

**VILLAGE OF RYLEY**  
**Regular Council Meeting (Video Conference), 16 March 2021, 6:45 p.m.**  
Livestream Video on Facebook Group: Village of Ryley  
Telephone (778) 907-2071: Meeting ID - 974 6141 9019; Passcode - 874235

**AGENDA**

1. Call Regular Meeting to Order:
2. Additions/Deletions:
3. Approval of the Agenda:
4. Minutes of Previous Meetings:
  - 4.1 March 2, 2020 Regular Council Meeting
  - 4.2 March 9, 2020 Special Council Meeting
5. Delegation(s):
  - 5.1 CAO Owen Ligard, Beaver Foundation
6. Business from the Minutes:
  - 6.1 BUDGET 2021
  - 6.2 RFD: BESC SSA (BRP)
7. New Business:
  - 7.1 RFD: Community Center Use – COVID-19 Restrictions
  - 7.2 RFD: Community Center Use – Ryley FCSS
8. Bylaws:
9. Financial Reports:
  - 9.1 Bank Reconciliation February 2021
  - 9.2 Bank Statement
10. Correspondence:
  - 10.1 IN: Minister of Justice and Solicitor General – President’s Summit on Policing
  - 10.2 IN: Municipal Governance – Covid-19 Pandemic Frequently Asked Questions
  - 10.3 IN: Alberta Municipal Affairs – Alberta Disaster Recovery Program (DRP)
11. Reports:
  - 11.1 Written
  - 11.2 Verbal
  - 11.3 CAO Follow-Up Action List (FUAL)
12. In Camera:
  - 12.1 Discussion of Regional Agreement(s) MGA Section 197, FOIP Section 23

12Z. Agenda Additions

12Z.1 [ ]

12Z.2 [ ]

13. Upcoming Meetings:

13.1 April 6, 2021 Regular Council Meeting (Video Conference)

13.2 April 20, 2021 Regular Council Meeting (Video Conference)

13.3 May 4, 2021 Regular Council Meeting (Video Conference)

14. Adjournment

**Village of Ryley**  
**REQUEST FOR DECISION**

<p><b>Meeting:</b> Council <b>Meeting Date:</b> 16 March 2021 <b>Presented By:</b> Glen Hamilton-Brown <b>Agenda Item No:</b> 6.2 BRP Call for Resolution on the BESC SSA</p>
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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Move that Council for the Village of Ryley, in the matter of the Shared Services Agreement (SSA) for the Beaver Emergency Services Commission (BESC) dated January 1, 2014, subsequent to a review of the usage statistics and after having considered that an amendment to the cost-sharing formula under Section 2. would result in a 72.49% rise in annual contribution, which would have equated to a \$50,391 increase to be \$119,904 for 2020 rather than \$69,513, resolves to continue with the cost sharing formula in Section 1 (population or per capita).

OR

Move that Council for the Village of Ryley, in the matter of the Shared Services Agreement (SSA) for the Beaver Emergency Services Commission (BESC) dated January 1, 2014, subsequent to the review of the usage statistics and after having considered that an amendment to the cost-sharing formula under Section 2. would result in a 72.49% rise in annual contribution, which would have equated to a \$50,391 increase to be \$119,904 for 2020 rather than \$69,513, resolves to amend the cost sharing formula in Section 1 (population or per capita) to be based on the Section 2. Formula of ½ population, ½ usage.

**BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL**

Administration recommends that Council continues with the cost sharing formula in Section 1 (population or per capita).

Attached is the BESC SSA. Also attached are letters from the Reeve of Beaver County dated March 5, 2021 to all Mayors on the issue of cost-sharing for BESC, and a response from our Mayor dated March 9, 2021. These two letters were discussed at the Beaver Regional Partnership (BRP) on Thursday, March 11, 2021. After three months of discussion on updating the SSA, BRP recommended that we maintain the current SSA and that we consider the amendment option for cost-sharing under Section 2.

Beaver County and the Town of Tofield state that there was an original "handshake" in 2014 in relation to the carefully balanced and inter-linked set of cost-sharing agreements, including the dividend sharing formula for Beaver Municipal Solutions (BMS) and the various bilateral recreation SSAs. The supposition is that all partners agreed verbally in 2014 to amend the BESC cost-sharing formula in 2017 to a blended formula based on population and usage statistics, moving from the Section 1 formula of "population" (per capita).

This does not make sense for two reasons: firstly, what reason exists to adopt one formula and then move to another - why did the SSA participants adopt the Section 1 formula; secondly, the wording of the SSA does not support the supposition because such a critical, cost sharing detail would not be left out of the agreement when the wording is noticeably clear that it is an option. What is more likely, is that some verbal understanding existed as to the reasons or conditions to lead to amending the formula under Section 2.

It is common for a county to enter into agreements with an urban municipality to offset costs to expand services to the residents of that county: services that are otherwise made available to taxpayers of the urban municipality. Beaver County and Ryley have a number of SSAs that cover the Ag Society, the Library, and the four Recreational entities of Ball, Hall, Curling and Skating. In brief, to provide for expanded service to cover Beaver County residents, the County agrees to pay 47.33% of operational deficits. This percentage is based upon the population distribution of Ryley (population of 483) and an area established as the Ryley "Recreation Service Area" (RSA) within Beaver County (population of 434).

Beaver County has lost significant revenue with recent government policies in the past year. The County has been formulating and executing initiatives to recover these losses in revenue. One initiative they introduced for 2020 was to set a cap on recreation cost-sharing to limit any new year cost share to not exceed any previous year: a steady "noose-tightening" per se. Note that this is in contravention of the SSA(s).

Beaver County warned Ryley (and the other municipal partners) that the Claystone dividend formula and other SSAs are at threat if they do not agree to amend the BESC SSA formula. The dividend cost-sharing formula for Claystone is an instrument of the Limited Partnership Agreement (LPA) which requires unanimous consent of all partners to make such an amendment. In other words, if Ryley does not agree to amend the LPA, it will not be amended.

## COST / SOURCE OF FUNDIING

In 2020, Ryley's operational deficit for recreational and library services was \$74,488.78. Ryley reduced this amount for Beaver County to \$68,099.93 due to reasons of COVID: because the County is facing fiscal challenge and to offset for the lack of a revenue-generating curling club. After this discount, Ryley invoiced Beaver County \$32,231.70 instead of the \$35,728.84 that is pursuant to the agreements. Ryley gave Beaver County a discount of \$3,497.14. After the County applied their noose-tightening policy, setting their cost-share limit to not exceed that paid in 2019, County paid only \$26,560.16, reducing our discounted invoice of \$32,231.70 by an additional \$5,671.54.

If Beaver County withdraws from our SSA agreements, on which they have already implemented arbitrary reductions as seen above, Ryley stands to lose approximately \$30K annually in shared service revenue from Beaver County. Additionally, Ryley would need to address how services for our county resident community members within the greater Ryley area will be funded. These are important members of our community, but we cannot ask our Village taxpayers to pay higher taxes to cover the extension of services to county residents.

The request by Tofield and Beaver to amend the BESC SSA formula would see an annual increase of \$50K. The threat of lost revenue from Beaver County for shared services would see a decrease of \$30K. Although the SSA with the Ag Society is also at threat and Ryley might need to provide greater assistance to the Ag Society, the Ag cost-share from Beaver County is not a revenue to Ryley because it is a direct matching grant to the Ag Society.

Author: Glen Hamilton-Brown  
Date: 12 March 2021

THIS AGREEMENT made effective this 1st day of January, 20 14 .

BETWEEN:

TOWN OF TOFIELD  
Box 30  
Tofield, Alberta T0B 4J0

OF THE FIRST PART

and

VILLAGE OF RYLEY  
Box 230  
Ryley, Alberta T0B 4A0

OF THE SECOND PART

and

VILLAGE OF HOLDEN  
Box 357  
Holden, Alberta T0B 2C0

OF THE THIRD PART

and

TOWN OF VIKING  
Box 369  
Viking, Alberta T0B 4N0

OF THE FOURTH PART

and

BEAVER COUNTY  
Box 140  
Ryley, Alberta T0B 4A0

OF THE FIFTH PART

(hereinafter referred to individually as "each Municipality"  
and collectively as "the Municipalities")

**WHEREAS** by Order in Council 137/2010, dated April 29, 2010, the Lieutenant Governor in Council established the Beaver Emergency Services Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission");

**AND WHEREAS** under authority of the Beaver Emergency Services Commission Regulation, the Commission is authorized to provide fire services, and to carry out the powers and duties of the member municipalities under the *Emergency Management Act*, RSA 2000, Chapter E-6.8, and amendments thereto;

**AND WHEREAS** each Municipality has delegated its authority for the provision of fire protection and emergency management services within its municipal limits to the Commission;

**AND WHEREAS** the Municipalities have transferred ownership of Fire Fighting Equipment, Fire Trucks, and Fire Halls to the Commission;

**AND WHEREAS** the Municipalities entered into an Agreement dated April 29, 2010 to share the operating expenses of the Fire Fighting Equipment, Fire Trucks, Fire Hall, and Fire Fighters jointly used by the Municipalities, with costs to be apportioned based on parcel count, population, and usage;

**AND WHEREAS** the Municipalities wish to revise the formula by which costs are apportioned, to be based on population for the years 2014-2016;

**AND WHEREAS** the Municipalities agree to review the usage statistics over the period 2014-2016 to determine appropriate usage criteria;

**NOW THEREFORE THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSETH THAT** in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained within this Agreement, the Municipalities hereby agree as follows:

1. The Municipalities agree that the cost-sharing contribution be changed
  - From the current formula: 1/3 population, 1/3 usage, 1/3 parcel count,
  - To: Population (per capita), based on the percentage of population within each municipality compared to the total population of all the Municipalities as determined by the latest Federal, Provincial, or Municipal census (as the case may be),

and that the impact of the adjustment in the cost-sharing contribution be phased in by way of three adjustments (more or less equal) over the period of 2014-2016.

2. The Municipalities agree that subsequent to the review of the usage statistics, the cost sharing formula may be amended to be based on:
  - 1/2 population, 1/2 usage (for 2017 and subsequent fiscal years), or the Municipalities may determine to continue with the cost sharing formula in Section 1 (population or per capita). Either option may be implemented with the consent of all parties without requiring further amendment to this Agreement.
3. (a) In any year where the actual operating costs (excluding amortization) to provide fire protection and emergency management services within the Municipalities exceed the actual revenue received by the Commission, the Commission may invoice the Municipalities for the difference (herein referred to as the "annual deficit").  
  
(b) Subject to Section 6, an annual contribution to operating reserve may form part of the annual deficit.
4. The Municipalities agree to advance payment to the Commission based on its current year budget (herein referred to as the "projected annual deficit").
5. (a) Each Municipality shall remit 75% of its share of the projected annual deficit for the current calendar year to the Commission, in three (3) equal installments, due in the months of the calendar year mutually agreed to by each Municipality and the Commission.  
  
(b) The final payment to the Commission shall be made following preparation of the Commission's audited financial statements and confirmation of the annual deficit.  
  
(c) Should the annual deficit be less than the payments made by the Municipalities as per Section 5.(a) above, the first payment to the Commission in the subsequent year shall be adjusted accordingly.
6. The Municipalities agree that no surplus funds will be paid to the Commission for operating reserve purposes until and unless the Commission has developed an operational reserve policy.
7. In addition to the annual deficit, the Municipalities agree to cost-share an annual contribution to a capital reserve, in the same manner as the annual deficit is shared, subject to preparation by the Commission of a long-term capital funding and expenditure plan.
8. Any dispute among the Municipalities regarding this agreement shall be investigated and resolved according to the following procedure:
  - a) Any Municipality who wishes to raise a dispute shall notify all other Municipalities of its dispute and its details;



- b) Within 30 days of all of the Municipalities receiving the notification of dispute, the Chief Administrative Officers (or their delegate), of all Municipalities shall meet and attempt to unanimously resolve the dispute;
- c) If after 60 days from the date of all of the Municipalities receiving the notification of dispute, the dispute remains unresolved, two representatives from each Municipality shall meet and attempt to unanimously resolve the dispute;
- d) If after 120 days from the date of all of the Municipalities receiving the notification of dispute, the dispute remains unresolved, the Councils from each Municipality shall meet and attempt to unanimously resolve the dispute;
- e) Only in the event that the dispute cannot be resolved after a meeting of all of the Councils, shall the matter be referred to a single arbitrator for determination. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on all parties and the *Arbitration Act of Alberta*, as amended, shall apply to the arbitration proceedings as is necessary.

7. This Agreement shall take effect as of January 1, 2014, and shall continue in full force and effect until otherwise amended or terminated by the consent of all Municipalities operating in the Commission at the time of amendment or termination or until amended by provincial legislation or ministerial order.

8. A Municipality shall only be entitled to withdraw from this Agreement if it is dissolved or if it has withdrawn as a member of the Commission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have affixed their seals, as attested by their proper officers, duly appointed.

TOWN OF TOFIELD

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer

TOWN OF VIKING

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer

VILLAGE OF RYLEY

Mayor

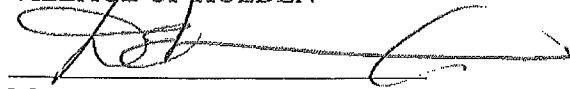
Chief Administrative Officer

BEAVER COUNTY


Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

VILLAGE OF HOLDEN

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "John C.", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Kathy White", written over a horizontal line.

Chief Administrative Officer

March 5, 2021

Mayor Deb Dueck, Town of Tofield  
Mayor Terry Magneson, Village of Ryley  
Mayor Joy Zoopkow, Village of Holden  
Mayor Jason Ritchie, Town of Viking

**Re: BESC Shared Services Agreement (SSA)**

Over the past while, we have all been providing our input into a new Shared Services Agreement and potential changes and improvement in the agreement, and with BESC.

During this time, we have heard from all communities the desire to live within the spirit and intent of the current agreement, and for BESC to be following their current capital plans, budgets, and other adopted policies and procedures. We respect that position.

With that in mind, I wish to inform all partners that the County has no interest in further examining a new SSA, and wish to live within the current adopted agreement. The current agreement already addresses deficit funding, versus budgeted funding, in which the annual budget be reconciled to actual expenditures. This should eliminate the "reallocation" of unintended operating surpluses to the capital reserve (or other reserves).

You should take note that we intend to begin funding BESC in accordance with Section 2 of the current agreement, which anticipated that we would move to a funding system based 50% on population, and 50% on usage in 2017. We were remiss in not moving to this system in 2017, but the County will be funding according to Section 2 in 2021.

The differences to the funding allocation are shown on the following tables:

Population only

Municipality	Population	Percentage of Pop'n	Budgeted payment to BESC (not actual)
Tofield	2081	21.0160%	\$ 299,498
Ryley	483	4.8778%	\$ 69,513
Holden	350	3.5346%	\$ 50,372
Viking	1083	10.9372%	\$ 155,865
Beaver County	5905	59.6344%	\$ 849,848
TOTAL (+/-)	9902		\$ 1,425,097

Section 2 of signed SSA (50% population, 50% call volume):

Municipality	Percentage of Pop'n	Percentage of Call Volume	Blended Percentage per Section 2	Budgeted payment to BESC ( <i>not actual</i> ) per Section 2
Tofield	21.0160%	18.868%	19.9419%	\$ 284,192
Ryley	4.8778%	11.950%	8.4137%	\$ 119,904
Holden	3.5346%	7.547%	5.5409%	\$ 78,963
Viking	10.9372%	11.950%	11.4434%	\$ 163,080
Beaver County	59.6344%	49.686%	54.6600%	\$ 778,958
TOTAL (+/-)				\$ 1,425,097

We understand many elected officials were not on Council in 2014, and many CAOs were not in their municipalities when the current SSA was signed, so a little context may be required for many of us. It is fortunate that many elected officials and some CAOs around at that time will remember this context.

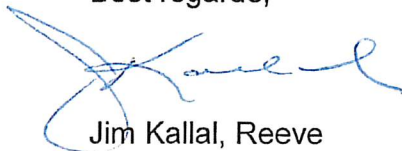
At the time that the adopted SSA was signed, the region also negotiated many other funding and SSA agreements, and the BMS Dividend formula. In some agreements, certain municipalities gave up some funds, or agreed to fund "more than their share" with the understanding that, overall, there was some fairness in the overall regional picture (*all agreements considered*).

So at that time, some parties agreed to take less on the BMS Dividend formula than using a population formula. In particular, the County and Town of Tofield gave up some funding. But this was part of a major change in formula with BESC, including the move to usage stats in addition to population.

If the region disagrees to begin using usage in addition to population, we intend to follow the SSA and will simply remit BESC to that level (blended percentage). Alternatively, the region's municipalities could agree to open up the Claystone Dividend formula to be based on population, just as the BESC agreement has been handled, and not addressing Section 2 (population and usage).

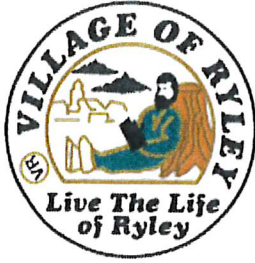
We look forward to having a healthy discussion regarding this matter at the March 11 BRP meeting.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Kallal", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Kallal, Reeve

x.c. Beaver County Council



"Come live the life of Ryley"

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March 9, 2021

Reeve Jim Kallal, Beaver County  
Box 140  
Ryley, Alberta, T0B 4A0

Dear Jim,

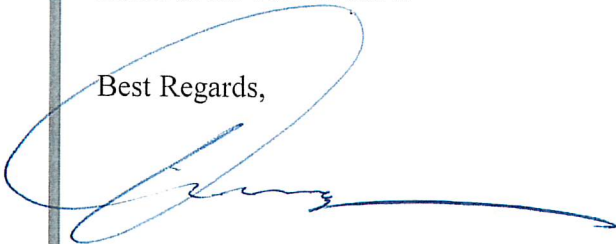
Thank you for your correspondence of March 5, 2021 on BESC Shared Services Agreement (SSA).

Our letter to BESC dated January 29, 2021, demonstrates that the current agreement lacks financial controls. Such controls would prevent BESC from adopting plans, policies and procedures that allow budget variances to occur unchecked, and might be considered unfavourable by one or more partners.

Our interpretation of the current SSA is that the Section 2 cost sharing contribution formula is an alternative amendment option. All partners consented to the original Section 1 cost-sharing contribution formula by virtue of the unanimous practice of this cost-sharing formula over the years of 2017 to 2020. As such, Section 2 became the alternative amendment that could only be implemented with the consent of all parties.

Please take note that we plan to "continue" funding BESC in accordance with the Section 1 cost-sharing contribution formula. Further, our funding will be in accordance with the spirit and intent of the current SSA.

Best Regards,



Terry Magneson  
Mayor

Cc. Mayor Deb Dueck, Town of Tofield  
Mayor Joy Zoopkow, Village of Holden  
Mayor Jason Ritchie, Town of Viking



## Village of Ryley

### REQUEST FOR DECISION

**Meeting:** Council

**Meeting Date:** 16 March 2021

**Presented By:** Glen Hamilton-Brown

**Agenda Item No:** 7.1 Community Center Use

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION

That Council for the Village of Ryley open the Community Center for governance and business related meetings and FCSS activities and that any additional cleaning costs be picked up by the user.

Or

That Council for the Village of Ryley open the Community Center for uses that are permitted pursuant to the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Orders and therefore rescind all previous resolutions.

#### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL

There is a current resolution in place from 03 November 2020:

7.1 RFD: Hall Rental, Highway 14

**2020-11-03#5: MOVED** by Cr. Heslin that Council for the Village of Ryley open the community center for municipally related Christmas gatherings to support the Ryley community.

**Seconded by** Cr. Kowalski

**CARRIED**

It is proposed that council resolve to allow the hall to be used for support group meetings due to this being the only space within the area to conduct activities that can conform to Provincial Government Health Protocols. It will be made clear to all users that they are responsible to enforce social distancing rules and regulation as put out by the Provincial Government while in use and that they will cover any and all additional cleaning costs.

Past resolutions:

Original Resolution: **2020-04-07 #14: MOVED** by Cr. Ducherer that council for the Village of Ryley allows NO rentals or gatherings at the Ryley Community Hall until further notice.

**Seconded by** Mayor Magneson

**CARRIED**

**2020-07-07 #8: MOVED** by Cr. Ducherer that Council for the Village of Ryley open the community hall for Municipal Government use to Beaver County and any additional cleaning costs be picked up by the user.

**Seconded by** Cr. Kowalski

**CARRIED**

#### COST / SOURCE OF FUNDING

No costs anticipated

Author: Angel Matyachuk

Date: 16 March 2021

## Village of Ryley

### REQUEST FOR DECISION

**Meeting:** Council

**Meeting Date:** 16 March 2021

**Presented By:** Glen Hamilton-Brown

**Agenda Item No:** 7.2 Ryley FCSS Community Center Use

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION

That Council for the Village of Ryley charge FCSS the hall rental rate of \$70 each for three mutual support group meetings for the total of \$210 plus any additional cleaning costs; and that council further, donates this sum, to Ryley FCSS from Council Donation Budget.

#### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL

In the past council donated the hall use to FCSS to further help them with programs, support group meetings and events held in the Community Center. Ryley FCSS is conducting a mutual support group program that is permitted pursuant to the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Orders. Ryley FCSS intends to conduct these meetings at the Community Center in the following months and seeks rental subsidization. Meanwhile Ryley FCSS is working on it's funding model in relation to the village budget.

#### COST / SOURCE OF FUNDIING

\$210: Hall cost as stated in the current Master Rates Bylaw with 30% off for non-profit organizations. To date there has been no additional cleaning costs as the pre cleaning protocols have been sufficient.

GL 2-11-198 Council Donations Budget is \$10K and current balance is \$7995.32. This is a typical expenditure but was not specifically budgeted as the Ryley FCSS funding model within the Village Budget remains to be developed this year.

Author: Angel Matyachuk

Date: 16 March 2021





# VILLAGE OF RYLEY

## Accounts Payable Bank Reconciliation

Page 1 of 1

2021-Mar-12  
1:17:49PM

February Balance Shown on Bank Statement

1,172,288.35

### Add Outstanding Deposits

Deposit Description	Batch #	Deposit Date	Amount
DEBIT DEPOSIT	10796	2021-02-26	170.00
Total Deposits Outstanding			170.00
			170.00
Sub Total			1,172,458.35

### Less Outstanding Cheques

Payee	Cheque #	Cheque Date	Amount
	20210029	2021-01-24	1,601.25
	20210032	2021-01-28	125.00
	20210036	2021-01-28	3,000.00
	20210038	2021-01-28	2,572.50
	20210069	2021-02-17	114.00
	20210073	2021-02-26	3,326.47
	20210074	2021-02-26	1,757.38
	20210075	2021-02-26	2,283.38
	20210076	2021-02-26	3,321.28
	20210077	2021-02-26	1,817.19
	20210078	2021-02-26	4,700.56
Total Outstanding Cheques			24,619.01
			(24,619.01)

### And Adjustments

Your Bank Balance Should Be	1,147,839.34
Your Reconciled Bank Balance Is	1,147,859.29
Difference	(19.95)

\*\*\* End of Report \*\*\*

## Account Summary

Today's items for review:

- Notices (0)
- Approvals (0)
- Warnings (0)

## Current Accounts

Account Name	Account Number	Currency	Balance	Available Balance
Cemetery Reserve	727-00033436700	CAD	\$17,667.15	\$17,667.15
MUSH Operating Account	727-00103981401	CAD	\$1,168,724.77	\$1,168,724.77
Walking Path Reserve	727-00477567800	CAD	\$24,737.89	\$24,737.89
Roads Reserve	727-00477637200	CAD	\$26,202.94	\$26,202.94
Sewer Reserve	727-00477730100	CAD	\$26,063.03	\$26,063.03
Facilities Reserve	727-00684401400	CAD	\$25,567.39	\$25,567.39
Totals		CAD	\$1,288,963.17	\$1,288,963.17

## Savings Accounts

Account Name	Account Number	Currency	Balance	Available Balance
Env Stewardship Reserve	727-00566041600	CAD	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Land Development Reserve	727-00566042400	CAD	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Century Pk Restricted Reserve	727-00566045900	CAD	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Tax Sale	727-00766128200	CAD	\$0.00	\$0.00

Totals		CAD	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
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**Lending Products**

Account Name	Account Number	Currency	Balance	Available Balance	Facility Loan Number
Municipal Revolving	727-28989065300	CAD	\$0.00	\$230,000.00	
Totals		CAD	\$0.00	\$230,000.00	

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**Mastercard®**

Company Name	Currency	Credit Limit	Balance	Available Balance
VILLAGE OF RYLEY	CAD	\$20,000.00	\$18,253.00	\$834.00

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March 1, 2021

Honourable Kaycee Madu  
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General  
424 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister,

**Re: President's Summit on Policing**

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On behalf of the Council of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, I am writing concerning the recent President's Summit on Policing. Our Council does not support The Province of Alberta's initiative to replace the RCMP with an Alberta Provincial Police force.

We do not understand why the Province would forge ahead with this process when the Fair Deal Panel survey results clearly showed that 65% of respondents did not support this idea. These are tangible results from a provincial survey which need to be recognized by the Province as a negative response, and a clear indicator by the people of this Province that the majority is not in favor of a Provincial Police Force.

The staggering costs to implement an initiative of this nature, should be enough of a deterrent to even consider proceeding. Municipalities across this Province are struggling to determine how they will absorb the costs for the existing Police Funding Model and should not be expected to consider facing additional expenses for an initiative that is unwanted and appears to have no ceiling where potential costs are concerned.

Finally, we would like to reiterate that the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass is pleased with the level of service provided through our local RCMP. We cannot presume to speak for other communities in Alberta, however we find that the unique circumstances due to our location has fostered highly collaborative relationships between the detachments serving southeastern British Columbia and those serving our neighboring communities in southwestern Alberta. We cannot foresee that the dollars invested would result in an increased level of policing over and above the service we receive now.

We respectfully request that you reconsider replacing the RCMP with an Alberta Provincial Police Force and consider working with the RCMP to improve the service where required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Blair Painter".

Mayor Blair Painter  
Municipality of Crowsnest Pass  
403-563-0700  
[blair.painter@crowsnestpass.com](mailto:blair.painter@crowsnestpass.com)

cc: RMA Membership  
AUMA Membership



# Municipal Governance

## During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Frequently Asked Questions – March 5, 2021

While we continue to navigate the ever-evolving COVID-19 pandemic together, Municipal Affairs remains committed to issuing regular updates to address frequently asked questions and provide new information or resources as they become available.

Step 2 restriction changes for indoor fitness and libraries came into effect March 1. All other restrictions remain in effect. For the most up-to-date information on the COVID-19 situation in Alberta, visit: [alberta.ca/COVID19](https://alberta.ca/COVID19).

If you would like a specific issue addressed in an upcoming update, please email your request to: [ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca).

### Municipal Affairs Updates

Previous COVID-19 updates are available at: [www.alberta.ca/municipal-government-resources.aspx](https://www.alberta.ca/municipal-government-resources.aspx)

## Public Health Order

**Is the State of Public Health Emergency still in effect?**

**NO.** The Official Public Health Emergency has expired. Discussions are ongoing on whether a state of emergency needs to be reinstated.

**Are community peace officers still authorized to enforce provisions contained in the COVID-19 orders?**

**NO.** Ministerial Order 64/2020 issued on November 27, 2020 is no longer in effect as of February 25, 2021. Therefore, the authorities granted within the Ministerial Order are no longer available to Community Peace Officer Level 1s and Alberta Peace Officer Level 2s employed by the Ministry of Environment and Parks, Environmental Enforcement Services. As a result, they cannot enforce the Chief Medical Officer of Health's (CMOH) Orders through the *Public Health Act*, but can continue to enforce municipal bylaws in effect due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The RCMP or public health inspectors remain authorized to enforce orders issued under the *Public Health Act*.

### Election Resources

Municipal Affairs has published a guide for conducting municipal elections during the COVID-19 pandemic, available for download at: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2021-municipal-election-covid-19-risk-reduction-guide>.

## General Questions

**Should councillors still be encouraged to wear masks during council meetings even if we have the space to social distance and/or have barriers in place?**

**YES.** Masks are required to be worn indoors at all times, unless individuals are at a workstation and separated from others. If each individual seated in chambers is separated by two metres from all others then masks could be removed; however, it is highly recommended masks remain on for all in-person meetings. At this time, virtual meetings continue to be encouraged wherever possible.

**Are municipalities responsible in any way for use of their community halls in contravention of the order or parameters of use under the Public Health Order?**

**YES.** Community hall operators are responsible for any contravention to public health orders that occur within their premises. If the community hall operator is the municipality, then the municipality would be held responsible.

### Alberta Biz Connect

Alberta Biz Connect provides workplace guidance and support to businesses and non-profits. The online tool also provides sector-specific guidelines to ensure businesses can reopen safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses with questions regarding the relaunch can [email the Biz Connect team](#). Common questions are also posted [online](#).

**Are community hall kitchens allowed to be used if the hall itself is not being used?**

**YES.** CMOH Order 2-2021 Section 43(j) allows a location to be utilized for charitable activities including, but not limited to, food, clothing, and toy collection and distribution.

**As municipalities work with outdoor festival organizers to ensure they have plans for different formats, will it be possible to get information on what the possible restrictions will be for these events?**

**YES.** Information will be made available as soon as possible. Outdoor festivals and events are currently in Step 4 of the Path Forward. There is no indication at this time of what potential summer festivals may look like; however, Alberta Health is working with representatives of summer festivals to provide up-to-date information and ensure they understand their planning needs.

At this time, the limit on outdoor social gatherings remains capped at 10 people, and this restriction is in place province-wide.

## Additional Resources

The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) and Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) continue to be a valuable resource for municipalities.

RMA's COVID-19 response hub is available at: <https://rmalberta.com/about/covid-19-response-hub>.

AUMA's updated guide is available at: [www.auma.ca/covid19](http://www.auma.ca/covid19).

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities also has a list of links and resources for municipalities available at: [www.fcm.ca/en/resources/covid-19-resources-municipalities](http://www.fcm.ca/en/resources/covid-19-resources-municipalities).





ALBERTA  
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister  
Deputy Government House Leader  
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

AR100314

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

This letter is to inform you of changes to the Government of Alberta's Disaster Recovery Program (DRP), which are in effect for DRPs that occur in 2021 and onward and are outlined in the 2021 Disaster Assistance Guidelines.

In response to the rising cost and frequency of disasters in Alberta, we have made changes to the DRP. These changes are intended to share the responsibility of disasters with all those who are impacted and to make the program more sustainable for future events. Changes will ensure that assistance is available for Albertans when they need it most.

While conditions for eligibility remain the same for qualifying applicants, the following cost-sharing arrangements and funding limits have been added to the program:

**Local authority and private sector applicants (including homeowners)**

We are implementing a 90:10 cost-sharing arrangement.

- DRP assistance is limited to 90 per cent of eligible disaster expenses, instead of 100 per cent.
- The remaining 10 per cent of eligible assistance will be subtracted from the amount payable to the applicant. No payment to the program will be required.

**Homeowners only**

We are implementing a funding limit of up to \$500,000 per homeowner application and a limit on assistance to one time per property.

- For disaster events that occur in 2021 onward, qualifying homeowner applicants will only be able to access DRP assistance once per property address. Financial assistance from the program will not be provided to future applicants who own property at the same physical location.

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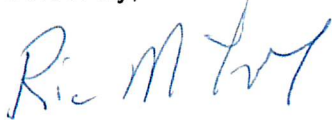
- The one-time funding limit is not cumulative. For example, if an applicant has received \$100,000 worth of assistance under the new policy, they would not qualify for any funding in the future.
- This change will not be applied retroactively. If a homeowner has received assistance before 2021, this does not count as meeting the one-time assistance limit.
- Homeowner addresses that receive DRP assistance will be posted online to the Government of Alberta website to provide transparency about DRP funding limits and up-to-date information for prospective homeowners, developers, and real estate professionals. The funding received stays with the property; therefore, a new homeowner would not be able to access disaster recovery funding for that same property in the future.

Being prepared improves individual and community resilience by lessening the impacts of disasters, shortening recovery time, and reducing economic disruption. Individuals and communities are encouraged to take measures to prepare for disasters and to look at ways of reducing their disaster risks. Learn how you can prepare for emergencies and disasters by visiting us at [alberta.ca/emergency-preparedness.aspx](http://alberta.ca/emergency-preparedness.aspx).

Please refer to the enclosed information sheet for more information on changes to the Disaster Recovery Program and the Alberta Disaster Assistance Guidelines, or visit us online at [www.alberta.ca/drp](http://www.alberta.ca/drp).

If you have any additional questions, please call 1-888-671-1111 or email [drp.info@gov.ab.ca](mailto:drp.info@gov.ab.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ric McIver".

Ric McIver  
Minister

Attachment: Information Sheet

cc: Chief Administrative Officers

# Disaster Recovery Program Changes

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## Overview

The Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) provides financial assistance to qualifying applicants to help restore uninsurable property lost or damaged by a disaster to its basic, pre-disaster functional condition.

DRPs provide financial assistance as a last resort to assist those affected by a disaster.

## Program changes

For DRPs that occur in 2021, the Government of Alberta has set homeowner funding limits and implemented cost-sharing mechanisms between the government and program applicants.

## Why changes were made

The cost and frequency of disasters in Alberta are increasing, and the province needs a more sustainable approach to disaster recovery. By implementing a stronger framework to deal with emergencies and disasters, these changes help ensure the DRP can continue to be available for Albertans when they need it most.

## Homeowner-funding limits

The province is implementing a homeowner funding limit of up to \$500,000 per application for eligible costs and a limit of one-time assistance per property, regardless of the transfer of ownership. The one-time funding limit is not cumulative, so if an applicant has received any amount of assistance under the new policy, they would not qualify for funding in the future.

Establishing a homeowner funding limit helps government reinforce the intent of the DRP, which is to contribute to a ready and resilient Alberta and be the payer of last resort. Homeowners may choose to opt out of receiving DRP assistance if they are able to cover damages on their own. This would allow their property to qualify for future assistance if a DRP is approved in their community and they meet the program qualification criteria at that time.

### Limits to properties

- Limits to assistance are applied to the property address only, not the applicant.
- A new property owner will not qualify for DRP assistance if the previous owner already accessed the one-time funding limit.

### Posting addresses online

- If a homeowner applicant accessed funding through a DRP for a disaster that occurred in 2021 and onward, the property address and legal land description will be posted on the Government of Alberta website. The post will indicate that the address (legal land description) is not eligible for future DRP funding.
- This will help prospective buyers and developers become aware of funding limits that apply to specific addresses.

## 90:10 cost-sharing

Cost-sharing mechanisms for municipalities and private-sector applicants are based on a 90:10 formula, where the province covers 90 per cent of eligible disaster costs and the applicant covers the remaining 10 per cent.

## What you can do as a community

The Alberta Emergency Management Agency encourages all Albertans and communities to:

- Purchase adequate insurance.
- Have reserve funds.
- Invest in mitigation and infrastructure maintenance.
- Restrict future property development in high-risk areas.

## Living in high-risk areas

Albertans living in high-risk areas may experience a natural disaster of one kind or another. The Government of Alberta continues to provide DRP assistance to all qualifying applicants; however, homeowners living in high-risk areas are encouraged to consider relocating or mitigating risks to their properties.

Flood maps are available at <https://floods.alberta.ca/>.

## Purchasing insurance

It is important for Albertans to become educated about their disaster risks and ensure they are adequately insured. There are more insurance options on the market now than ever before.

### High-risk areas

Homeowners living in high-risk areas who are not able to access overland flood insurance are also subject to the cost-sharing and one-time funding limit.

### Flood insurance

Financial assistance for disaster recovery continues to be available to eligible applicants to help cover costs related to uninsurable loss and damages. Albertans are advised to check with several insurance companies to compare policy coverage limits, exclusionary language (e.g. concurrent causation clauses), and premiums when purchasing any flood insurance.

## Federal government disaster assistance

Since 2015, the federal government has significantly reduced federal support through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. This has increased the provincial liability for DRP costs. In addition to this, the federal government does not typically reimburse for repeat assistance in flood-prone areas.

## Indigenous communities

The federal government continues to fund all eligible disaster-related costs on First Nations reserve land.

First Nations applicants living off reserve, as well as other members of Indigenous communities are eligible for the same benefits and limits as other Albertans applying to the DRP.

The 90:10 cost-sharing arrangements will also apply to Métis Settlement communities as it would for all other communities.

### For more information

Online: [alberta.ca/drp](https://alberta.ca/drp)

Call us: 1-888-671-1111

Email: [DRP.info@gov.ab.ca](mailto:DRP.info@gov.ab.ca)