

CAO's REPORT

July 23, 2019

1. Central RMA District 2 Board of Directors Meeting on Friday, August 9 at 9:00 am at the Kneehill County Office in Three Hills. Please advise if Council wishes administration to prepare any draft resolutions for consideration on or before Friday, July 26 at 2:00 pm.
2. The Government of Alberta has initiated an engagement process as part of their plan to repeal the [Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act](#) (Bill 6) and replace it with the *Farm Freedom and Safety Act*. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has opened a [survey](#) to engage Alberta farmers, ranchers, and other stakeholders. Survey open until August 31.

The *Farm Freedom and Safety Act* proposes to:

- Give farmers the option of buying workplace insurance from WCB (Workers' Compensation Board) or another supplier as long as basic coverage is provided for such things as medical and return-to-work supports and loss of income protection. Exempt small farms from employment legislation, similar to New Brunswick
 - Ensure basic safety standards are in place
 - Reduce the regulatory burden and minimize red tape for farmers and ranchers
3. In 2018, the Government of Alberta completed a review of the Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA). A number of amendments came into force on January 1, 2019, including, but not limited to: a ban on corporate and union donations in municipal and school board elections; a \$4,000 limit on contributions in municipal and school board elections; mandatory advance votes for municipalities greater than 5,000; a requirement to appoint a substitute returning officer by resolution of council; expanded vouching provisions to ensure that an elector may be vouched for regardless of whether or not there is a list of electors; and introduction of third party rules and responsibilities. On August 1, 2019 the final LAEA amendments come into force, which includes establishment of Part 9 of the LAEA. Part 9 - Election Commissioner, will expand the roles and responsibilities of the Office of the Alberta Election Commissioner to municipal and school board elections. The Election Commissioner will have the authority to enforce provisions within Part 5.1, Campaign Finance and Contribution Disclosure, and Part 8, Third Party Advertising.
 4. Economic Development Update: The Economic Development Officer and a staff member with the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism toured some areas along Highway 11 looking at tourism/hospitality investment opportunities and discussing barriers to investment. They stopped at the proposed Saunders/Alexo development node, Nordegg, Shunda Lake, Goldeye Lake, and Abraham Lake.

In partnership with the Central Alberta Tourism Alliance a professional photographer came out to take pictures of equestrian trailride activities, mountain biking trails, Crescent Falls, and Abraham Lake.

The installation of two “Welcome to David Thompson Country” signs will take place in early August. One will be on Highway 11 a few kilometers east of the National Park, and the other will be a few kilometers north of the James River on Highway 22.

Upcoming Events

August 9 – CRMA District 2 Board of Directors Meeting

September 4 to 6 – 19th Annual Alberta CARE Conference – Confirm attendance

September 13 – CAEP Fall Engagement Session – Confirm attendance (any)

September 13 to 16 – Fire Rescue Canada, Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs Conference in Calgary

September 16 to 17 – Strategic Planning Meeting

October 17 & 18 – ASVA Conference and AGM

October 24 to 26 – AB Parks & Rec. Annual Conference

November 12 to 15 – Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)