spirit River (Peace Wapiti Public School

Division Sub office). Our Phone number will be 587 771 3567, cell number is 780 864 5698, email is [fcss@townofspiritriver.ca](mailto:fcss@townofspiritriver.ca). If you have any questions or concerns please call Shelley Loroff at 780 864 5698

**Camp Wanago** Summer Job Send resume - [fcss@townofspiritriver.ca](mailto:fcss@townofspiritriver.ca)  
Service Canada May 13 10-2:30 Central Peace Medical Clinic

**MEALS ON WHEELS!** Meals on Wheels is hot meals delivered to your door; Delivered Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays and is intended for persons that are unable to obtain or prepare their own meals. Call or email us for more information.

**HOME SUPPORT** – for a senior over the age of 55 years, any person with a disability, new mothers (short-term basis only), any person recovering from a surgery or operation (short-term basis only), any person dealing with death of an immediate family member (short-term basis only); call or email FCSS to find out more! FCSS staff have to be out of the office on occasion. If you require in-person assistance, please CALL AHEAD (587 771 3567) to ensure that someone will be available to help



## Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133

Monday–Friday:  
8:30 am–12:00 pm, 1:00 pm–4:30 pm  
Closed weekends & statutory holidays



**Street Address:** 4202 50<sup>th</sup> Street  
Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0  
(780) 864-3500 | [mdspiritriver.ab.ca](http://mdspiritriver.ab.ca)

**Mailing Address:** Box 389

*Missing an issue? Need more info? Grab your phone and take a look!*

## Dust Control Program Now Open for 2026

With spring on the horizon, the MD of Spirit River is preparing for another season of dust control on our rural roads.

To help manage dust levels from spring through fall, Calcium will once again be applied as a dust suppressant. The MD continues to offer a **cost-sharing Dust Control Program** for ratepayers wishing to have product applied in front of their property.

### Program Details:

- Applications are open until **May 15, 2026**
- **Full payment is required prior to application**
- Cost of application is laid out in application form

For full details & application form, scan the QR code.

Let's work together to keep our roads safer, cleaner, and more comfortable for everyone this season.



## Rycroft Agricultural Society Scholarship Opportunity

The Rycroft Agricultural Society is once again investing in the future of our rural communities by offering two \$1,500 scholarships to graduating students in the G5 region, including the MD of Spirit River. Named in honour of dedicated community members Joy and Eric Astell, these scholarships recognize students who demonstrate strong academic performance, community involvement, and a commitment to fields that support and strengthen rural life.

### Who Can Apply?

Eligible applicants must be:

- Graduating high school students
- Planning to pursue post-secondary education in:
  - Agriculture
  - Veterinary studies
  - Trades
  - Business
  - Students should also demonstrate community involvement and complete a short essay as part of their application.

### How to Apply

Application forms and full details are available online:

👉 **Scan the QR code to apply:**



### Learn More:

<https://www.rycroftag.com/about/scholarships>

### Supporting Local Youth

This scholarship is a wonderful opportunity for local students to take the next step in their education while staying connected to the industries that help our region thrive. The Rycroft Agricultural Society continues to play an important role in recognizing and supporting the next generation of leaders in agriculture and rural communities.

## Shape Your Future. Strengthen Your Community.

### MD of Spirit River #133 Bursary Program

Every community is built on the strength of its people – and the Municipal District of Spirit River #133 believes in investing in those who are ready to lead, give back, and make a difference.

That's why MD Council is proud to offer a **\$1,000 bursary** to support local students pursuing **full-time post-secondary education** anywhere in Canada, including universities, colleges, and accredited online programs.

### More Than Financial Support

This bursary isn't just about helping with tuition – it's about recognizing individuals who are already making an impact and encouraging them to continue that journey.

Whether you're graduating this year or continuing your studies, this opportunity is open to students who:

- Reside within the MD of Spirit River #133
- Demonstrate **leadership and initiative**
- Show a strong commitment to **community involvement**
- Have a desire to contribute to the future of **Northern Alberta**

### Your Story Matters

We want to hear about the difference you've made – and the difference you plan to make.

Applicants are asked to highlight their past experiences in leadership, volunteerism, or community service, and share how their chosen field of study will help them continue supporting and strengthening their communities.

This is your chance to show how your education connects to something bigger.

### A Community That Supports You

The MD of Spirit River #133 is proud to stand behind students who are working toward their goals while staying connected to their roots.

By investing in local students, we're investing in stronger communities, brighter futures, and the continued growth of our region.

### Apply Today

📍 **Pick up an application:** MD Office – 4202-50 Street, Spirit River, AB

🌐 Or **apply online** @ [mdspiririver.ab.ca/departments/administration/bursaries](mailto:mdspiririver.ab.ca/departments/administration/bursaries)

📅 **Deadline: July 31, 2026**

Take the Next Step

Your future is full of possibility – and your community is here to support you every step of the way.

**Apply for the MD of Spirit River #133 Bursary and take your next step forward.**

## Rycroft MERRY PIONEERS

### MAY HAPPENINGS

The Centre is open Monday to Thursday from 1:00pm – 4:00pm, unless otherwise stated. Come join us for coffee, fellowship, and games. Chair Yoga for Seniors starts at 2:00pm, no charge. Mahjong starts at 1:00pm.

- May 4<sup>th</sup> 🍷 **Chair Yoga;**
- May 6<sup>th</sup> 🍷 **Mahjong & Chair Yoga;**
- May 11<sup>th</sup> 🍷 **Foot Care**  
from 1:00pm-4:00pm
- May 11<sup>th</sup> 🍷 **Chair Yoga;**
- May 12<sup>th</sup> 🍷 **Games Day**  
starting @ 1:00pm;
- May 13<sup>th</sup> 🍷 **Mahjong & Chair Yoga;**
- May 18<sup>th</sup> 🍷 **CLOSED**
- May 20<sup>th</sup> 🍷 **Mahjong & Chair Yoga;**
- May 21<sup>st</sup> 🍷 **Seniors Bingo**  
starting @ 1:30pm;
- May 25<sup>th</sup> 🍷 **Chair Yoga;**
- May 26<sup>th</sup> 🍷 **Potluck Supper**  
@ 5:00pm with music by Popovich;
- May 27<sup>th</sup> 🍷 **Mahjong & Chair Yoga;**

*The Rycroft Merry Pioneers Senior Centre is located within the Rycroft Community Hall, at 5208 – 47th Avenue in the Village of Rycroft*

## Proposed Daycare Facility Design Unveiled

Exciting progress is being made toward expanding childcare in our region with the release of proposed drawings for the **Full Steam Ahead Academy Daycare Centre**.

The facility is now proposed to be constructed **behind the MD Administration Office, next to the Brownlee Building**, offering a central and accessible location for families across the region. Once completed, it will provide **over 100 licensed childcare spaces**, helping meet the growing demand for accessible, high-quality childcare.

This project represents an important investment in our communities—supporting working parents, strengthening the local economy, and creating a safe, welcoming environment where children can learn and grow.

Funds raised through the recent Spring Break-Up Dine & Dance Fundraiser will go directly toward bringing this vision to life.

Go to [www.mdspiririver.ab.ca/news/daycare-design-unveiled](http://www.mdspiririver.ab.ca/news/daycare-design-unveiled) to view all of the proposed drawings.





You are invited to participate in the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133's photo contest.

### FIRST PRIZE \$200.00 - Runner up \$100.00

Enter up to 10 photos per person

To be eligible for the contest, all photos submitted **must** be taken within the boundaries of the MD of Spirit River. *Please give a description of where the photo was taken and when.*

By entering and participating in the contest, you consent to the use of your photographs by the MD of Spirit River, during or after the contest closing date, without compensation.

Photos may be submitted in either color or black and white. Each photo should be high resolution (minimum 300ppi for digital or 5" x 7" or larger for hard copy). Hard copies can be mailed to the MD of Spirit River No.133, Box 389, Spirit River, AB TOH 3G0. Digital copies may be emailed to: [mdsr133@mdspiritriver.ab.ca](mailto:mdsr133@mdspiritriver.ab.ca). Don't forget to include your name and contact information! *Waiver forms/model releases and/or copyright laws are the responsibility of the entrants.*

Photos **MUST be submitted** by **October 16th, 2026.**

Winners will **be selected by** October **30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

*The winning pictures and winners' names will be posted on our Facebook page and in the Spirit of the Peace newsletter, and all winners will be notified by phone or email.*

**Thank you for your entries and GOOD LUCK!**

## COUNCIL MOTIONS MDSR No. 133 Council on March 25<sup>th</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026



The next Council meetings will be held on **May 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**, in Council Chambers located in the MD Office in Spirit River. Council meetings are open to the public and we welcome all to attend!

*The following motions were made at our Council Meeting on March 25th, April 8th, and April 22nd, 2026.*

### Additions to VSI User List

Moved by Councillor Bzowy to add Elk and Bison to the VSI user list as per Agricultural Fieldman recommendations.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Grader Bid Invitation

Moved by Councillor Rozecki that Council accept the Bid Invitation for Sale of Two (2) MD Graders as presented, and further that Administration advertise for tender to the public ending May 7th, 2026, as per the RFP.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Camp Wanago Lease Agreement

Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark that Council approve the Brownlee Building lease between the Town of Spirit River and Municipal District of Spirit River for the purpose of delivering CP FCSS Camp Wanago as amended.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Seniors Event & Ratepayers BBQ

Moved by Councillor Rozecki that Council host a Seniors Event and Ratepayers BBQ at Nardam on July 23rd from 11 am until 2 pm.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Donations to Pleasant View Lodge

Moved by Councillor Schoorlemmer to contribute \$500 to the Pleasantview Lodge and donate the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 transit bus, for the purpose of celebrating Seniors Week 2026.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Emergency Preparedness Week.

Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Council of the MD of Spirit River No. 133 hereby proclaims the week of May 3-9, 2026 as Emergency Preparedness Week within the Municipal District further that Council encourages all residents to take proactive steps toward personal and community safety by identifying local risks, developing a household emergency plan, and preparing an emergency kit to ensure they can be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours in the event of an emergency.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Anyone wishing to review more of our Council Meeting minutes can visit the MD of Spirit River No. 133 website under **Council and Council Meeting Minutes.***

## River Bend Jr. Cattlemen's Club

Our members have been working hard feeding and training their club project cattle for our upcoming show and sale happening June 12th & 13th at the Rycroft Ag Center! This year we have 18 members ranging in age from 6 to 19, with 13 Market Steers, 7 Cow-Calf Pairs, 3 Yearling Heifers and 4 Spring Calf projects. Members are also selling raffle tickets for our 2nd Annual Donation Steer initiative with half of the proceeds going to STARS Air Ambulance and half will be used to purchase next year's donations steer. Tickets are \$10.00 each for 2 chances to win a ½ beef, cut and wrapped at Johnny's Sausage, draw will take place June 13th to start off our sale.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more pictures and updates in the coming weeks as we get closer to show & sale weekend! We would like to thank all our supporters, sponsors, and past bidders and beef buyers – without all of you, our club would not be what it is today. Thank you.



## Senior Housing Available in Spirit River

Pleasant View Apartments in Spirit River currently has suites available for seniors seeking a safe, comfortable, and community-oriented living environment.

This well-maintained residence offers modern 1- and 2-bedroom accommodations designed to support independent living, along with the added benefit of a welcoming and supportive community atmosphere. Residents also enjoy the convenience of a daily lunch service.

### Key Features:

- Immediate availability
- 1- and 2-bedroom suites
- Daily lunch provided
- Safe and supportive environment
- Opportunities for social connection


Individuals may choose to move into Pleasant View Apartments without affecting their position on waitlists for housing in other communities, including Grande Prairie and Clairmont

### Location:

Spirit River, Alberta

Residents and families are encouraged to share this opportunity with those who may benefit from quality senior housing within the region.

### Call TODAY!

 (780) 532-2905 Ext. 110

 [info@grandespirit.org](mailto:info@grandespirit.org)

 [www.grandespirit.org](http://www.grandespirit.org)

For updates and additional information, please visit:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61588454402715>

Instagram: [@grandespiritfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/grandespiritfoundation)



Senior Housing Available  
in Spirit River

- ✔ Comfortable Living
- ✔ Supportive Community
- ✔ Immediate Availability

Move in Now Without Losing Your Place in Line for  
Grande Prairie, Clairmont, or Your Preferred Location!

  Follow Us:



A Good Place  
to Call Home!

## Happy Valley Ag & Recreation Club

Our local facility offers quiet outdoor luxury paired with unmatched privacy and stunning views of local scenery. The Club hosts many events including trail rides, gymkhanas, clinics, and kids holiday parties. The facility is available for drop-in use and private rentals. Weddings, family reunions, baby showers, birthday parties, everything works in Happy Valley! The facility features a picnic pavilion, fire pit area, playground, horseshoe pits, day use area and a camping area with horse corrals.

### Important Dates to Remember!

Robyn Marion Clinic- May 22-23

Spring Ride- June 13

Danette DeBolt Clinic- August 1-2

Alberta Endurance Riders Event- September 4-6

Fall Ride and Steak Supper- September 12

Join us for our next event or call for private bookings!

For more info, contact us at:

[Happyvalleyagrec@outlook.com](mailto:Happyvalleyagrec@outlook.com)

[www.facebook.com/HappyValleyAgandRec](https://www.facebook.com/HappyValleyAgandRec)


Connie Poss (780) 864-0785



## MD TRANSIT BUS

Your Ride to Grande Prairie!

Looking for an easy, affordable way to get to Grande Prairie for shopping or appointments? The MD Transit Bus has you covered!

 **Runs:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays  
(excluding STAT holidays)


 **Depart:** ~8:30 a.m. - **Return:** ~4:30-5:30 p.m.

 **Pick-Up Locations:**

- MD Office (Spirit River)
- Pleasant View Lodge
- Rycroft Post Office
- Sexsmith Sunset Homes (by request)

**\$ Fare:** \$25 per trip

**Note:** Medical appointments receive priority booking when space is limited.

 **Call 780-864-3500**

to book your seat (minimum 24 hours in advance)

**Convenient. Reliable. Local.**



# MOUNTIE MINUTE

Congratulations to all the kids graduating this month! We all know this comes with parties and celebrations, as there should be, it's an exciting first step into adulthood and you should be proud of all your hard work. **With that I beg that none of you drive drunk after one of these parties or do something equally stupid. You're just getting started, so don't ruin your life or someone else's.** Watch out for your friends and acquaintances, and make sure they aren't doing something regrettable or that some creep isn't taking advantage of them **Always remember: nothing good ever happens after 2 am.**

With the warmer weather, everyone is coming out of hibernation. Expect to see more people on motorcycles and bicycles, especially kids. Drive responsibly and don't swish in and out of lanes abruptly without looking, or flying around corners at high speed - you don't look flashy and cool, you look like an idiot, and you're putting others at risk. So, cool-it, hotrod, this isn't a Mazda commercial.

Many people will also be camping and partying for May Long Weekend (if it doesn't snow!). Go easy on the booze. You can still have a good time without getting

completely wasted. I suggest making the event more focused on good food and less about drinking. Would you rather be sheepishly asking what happened last night or asking what's in that awesome potato salad? (it's bacon and bacon fat)

It's hard not to notice the price of fuel right now and you know what that means.. theft! It feels ridiculous to have to take so many precautions just to keep some scumbag from ripping you off, but that's the world we're in right now. There's a few steps you can take to help prevent these thefts:

-install good-quality cameras around storage tanks and where vehicles are parked (*they sometimes drill holes in gas tanks and collect what pours out- it's messy, but they're slimy people.*)

-Report any thefts immediately.

-keep an eye out for suspicious-looking people and vehicles prowling around where they don't belong.

The man charged for the huge fuel theft and mess near Codessa is still on warrant. His name is **Kyle Dale HUDSON, from Woking**. He also has new charges: Flight from a Peace Officer, Dangerous Operation of a

Motor Vehicle, Driving While Prohibited etc. Our officers spotted him after receiving a tip about his whereabouts. They attempted to make a traffic stop, but he fled at a high rate of speed, and began to drive into oncoming traffic, forcing at least one vehicle off the road. The pursuit was called off as his driving obviously caused an extreme risk to the public. This stunt is where he earned his latest charges and remains on warrant. If you see Kyle HUDSON call police immediately and report his whereabouts.

I also want to remind everyone not to leave their keys in any vehicles unattended whether that's on the street or in the field. I know it's for convenience and practicality, so you don't have to look for keys constantly. As an alternative, make several copies so everyone that needs to drive it has one, or at least hide them in a really good spot. You work hard for everything you have, so don't make it easy for some trashbag loser to steal it from you.

Having said all that, I hope everyone has a really good month.

Corporal Don McCullough  
RCMP Spirit River Detachment

## A Ride Can Save a Life: How Alberta's Shelters Are Bridging the Transportation Gap for Rural Survivors of Gender-Based Violence

For many survivors of gender-based violence in rural Alberta, the path to safety often begins with something as simple—and as elusive—as a ride. Isolated communities, limited or nonexistent public transit, and prohibitive costs can trap people in abusive situations. The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) is shining a light on this barrier through its Rural Transportation Project and a new report titled *A Ride Can Save a Life: Transporting Survivors in Rural Alberta to Safety and Healing*.

Released in March 2026, the report draws on data from a 14-month pilot project launched in 2024. With \$113,900 in provincial grant funding from Alberta's Ministry of Children and Family Services, ACWS distributed resources to 22 shelters serving rural, remote, and northern communities. The results were immediate and profound: safe transportation was provided to 3,430 survivors—2,087 adults and 1,343 children.

The funding covered taxis, gas cards, transit fares, flights, and shelter vehicles. Survivors used the rides to reach shelters, attend medical and mental health appointments, appear in court, secure housing and employment, pick up groceries, or reconnect with family. In one documented case, a mother and her children needed to relocate quickly after an abuser discovered their location; without the grant, a \$950 taxi fare would have been impossible. Another survivor secured full-time work but faced \$250 weekly taxi costs in a town with no public transit.

Transportation is frequently the first barrier to leaving abuse. Rural Alberta's vast distances, harsh winters, and lack of ride-sharing or bus services compound the problem. Many survivors flee without ID, bank accounts, or access to a vehicle, making even basic travel unaffordable. Shelters sometimes diverted funds from food or other budgets to cover rides before the pilot.

Cat Champagne, executive director of ACWS, explained the human cost: "If they don't have access to transportation, some survivors are forced to stay in the situations they are in." She added that in rural, remote communities, "transportation can be a huge barrier there... [with] no way to get out, no way to support their children or any way to really move on."

Miranda Pilipchuk, ACWS researcher and lead author of the report,

underscored the stakes: "Transportation can make the difference between someone staying in an abusive relationship, or them being able to access safety and find a path to healing. This is a very long-standing issue that is becoming more complex as resources start to become tighter for everyone."

The project's success extended beyond initial escapes. At the Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation shelter in Morinville, 329 rides were provided in just seven months. Executive Director Marla Poelzer noted that the funding allowed a child to attend daily specialized educational programming essential for stabilization: "We saw the difference it made in their behaviour, their sense of safety." Without it, staffing shortages and costs would have forced missed appointments and stalled recovery.

The report doesn't just document the problem—it offers clear recommendations. These include long-term flexible funding for shelters, partnerships with taxi companies for subsidized tokens or standing accounts, gender-based violence training for transportation providers, and greater investment in affordable rural public transit. ACWS emphasizes that sustainable support prevents shelters from choosing between food budgets and life-saving rides.

A single ride can be the difference between remaining trapped and beginning to heal. The pilot proved that when shelters have the tools, survivors can reach safety, rebuild their lives, and protect their children. ACWS and its member shelters continue this vital work every day, but they need ongoing provincial and community support to scale it province-wide.

Alberta's government has invested significantly in women's shelters, and a needs-based funding model is under development. Yet the report makes clear that transportation must be a core part of that commitment. As one shelter manager in Fort McMurray put it starkly, sustainable funding isn't optional: without it, "women are going to die."

For survivors in the MD of Spirit River, Saddle Hills County, Birch Hills County, or any rural corner of the province, the message is straightforward: a ride really can save a life. To learn more, download the full report at [acws.ca/ruraltransportation](https://acws.ca/ruraltransportation), donate to local shelters, or contact your MLA to advocate for rural transportation solutions that keep families safe.

## Preventing Youth Crime Starts in the Classroom

New research highlighted by the Alberta Teachers' Association is reinforcing something many educators already know—early intervention matters. Programs like Calgary's YouthLink show how engaging students in real-world learning about consequences, decision-making, and healthy relationships can help reduce the risk of future involvement in crime. Even short-term exposure to these types of programs has been shown to positively influence how students think about their choices.

While this program is based in Calgary, the takeaway is universal:

***schools play a powerful role in prevention.***

For rural educators, this opens the door to exploring:

- Local partnerships with RCMP or community organizations
- Classroom conversations around decision-making and consequences
- Potential virtual learning opportunities with established programs

👉 To learn more about the research and program, visit: <https://teachers.ab.ca/news/toward-youth-crime-prevention>

# CHIEF'S BRIEFS



Here we are on the brink of the snow melt, and the water is starting to flow, with fast water moving through the ditches and creeks. Fast moving water can and will draw the attention of children, and I just want to remind everyone on how dangerous these fast-moving waters can be. Caution needs to be emphasized as young ones could be swept away downstream, possibly through culverts, and ultimately may end up being a fatal mistake. Please ensure that you watch any children around these fast-moving waters.

Again, I would like to touch on winter burns, and now is the time that holdover fires start. A quick quote from Alberta Forestry and Parks, "There has been reports of holdover fires happening along the BC/AB border zone as of this week. I am just putting it out there that if you haven't started checking for holdovers it may be prudent to start before the high winds pick up and all the snow is gone. Just as an FYI that this weekend may be a great chance to spot these sites and have landowners take action before they escape when the temperature keeps rising along with strong winds come May."

So please take some time and check all your winter burns to ensure that they are out, before the winds bring it back to life. Current information can be found at [albertafirebans.ca](http://albertafirebans.ca), and the Central Peace Fire & Rescue will update the fire conditions daily if required.

With the May long weekend fast approaching, highways will be busy, people may not be paying attention, which could cause incidents on the highway. So, just remember to take a few minutes and know your surroundings as you go down the road to enjoy your first opportunity to head out camping and other outdoor activities. With any luck it will be perfect weather.

The Department has been gearing up for the wildfire season with equipment checks and making sure everything is in top working order. Crews are trained and ready to respond to any emergency that may come up this year.

Thank you for your continued support,

**Brian Kroes**  
Fire Chief, CPFRC

# COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY

— Have Your Say! —



The MD of Spirit River is working with the RCMP to develop a **Community Priorities Plan (CPP)** – a community-led approach to help guide local policing priorities.



We want to hear from you about safety concerns in our area, including rural crime, response times, and other issues impacting our farms and acreages.



The survey deadline has been extended to:  
**MAY 30, 2026**



**Your input matters!**  
Your feedback will help ensure RCMP efforts reflect the realities of our community.

SCAN TO TAKE THE SURVEY



or visit [www.mdspiritriver.ab.ca](http://www.mdspiritriver.ab.ca)



**ANONYMOUS**  
Your responses are confidential.



**OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS**



**HELPS SHAPE**  
policing priorities in our community.

Thank you for helping build a safer MD of Spirit River!

# Emergency Preparedness Week

## May 3-9, 2026

Before, during and after an emergency—we are **In It Together**.

#BePrepared and learn more about the importance of making community connections to help you build resiliency for disruptions, big or small.



Learn more at [alberta.ca/beprepared](http://alberta.ca/beprepared)



## Bid Invitation – Sale of MD Graders

Bids are now being accepted for the sale of two MD graders.

Scan the QR code for full details and photos, or visit <https://mdspiritriver.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Grader-RFP-April-9th-2026.pdf>.





### Spring Energy Reset: Getting Moving Again After a Long Peace Country Winter

In the MD of Spirit River and across the Peace Country, spring arrives with longer daylight, melting snow, and the promise of green hills and river valleys waking up. After months of cold, shorter days, and indoor time, many of us feel that familiar winter sluggishness. This is the perfect season for a **Spring Energy Reset** — a kind and practical way to rebuild energy, shake off lethargy, and enjoy the renewing landscapes right here in our region.

Reduced sunlight through winter can lower vitamin D, affect mood and sleep, and leave us craving momentum. But the Peace Country's increasing daylight, milder breezes, and thawing trails offer a natural boost. Here's how to get moving again, with local touches to make it feel like home.

### Soak Up Northern Alberta Sunlight

Start with the simplest reset: natural light. Early spring mornings in the Peace Country are crisp and invigorating.

- Open curtains at first light and step outside for 10–30 minutes, even if it's just around your yard or a quiet road in the MD.
- Head to nearby spots like Nardam (in the MD), or Spring Lake (in Saddle Hills County, just a short drive) for a peaceful lakeside stroll as the ice recedes, or drive toward Peace River for valley views from Sagitawa Lookout.

This helps reset your body clock, lifts serotonin, and sets a positive tone for the day — perfect for our northern latitude where daylight changes are dramatic.

### Gentle Movement in Peace Country Landscapes

Don't rush into hard workouts. Begin with easy, enjoyable movement to wake up circulation and release endorphins while enjoying the area's beauty

- **Start with walking:** 10–15 minutes daily on flat paths or quiet country roads. As trails dry, explore local options like trails around Spring Lake or Moonshine Lake for beach views and short loops, or head to Dunvegan Park or Shaftesbury Trail and riverfront paths with scenic valley vistas.
- **Add mobility:** Gentle stretches or yoga at home, or outdoors once warmer. Undo winter stiffness with neck rolls and full-body reaches.
- **Embrace local activities:** As spring progresses, try light hiking on Misery Mountain trails near Peace River (great ridgeline views and wildlife spotting), or easy paddling/kayaking on calmer sections of the Peace River or at Moonshine Lake. Gardening in your yard or community plots is excellent low-impact movement too.

- **Mix in brisk walks with slower, mindful ones** — the fresh air and budding landscapes (watch for early wildflowers on hills) make it feel rewarding rather than obligatory.

Outdoor movement here combines exercise with nature therapy, helping combat any lingering winter fatigue common in the Peace Country.

### Nourish with Seasonal, Local Flavours

Shift from heavy winter foods to lighter options using what's fresh or soon available in our region — greens from gardens or markets, rhubarb (a Peace Country staple), and early asparagus or berries.

- Load up on leafy greens, radishes, and spring veggies for vitamins and antioxidants.
- Stay hydrated with plenty of water — add a splash of lemon or local rhubarb for flavour.
- Keep meals simple: eggs with fresh greens, smoothies, or lighter stir-fries. Cut back on heavy processed foods that cause energy dips.

Eating with the season supports your body's natural spring renewal.

Here are **three easy seasonal recipes** to fuel your reset (each serves 2–4 and uses ingredients easy to source locally):

**1. Fresh Spring Greens & Asparagus Salad** A bright, crunchy side or light lunch that highlights early greens and asparagus (available at markets or from local growers as spring advances).

- **Ingredients:** 4 cups mixed greens or spinach, 1 bunch asparagus (trimmed and lightly steamed), handful of radishes (sliced), 2 tbsp olive oil, juice of ½ lemon, salt & pepper, optional: toasted nuts or local cheese.
- **Method:** Toss greens with sliced radishes. Blanch or steam asparagus 2–3 minutes until bright green, then cool and add. Drizzle with olive oil, lemon juice, salt & pepper.
- **Why it fits:** Quick, hydrating, and packed with nutrients to boost energy without heaviness.

**2. Rhubarb Ginger Energizer Smoothie** A refreshing drink using backyard rhubarb — tart, zingy, and perfect for morning momentum.

- **Ingredients:** 1 cup chopped rhubarb (fresh or frozen, stewed lightly with a bit of honey), 1 banana, 1 tsp fresh grated ginger, handful of spinach or greens, 1 cup water or milk of choice, optional: local berries when they appear.
- **Method:** Simmer rhubarb briefly until soft, then blend everything until smooth. Add ice if desired.
- **Why it fits:** Ginger aids digestion, rhubarb supports gentle detox, and it's a tasty way to start hydrated

and energized.

**3. Simple Roasted Asparagus with Lemon & Greens** (or use early peas/greens if asparagus is later) A versatile side or light main that celebrates spring produce.

- **Ingredients:** 1 bunch asparagus, 1 tbsp olive oil, zest & juice of 1 lemon, garlic (minced), salt & pepper, serve over a bed of fresh greens.
- **Method:** Toss asparagus with oil, garlic, lemon zest, salt & pepper. Roast at 400°F (200°C) for 10–15 minutes until tender-crisp. Squeeze fresh lemon juice over top and serve on greens.
- **Why it fits:** Minimal effort, high flavour, and full of vitamins to support recovery after winter.

These recipes are flexible — swap in what's freshest from your garden or local markets in our area.

### Reset Sleep and Daily Rhythms

Consistent routines help sustain energy in our variable spring weather.

- Aim for steady sleep/wake times (7–9 hours) and wind down without screens.
- Add small anchors: a short declutter, gratitude moment, or breathing break (inhale slowly, exhale longer).
- Do a gentle “spring clean” of one space — it creates calm that makes movement easier.

### Keep It Realistic and Local

Success comes from starting small:

- Set tiny goals: One 10-minute walk, plus one recipe swap.
- Enjoy what's nearby.
- Listen to your body — rest on cooler, wet days, and celebrate consistency.
- Bonus: Once warmer, consider community spots like the outdoor pool in the Town of Spirit River for gentle movement and social connection.

A Spring Energy Reset here is about aligning with our northern rhythms — longer light on the hills, flowing rivers, and the slow greening of the land. By embracing local light, gentle trails, nourishing seasonal foods, and steady habits, you'll feel more vibrant and ready for everything the season brings in the MD of Spirit River and beyond.

Step outside, breathe the fresh Peace Country air, and let momentum build naturally. Whether it's a quiet walk by one of our lakes or along the Peace River, or a simple rhubarb smoothie, small steps add up.

Here's to renewed energy, blooming wildflowers, and making the most of spring in our corner of Alberta!

# Highway 2 & Township Road 780 Intersection Upgrade:

## What Farmers Need to Know

Producers and residents in the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 and area can expect important changes ahead as plans move forward for the long-anticipated upgrade to the Highway 2 and Township Road 780 intersection.

This project comes at a critical time, as increased industrial activity—particularly around the G3 Grain Terminal—continues to bring higher volumes of heavy-haul traffic into the area. The upgrade is designed to improve safety, traffic flow, and long-term durability of this key corridor.

## Timing & What to Expect

While an exact start date has not yet been confirmed, construction is anticipated to begin in spring or early summer 2026, aligning closely with the end of road bans and the start of peak construction season.

For local farmers, this means construction could overlap with seeding operations—and potentially extend into harvest season. Equipment operators should plan ahead for:

- **Reduced speeds and possible lane restrictions**
- **Increased construction traffic and signage**
- **Delays along Highway 2 between Rycroft and Sexsmith**
- **Work is expected to continue through one full construction season, with activity potentially lasting into late summer or fall.**

## Why This Matters for Agriculture?

This intersection is a key route for moving equipment, grain, and inputs. With the rise in heavy industrial traffic, especially along Township Road 780, safety has become a growing concern.

The planned improvements aim to make a real difference for both farm and commercial traffic, including:

- **Dedicated turn lanes** to allow safer access for large equipment and trucks
- **Improved sightlines** to reduce the risk of high-speed collisions
- **Stronger road surfaces** built to handle heavy loads during peak hauling seasons
- These upgrades should ultimately make it easier—and safer—to move machinery and loads through the area, especially during those high-pressure windows in spring and fall.

## Staying Informed

As construction approaches, more detailed updates—including traffic patterns and any closures—will be shared through:

- 511 Alberta
- Voyent Alert
- The MD of Spirit River No. 133 website and Facebook page

Producers are encouraged to keep an eye on these channels and build a little extra time into travel plans during peak farming periods.

**Bottom line:** While short-term delays may be part of the process, this upgrade is a long-term investment in safer, more efficient movement for everyone—especially those who rely on these roads every day.



**Spirit River Branch Location ~ 4202-50 Street**  
*(Brownlee Building behind the MD Administration Office)*

**HOURS OF OPERATION**  
**AFSC ON LOCATION**  
Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month - 8:15am - 4:30pm  
Contact Zoe Iwasiuk @ (780)864-3896

**AVAILABLE BY REMOTE COMMUNICATION**  
Monday to Friday - 8:15am - 4:30pm @ 1(877)899-2372



**Landfill Hours**

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 9 am - 5 pm  
Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm  
Sunday, Monday & Tuesday: Closed

*If you have any questions, please contact the landfill at (780) 765-3745.*

Open to MD Ratepayers Only



**REMINDER**



**REGISTER NOW!**



**Resource Contact List**

**CPFR (Fire Dept) Brian Kroes**  
Office 780-864-2841  
Cell 780-500-7027

**Fish & Wildlife**  
780-864-4101

**Highways Services (Alberta Trans)**  
587-956-3411 or  
1-877-300-1605



**RIVER BEND JR. CATTLEMEN'S CLUB**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> & 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**RYCROFT AG CENTER**



## Mother's Day in the Country

There's something a little different about Mother's Day in a rural community.

It isn't polished or picture-perfect. It doesn't arrive wrapped in ribbons or reserved for a single Sunday in May. Out here, motherhood shows up in the everyday—quietly, steadily, and often without much fanfare.

It's in the early mornings, when the coffee is already on before the sun has fully decided to rise. It's in the steady rhythm of boots on the porch, lunches packed at the kitchen counter, and a quick check out the window to see what the weather might bring. Around here, moms aren't just caregivers—they're planners, problem-solvers, chauffeurs, bookkeepers, cooks, gardeners, and, when needed, mechanics or fence-fixers too.

Rural mothers carry a kind of strength that doesn't ask for recognition. It's the strength to keep going when the days are long and the work doesn't wait. It's knowing how to stretch a meal, a budget, or a moment of quiet just a little bit further. It's showing up—for family, for neighbours, for community—even when there's already a full plate at home.

But alongside that strength is something softer, just as important.

It's the way a mom remembers how you like your eggs, or which jacket is your favourite, or when you might need a little extra encouragement. It's the steady reassurance that no matter how far you roam—down the road, across the province, or beyond—you've always got a place to land.

In small communities like ours, motherhood often extends far beyond one household. It looks like lending a hand during harvest, dropping off a meal when someone needs it, or stepping in to help raise not just your own children, but a whole generation. Here, kids grow up knowing that "mom" isn't just one person—it's a network of caring, watchful eyes and open hearts.

And maybe that's what makes Mother's Day feel so meaningful out here.

It's not about grand gestures. It's about taking a moment to notice. To say thank you—for the rides, the meals, the patience, the lessons, and the love that often goes unspoken but never unfelt.

So this Mother's Day, we celebrate the women who keep our homes running and our communities strong. The ones who show us, day after day,

what it means to care deeply, work hard, and love without limits.

Whether she's near or far, still with us or held in memory, a mother's influence stays woven into the fabric of who we are.

And around here, that's something worth celebrating—not just today, but every day.

Happy Mother's Day.



## Back to Basics: Practical Living in the Central Peace Starting a Garden Without Breaking the Bank

With grocery prices continuing to climb, many Central Peace residents are looking for practical ways to stretch their dollars. One of the most effective—and rewarding—options is growing some of your own food.

The good news? You don't need a large budget, fancy equipment, or acres of land to get started.

Whether you live on a farm, an acreage, or in town, a simple garden can help reduce grocery bills, increase food security, and reconnect you with the basics of where your food comes from.

### Start Small (and Smart)

One of the biggest mistakes new gardeners make is trying to do too much in their first year.

Start with a manageable space—something you can easily maintain. Even a few rows or containers can produce a surprising amount of food.

Focus on vegetables that are:

- Easy to grow
- Productive
- Frequently used in your household

Good beginner choices for our region include potatoes, carrots, lettuce, radishes, and zucchini.

### Keep Costs Low from the Start

Gardening doesn't have to mean a trip to the store for expensive supplies.

Consider these budget-friendly options:

- Reuse containers like pails, bins, or old barrels
- Start seeds instead of buying mature plants
- Use items you already have for tools and supports
- Repurpose wood or materials for garden beds

Many experienced gardeners will tell you—the best gardens are built over time, not all at once.

### Work with Our Climate, Not Against It

Gardening in northern Alberta comes with unique challenges, including a shorter growing season and the risk of late spring frost.

To set yourself up for success:

- Choose cold-hardy and fast-growing crops
- Wait until after the risk of frost has passed before planting sensitive plants
- Consider starting some seeds indoors

Paying attention to local conditions will save you time, money, and frustration.

### Grow What You'll Actually Eat

It might sound obvious, but it's easy to get carried away planting things that look appealing but don't get used.

Before planting, ask yourself:

- Will my household eat this regularly?
- Can I store or preserve extras?

Staple foods like potatoes, carrots, onions, and greens often provide the best return on effort.

### Learn from Your Community

One of the greatest resources in the Central Peace is the people.

Don't hesitate to:

- Ask neighbours what grows well for them
- Share seeds or split extra plants
- Trade tips and experiences

Gardening knowledge has been passed down for generations—and there's no need to reinvent the wheel.

### Start Where You Are

You don't need the "perfect" setup to begin.

Even a small garden can:

- Help offset grocery costs
- Provide fresh, healthy food
- Offer a sense of accomplishment and independence
- Start simple. Learn as you go. Build each year.

### Try This Month

Plant a small row or container of lettuce or radishes—two of the quickest and easiest crops to grow—and enjoy your first homegrown harvest in just a few weeks.



## Raised Bed Gardening:

### Grow More in Less Space (With Less Work)

Raised bed gardening is one of the most efficient, low-maintenance ways to grow food—especially in northern climates like ours. With the right setup, you can grow more produce, in less space, with less watering and weeding.

#### Let's walk through it step by step

### 1. 🗺️ Planning & Design

Before you build anything, start with a simple plan.

Key Design Tips:

- Bed width: 3–4 feet (so you can reach the middle easily)
- Length: 6–10 feet (or whatever fits your space)
- Height: 10–24 inches
  - Shorter = cheaper
  - Taller = less bending + better root space

Layout:

- Leave 18–24 inch pathways between beds
- Group beds in a grid pattern for efficiency
- Consider adding a trellis side (north side ideally)

Think of it like organizing a kitchen—you want everything easy to reach and efficient.

### 2. 📍 Choosing the Right Location

Location can make or break your garden.

What to Look For:

- Full sun (6–8+ hours daily)
- Close to water access
- Sheltered from strong winds
- Near your house (you'll tend it more often)

In northern Alberta, maximizing sun exposure is huge for yield.

### 3. 🪵 Building Your Raised Beds

Materials:

- Untreated wood (cedar lasts longest)
- OR metal raised bed kits
- Screws (not nails)

Basic Build:

1. Cut boards to size
2. Screw together into a rectangle
3. Level the ground
4. Place bed directly on soil (important!)

No need for a bottom—roots need to grow down.

### 4. 🌿 Layering the Bed (Hugelkultur-Style)

Instead of filling beds with expensive soil, layer materials:

Bottom → Top:

1. Cardboard or newspaper (weed barrier)
2. Sticks, branches, logs (drainage + moisture retention)
3. Grass clippings / leaves
4. Compost or manure
5. Topsoil blend

This reduces cost and improves soil over time.

### 5. 🌱 Soil Mix (The Secret Sauce)

A good mix is everything.

Ideal Blend:

- 40% topsoil
- 40% compost
- 20% aeration (peat moss or coco coir)

Why it Works:

- Compost = nutrients
- Topsoil = structure
- Peat/coir = moisture control

### 6. 💧 Watering Smart (Less Work!)

Raised beds dry out faster—but you can work smarter, not harder.

Best Methods:

- Soaker hoses or drip irrigation (set it and forget it)
  - Water deeply, less often
  - Early morning watering = best
- Add mulch (next step!) to cut watering by up to 50%.

### 7. 🌿 Mulching (Your Secret Weapon)

Mulch is what makes raised beds low maintenance.

Use:

- Straw
- Leaves
- Grass clippings
- Wood chips (around larger plants)

Benefits:

- Locks in moisture
- Prevents weeds
- Improves soil over time

### 8. 🌻 What & When to Plant (Central Peace Timing)

Early Season (May–early June):

- Lettuce
- Spinach
- Radishes

- Carrots
- Peas

After Frost (early–mid June):

- Potatoes
- Beans
- Cucumbers
- Zucchini
- Tomatoes (transplants)

Pro Tips:

- Plant closer together than traditional rows
- Use companion planting to maximize space
- Succession plant (replant after harvest)

Raised beds warm faster—so you can often plant a bit earlier than ground gardens.

### Final Thoughts

Raised beds are one of those “work smarter, not harder” systems:

- Less weeding
- Less watering
- Better yields
- Easier on your body

And once they're set up, they just keep getting better every year.

**Peace Country Gardening Tips**

## Raised Bed Gardening:

Grow More in Less Space (With Less Work)

- 1 Planning & Design**
  - ✓ 3–4 ft wide
  - ✓ 18–24 in. paths
  - ✓ Grid pattern
- 2 Choosing the Right Location**
- 3 Building Your Raised Beds**
- 4 Layering the Bed**
  - ✓ Cardboard
  - ✓ Branches
  - ✓ Compost
  - ✓ Topsoil
- 5 Perfect Soil Mix**
  - ✓ 40% Topsoil
  - ✓ 40% Compost
  - ✓ 20% Peat or Coco Coir
- 6 Smart Watering**
  - ✓ Drip or soaker hose
  - ✓ Water early
- 7 Mulch Matters**
  - ✓ Straw
  - ✓ Leaves
  - ✓ Wood Chips
- 8 What & When to Plant**
  - ✓ Early Crops in May

**Grow Smarter, Not Harder!**

- ✓ Less Weeding
- ✓ Less Watering
- ✓ Better Yields

# Field Feed: Your AG Report

## Working Together to Protect Our Land

Rural Alberta's strength is rooted in the land—and protecting that land is a shared responsibility. Three key provincial Acts guide how we manage pests, weeds, and soil health: the Agricultural Pests Act, the Weed Control Act, and the Soil Conservation Act.

While these laws may sound technical, their purpose is simple: **to protect agricultural productivity, prevent long-term damage, and support responsible land stewardship across our municipality.**

### Agricultural Pests Act: Managing Threats Before They Spread

The Act requires landowners and occupants to take active steps to prevent and control pests and nuisances that can damage crops, livestock, and property.

This includes:

- Preventing the establishment of pests
- Controlling or destroying infestations
- Removing materials that may contribute to their spread

If a pest issue is identified, an inspector may issue a notice requiring action within a specific timeframe. If no action is taken, the municipality can step in to complete the work and recover the costs.

**Why it matters:** Early action prevents widespread infestations that can impact entire farming operations and neighbouring lands.

### Weed Control Act: Everyone Plays a Role

The Act places clear responsibility on landowners and occupants to manage weeds on their property.

Key requirements include:

- Controlling noxious weeds
- Destroying prohibited noxious weeds
- Preventing the spread of weeds through equipment, seed, or soil movement

Inspectors may issue notices outlining what needs to be done and by when. These notices can even limit land use if necessary to stop the spread.

**Why it matters:** One unmanaged patch of weeds can quickly spread across fence lines, ditches, and entire fields.

### Soil Conservation Act: Protecting Our Most Valuable Resource

Healthy soil is the foundation of agriculture. The Act requires landholders to take appropriate measures to prevent soil loss and deterioration.

This includes:

- Preventing erosion caused by wind or water
  - Addressing issues like overgrazing or poor drainage
  - Taking corrective action if soil degradation is already occurring
- If concerns arise, a soil conservation officer may issue a notice requiring remedial action.

**Why it matters:** Soil loss doesn't just affect one season—it impacts long-term productivity and sustainability.

### A Shared Responsibility

Across all three Acts, one message is clear: **land stewardship is a shared effort between landowners, producers, and the municipality.**

By staying proactive and addressing issues early, we can:

- Protect crop yields and pasture health
- Reduce costs and enforcement actions
- Support a strong and sustainable agricultural community

If you have questions or need guidance, your local Agricultural Service Board is here to help.

- Each Act can be found [@mdspiritriver.ab.ca/departments/agricultural-services](https://mdspiritriver.ab.ca/departments/agricultural-services) or scan the QR code



## INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?

The Municipal District Newsletter is published monthly and delivered the first week of the month through Canada Post to all mailboxes in the Municipal District of Spirit River, Town of Spirit River, and Village of Rycroft.

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