

County of  
Grande Prairie No. 1

# COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE

## 2019 Annual Report



[countygpr.ab.ca](http://countygpr.ab.ca)









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## Message from your Reeve and Council

The County of Grande Prairie is continually evolving to find innovative ways of providing the highest level of service for those who live, work, visit and invest in our great community.

Our Strategic Plan guides this work. Council and Administration set priorities that are tied to five strategic pillars and measure the success of our operations against our objectives.

Council regularly updates our Strategic Priorities, thoughtfully considering new opportunities and changing needs within our municipality. Our decision-making also takes into account revenue and expenditure pressures resulting from a shifting political and economic climate, so we can best create an environment of prosperity, well-being and sustainability.

We're continually striving to find ways to make tax dollars work to the very best advantage for our citizens. We're finding better, more efficient ways of doing things. And we invest wisely, with a long-term vision. With this approach, Council aims to ensure our future generations can enjoy the same great quality of life that attracts people to the County today.

Growth in the County continues. Key ingredients for healthy growth are proactive planning and sound investments. With this in mind, last year the County allocated land for a new school and other development around Five Mile Community Hall. Along with the City of Grande Prairie and MD of Greenview, we finalized a draft Area Structure Plan for the Tri-Municipal Industrial Partnership. And, with the completion of important water and wastewater projects, more County residents are now connected to this essential service.





Of course, the hallmark to any great community is not just bricks and mortar, but the quality of life its citizens enjoy. For example, in 2019, Council committed \$6.2 million in sport, recreation, culture, FCSS, library, and transportation grants to local organizations in the County and neighbouring municipalities. These investments support the commitment of local citizens who put these funds to work for their communities. It also became easier to commute to and from the County with the launch of Phase Two of the County Connector Transit Service, a partnership with five municipal neighbours and the Province. Tailor-made municipal partnerships such as these are important: they provide efficiencies and integrated services, while still preserving the voices and perspectives of each individual community.

Connectivity in the County also improved with investments in transportation networks. Council directed more than half of our 2019 budget, \$79.4 million, into roads and bridges in the County. The County also commissioned a study, released last year, that demonstrated the tremendous value of investing in roads. We are very pleased that this was followed by an agreement struck early in 2020 that will see the County partner with the Province and the MD of Greenview to cost-share the twinning of a 19-kilometre stretch of Highway 40. Safe,

well-maintained transportation infrastructure is the social and economic engine of our communities, and a priority for our citizens. We will continue to advocate for action on local highway and community projects.

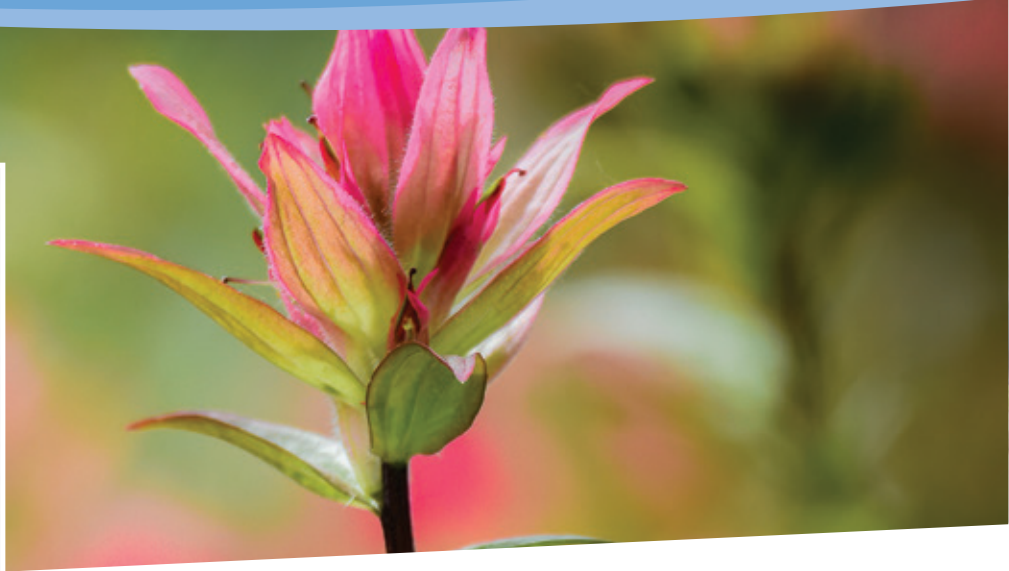
Because we create greater connections by looking after one another, our approach to protecting citizens in the County is deliberate and detailed. Council approved funding for two new RCMP Enhanced Officers in 2019; construction proceeded on a new fire station in La Glace; implementation of a new Community Standards Bylaw supports community safety and wellness; and numerous staff reached out in a multitude of capacities to provide assistance to our northern neighbours battling wildfire.

I am proud of our accomplishments in 2019. We have a bold vision that builds on the County's solid foundations. In 2020 and beyond, Council looks forward to continuing our work to maintain safe, sustainable and vibrant communities.

Sincerely,

Leanne Beaupre,  
Reeve





## Message from the Chief Administrative Officer

The County of Grande Prairie's annual report is an opportunity to reflect on the past year in the County. It is an invitation for the public to "dive deep" into the planning and work that impacts quality of life in our municipality.

I joined the County in July 2019 as the CAO, and it's been a pleasure to work with a team so focused on driving County Council's vision to deliver quality services to our residents and businesses. It's a responsibility our employees take very seriously, and a real team effort. I appreciate the leadership of my predecessor, Mr. Bill Rogan, for his role in cultivating such a strong team.

The County has delivered an easy-to-understand budget document that breaks down our sources of revenue and the ways we allocate our funds for services. Through this new annual report, we wish to highlight last year's activities, informing you of our accomplishments and results.

County employees are continually looking for better ways to do things, and 2019 was no exception. This includes a focus on operational effectiveness and efficiencies, and a commitment to being responsive to the opportunities and challenges of a continually shifting landscape.





Through online and face-to-face engagement, the County continues to engage with the broader community to help shape our annual budget and decisions around services and programs. In 2019, public engagement continues to rise. Citizens weighed in on community safety; a Community Standards Bylaw; business satisfaction; industrial/commercial area beautification; Intermunicipal Development Plans; the County Connector transit; our Five Mall Community Hall project, and more.

The County has a long and proven record of delivering positive results by working together with our municipal neighbours. Through partnerships and agreements, we deliver value with greater efficiency. Being a good neighbour reaches beyond agreements, however. Last year, the County stepped up in a significant way with both people and equipment to help battle the massive wildfire near High Level, and to support evacuees through our GPREP partnership.

Our County is growing. A total of 2,572 construction permits were issued in 2019 for a value of \$104.7 million.

We're cutting down red tape by investing in tools and technology that allow a quicker turnaround on development permits. But of course, with growth comes new challenges. Through Council's leadership and with public input, our new Community Standards Bylaw aims to improve community safety, health and well-being.

Through thoughtful planning and bold initiatives that build on the County's foundations, I look forward to working with our Council, employee team, community and partners so our communities – and the people who live and work here – can flourish today and into the future.

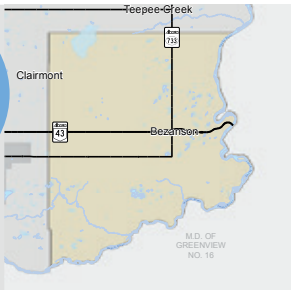
Sincerely,

Joulia Whittleton,  
Chief Administrative Officer



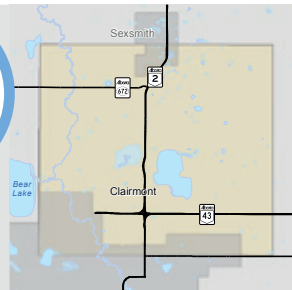
# County Divisions & Area Councillor Contact Information

Find out what division you live or do business in, what Councillor represents you based on your location, and how to reach them. Find out what boards and committees they serve on at [www.countygp.ab.ca/committees](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/committees).



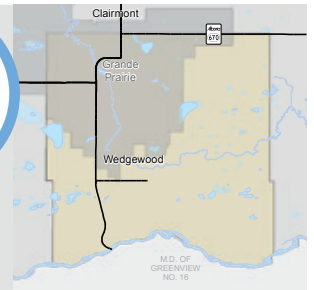
**DIVISION 1 COUNCILLOR:**  
**HAROLD BULFORD**

**780-876-9009**  
[hbulford@countygpa.ab.ca](mailto:hbulford@countygpa.ab.ca)



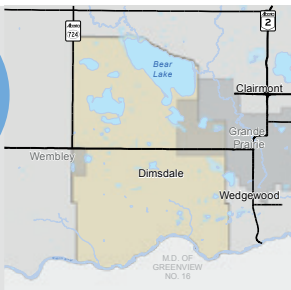
**DIVISION 2 COUNCILLOR:**  
**DARYL BEESTON**

**780-933-3464**  
[dbeeston@countygpa.ab.ca](mailto:dbeeston@countygpa.ab.ca)



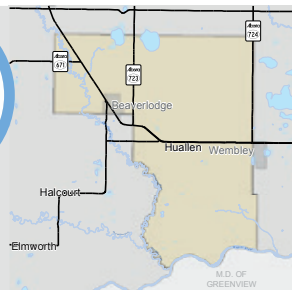
**DIVISION 3 COUNCILLOR AND REEVE:**  
**LEANNE BEAUPRE**

**780-814-3121**  
[lbeaupre@countygpa.ab.ca](mailto:lbeaupre@countygpa.ab.ca)



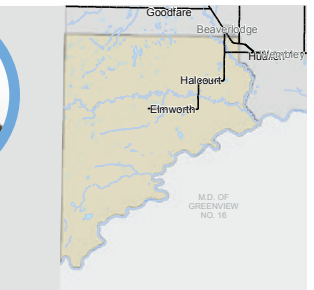
**DIVISION 4 COUNCILLOR:**  
**DEPUTY REEVE ROSS SUTHERLAND**

**780-512-5385**  
[rsutherland@countygpa.ab.ca](mailto:rsutherland@countygpa.ab.ca)



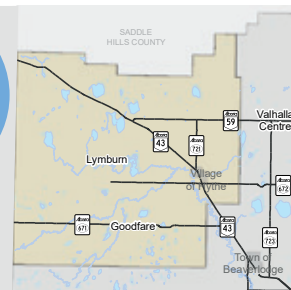
**DIVISION 5 COUNCILLOR:**  
**BOB MARSHALL**

**780-933-2053**  
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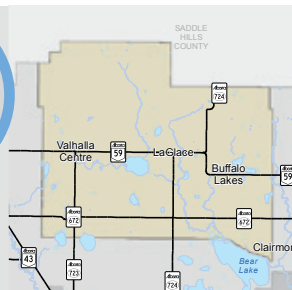
**DIVISION 6 COUNCILLOR:**  
**PETER HARRIS**

**780-933-3074**  
[pharris@countygpa.ab.ca](mailto:pharris@countygpa.ab.ca)



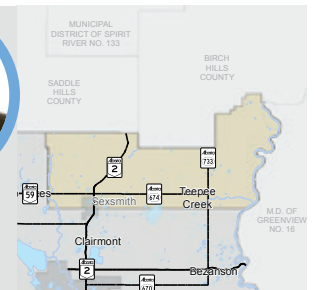
**DIVISION 7 COUNCILLOR:**  
**LINDA WADDY**

**780-897-5609**  
[lwaddy@countygpa.ab.ca](mailto:lwaddy@countygpa.ab.ca)



**DIVISION 8 COUNCILLOR:**  
**KAREN ROSVOLD**

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[krosvold@countygpa.ab.ca](mailto:krosvold@countygpa.ab.ca)



**DIVISION 9 COUNCILLOR:**  
**COREY BECK**

**780-831-6394**  
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## Organizational Chart





## Vision

The County of Grande Prairie No. 1 focuses on people, their quality of life and diversity of opportunity while enabling success through cooperation and progressive leadership.

## Values

- **We believe** that at the centre of everything that we do are the people that we serve.
- **We believe** that our primary purpose is to provide quality of life in safe, viable communities and recognize that this is best done through good, progressive and responsive municipal governance; effective, professional Administration; quality, affordable services and infrastructure; and, lifestyle choice.
- **We value** clean air, clean water, our natural environment, our open spaces and our agricultural heritage and recognize that we must balance our duty to be good stewards of all these assets, with our responsibility to manage growth in our community.
- **We value** fiscal responsibility and good financial management.
- **We recognize** that we as a municipality do not and cannot exist in isolation of our neighbour municipalities and believe that a key to our success lies in ongoing communication, cooperation and collaboration with them.
- **We also believe** that ongoing communication, cooperation and collaboration extend to other orders of government, public sector agencies and the private and volunteer sectors.
- **We believe** that our region has much to offer and that through sound planning and good policies we can create the conditions that will foster an entrepreneurial spirit and encourage sustainable agriculture, industry and other economic development and tourism pursuits as cornerstones of our prosperity now and into the future.
- **We hold ourselves** to a high standard of conduct and are committed to acting in the best interests of the community as a whole.
- Above all else, **we value** integrity in all things.

## Strategic Themes

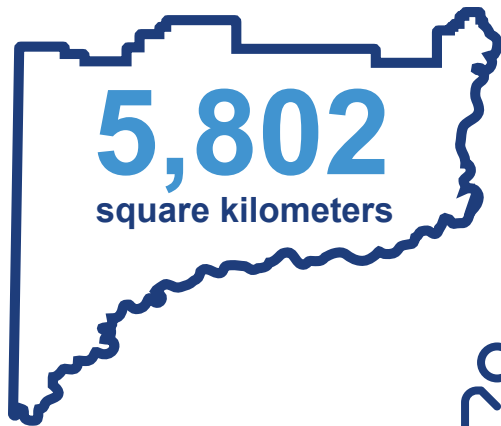
The Strategic Themes are in essence, the strategic pathways that lead to the accomplishment of the Vision. They are:

- 1.0 – Thinking Regionally;
- 2.0 – Providing Quality Municipal Services and Infrastructure;
- 3.0 – Encouraging Community Development Across the Region;
- 4.0 – Managing Economic Development Across the County; and
- 5.0 – Promoting Environmental Stewardship.

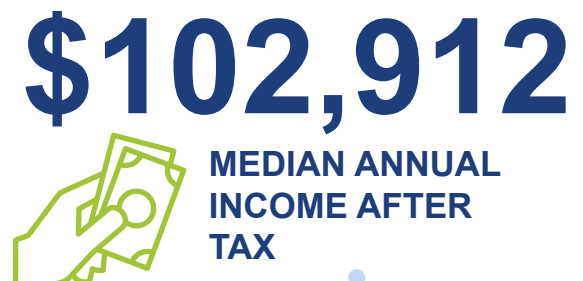
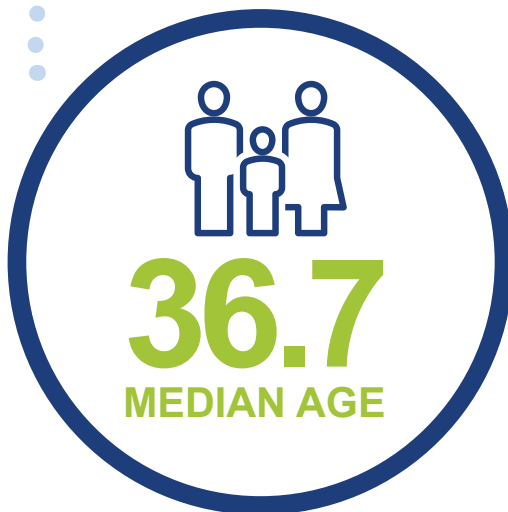
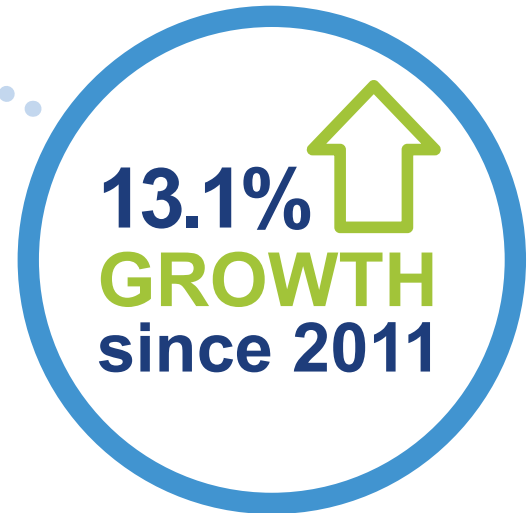


# The County of Grande Prairie by the Numbers

From the 2016 Federal Census & Statistics Canada



POPULATION  
**22,502**



## Key Service Responsibilities





### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

#### COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE

-  • Road Maintenance (excluding highways)
-  • Regional Fire Service
-  • Regional Enforcement Services
-  • Disaster Services
-  • Waste & Recycle Management Facilities & Services
-  • Property Taxes (municipal portion)
-  • Campgrounds, Parks, Playgrounds & Trails
-  • Family & Community Support Services
-  • Utilities (water, wastewater\*)  
\*Some residents in the County are serviced by the County, and/or Aquatera Utilities Inc. and/or septic/well.
-  • Libraries (Elmworth, La Glace & Valhalla)
-  • Animal Care Facility
-  • Agriculture Services & Programs (roadside mowing, weed control)
-  • Land Use Planning, Zoning & Development
-  • Economic Development










### PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

#### ALBERTA

-  • Highways
-  • Schools
-  • Hospitals (Alberta Health Services)
-  • Social Services
-  • Supports for employees & employers
-  • Public Health (Alberta Health Services)
-  • Justice
-  • Post-Secondary Education
-  • Property Taxes (Provincial portion for education, senior's foundation, and designated industrial properties)
-  • Provincial Parks

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

#### CANADA

-  • Income Tax
-  • Employment Insurance
-  • RCMP
-  • Airlines & Airports
-  • Rail
-  • International Trade
-  • Postal Service
-  • Banking
-  • National Parks



## A Good Neighbour

Regional communication, cooperation and collaboration are key to success for our region. Cooperative planning allows individual municipalities to make decisions that are best suited to their specific needs and priorities but reap positive benefits for the entire region. Below are some regional partnerships in which the County of Grande Prairie is proud to participate.

### Stepping Up and Reaching Out to Help Our Neighbours

The County of Grande Prairie responded with an immense amount of resources – through the activation of the Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership (GPREP), as well with boots and equipment on the scene, to battle the northwestern Alberta wildfires.

The County is proud to be part of GPREP. GPREP coordinates responses to large-scale emergencies or disasters and consists of six local municipalities including the County of Grande Prairie, the City of Grande Prairie, the towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith and Wembley, and the Village of Hythe.

When wildfires forced the evacuation of over 5,000 people from northwestern Alberta, GPREP was activated to support those who travelled to our area. More than 280 individuals, including dozens of County staff, were part of the response during the month-long activation. Experts in social services, logistics, planning, public information, and more provided for the emotional and physical well-being of the evacuated Albertans while they were away from their homes.

### Emergency Services Support

Twenty one personnel and seven pieces of equipment from County Regional Fire Service and neighbouring fire departments were part of the wildfire response.

### Grande Prairie Regional Recreation Committee

The regional committee was formed to implement the Joint Recreation Master Plan in partnership with the City of Grande Prairie, MD of Greenview, towns of Sexsmith, Beaverlodge and Wembley, and the Village of Hythe. Last year, the work of the committee was presented to elected officials and parks and recreation industry professionals as this innovative model for collaboration in recreation was the first of its kind in the Province.



ACTIVATED TO  
HELP OVER  
**1,000**  
WILDFIRE  
EVACUEES



**\$1 MILLION**  
ESTIMATED COST  
OF THE COUNTY'S  
RESPONSE TO  
WILDFIRES TO BE  
REIMBURSED BY  
THE PROVINCE



**282 PEOPLE**  
SUPPORTED  
THE WILDFIRE  
RESPONSE  
THROUGH GPREP  
OVER THE 33 DAYS  
GPREP WAS ACTIVATED

## A Community Partner

In 2019, the County invested over \$4.2 million in grants to projects, programs, facilities and organizations in our community and throughout the region. Below are a few stories of the impact of the County's contributions over the past year.

These grants support community organizations located in the County, the MD of Greenview and the communities of Beaverlodge, Grande Prairie, Hythe, Sexsmith and Wembley. "Council continues to invest in local organizations and facilities because the services and opportunities they provide enhance the quality of life, sense of safety and pride in our communities," said Reeve Leanne Beaupre. "These grants support their efforts and positive impact."



### A Life Saving Partnership

Council dedicated \$200,000 per year to STARS from 2019 to 2022. This \$800,000 is just part of the total contribution from the County over the years to support the air ambulance.

*"The County of Grande Prairie continues to demonstrate their steadfast commitment to safety and quality of life for residents through a life-saving partnership with STARS. Since the opening of the Grande Prairie Base in 2006, the County has supported STARS every step of the way, contributing over \$1.6 M to date in support of more than 600 missions flown within the County itself. This ensures the highest level of critical care for all."*

*STARS is honoured to have the County represented on STARS helicopters serving Alberta and eastern B.C. Every call. Every flight. Every life. We thank you for your unwavering commitment to northern residents. With you by our side, we are all STARS."*

*- Glenda Farnden, STARS Foundation*



### Upgrading the Valhalla Recreation Centre

County Council committed \$150,000 of funding, distributed from 2017 to 2019, to the Valhalla Recreation Centre for upgrades to their skating facility.

*"We feel so fortunate to have a facility like the Valhalla Rec Centre right in the heart of our community. When most families spend a lot of time on the road to attend events or activities, it's a treat to pop over to the rec centre for a skate!"*

*- Tamara Fricke,  
Valhalla Recreation Centre*





### Educating and Encouraging the Next Generation

Reading University is a community driven and community funded initiative dedicated to supporting students with a critical skill – learning to read. In 2019, 195 Grande Prairie area students attended the three-week summer program, featuring unique learning strategies and support. With two teachers for every 10 children, Reading University gives children the leg up they need to succeed. County Council has supported the program since 2010, with \$10,000 granted again in 2019.

*“At Reading University, we will use creative and interactive play, music, physical activity, and reading approaches that engage children in ways that may not have occurred to them to date.*

*At the grassroots of this organization lies the commitment that those students that are nominated and in need of this program will not be denied access. We stand by that commitment wholeheartedly. The grants made available to the program go a long way to ensuring our commitment ‘no child left behind’ is achieved.”*

- Linda Side, Co-founder of  
Grade Three Reading University



### Investing in the Arts

As one of the largest free admission art museums in western Canada, the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie (AGGP) showcases contemporary work from local, regional, Canadian and international artists, along with pieces of art history from their permanent collection. Council has committed \$75,000 annually to the AGGP from 2019 to 2022.

*“Galleries are powerful social and cultural enterprises in communities, and because of support from the County of Grande Prairie, we have the opportunity to deepen our understanding of our world and each other through the arts.*

*Major funding from the County supports our exhibitions and public programs each year, from shows on environmental sustainability to school tours and art camps. This support also enables our Gallery to manage a travelling exhibition program that reaches more than 200,000 people around the Peace Region each year.”*

- Jeff Erbach, Executive Director of  
the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie



### Major Capital Community Grant South Peace Centennial Museum

This Museum and Interpretive Centre is a 40-acre agricultural pioneer village where visitors can view restored antique farming equipment, cars and buildings to learn about our local heritage. Located in the County, northwest of Beaverlodge, this grant of \$68,941 will go toward a new shop for the organization.

*"Without the continued support of the grant programs through the County of Grande Prairie, our little non-profit volunteer-based museum wouldn't have been able to do a lot of the major projects we have accomplished in our 51 years of operations. Many buildings have been restored and new buildings have been built over the years thanks to the County. We greatly appreciate it."*

- Ericka Dougan,  
South Peace Centennial Museum



### Modernizing the Grande Prairie Legion Building

The Royal Canadian Legion #54, in the area since 1927, is working to modernize their current facility. The County's \$50,000 grant will assist with upgrades throughout their building, including a new kitchen and wheelchair lift.

*"Over the years, the County of Grande Prairie has been a major grant provider to the Grande Prairie Royal Canadian Legion #54, including being a major contributor to our 2015/2016 roof project. This year's grant will help our facility become more accessible for physically challenged individuals, and those suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or Operational Stress Injury. The building updates will create a more family-friendly facility for fun days, recreational and community meetings or events. This grant will help the Grande Prairie Legion enhance our membership, attract new members and host successful annual events like Veteran's Day and First Responder Appreciation Day. Thank you to the County! Your continued support is sincerely appreciated."*

- Barry L. Lazoruk, Grande Prairie Legion





### Outdoor Play Structures for Whispering Ridge Participarent

County Council's support, through a grant of \$50,000, will allow this parent-led non-profit to enhance the outdoor play structures at Whispering Ridge Community School. This playschool to Grade 8 school is a community hub for the subdivision of Whispering Ridge and the Hamlet of Clairmont.

*"The County of Grande Prairie has been an amazing supporter of our new community school and our fundraising efforts. Their generosity helped us in our goal of having our first playground installed prior to the school opening in September 2018. The most recent grant funding will assist in our efforts for picnic tables, benches and garbage recycling bins as well as basketball courts, which not only benefit the students of Whispering Ridge Community School, but the community of Whispering Ridge and neighbouring communities. Without this ongoing support, these projects would not have been possible. Thank you!"*

- Christine Spronk Whispering Ridge Participarent Society



### A New Playground for Demmitt Cultural Society

The Demmitt Cultural Society received \$41,900 for the construction of a new playground, which will entertain kids and families from the northwestern area of the County along with visitors to their beautiful community hall.

*"Support from the County of Grande Prairie not only helped us to build the Demmitt Community Centre, but yearly operational support helps to minimize costs, allowing us to have workshops, yoga, documentary nights, Mom's group, and other community events that keep the hall vibrant and active. The recent support for the natural playground was very much appreciated and will be a great addition to the hall, for local families and rental parties alike. Thank you!"*

- Teresa von Tiesenhausen,  
Demmitt Cultural Society



## Funding Facilities - Grants to:



**\$376,130**  
**BEAVERLODGE**  
**POOL**



**\$252,840**  
**6 ARENAS**



**\$78,820**  
**7 CURLING**  
**RINKS**



**\$76,500**  
**17 COMMUNITY**  
**HALLS**

## 2019 Recreation & Culture Grants

**\$181,345** WAS GRANTED TO LOCAL GROUPS THROUGH:

### Recreation Boards

<b>\$38,200</b>	14 GROUPS IN THE GRANDE PRAIRIE AREA
<b>\$34,403</b>	11 GROUPS IN THE CLAIRMONT-BEZANSON AREA
<b>\$32,462</b>	12 GROUPS IN THE SEXSMITH-LA GLACE- TEEPEE CREEK AREA
<b>\$28,271</b>	9 GROUPS IN THE BEAVERLODGE- ELMWORTH-HUALLEN AREA
<b>\$25,328</b>	12 GROUPS IN THE HYTHE-DEMMITT AREA
<b>\$22,681</b>	5 GROUPS IN THE WEMBLEY-SASKATOON LAKE- DIMSDALE AREA

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**\$1,458,027** OPERATING ASSISTANCE GRANTS AND  
EVENT SPONSORSHIP TO NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTEER GROUPS  
THAT PROMOTE ACTIVE, SAFE AND  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

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**\$591,833** IN CAPITAL FUNDING WAS GRANTED TO  
PROJECTS VALUED AT \$100,000+

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**\$693,290** IN CAPITAL FUNDING WAS GRANTED TO  
PROJECTS VALUED BETWEEN \$5,000  
AND \$100,000





## Have your say: Engagement with residents and stakeholders guiding the future of the County

### Community Standards Bylaw

The Community Standards Bylaw, which came into effect in May 2019, outlines standards in an all-encompassing bylaw aimed at making our growing municipality safer, more attractive and more enjoyable. A variety of common citizen concerns are all addressed under this comprehensive bylaw, including unsightly premises, bullying and hazing, graffiti, noise, nuisance, cannabis, waste management, false alarms, fire hydrants, and sidewalks.

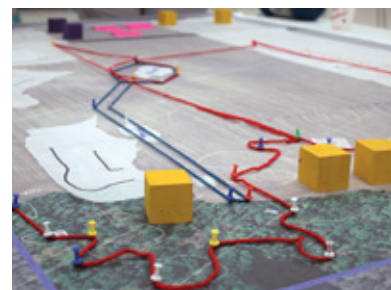
Before implementation, the County consulted the public on the draft bylaw, inviting comments and recommendations from citizens on several sections. The final version approved by Council included amendments based on feedback.

### Five Mile Site Design

Since acquiring Five Mile Community Hall and the surrounding lands east of Grande Prairie, the County reached out to community groups, school divisions and the public for feedback on developing the future school site. In September 2019, the County hosted a four-day workshop at the hall that saw an expert design team consult with community stakeholder groups on the ideal design for the future site. The process resulted in a blueprint for the site design, which was presented to County Council.



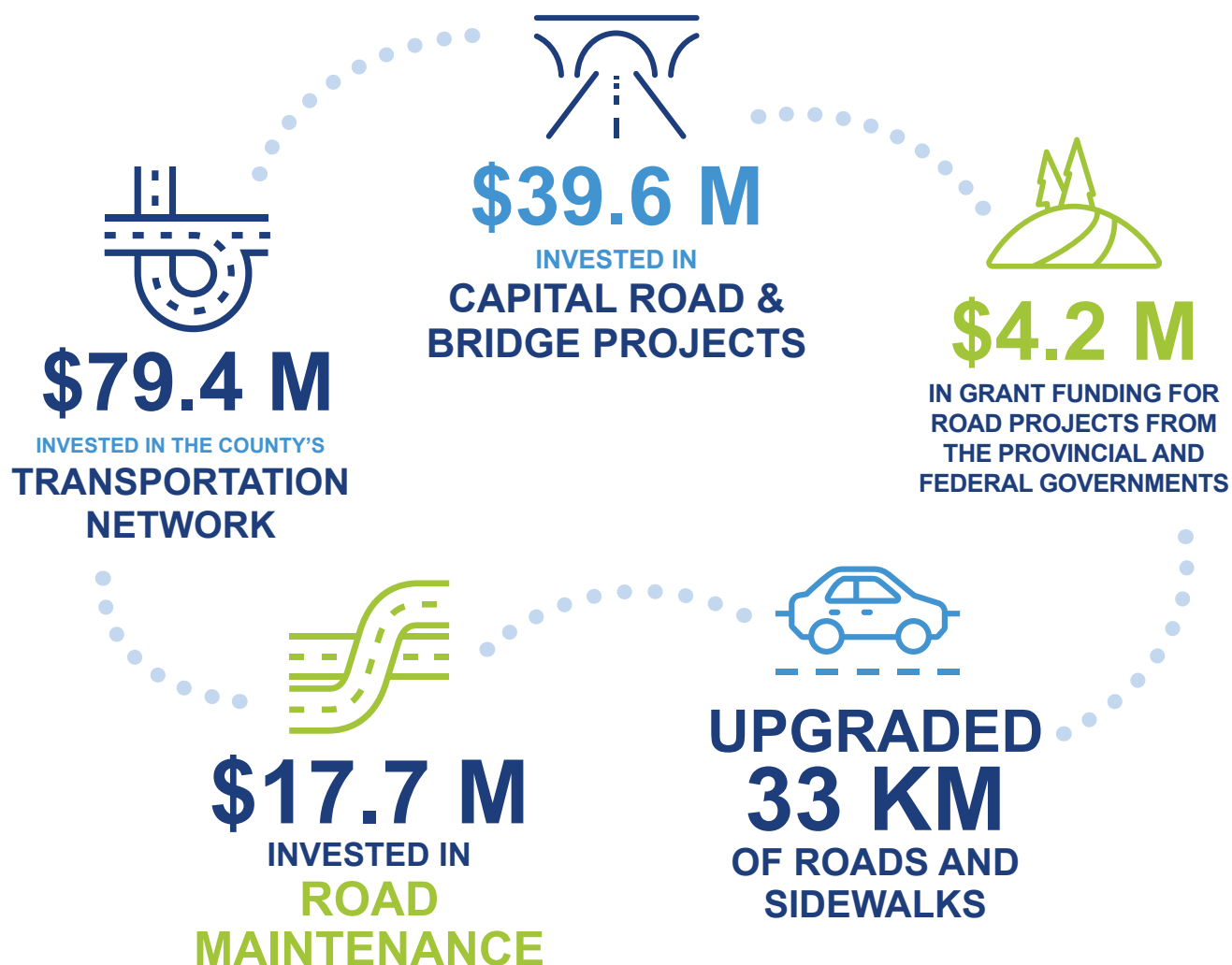
*Safe enjoyable communities: Community Standards Bylaw.*



*Citizens building their community — Five Mile Hall Site Design.*

## Public Works

### 2019 Transportation Network



#### Maintaining the Transportation Network

<b>64 KM</b>	DITCHES REHABILITATED
<b>40</b>	CULVERTS INSTALLED
<b>2,395</b>	CULVERTS INSPECTED
<b>168 KM</b>	DUST CONTROL APPLIED
<b>1,458 KM</b>	GRAVEL APPLIED
<b>201 KM</b>	ROADSIDES CLEARED OF ROCKS
<b>229 KM</b>	ROADSIDES CLEARED OF 12 TONNES OF LITTER
<b>6</b>	ROUNDS OF RESIDENTIAL SNOW REMOVAL IN 6 NEIGHBOURHOODS









5

**LANDFILLS  
& TRANSFER  
STATIONS**



**\$2,750**

DONATED TO  
**5 COMMUNITY  
GROUPS**  
THROUGH THE  
**BOTTLE  
DONATION  
PROGRAM**

## Recycling & Waste Management

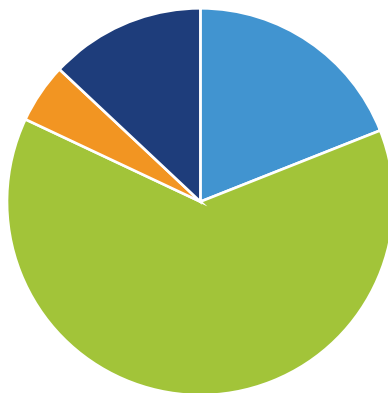
### CLAIRMONT CENTRE FOR RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT

**41,149 TONNES** OF WASTE ACCEPTED

**6,212 TONNES** OF WASTE DIVERTED

- 50 rig matts purchased for poor weather access
- Completed design work for a new section (cell) in the landfill to be constructed in the future
- Found opportunities to work more efficiently to decrease operating costs
- Became a recycling site for the Alberta Ag-Plastic Recycle-It Program to recycle grain bags and twine
- Home to the Shelve & Share

#### Waste Diversion Details



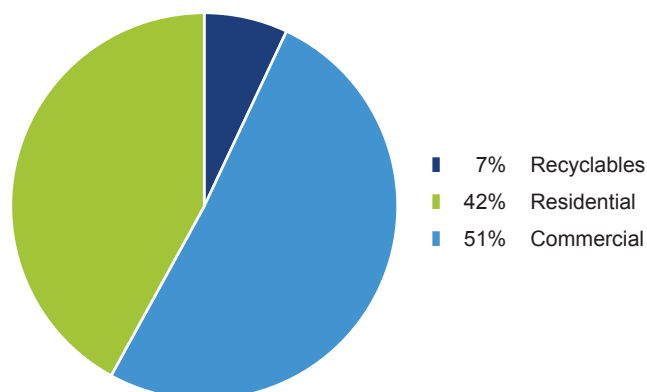
- 5% Non-County Residential
- 13% Diverted Waste
- 19% County Residential
- 63% Commercial

## WEST GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL LANDFILL

**9,525 TONNES** OF WASTE ACCEPTED  
**782 TONNES** OF WASTE DIVERTED

- Completed design work for a new section (cell) in the landfill to be constructed in the future

### Waste Diversion Details



**11** COMMUNITY  
RECYCLING  
SITES



**NEW RECYCLE BIN AND  
CURBSIDE PROGRAM**  
CONTRACTS IN PLACE



**BACKYARD ORGANIC  
WASTE DIVERSION  
PROGRAM**

## Water & Wastewater

### Projects Completed in 2019:

- Bezanson Water Distribution Line upgrade
- Regional Waterline to Wembley — County portion of the project was \$1,131,000
- La Glace Lagoon repair
- Bezanson Truck Fill opening — currently has 60 account users

**175**   
CUSTOMERS  
CONNECTED TO  
WASTEWATER

**72**   
CUSTOMERS  
CONNECTED  
TO WATER



*Elected officials mark the opening of the Regional Waterline to Wembley.*



*Opening of the Regional Waterline to Wembley*



## **Agriculture**

Directed by the Agricultural Service Board (ASB), the Agricultural Services department increases awareness of agricultural issues within the County of Grande Prairie. They oversee pest and disease inspection, problem wildlife control, noxious weed inspection and control, and assist in soil conservation, as well as provide rural extension services.

### **Vision**

To preserve our agricultural heritage while promoting a vibrant agricultural future based on innovation, cooperation, leadership and environmental stewardship.

### **Mission**

To foster our Vision by demonstrating proactive leadership, environmental stewardship and cooperation with stakeholders and other agencies, and pursuing innovative, effective solutions and programs.

**538**  
**PEST & DISEASE**  
**INSPECTIONS**  
ALONG WITH TREE  
INSPECTIONS, AND  
ASSISTANCE WITH  
PESTS LIKE BEAVERS  
& COYOTES

**29,737**  
**WEED**  
**INSPECTIONS**  
(PROPERTY VISITS)  
IN THE COUNTY,  
BEAVERLODGE,  
HYTHE, SEXSMITH &  
WEMBLEY, RESULTING  
IN IDENTIFYING 1,008  
REGULATED WEEDS

**8** **WEED**  
**INSPECTORS**  
**APPOINTED**

**8,553 KM**  
**OF COUNTY**  
**ROADWAYS**  
**MOWED**

**7,936 KM**  
**OF COUNTY**  
**ROADWAYS**  
**SPOT SPRAYED**



## County Campaigns to Protect the Crops

In November 2019, County Council declared an agricultural disaster in the County. Excessive rainfall delayed seeding, and cool weather slowed agricultural production, leading to poor quality crops. By the end of the year, between 40 and 60 per cent of crops remained unharvested in County fields – some swathed, some still standing.

Farmers and business owners were encouraged to print and post a notice to the public about the presence of stranded crops, encouraging drivers to stay off farmers' fields. Farmers were also eligible for free signage to post around their land identifying stranded crops. The notices and signage were well-received by the farming community, with 175 signs requested from the Agriculture department.

Into 2020, the County continued our campaign reminding off-road vehicle and snow machine users to help farmers protect valuable, stranded crops. Those riding off-road recreation vehicles were reminded to avoid farmers' fields as many crops were still in the field. The message: be cautious and always ask first if you want to access or drive on private land. These crops are our farmers' livelihoods.



**100 YEARS OF  
FARMING AWARDS:  
3 HERITAGE HOMESTEAD  
3 PIONEER FARM FAMILIES**



*Farm Family of the Year 2019: Balisky Family*



**FARM FAMILY  
OF THE YEAR**

## Major erosion control project: Powell Project

**ONE ROCK DAM**

**LOG STEP DOWN**

**CREATION OF A ZUNI BOWL**



*Zuni Bowl*

## **Parks & Recreation**

The Parks & Recreation department provides opportunities to explore and experience an active lifestyle. The department oversees parks, recreation and cultural services.

**LOCALS AND VISITORS  
ENJOY THE COUNTY'S**



**6 CAMP-  
GROUNDS**

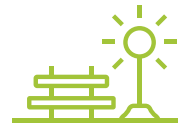


**2 Day-Use  
Parks**

**15,000  
VISITORS**

**CAMPED AT  
PIPESTONE  
CREEK CAMP  
GROUND**

**PARKS & RECREATION  
MAINTAINS GREENSPACES,  
INCLUDING:**



**30 KM OF  
PAVED TRAILS**

**2 SPORT FIELDS &  
4 BALL DIAMONDS**



**186.2 ACRES  
IN 58 HAMLETS  
& RESIDENTIAL  
SUBDIVISIONS**

**29 CEMETERIES**



**250 PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED IN  
RECREATION  
PROGRAMS**



**20 AG SOCIETY  
MEMBERS  
ATTENDED THE COUNTY'S  
1ST AG SYMPOSIUM**

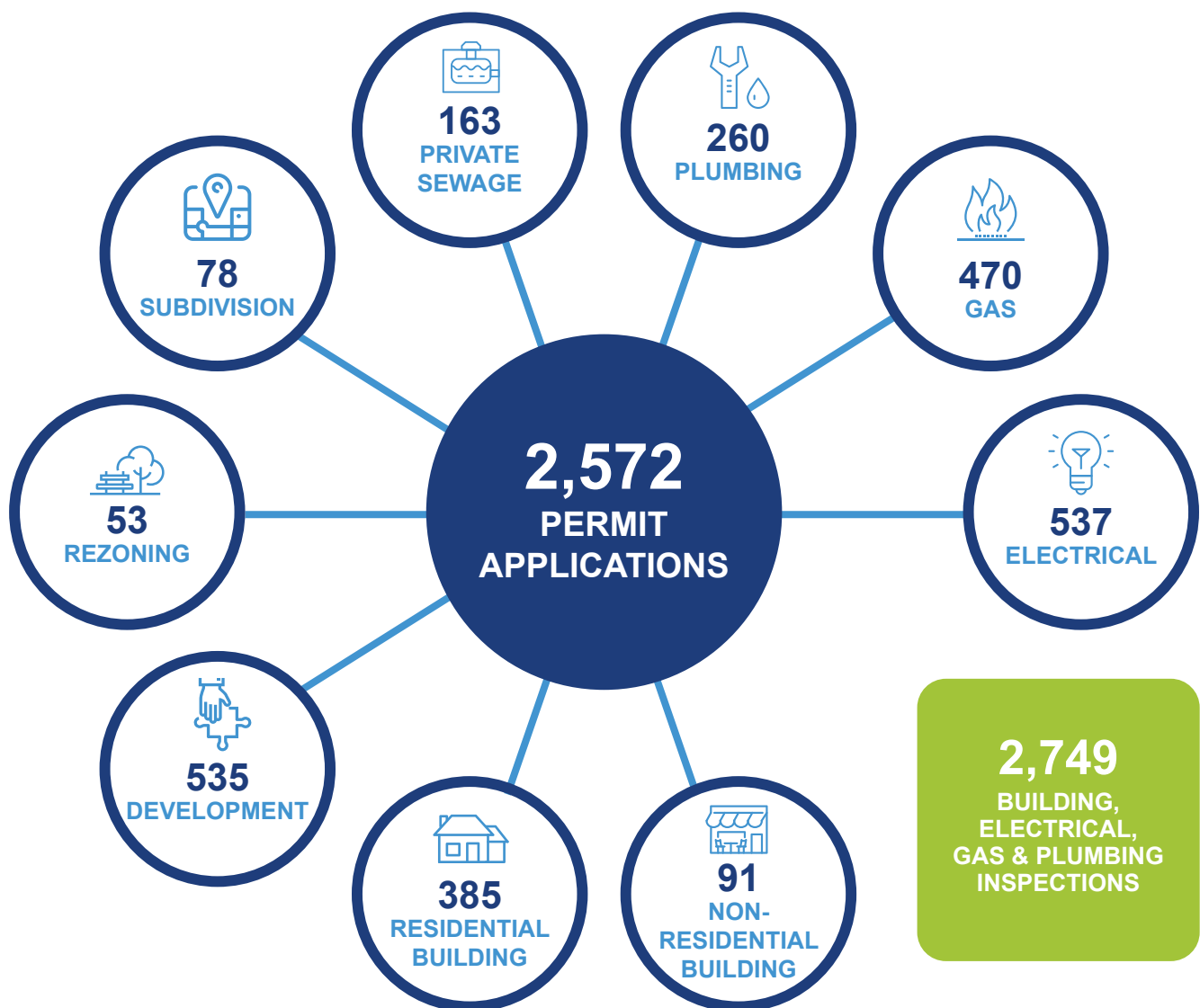






## Planning & Development Services

A Year of Building & Development



\$ 64,802,790

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION VALUES

\$ 39,885,903

NON-RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION VALUES

\$ 104,688,694

TOTAL CONSTRUCTION VALUES

## Changes to County Bylaw Support Home-based Businesses

Last year, the County made changes to its Land Use Bylaw, making it easier to open a home business in the County and to grow the business.

The County does not issue business licenses. Rather, we issue development permits for home occupations. Home occupations are businesses operated out of a residential property that is occupied by the property owner and serves as their home.

Three of the changes impact classification categories of home businesses:

### *New Classification – Intermediate*

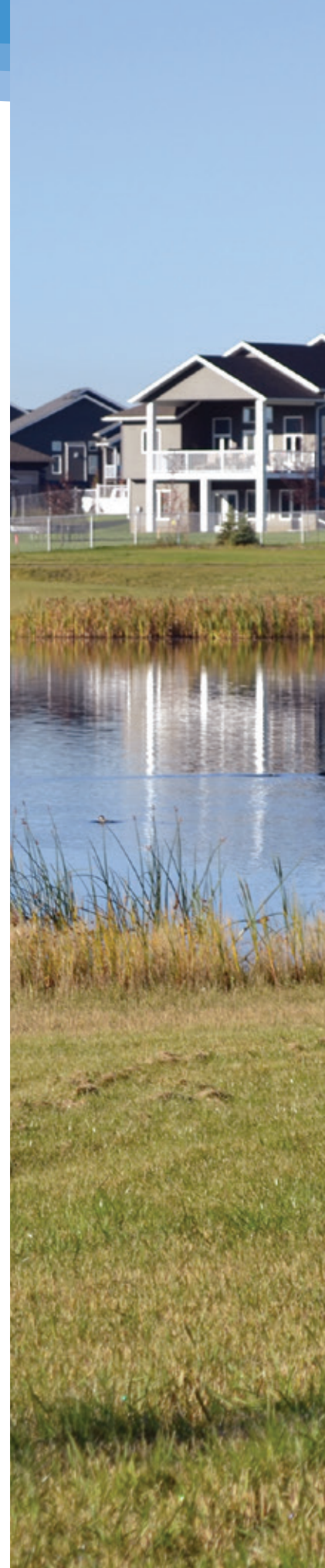
The revised bylaw includes a new classification of home business – Home Occupation, Intermediate. Intermediates fall between Minor and Major Home Occupations, and tend to use an accessory building, outdoor storage, and/or external signage on the residential property. Intermediates may be proposed in any Country Residential CR-2, CR-3, CR-4, or CR-5 property greater than 2.47 acres in size.

### *Additional Requirements – Major*

The revised bylaw includes additional requirements for Home Occupation, Major regarding the maximum number of business-related visits per day, maximum number of vehicles/equipment related to the business, and maximum outdoor storage area. Majors may only be proposed on any Country Residential CR-5 property.

### *Permit May Not Be Required – Minor*

Changes to the bylaw are also impacting Home Occupation, Minors. These businesses may no longer require a development permit. Businesses in this category might include bookkeeping businesses, massage and salon studios, or cleaning services. Eliminating development permits for most Minor businesses will make it simpler to open and operate a Minor business.





**THE LANDSCAPING  
RECOGNITION  
PROGRAM SAW  
10 COMMERCIAL  
AND INDUSTRIAL  
BUSINESSES  
NOMINATED FOR  
LANDSCAPING  
EXCELLENCE**



**VALARD  
FOUNDATIONS  
WON THE BEST  
LANDSCAPED LOT  
AWARD**

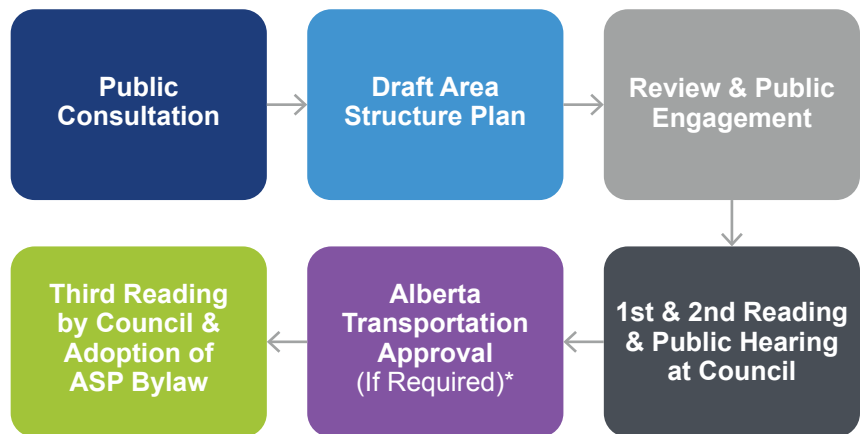


**HORIZON NORTH  
TRANSPORTATION  
WON PEOPLE'S  
CHOICE**

## Area Structure Plans

As growth and development occur throughout the County, Area Structure Plans (ASPs) help guide future residential, commercial and industrial development. These long-range documents must lay out the proposed land uses, including reserve land for parks and school sites if appropriate. Technical items such as water supply, sewage disposal, transportation networks, storm water systems, and many other factors associated with the development are also required. An ASP must be consistent with the Municipal Development Plan, a broader plan that covers the entire County.

### Area Structure Plan Approval Process



*\*Area Structure Plans located within 1.6 km of provincial highways require approval from the Alberta Minister of Transportation.*

### Ongoing Area Structure Plans


Work was conducted on the following Area Structure Plans in 2019. These are currently being finalized.

- Northwest (NW) Clairmont
- Southwest (SW) Clairmont
- Whispering Ridge
- Tradesman
- Pipestone







**1,353  
BUSINESSES  
IN 2018  
39.1%+   
INCREASE  
FROM 2017**



**95.9%  
OF ALL  
COUNTY  
BUSINESSES  
ARE SMALL  
BUSINESSES**

## **Economic Development**

The Economic Development department identifies and promotes local economic opportunities to improve the quality of life within the region. The department facilitates business retention and expansion within the County; promotes investment and attraction to the region and special projects within the jurisdiction; and collaborates with regional partners to foster growth and continued development.

### **Did You Know?**

- Local businesses provide about 80 per cent of jobs and investment.
- Keeping local businesses in a community and helping them grow is much more cost effective than attracting investment from new companies.

### **Business Retention and Expansion Program**

The County's Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Program is all about strengthening and developing our business community. The program encourages local businesses to continue operating in the County, supports them to be more successful, and creates a connected local business community, ultimately fostering a healthy business climate.

Through the program, the County surveys local businesses, measuring their satisfaction and identifying opportunities to improve our business environment. Based on this feedback from the business community, the Economic Development department, in collaboration with other business supports and leaders, established a business support network.

### **Business Support Network**

The County of Grande Prairie Business Support Network (CGPBSN) was created to build strong partnerships within our business community that will address common, current, local and regional workplace challenges.

Business Support Network events are an open and positive venue for individuals to collaborate and exchange ideas and information ranging from current labour market trends to workforce development, attraction, and retention. In the 10 months that the events ran in 2019, the CGPBSN developed a network of 300 business professionals with approximately 200 individuals attending sessions.

Past sessions covered topics such as Government Hiring Programs; Cannabis at Work; Creating a Health and Safety Management System; and the Mandatory Entry Level Training Program for the Busing and Transport Industry.

## Snapshot of Economic Development

### Commercial & Industrial Development



**3,900+ ACRES**  
OF COMMERCIAL &  
INDUSTRIAL LAND  
AVAILABLE FOR  
DEVELOPMENT

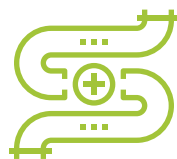


**\$2.2 B VALUE OF  
MAJOR PROJECTS**  
AN INCREASE OF 624.9%  
IN THE LAST 5 YEARS

### Energy Sector



**4.5 B**  
NATURAL GAS  
PRODUCTION (m<sup>3</sup>)



**32.4 B**  
NATURAL GAS  
RESERVES (m<sup>3</sup>)



**951,677**  
OIL PRODUCTION (m<sup>3</sup>)  
**91 WELLS**



**15 SPEAKERS** ADDRESSED  
**450+ ATTENDEES**  
FROM ACROSS ALBERTA AT THE  
**GROWING THE NORTH  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCE**

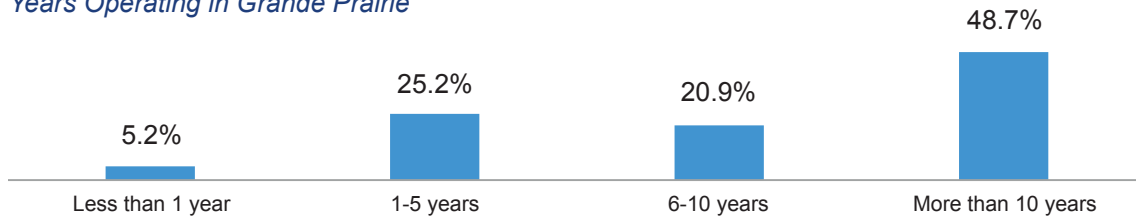


## Triage BR+E Survey

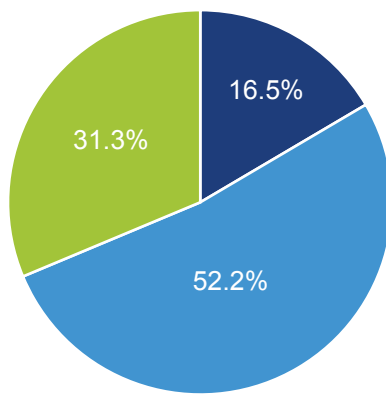
The County of Grande Prairie commissioned a Triage BR+E Survey in November and December 2019 to engage businesses and report on observations generalizable to the broader business community, while also allowing opportunities to support individual business. The random sample telephone survey with the business community in the County of Grande Prairie resulted in 115 survey completions, a very high response rate.

### County of Grande Prairie Business Profile

#### Years Operating in Grande Prairie

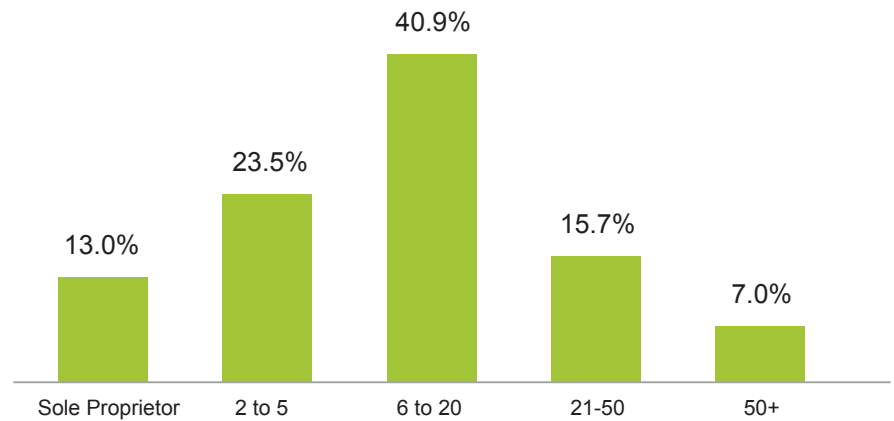


#### Business Ownership



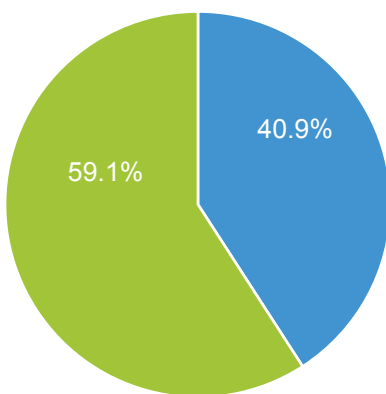
- Self-Employed Business
- Locally Owned and Operated
- Externally Owned and Operated

#### # of Full Time Employees



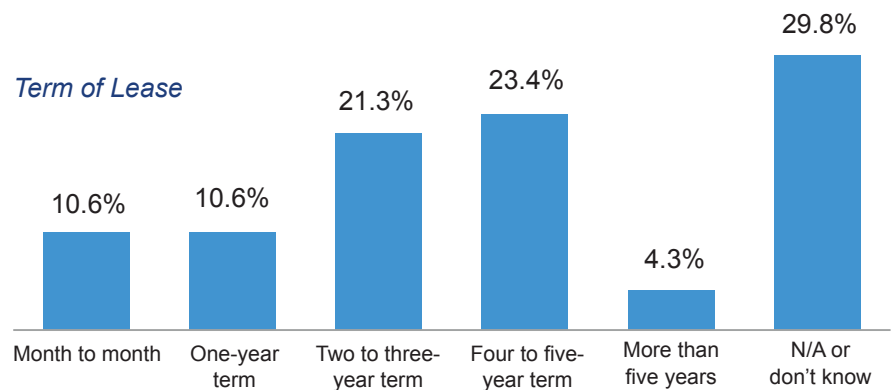
### Business Location

#### Rent vs. Own Business Location

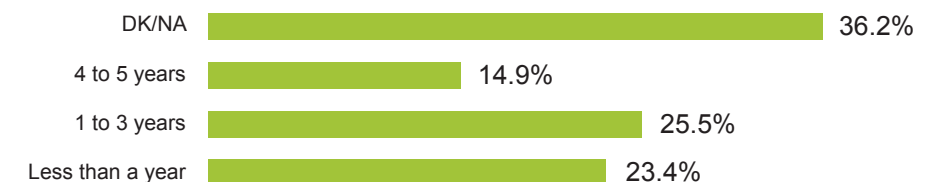


- Rent
  - Own
- n=115 respondents

#### Term of Lease



#### Lease Expiry

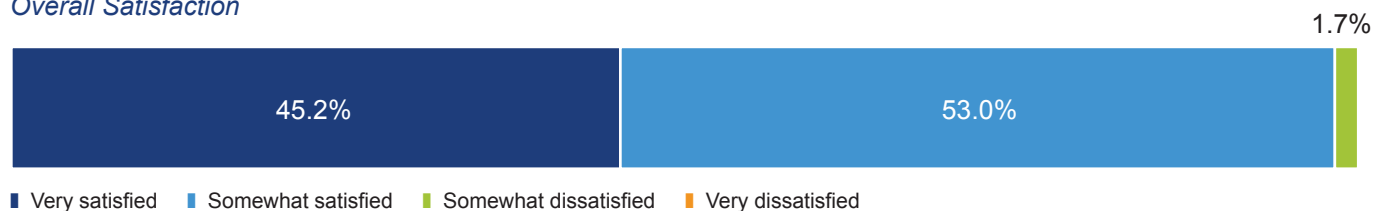


## Satisfaction

The combined overall satisfaction is exceptionally strong at 98.2%.

The net impact of changes over the past year is -6.9%

### Overall Satisfaction



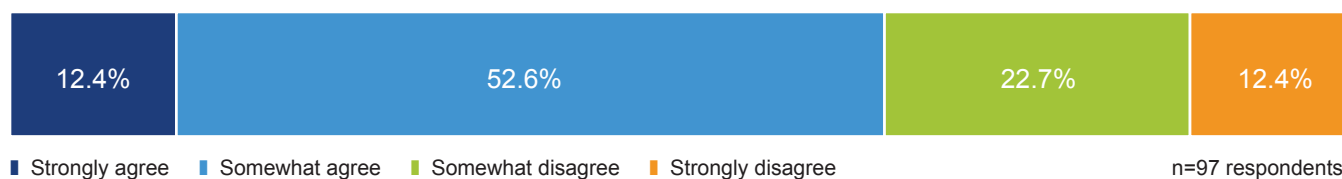
### Attitude over the Past 12 Months



Net Improvement score = % more positive (12.2%) - % more negative (19.1%) = -6.9

## Perceptions of the County of Grande Prairie

*I have a positive relationship with my local government for business needs.*



n=97 respondents

*I know who I need to talk to at the County if I have a problem with my business or a business concern I'd like to share.*



n=102 respondents

Total percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.





*Regional Fire Service youth education*



*Resources from Regional Fire Service deployed to Chuckegg Creek Wildfire*



*County Emergency Services*

## Regional Fire Service



# 1,891

**CALLS FOR SERVICE  
COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE  
SERVICE + PARTNERS**

**County Regional Fire Service is made up of**

- 120** PERSONNEL
- 2** FULL-TIME STATIONS  
*Clairmont & Dunes*
- 3** PAID RESPONDER STATIONS  
*Bezanson, La Glace & Teepee Creek*
- 4** CONTRACT DEPARTMENTS  
*Beaverlodge, Hythe, Sexsmith & Wembley*

**86** INVESTIGATIONS BY FIRE MARSHALL  
**52** REQUESTED FIRE INSPECTIONS  
**1,460** FIRE PERMITS APPROVED BY COUNTY REGIONAL  
 FIRE SERVICE & 25 FIRE GUARDIANS

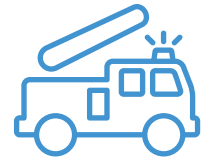
FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION TO THOUSANDS OF COMMUNITY  
 MEMBERS, INCLUDING **900** YOUTH AT **27** COMMUNITY  
 EDUCATION EVENTS



*Rescuing Toby the dog!*



Invested In



**2** CUSTOM  
 FIRE ENGINES  
 TO ENHANCE  
 PUBLIC SAFETY

**3 TRUCKS**  
 TO PULL, TRANSPORT  
 & PUMP WATER



*New La Glace Fire Station under construction*



**NEW LA GLACE  
 FIRE STATION  
 WITH MORE SPACE  
 FOR TRAINING &  
 EQUIPMENT**





## Regional Enforcement Services

County Regional Enforcement Services is made up of

- 13** PATROL UNIT MEMBERS
- 11** BYLAW UNIT MEMBERS
- 8** RCMP ENHANCED POLICING UNIT MEMBERS FUNDED BY THE COUNTY

---

**162** COMMERCIAL VEHICLE INSPECTIONS, WHICH FOUND 1,684 VIOLATIONS

---

### Regional Animal Care



**1,213**  
ANIMAL INTAKES  
AT THE  
GRANDE PRAIRIE  
REGIONAL POUND



**631**  
ANIMAL INTAKES  
AT THE  
GRANDE PRAIRIE  
REGIONAL ANIMAL  
CARE FACILITY



**187**  
ADOPTIONS



## Rural Policing Requires Innovation + Collaboration

Crime reduction is a priority for the County, and a strategic approach requires significant collaboration along with available resources. Enforcement and safety within our rural municipality comes with unique challenges related to a large geographic area combined with a low population density in many areas.

Faced with the varied and complex demands of rural policing within our municipality, County Council developed a model of service delivery that would target the needs of the people who live and work here, and the challenges presented by our diverse landscape. The model (see page 39), the first of its kind in Alberta, is also one of the most comprehensive models of enforcement in the province.

### *Council Funds Additional Enhanced Officers*

In 2019, County Council approved funding for two additional RCMP Enhanced members to help address evolving rural policing challenges. These members work out of the Beaverlodge RCMP detachment with Beaverlodge RCMP Officers, focusing on rural crime within the west area of the County. They join six other County-funded RCMP Enhanced members: four work with Regional Enforcement Services in our Community Services Building, and two work out of the Grande Prairie RCMP detachment with the Crime Reduction Unit and General Investigative Services Unit. Enhanced Officers do not take the place of regular RCMP Officers; they supplement the work of the RCMP, ensuring that on-call RCMP Officers are available to respond to emergencies in a timely manner and focus their resources in areas of most urgent need.







### *Public and Police Work Together to Address Crime Prevention*

The public has also played a key role in crime prevention. Reporting of crimes has helped officers identify “hotspots,” areas in the County where crime is more prevalent. Volunteer citizen groups, such as Grande Prairie Rural Crime Watch, worked with officers on initiatives to address rural crime. And our education around preventative measures households and business can take is aimed at arming the public with ways to reduce the opportunity for crime.



*Regional Enforcement Services*

### *Full Level of Enforcement Services*

The County offers a full level of enforcement services with different responsibilities, though shared priorities, with public safety and security of utmost importance. County Regional Enforcement Services consists of Animal Control; a Patrol Unit; Bylaw Unit; and an RCMP Enhanced Policing Unit. Each of these units works closely with neighbouring municipalities, local communities and organizations, and the public.

(see next page)

## RCMP OFFICERS



**Funded by:** Province of Alberta and federal government, under jurisdiction of the federal government. The Federal RCMP Act provides the authority and mandate for the RCMP.

**Grande Prairie Rural detachment (east County)**  
**Beaverlodge detachment (west County)**

### Roles:

- Responsible for enforcing federal, provincial, and municipal laws; protecting life and property; preventing crime; and keeping the peace
- "General duty" RCMP officers are the first-response primary call takers
- Are assisted by a number of "Specialized Duty Support Units" and by Regional Enforcement Services

## RCMP ENHANCED POLICING UNIT



**Funded and contracted by:** County of Grande Prairie

### RCMP Enhanced Officers:

- Augment the basic level of policing provided by the RCMP
- Six officers work with Regional Enforcement Services, Grande Prairie Rural RCMP, and Beaverlodge RCMP
- Four work out of the County Community Services building with Enforcement Services
- Two work at the Grande Prairie detachment in the Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) and General Investigative Unit (GIS)
- Two are currently being hired to work at the Beaverlodge detachment starting in 2020
- Provide special event policing; traffic safety; liaison with crime prevention groups; school zone, campground, and specialized patrols on water and in greenspaces (jet boat, ATV); checkpoints; compliance checks; delivery of schools and crime prevention programs; and conduct proactive patrols of high crime areas (hot spots)

## PATROL UNIT



**Funded by:** County of Grande Prairie

### Peace Officers Roles:

- Supplemental enforcement to the RCMP
- Enforce provincial traffic and safety law
- Prevent road/infrastructure damage by overweight commercial vehicles
- Deliver safety and education programs

Patrol area spans from the BC border (west) to the Smoky River (east), and from the Saddle Hills (north) to the Wapiti River (south), and are contracted to provide services to the Municipal District of Greenview, towns of Sexsmith and Wembley, and the Village of Hythe.

## VOLUNTEER CRIME PREVENTION GROUPS

- Local volunteer community crime prevention organizations help prevent and mitigate crimes
- Work closely with local law enforcement
- Includes groups such as Rural Crime Watch, neighborhood watch groups, etc.

## BYLAW UNIT



**Funded by:** County of Grande Prairie

### Bylaw Enforcement Officers (Level 2 Peace Officers) Roles:

- Deliver safety and education programs
- Enforce select regulatory bylaws related to:
- Unsightly premises, parking, snow removal, animal control; and specific provincial statutes under specific Provincial rules
- Enforce the Animal Control Bylaw, regulating dogs, cats and other domestic animals when required
- Proactive and complaints-driven enforcement

**Enforcement and services to the County, Wembley, Sexsmith, Hythe and Saddle Hills County**

## ALL ABOUT ENFORCEMENT

County Regional Enforcement Services are a leader in policing, safety services and emergency management and one of the most comprehensive departments in the province. Multiple types of enforcement work together to provide a safe, secure environment for residents, businesses and visitors.

## REPORTING

All crime and other policing-related calls in the County should be reported to the RCMP.

**ALL Emergencies:** 9-1-1

**Non-Emergencies:** 780-830-5700 Grande Prairie Rural Detachment  
780-354-2485 Beaverlodge Detachment

For questions, concerns or reports about animal control, bylaw or other non-crime related topics, contact:

### County Regional Enforcement Services

**P:** 780-532-9727 | **E:** [enforcementservices@countygpr.ab.ca](mailto:enforcementservices@countygpr.ab.ca)

**W:** [www.countygpr.ab.ca/occurrencereport](http://www.countygpr.ab.ca/occurrencereport)

For animal adoption, pound and shelter services, contact:

### Grande Prairie Regional Animal Care Facility

**P:** 780-830-0199 | **E:** [regionalpound@countygpr.ab.ca](mailto:regionalpound@countygpr.ab.ca)

### Report a Drug House

**P:** 780-830-5689 | **W:** [www.countygpr.ab.ca/drughouse](http://www.countygpr.ab.ca/drughouse)





*Kind Heart Award Recipient —  
Frank Vant Erve*



*Wellington Resource Centre  
in Clairmont*



*Parent & Tot program*

## Family & Community Support Services

### **FCSS: The Glue at the Heart of Community Well-Being**

FCSS is a partnership between the local municipal governments, Métis settlements, and the provincial Community and Social Services Ministry.

Within the parameters of the FCSS Act and Regulation, each municipality or Métis settlement determines how the FCSS funding they receive from the provincial government should be allocated to best meet the social programming needs of their community. Local FCSS programs are part of the larger provincial program that collectively ensures Albertans have access to a strong network of preventative social services. In the County of Grande Prairie, the following services have been prioritized as those needed to meet the needs of our residents.

### **Programs**

#### *Home Support*

Caregivers provide in-home care to families and individuals experiencing disruptions to their normal family routine.

#### *Community School Liaison*

Provides information and support to families and students who are experiencing difficulties at home or at school.



#### *Playschool*

Various playschool programs throughout the County provide a safe and nurturing play-based learning environment for four-year-olds.

#### *Parent and Tot*

Weekly drop-in program for parents/caregivers and their children ages 0-6. Fun, interactive program to increase socialization opportunities in Bezanson and Clairmont.

#### *Wellington Resource Centre*

Provides family and community programs, courses, multi-purpose meeting space, and office space. Located in the same building as the Clairmont Community School.

#### *Summer Camps*

Youth day camps provide positive development opportunities for local youth, ages 6-12, in safe and fun environments. Summer camps take place in rural communities throughout the County.

#### **Funding to Community Groups and Special Project Funding**

FCSS provides operational funding to preventative social agencies that provide services to County residents.

#### **Funding for Seniors and Special Needs Transportation**

Funding for organizations and agencies that operate or provide transportation services for seniors and residents with special needs.



**\$504,453**

**WAS DISTRIBUTED TO  
COMMUNITY GROUPS  
AND SPECIAL PROJECTS**



**758**

**INDIVIDUALS  
PARTICIPATED IN  
SENIORS WALK AND TALK  
AT THE CROSSLINK  
COUNTY SPORTSPLEX**





**31** INDIVIDUALS  
FROM NON-PROFITS  
ENHANCED THEIR  
ABILITIES THROUGH THE  
BOARD GOVERNANCE  
WORKSHOP



**9** INDIVIDUALS  
& FAMILIES  
RECEIVED \$751.50  
IN RECREATION FEE  
ASSISTANCE SUPPORT



**HOSTED 59**  
MENTAL HEALTH  
PROVIDERS AT THE  
KEVIN CAMERON FAMILY  
ASSESSMENT TRAINING

#### Home Support Program

<b>9,442</b>	HOURS OF HOME SUPPORT PROVIDED
<b>198</b>	HOUSEHOLDS
<b>4,532</b>	CLIENT VISITS
<b>106,409 KM</b>	TRAVELLED VISITING CLIENTS

#### Early Childhood Development Program

<b>158</b>	CHILDREN ENROLLED IN COUNTY PLAYSCHOOL PROGRAMS
<b>7</b>	PLAYSCHOOL PROGRAMS: CLAIRMONT PLAYSCHOOL WHISPERING RIDGE PLAYSCHOOL HARRY BALFOUR PLAYSCHOOL BEZANSON PLAYSCHOOL LA GLACE PLAYSCHOOL ELMWORTH PLAYSCHOOL VALHALLA PLAYSCHOOL

AN AVERAGE OF **20** CHILDREN & **13** ADULTS ATTENDED  
THE PARENT AND TOT PROGRAMS IN BEZANSON & CLAIRMONT  
WEEKLY

**7** FAMILIES EXPERIENCING PARENTING CHALLENGES WERE  
SUPPORTED THROUGH THE TRIPLE P PROGRAM (POSITIVE  
PARENTING PROGRAM)





### County Connector

The County Connector is a public transit system linking the County of Grande Prairie, Sexsmith, Beaverlodge, Wembley and Hythe to the City of Grande Prairie. Funded by a grant from the Provincial Rural Transportation Pilot Project, and supported by the municipalities it serves, the service is a two-year pilot project that launched in December 2018.

**3,105 RIDERS** FROM  
DEC 2018 – DEC 2019

### The Community School Liason Program

<b>412</b>	STUDENTS SUPPORTED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY
	168 STUDENTS SUPPORTED ONCE
	244 STUDENTS SUPPORTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
<b>719</b>	STUDENTS ATTENDED GROUP-BASED PROGRAMMING
<b>226</b>	STUDENTS ATTENDED DROP-IN GROUP SESSIONS
<b>70</b>	PARENT SUPPORT SESSIONS

### Libraries

**17,843** ITEMS WERE CHECKED OUT AT THE COUNTY'S  
**3** COMMUNITY LIBRARIES IN ELMWORTH, LA GLACE & VALHALLA



**4**  
**INDIVIDUALS WERE  
RECOGNIZED FOR  
GOOD DEEDS  
THROUGH KIND HEART  
AWARDS**

**101**   
**YOUTH ATTENDED  
SUMMER CAMPS  
HELD IN 6 COMMUNITIES**



**25,011**  
**VISITS TO COUNTY  
LIBRARIES**

## Did You Know?

### THE COUNTY HAS:



**24,473**

PROPERTY PARCELS  
(19,558 ARE TAXABLE)



**8,859**

RESIDENTIAL  
PARCELS

WITH AN AVERAGE  
ASSESSMENT \$435,450

### IN 2019, THE COUNTY COMPLETED:



**5,765**  
INSPECTIONS



**2,088**

RE-INSPECTIONS &  
ANNUAL INSPECTIONS  
ALONG WITH ASSESSMENT  
& RE-INSPECTION OF  
BEAVERLODGE & SEXSMITH

## Legislative Services

Legislative Services is the connection between County Council, Administration, and the community. They support Council's governance framework and decision-making processes and focus on administrative functions that create a strong foundation from which to provide exceptional municipal services.

### Coordinated Council & Administrative Meetings, including:

- 29** COUNCIL MEETINGS WITH FIVE DAYS OF BUDGET DELIBERATIONS
- 20** ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE & BOARD MEETINGS
  - AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
  - FCSS ADVISORY BOARD
  - RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
  - FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
  - PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Legislative Services also supports legislative functions such as appeals, access and privacy.

- 13** COMMITTEE HEARINGS, INCLUDING:
  - COMPOSITE REVIEW BOARD
  - SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD

## Assessment

The Province of Alberta, as part of its best practices, recommends that a re-inspection cycle be put in place by municipalities to ensure that assessments are kept up to date and accurate. Property characteristic data should be continually kept updated in response to changes brought about by new construction, remodelling, demolition or destruction. Every property must be re-inspected every five years.

The County of Grande Prairie selects about 20 per cent of the properties annually. Once the geographic area is determined, the assessors visit and review each of the properties. Identification will always be visible, and the public will be informed of when that will take place.



## Human Resources

The Human Resources department maintains the highest level of employment standards; works to maintain the County's reputation as a desirable place to work; and looks after all aspects of employee recruitment, retention, health and safety and benefits. They advise on staffing and employee relations, as well as working closely with other municipalities to foster workforce development programs and other employment opportunities within the region.

### 2019 Highlights

- Recruited Chief Administrative Officer, Joulia Whittleton
- Implemented a candidate management system to enhance the application process

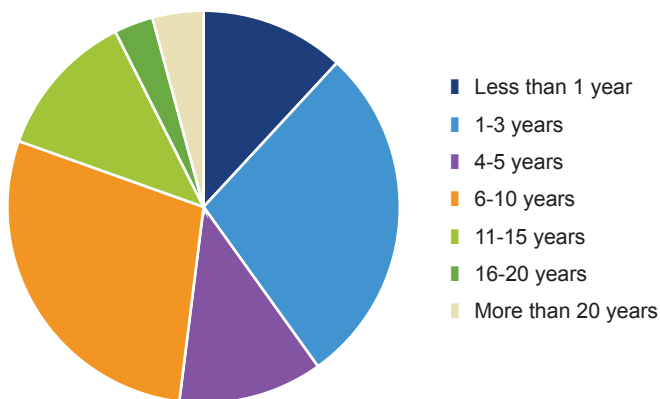




#### *Number of Employees at the County*

<b>34</b>	<b>CASUAL</b>
<b>303</b>	<b>PART- AND FULL-TIME</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>TEMPORARY</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>SEASONAL</b>
<b>58</b>	<b>PAID RESPONDER FIREFIGHTERS</b>

#### *Employee Years of Service*



#### *Flexible Workplace*

We offer several different flexible work arrangements and schedules like compressed work weeks & flex scheduling.

#### *Training & Development*

Hosted the 4th local Certificate in Municipal Management and Leadership (CMML) program in partnership with the University of Alberta and neighbouring municipalities.



### *Empowering Employees*

The Human Resources Advisory Committee provides employees with a voice to research, discuss, negotiate, advise, and communicate policies and personnel procedures. They also assist in researching new benefits and negotiating salary increases to help the County remain a leading employer and a great place to work.

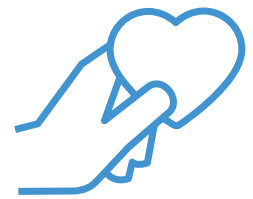
### *Health & Safety*

- The County works with neighbouring municipalities to offer safety training.
- We are a proud member of the Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association.
- The County's Joint Health and Safety Committee is focused on workplace safety with representation from all departments.
- The County is committed to retaining its skilled workforce and reducing WCB claims costs by offering modified duties whenever possible.

**4 INJURIES RESULTING IN LOST TIME**

**7 MODIFIED WORK CLAIMS**

The County recognizes the importance of maintaining an effective health and safety program and successfully upheld its Certificate of Recognition (COR) with an external health and safety audit in 2019.



**COUNTY STAFF  
ARE DEDICATED  
TO OUR COMMUNITY,  
RAISING  
\$6,218  
FOR LOCAL CHARITIES  
THROUGH VARIOUS  
INITIATIVES DURING  
THE YEAR**





**3** COUNTY  
CONNECTIONS  
NEWSLETTERS

**113**   
NEWS  
RELEASES



**33** TRAFFIC  
ADVISORIES

**4** SOCIAL  
MEDIA  
CHANNELS

**28**  
COUNCIL MEETING  
HIGHLIGHTS

## Communications

The Communications department leads proactive communication between the County of Grande Prairie and residents, businesses, community groups and other audiences.

**COMMUNICATIONS PRODUCES THE ANNUAL REPORT**  
IN COOPERATION WITH **ALL CIVIC DEPARTMENTS**

Open houses offer residents the opportunity to talk to Council and staff; learn about programs and projects; and share their ideas and priorities.

HOSTED **680 RESIDENTS** AT **3 COUNTY OPEN HOUSE EVENTS**

- Knelson Centre in Bezanson
- Whispering Ridge School in Clairmont
- South Peace Centennial Museum near Beaverlodge

**LED PUBLIC INFORMATION ROLE FOR THE COUNTY AND**  
**REGIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE (THROUGH GPREP)**

**COMMUNICATION SUPPORT FOR 42 COUNTY PROJECTS**

**52 SPEECHES AND PRESENTATIONS BY ELECTED OFFICIALS** TO  
A RANGE OF AUDIENCES AND AT **NUMEROUS COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**40 COUNTY STAFF MEMBERS CONNECTED WITH HUNDREDS OF**  
**VISITORS AND RESIDENTS DURING 3 COMMUNITY TRADESHOWS**

- Peace Country Classic Agri-Show
- Spring Home & Garden Show
- Fall Home & Leisure Show

THE **NUMBER OF COUNTY FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS** ARE **DOUBLE**  
THE **PER CAPITA RATE** OF THE AVERAGE ALBERTA MUNICIPALITY

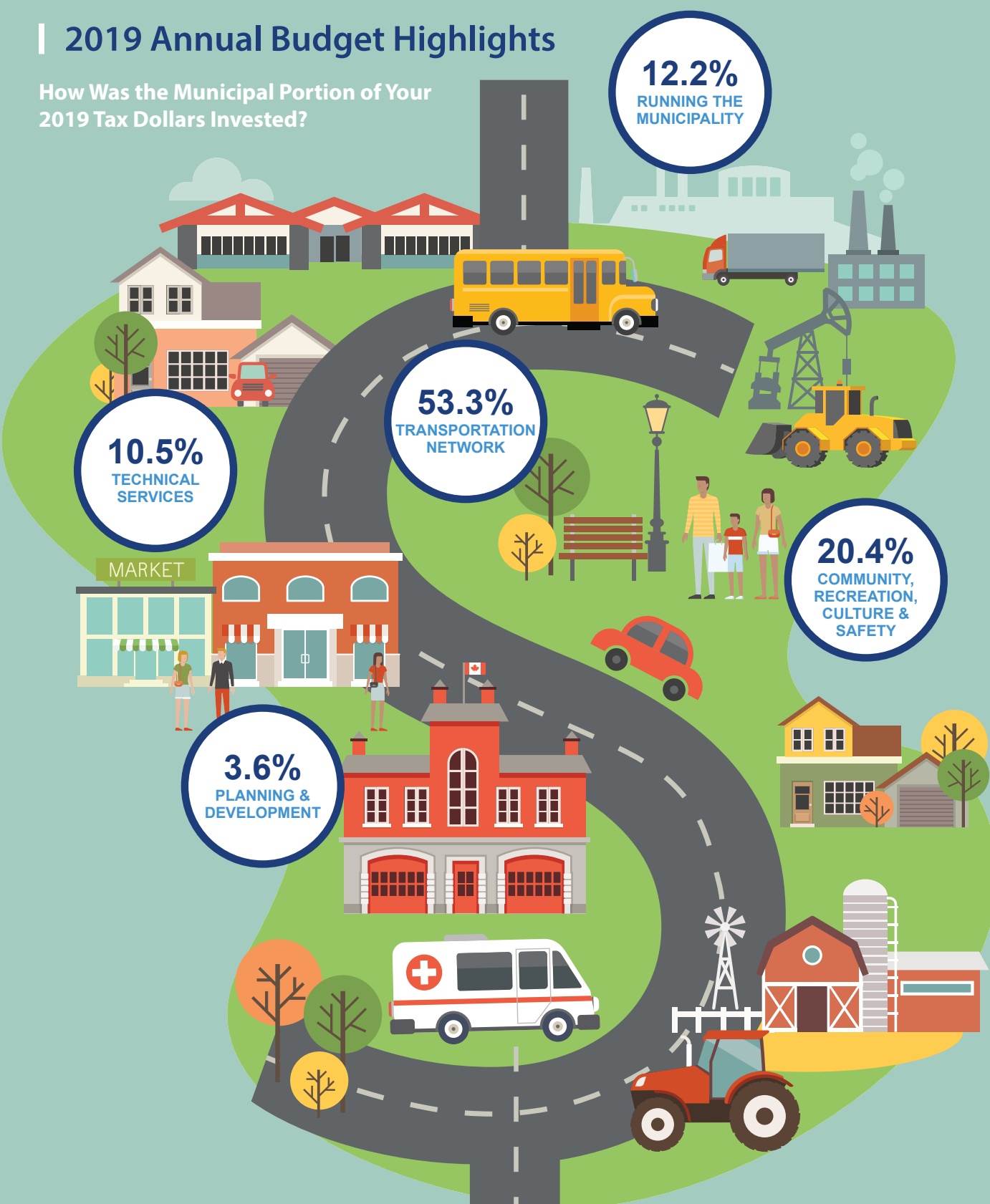
**COUNTYGP.AB.CA HAD 175,566 VISITORS AND 308,128**  
**TOTAL VISITS**

The three most popular pages on our website in order were:

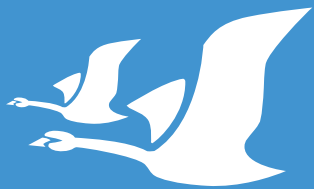
1. Careers & Employment at the County
2. Pipestone Creek Campground bookings
3. Latest News

# | 2019 Annual Budget Highlights

How Was the Municipal Portion of Your  
2019 Tax Dollars Invested?



For the detailed County of Grande Prairie 2019 Financial Statements, please visit the County website at [www.countygp.ab.ca/financialstatements](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/financialstatements).



County of  
Grande Prairie No. 1

**Administration Building**

Ph: 780-532-9722

Fax: 780-539-9880

**Community Services Building**

Ph: 780-532-9727

Fax: 780-567-5576



countyp.ab.ca