



The Insider, Sept. 8

Find out what's new at the RMWB on Sept. 8, 2026.

98 dogs, one community: Recognizing Bylaw's efforts

Last month, the community rallied around an incredible story after 98 dogs were rescued from a local residence, prompting an outpouring of support for the Fort McMurray SPCA and everyone involved in their care.

Behind the scenes, the rescue was a major undertaking for the **Bylaw Services team**, who played a critical role in coordinating and carrying out the operation.

Last week, Community Services recognized those efforts by stopping by with coffee and treats to thank the team for their hard work.

"Tackling a rescue of this nature been an intense, all-hands-on-deck effort for our entire team," shared **Aaron Anderson**, manager, Bylaw Services. "Having our municipal partners recognize the hard work behind the scenes means a great deal to us."

While the story captured attention across the region and beyond, Bylaw staff saw firsthand the scale of the effort required to ensure the animals' safety and well-being.

A big thank you to our Bylaw Services team for their dedication throughout the rescue, and to Community Services and the Community Partnerships and Initiatives team for taking the time to recognize their work.

Take a step on your Reconciliation journey

We all have a shared responsibility to advance Reconciliation in our region. By participating in the Truth and Reconciliation Learning Experience, you are taking a step on your own Reconciliation journey.

One powerful first step is learning more about the history and ongoing impacts of Indian residential schools, both in Canada and here in the region. Understanding this history can help us reflect on the experiences of Indigenous Peoples and consider how we can contribute to meaningful Reconciliation today.

For departments interested in actively participating in Truth and Reconciliation, a new mobile exhibit, **A Brief Walk Through the History of Indian Residential Schools**, is available to reserve. The exhibit provides an opportunity for employees to learn more about the history of residential schools and their lasting impacts.

Last week, the exhibit was set up at Firehall #5, providing staff with an opportunity to explore the exhibit and learn more about this important part of our shared history.

Find more information and resources about this year's Truth & Reconciliation Learning Experience by visiting rmwb.ca/trle.

Meet August's Cheers for Peers winner

Congratulations to **Kellie Francis**, supervisor, Transit Operations.

Here's what **Danielle Lo Bianco**, supervisor, Strategic Communications, had to say about Kellie:

I'd like to share a Cheers for Peers for Kelly Francis, whose exceptional day-to-day customer service was highlighted by several residents during a recent engagement.

They spoke about how she consistently goes above and beyond with Specialized Transit, helping them adjust pick-ups for work or personal needs and making daily life more accessible.

Her kindness, reliability, and commitment are making a real difference in people's lives, and it was wonderful to hear the community recognize her impact.

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.

Helping our youngest residents stay safe around collection trucks

Kids love garbage trucks, and our collection drivers love the waves, excitement and energy they get from some of our youngest residents. But lately, some little fans have been getting a bit too close for comfort.

This week, the Collections team asked Strategic Communications for some help promoting safe habits around collection vehicles. **Jennie Walker**, social media advisor, hopped in the truck to capture the action, while the rest of the Strat Comms crew joined **Stephen Ross**, supervisor, Solid Waste Services, to help organize our young participants and driver for filming.

Paula Manuel, acting supervisor, Solid Waste Services, also demonstrated the “circle of danger” around a collection vehicle, the areas where a driver can lose sight of someone who gets too close. The mechanical arms used to lift and empty carts are another reason it’s important to give collection vehicles plenty of room while crews are working.

The message for kids and families is simple: stay at least 10 feet away, give our crews room to work and wave from a safe distance. Chances are that you’ll get a wave and maybe even a honk back.

Our drivers love seeing kids excited about the trucks. They just want to make sure everyone stays safe while enjoying them.

Keep an eye out for the reels on our social channels and help us spread the message about staying safe around collection vehicles.

Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service on Sept. 11

The Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service will be held on Sept. 11 at Fire Hall 5.

The Fort McMurray Honour Guard and Fort McMurray Fire Department members will pay tribute to firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice and will commemorate their legacy as well as express gratitude to those who continue to serve.

Seating will begin at 10 a.m. with the ceremony starting at 10:30 a.m. Light refreshments will be available after the Service. Staff are welcome to attend – please approve with your supervisor.

Regional Emergency Services hosting Community Pancake Breakfast on Sept. 12

Come out for food and fun on Sept. 12 for the annual pancake breakfast hosted by Regional Emergency Services. This free event features lots of exciting and interesting family activities, and of course – pancakes!

The event will be held from 9 a.m. until noon at Fire Hall 1 (Hawkins Hall, 2 Tolen Drive), and offers something for everyone – including rescue demonstrations, tours of emergency services equipment, fire trucks, and an interactive fire safety trailer.

See you there!

Take a moment for you with Calm

Our **Calm subscription has been renewed for another year**, giving you and your family members continued **free** access to one of the world's leading well-being and mindfulness apps.

Whether you're looking to manage stress, improve focus, sleep better, or simply take a few mindful minutes during a busy day, Calm offers a wide variety of resources to support your mental well-being at home and at work.

Well-being at work

When deadlines pile up and schedules get busy, it's tempting to push through without taking a break. But stepping away for a few minutes can help improve focus, reduce feelings of overwhelm, and support overall well-being.

Calm's **For Work Collection** includes practical, on-demand resources designed for the workplace, including:

- [Moments that Matter](#): An exclusive eight-part series featuring Chibs Okereke, who shares practical strategies for handling challenging workplace situations, from delivering difficult feedback to navigating team changes.
- [Settle Down by Single-Tasking](#): In this six-minute session, Jay Shetty guides listeners through a breathwork exercise while introducing the benefits of single-tasking to improve focus and productivity.
- [People Pleasing](#): Another six-minute session with Jay Shetty that explores how to recognize people-pleasing tendencies and respond in ways that better align with your values and priorities.

Get started with Calm

1. Visit [Calm](#).
2. Sign up with your personal email address (or log in to an existing account).
3. Validate your work email address.

All employees have **free** access to the Calm app. You can share your Calm subscription with up to **five additional devices** with your same login credentials.

Enjoy the perks of Calm with your family and loved ones – all while becoming happier and healthier together!

Last chance to vote for your top three summer photos!

We've picked the top 10 photos of the Summer Photo Contest - now it's your turn to crown its three winners!

Cast your vote [online](#) or below by Friday, Sept. 11.

We'll announce the winners in a later edition of The Insider.

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

Success on the dirt track

Chris Cinnamon, assistant manager, Transit Services and **Janelle Kidd**, paralegal, Legal Services had a great weekend at Edmonton's RAD Torque Raceway Dirt Nationals, competing against 24 drivers from across Alberta, Saskatchewan and B.C.

The pair crossed the line in third place on Friday night and second place on Saturday night, earning second place overall in weekend points standings.

When he's not at work, Chris can often be found at Supertest Speedway, just north of Fort McMurray, where he's been racing since 2022. He's no stranger to the podium there either, having captured the Mini Stock Championship in both 2022 and 2024.

Congratulations to Chris and Janelle on an impressive weekend of racing. We're always excited to see the incredible hobbies and accomplishments our employees pursue outside of work!

Good morning from the NOC

1 - Ray Lepine, foreperson, Roads, captured this beautiful morning shot from the North Operations Centre last week.

Contact us

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

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