FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MD of Spirit River Announces Major Provincial Funding Approval for New 102-Space Childcare Facility

SPIRIT RIVER, AB — The Municipal District of Spirit River is thrilled to announce the official approval of its Building Blocks grant application, securing **$2,714,989** in provincial funding toward the construction of a brand-new, state-of-the-art childcare facility.



The upcoming facility will create 102 licensed, subsidized childcare spaces, providing a vital service to support families and facilitate sustainable growth throughout the region.

Strategically located directly behind the MD Administration Building, initial site work has already begun. Following a competitive procurement process scheduled over the winter months, full-scale construction is anticipated to kick off in the spring of 2027.

The MD of Spirit River extends its sincere thanks to the Province of Alberta for identifying this daycare as a priority and providing the critical funding that will ultimately get the project across the finish line. In November 2025, MD Council actively advocated at the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Fall Convention, meeting with Minister of Municipal Affairs Dan Williams, Minister of Education and Childcare Demetrios Nicolaides, and Minister of Forestry and Parks & Central Peace-Notley MLA Todd Loewen, to secure a review of the original Building Blocks grant application. The MD expresses its deepest gratitude to these gentlemen for supporting the municipality's efforts and securing the review.



Special recognition and thanks go out to Saddle Hills County and the Spirit River & District Ag Society, for their generous financial contributions of $500,000 and $125,000, respectively, and the Rycroft Ag Society, in partnership with Solutions Services and NaR Environmental, for hosting the highly successful Spring Break Up Dine and Dance fundraiser this past April.

Thanks to the incredible success of the April fundraiser - which raised $394,021.98 - combined with the MD's matching funds of $350,000, a remarkable total of $744,021.98 was secured from this single-night event.

The MD would also like to offer a special section of thanks to the Regional Childcare Solutions Steering Committee (RCSSC) for their dedicated project leadership and continued oversight. Consisting of five voting members representing key regional stakeholders, their collaborative efforts have been instrumental:

Saddle Hills County: Jenn vanRootselaar (Committee Chair & Saddle Hills County Reeve)

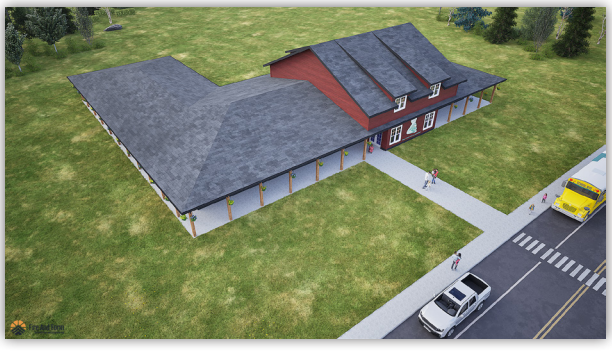
MD of Spirit River: Tony van Rootselaar (Committee Vice Chair & MD of Spirit River Reeve)

Town of Spirit River: Ryan Funk (Committee Member & Town of Spirit River Deputy Mayor)

Rycroft Agricultural Society: Nick Boivin (Committee Member & Ag Society Vice President)

Spirit River Agricultural Society: Mel Vollman (Committee Member & Ag Society President)

Their collaboration stands as a true testament to what can be achieved when regional partners work together for the betterment of the region.



The MD of Spirit River wants to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to see this dream become a reality. Local families and future generations to come thank everyone involved for providing this much-needed community service, which will support regional families and foster long-term regional growth and prosperity.

MD of Spirit River #133 Council *&* **Senior Staff** *with the* **Honourable Minister** *of* **Education** *&* **Childcare Demetrios Nicolaides** *during the* **2026 RMA Fall Convention**



Left to right: MD Spirit River CAO Shirley Hayden, MDSR Councillor Bernie Schoorlemmer, MDSR Councillor, Evelyn Bzowy, MDSR Reeve Tony van Rootselaar, Honourable Minister of Education and Childcare Demetrios Nicolaides, MDSR Deputy Reeve Dean Wark, MDSR Councillor Shelley Rozecki, MDSR Assistant CAO Monty Bremont



Investing *in the* **Future** *of the* **Central Peace**

The Spirit River & District Agricultural Society presents a $125,000 contribution toward the development of a new regional daycare facility.

Left to right: Tony van Rootselaar, Reeve MD of Spirit River, Nick Konstapel, Vice President Spirit River and District Agricultural Society, Justine Sawers, Treasurer SRADAS, Leah Alfred, Director SRADAS, MaryEllen Norton, President Spirit River Regional Daycare Society, Monty Bremont, Director SRRDS, Jordan Stephenson, Vice President SRRDS, Tyler Norton, Director SRRDS

MD of Spirit River #133 Council *&* **Senior Staff** *with the* **Honourable Minister** *of* **Municipal Affairs Dan Williams** *during the* **2026 RMA Fall Convention**



Left to right: MDSR Councillor Bernie Schoorlemmer, MDSR CAO Shirley Hayden, MDSR Councillor Shelley Rozecki, Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs Dan Williams, MDSR Reeve Tony van Rootselaar, MDSR Deputy Reeve Dean Wark, MDSR Assistant CAO Monty Bremont