



The Insider, July 20

Find out what's new at the RMWB on July 20, 2026.

We kid you not: Bylaw's great goat chase

Bylaw Officers are used to responding to unexpected calls, but a runaway goat roaming the downtown streets of Fort McMurray wasn't on everyone's bingo card.

When reports of a roaming goat started coming in on July 9, Bylaw Services sprang into action - and the goat-sized adventure that followed was anything but baaa-ring.

Find out what happened from **Curtis Kachale**, supervisor, Bylaw Services:

The **e-scape goat** was first spotted downtown near Alberta Drive. Bylaw Officers began tracking him across town as he made a beeline for Walmart. Unfortunately for our four-legged friend, it was a "no shirt, no shoes, no service" situation.

Not ready to call it a day, he continued to Hill Drive, where Bylaw Enforcement Officer **Cathy Shea** attempted to corner him. The goat wasn't interested in butting heads, kicked up his hind legs, and leapt right over the officer.

After one final dash through the neighbourhood, our runaway finally wandered into a family's backyard. That's where one of our taller officers—with an impressive reach—was able to get a leash over the fence and safely bring the adventure to an end.

No goats, officers, or fences were harmed in the making of this story.

A big thank you to Curtis and the Bylaw Services team for sharing this tale - and for proving that when duty calls, they're always ready to hoof it into action.

Boards and committees to be streamlined in 2027 to reduce overlap

Starting in 2027, several Council-appointed boards and committees will be combined or restructured to reduce duplication and improve how advice is provided to Council.

The changes stem from a 2025 review that found some committees had overlapping mandates, shared memberships, or were no longer active.

As part of the changes, four new committees will be created:

- **Wood Buffalo Public Art and Beautification Advisory Committee** (Communities in Bloom + Public Art committees)
- **Wood Buffalo Business and Development Advisory Committee** (Development Advisory + Pro-Business Advisory committees)
- **Wood Buffalo Revitalization Advisory Committee** (Waterfront Advisory + Downtown Revitalization Advisory committees)
- **Animal Welfare Advisory Committee**

Several committees will also be removed or shifted under separate bylaws:

- The **Community Standards Appeal Committee** will continue to operate under its own bylaw.
- The **Transportation Advisory** and **Vehicle for Hire** committees will be discontinued after being inactive for some time.

Council also approved amendments to keep the **Advisory Committee on Aging** and the **Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity and Equality** (RACIDE) as stand-alone committees.

The Community Identification Committee, Homeless Initiatives Strategic Committee, and Municipal Policing Advisory Committee will continue without changes.

911 Dispatch marks accreditation

Regional Emergency Services celebrated an important international accreditation for emergency medical dispatching during a small gathering at Fire Hall 1 on July 15.

The event included RES leadership, CAO Andrew Boutilier, 911 dispatchers and other RES personnel. This accreditation from the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch was announced in June and is a globally recognized standard of excellence, representing the **highest level of service for public safety communications**.

Congratulations to all!

Take the wildfire pledge by Aug. 15

Did you know that **60%** of wildfires were **human-caused** in 2025?

Join **Fire Chief Jody Butz** in signing the pledge to reduce the number of human-caused wildfires in the Fort McMurray Forest Area.

Commit to reducing wildfires:

- I will always use **fire responsibly and safely** in the Fort McMurray Forest Area.
- I will **fully extinguish my campfire** by soaking it, stirring it and soaking it again.
- I will stop and **check my off-highway vehicle** regularly for built-up debris while riding off-road.
- I will **report any smoke** I see in the forested areas to [310-FIRE](#).
- I will be an **ambassador for fire safety** when enjoying Alberta's forested areas with friends and family.

Not only will you help reduce wildfire risk, you will also be entered to win an **educational helicopter ride!**

*Enter your name before **August 15** for your chance to win!*

Discover practical ways to recharge your energy for International Self-Care Day

International Self-Care Day is July 24

This month, in recognition of **International Self-Care Day**, Dialogue is exploring the power of taking time for yourself and for others.

Discover practical ways to recharge when your energy dips, learn how to care for others while caring for yourself, and get health tips from one of Dialogue's own nurse practitioners to help you make the most of summer.

Simple self-care practices to recharge

Do your energy levels tend to dip in the middle of the afternoon? You're not alone. Your circadian rhythm may have something to do with it. Factors like stress, hydration, sleep, and screen time can also have a surprising impact on how energized you feel throughout the day.

In this Dialogue article, discover what your circadian rhythm is and six ways to help you recharge throughout the day, from movement and sunlight to digital breaks.

[Read the full article in the Dialogue app.](#)

Emotional support and guidance for caregivers

Most people who care for a loved one don't call themselves caregivers. They just show up, whether that means managing medications, driving to appointments, or being the person someone calls when life gets hard. While caregiving can be rewarding, it can also be emotionally and physically demanding, making it easy to put your own needs on hold.

In this Dialogue article, learn to recognize the signs of caregiver burnout and discover practical strategies to help you support others while taking care of yourself, too.

[Read the full article in the Dialogue app.](#)

Whether you're spending time in the garden, at the cabin, or by the pool, a few simple precautions can help you make the most of summer.

Marie-Ève Szczyglowski-Podgorski, nurse practitioner at Dialogue, shares her top tips to stay healthy this summer:

- **Stay hydrated:** Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are more common than you think. Drink water regularly throughout the day, find shade during peak heat hours, and watch for warning signs like dizziness, nausea, or unusual fatigue.

- **Protect your skin:** Apply sunscreen daily, and reapply at least every two hours when outdoors. UV-protective clothing and wide-brimmed hats provide extra protection, especially during prolonged sun exposure.
- **Guard against ticks:** May to July is peak tick season across much of Canada, and ticks can carry Lyme disease. When spending time in wooded or grassy areas, wear light-coloured, long-sleeved clothing and use insect repellent. Afterward, check yourself, your children, and your pets carefully, paying close attention to the scalp, armpits, behind the knees, and groin.
- **Practice food safety:** Warm weather creates ideal conditions for foodborne illness. Keep cold foods cold, and don't leave perishables out for more than two hours (or one hour on very hot days). Also, avoid wire BBQ brushes, as bristles can break off, stick to the grill, and end up in your food.
- **Check your medications:** Some medications increase sensitivity to heat or sun. If you're unsure whether yours do, speak with a healthcare professional before spending extended time outdoors.

What's new with People Changes?

Check out some of the moves and new hires we spotted in People Changes over the last week!

Going with the flow: celebrating 45 years in water treatment

After an incredible 45 years with the Municipality, **Paul Curtis**, supervisor is retiring from Environmental Services!

Here's what the team had to say about his service at the RMWB:

Over the years, Paul has become the person many of us turned to when we needed an answer, a second opinion, or a bit of guidance. His knowledge and experience are hard to match, and his willingness to share what he knows has helped countless coworkers along the way. His dedication and commitment have made him a valued member of the team, and his absence will certainly be felt.

While we'll miss having his expertise around, we'll miss Paul even more.

Please join us as we celebrate Paul's remarkable career, thank him for his years of service, and wish him all the best as he begins this exciting new chapter:

Date: Wednesday, June 29

Time: 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Location: Water Treatment Plant, First floor boardroom

Drop by to say hello, share a memory or a few laughs, enjoy some cake, and help us give Paul the send-off he deserves.

Jennifer Toutant

Please join us in welcoming **Jennifer Toutant** to the RCMP Support Services – Victim Services team as a support worker!

Jennifer has been with the Municipality since 2025, serving in various roles within our department. We are excited to have her join us as our newest Victim Services Support Worker.

Please join us in congratulating Jennifer on her new role and wishing her every success as she begins this exciting new chapter with the team! 🎉

Simplifying the People Changes process

We've streamlined the People Changes process!

- When you submit a post to People Changes, it will be posted **automatically**. No more waiting for approvals!
- We have created [templated messaging](#) for you in the updated guidelines to simplify the message writing process.

You can continue to use the [People Changes portal](#) on My RMWB. It will remain beside the Announcements tab on the intranet homepage.

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

Lending a hand where needed!

We all know **Dushan Baker** as a supervisor with the Roads team, but true to form, he's always willing to lend a hand wherever it's needed.

Here he is stepping in to support the Communications team during a safety video shoot with CAO Andrew Boutillier!

Contact us

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

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