



The Insider, Oct. 13

Find out what's new at the RMWB on Oct. 13, 2026.

Know the why, know the where: new Directive Awareness training launches Oct. 15

Beginning Oct. 15, all employees will be assigned the new mandatory Directive Awareness training in their LEARN profiles.

The training brings together key RMWB procedures and directives that help guide our everyday work. While many of these documents may already be familiar, the course provides a simple way for employees to review important information, refresh their understanding, and learn where to find resources when questions arise.

Whether you're serving residents, supporting colleagues or leading projects, understanding the directives that guide our work helps everyone make informed decisions and work from a common understanding of our responsibilities as municipal employees.

Once launched, the training must be completed by **Dec. 31, 2026**.

Have questions? Contact learn@rmwb.ca.

Supporting the teams behind winter maintenance

*1 - Members of **Fleet Services** have been working hard to ready the light equipment snow-clearing fleet and new vehicles to prepare for the upcoming winter season. This work will ensure that the Parks and Roads teams have vehicles that are safe and reliable.*

Winter may still be a few weeks away, but preparations are already underway to help keep roads clear and our community moving safely.

Following updates approved by Council to the Urban Snow and Ice Control Program Policy, several improvements are being introduced this season to support more efficient winter maintenance operations, increase transparency for residents, and reduce delays caused by illegally parked vehicles.

These changes build on lessons learned from last winter and the feedback residents shared about service expectations, communication, and enforcement.

How you can help

When winter maintenance operations are underway, every minute counts. Last winter, a single illegally parked vehicle could delay snow clearing operations for an entire street.

Whether you're working in the field, at a facility, or from an office, there are simple ways all employees can support winter maintenance operations:

- Subscribe to WMZ alerts at rmwb.ca/wmz.
- Discover your subzone and designated maintenance day using the Find Your Zone tool at rmwb.ca/wmz.
- Move your vehicle when parking restrictions are in effect.
- Share accurate information with friends, family, and residents who may have questions.
- Give crews space to work safely when maintenance activities are underway.

Learn more at rmwb.ca/wmz.

Solid Waste Services completes pickup of 38,000 recycling carts!

A huge thank you to the Solid Waste Services team for an incredible job retrieving approximately 38,000 RMWB light and dark blue recycling carts!

Over two weeks, about **55 employees** took part in this massive effort, with teams of 12 to 23 out in the field each day to get the job done. Their dedication, teamwork, and hard work made this a success. If you see a member of the team, take a moment to thank them and show your appreciation for their outstanding work.

Missed your recycling cart pickup?

If your cart was missed, you can:

- Call Pulse to arrange a pickup.
- Bring it to the Public Drop Off at the Regional Landfill at no charge.

Collected recycling carts are being stored at a collection area at the Regional Landfill while recycling options are explored.

Residential recycling carts now picked up by Collective Waste

Recycling collection service is now managed by Circular Materials and picked up by Collective Waste Solutions.

Download their app, find your recycling collection schedule and learn what you can recycle at circularmaterials.ca/ab.

Bring your voice to the table

Are you drawn to public art? Want to get involved in community beautification? Interested in building and improving Wood Buffalo?

With a few exceptions, municipal employees are eligible to serve on many Council-appointed boards and committees.

Applications are coming in daily, but many committees need more candidates, including:

- Wood Buffalo Public Art and Beautification Committee
- Wood Buffalo Revitalization Advisory Committee
- Combative Sports Commission
- Advisory Committee on Aging

There are many more committees where your skills and experience could help move important projects, initiatives, and services forward. We have more than 60 important volunteer positions open across 17 municipal boards and committees.

Apply for an open position by Oct. 18 at rmwb.ca/boards.

Our newest visitor isn't on the payroll

If you've spent time around Jubilee Centre lately, you may have spotted a familiar furry face. A fox has been making occasional appearances in the area, reminding us that we share the community with local wildlife.

While our four-legged visitor may be curious, it's important to give wildlife plenty of space and avoid interactions.

Following a few simple safety tips helps keep both people and animals safe.

- **Keep your distance.** Do not approach, touch, feed, or attempt to scare away or capture the fox.
- **Provide an escape route.** Do not corner or surround the animal or block its path.
- **Avoid close contact.** Do not attempt to take close-up photos or videos. Observe the animal from a safe distance.
- **Use caution outdoors.** If a fox is nearby, remain calm, move away slowly, and use an alternative route if necessary.
- **Report unusual behavior.** If the fox appears injured, disoriented, or unusually aggressive, or approaches people without retreating, maintain a safe distance and notify the appropriate team.

To report a concern, contact:

-
- **Email:** pulse@rmwb.ca
 - **Phone:** 780-743-7000
-

Registration for Take Our Kids to Work Day closes Oct. 16

Take Our Kids to Work Day is back on Wednesday, Nov. 4!

Grade 9 students will spend the morning learning about their parent or guardian's workplace before joining fellow participants for activities and site visits that showcase the wide range of services and careers that help keep the region running.

[Register your Grade 9 student by Oct. 16.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact learn@rmwb.ca.

Remember to plan ahead for Referendum Day on Oct. 19

Eligible Albertans will head to the polls on **Oct. 19** for the Provincial Referendum.

By law, employees must have **three consecutive** hours to vote while polls are open. Depending on their work schedule, some employees may be eligible for paid time off on Election Day to ensure they have an opportunity to cast their ballot.

Please speak with your supervisor if you have questions about voting time requirements.

To avoid scheduling conflicts (and beat the lines!), you may want to take advantage of **Advance Voting**, available from **Oct. 13 to 17**.

For referendum information, voting locations, and advance voting details, visit [Elections Alberta](#).

Meet September's Cheers for Peers winner

Congratulations to **Florine Kondo**, GIS technologist, Asset Management.

Here's what **Alan Gammon**, program manager, FireSmart, had to say about Florine:

While Florine is not officially part of RES, her contributions to the FireSmart branch have been enormous. She regularly goes above and beyond to support our team and is the definition of dependable.

Florine is our GIS wizard behind the scenes, helping ensure our data is cleaned, organized, and turned into high-quality mapping products. These maps are often created with incredibly quick turnaround times, and I am regularly surprised at how fast she can complete a GIS request.

Her work directly supports FireSmart planning, reporting, and decision-making, and she consistently makes our jobs easier. I would like to acknowledge that the success of FireSmart is shared with Florine and the work she has completed.

How does Cheers for Peers work?

Cheers for Peers allows staff to recognize colleagues for their contributions, team spirit, and kind acts. Each nomination is shared directly with the recipient, and nominated staff can then choose to be entered into a monthly draw for some great prize items.

Get started at rmwb.ca/staff.

Staff snapshots: Where we are & what we're up to

Sharpening skills behind the badge

This week, a number of Bylaw Services Officers took the Use of Force recertification.

Staff were put through their paces learning new techniques for handcuffing and restraining among other skills.

Bylaw Officers work closely with the public every day, often in challenging situations, and undergoing this specialized training to keep these skills sharp is important for everyone's safety.

All aboard for accessibility

Our Transit team headed out to the Senior's Wellness Expo last week!

While there, **Mian Rasheed**, **Maxim Kashem**, **Mark Gasior**, and **Chris Cinnamon** answered questions about specialized and regular transit service options and were able to give attendees a guided tour of a specialized transit bus and explore the accessible features.

Homeless Connect event brings warmth and support

Service providers in the community came together for the 2026 Homeless Connect at the Syncrude Sport and Wellness Centre last Thursday to provide information and resources to our neighbours experiencing homelessness.

The event was organized by the RMWB's Community Services team and attended by dozens of community organizations in addition to residents who came seeking support.

2 - From left to right: Yvonne Osawaru (Homelessness Initiatives Strategic Committee member) stands with Community Services team members Heidi Major (Social Programs Advisor), Cheryl Cooper (Program Manager) and Amanda Parsons (Social Programs Advisor), who served bannock sandwiches and more to all who attended the Homeless Connect.

3 - From left to right: Chris Cinnamon (Support Services assistant manager) and Amy Boyadijan (Transit customer service agent) answer questions about public transit at the 2026 Wood Buffalo Homeless Connect.

More than a game: Soccer brings staff together

The 2026 outdoor soccer season for the RMWB Soccer for Fun team wrapped up with a year-end celebration at Eagle Ridge Banquet Hall earlier this month.

The season saw strong participation from across the organization and included a friendly match against the Nepali Soccer Team from Edmonton in August.

Looking ahead, the team is excited to launch indoor soccer (futsal), with Chinedu Nwasolu leading coordination efforts. Interested in joining? Connect with Chinedu or committee members Sam Poudyal, James Semple, Bipul Bhowmik, Sunshine Arle-Besa, Thomas Bergevin, or Saboor Nasir.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the program over the past three seasons. Here's to another year of teamwork, friendship and community through soccer! 

From Roads to Wastewater: Building understanding across teams

The Roads team recently toured the Wastewater Treatment Plant, gaining a firsthand look at the complex processes that keep this essential service running. The experience provided valuable insight into the plant's daily operations and highlighted the important role it plays in protecting public health, safeguarding the environment and supporting the community's infrastructure.

The tour also offered a great opportunity for cross-departmental learning, helping team members build a deeper understanding of the services that work together to keep the region running smoothly.

RES celebrates graduates, recognizes promotions at 2026 Fire Service Convocation

Regional Emergency Services celebrated the graduation and promotions of firefighters and paramedics at the Fire Service Convocation on Oct. 4.

We'd like to congratulate all members who took part!

Contact us

For questions and concerns, contact TheInsider@rmwb.ca.

For previous editions of The Insider, visit the archive on rmwb.ca/staff.