

**AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ONOWAY
HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
ONOWAY CIVIC CENTRE AT 9:30 A.M. AND VIA ZOOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- as is, or with additions or deletions

Pg 1-4 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – January 21, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

4. APPOINTMENTS/PUBLIC HEARINGS – n/a

5. FINANCIAL REPORTS – n/a

6. POLICIES & BYLAWS

a) Bylaw 778-21 – Water and Sanitary Sewage Collection System Bylaw - a bylaw for the Town of Onoway for the purpose to regulate the supply and distribution of water and to regulate the sanitary sewage collection system. This bylaw, once approved, will set the rates effective January 1st consumption. Water rate remains unchanged at \$5.60/cubic meter. The sewer rate increased from \$1.44 to \$1.64/ cubic metre. This equates to approximately \$2.60 per month on average household use. *(to approve as is, or with revisions; for 1st reading, 2nd reading, unanimous consent to consider 3rd reading, 3rd and final reading)*

b) Bylaw 779-21 – Household Waste Bylaw – a bylaw of the Town of Onoway for the purpose to regulate the collection, removal and disposal of household waste, refuse, ashes, recycle materials and organics. This will be effective January 1st. The rates for waste and organics has been decreased by \$6.60/month/customer and the rate for recycling decreases by \$1.02/month/customer for a total savings of \$7.62/ month/ customer. *(to approve as is, or with revisions; for 1st reading, 2nd reading, unanimous consent to consider 3rd reading, 3rd and final reading)*

7. ACTION ITEMS

- a) Covid-19 Discussion – As of December 8, the Government of Alberta has placed province-wide measures in place and declared a State of Public Health Emergency.
- 1) Government information - As of Monday, February 8, some of the public restrictions will be eased, as long as hospitalizations remain under 600 and continue to decline: restaurants, pubs, bars, and lounges can open for in-person service to groups from the same household; children's sports and performance activities are permitted if related to school; one on one training permitted for indoor fitness (dance studios, figure skating);
- 2) January 28 article from Reynolds, Mirth, Richards and Farmer LLP on Covid-19 vaccine workplace policy;
- 3) MD Spirit River No. 133 – January 27 letter from Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar to Premier Kenny providing a paper Covid-19: Rethinking the Lockdown Groupthink that lockdowns are far more harmful to human health than Covid-19 can be.
- 4) Mackenzie County – January 27 letter from Reeve Josh Knelsen to Premier Kenny urging the Provincial Government to open up indoor recreational facilities and reopen all business services. *(for discussion and direction of Council at meeting time)*
- b) Community Emergency Management Program (CEMP) Review – please refer to the CEMP Review document dated January 26, 2021. Director of Emergency Management Jason Madge and Deputy Director Janice Christiansen met with Alberta Emergency Management Field Officers Mark Pickford and John Swist on January 26, 2021 for our Annual Audit Review. We are going to recess our Council meeting to have an Advisory Committee meeting. *(for discussion and direction of Council at meeting time)*
- c) Town of Onoway Library Board – At their meeting of January 12, 2021, the Board passed the following motion: **MOVED** by Glen Usselman that the Board recommend to the Town of Onoway the continuation of the terms of Lorne Olsvik (Chair and Board member at large), Pat St. Hilaire (Town elected Board member) and Glen Usselman (Board member at large) for a further two year term. For Council's information, Mary Rehill and Larry Villneff have each served 2 year terms and do not wish to continue on the Board. *(for approval of the reappointments of Lorne Olsvik as a Board member at large and Chair; Pat St. Hilaire as a Town elected Board member; Glen Usselman as a Board member at large, each for a further 2 year term, or some other direction of Council at meeting time)*
- d) Business License Update and Discussion on Potential Tax Rebates due to COVID – further to discussion at the last meeting, Administration will have a report available on Business Licenses and Potential Tax Rebates due to Covid-19. Further discussion and review to take place at meeting time. *(direction as given by Council at meeting time)*

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Pg 90-91

Pg 92-93
e) Vacant Lots in Onoway that are owned by the Town – Further to discussions at our last Council meeting, attached is a spreadsheet showing Town owned lots, their assessed value, zoning, size, and additional comments. Some of these properties the Town would need to hold funds for the prior owner (difference of sale price less taxes owing) for up to 11 years. Certainly by selling some or all of these the Town would receive its outstanding taxes and would see these properties start collecting tax dollars, and hopefully encourage some development. Penny has also marked these lots on the attached map. Beyond these properties are the 49 lots shown on the map that are across from the arena (these are Town owned but totally un serviced lots). Options for offering these for sale: 1) offer for sale by sealed tender 2) list with a real estate agent 3) put in a public auction In the past we have tried both sealed tender and real estate options with no success, however that was a few years back. Further discussion and review to take place at meeting time. *(direction as given by Council at meeting time)*

Pg 94-97
f) Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) – Elected Officials Education Program – please refer to the January 26, 2021 email from Dan Rude, CEO, AUMA advising of a course being offered “Regional Partnerships and Collaboration”. Cost is \$200 per person, the course is virtual and the sessions are held on Thursdays, February 11, 18 and 25 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. *(to authorize the attendance of Council and Administration)*

Pg 98-100
g) Alberta Counsel – Provincial Budget Analysis – please refer to the January 27, 2021 email advising of webinar being hosted by Alberta Counsel (a Government Relations and Lobby Firm in Edmonton) on Provincial Budget 2021. Cost is \$75 per person. *(to accept for information or to authorize the attendance of Council and Administration)*

Pg 101-102
h) Need for a Stronger Western Canadian Municipal Advocate – please refer to the January 20, 2021 letter from Reeve Greg Sawchuk, MD of Bonnyville No. 87 that expresses their concerns about the representation provided to municipalities at the Federal level by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. *(for discussion and direction of Council at meeting time)*

i) Asset Management Report – at your January 22 meeting with Shane Getson, MLA, Council was asked about the Town’s asset catalogues. Assistant Chief Administrative Officer and Public Works Manager Jason Madge will provide this information to Council electronically at meeting time. *(to accept presentation for information, or some other direction as discussed by Council at meeting time)*

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- i) Onoway and District Chamber of Commerce – February 2021 newsletter inviting participants to attend a virtual North Central Regional Business Support Network meeting on Tuesday, February 16 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom to hear Dr. Lynora Saxinger, Infectious Diseases Specialist, speak on Covid-19. There is no cost to attend. *(to accept for information or to authorize the attendance of Council and Administration)*

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- j) Greater Parkland Regional Chamber – January 6, 2021 letter advising that planning for the State of the Region Address 2021 is ongoing and will be virtual on Thursday, March 11 – information to follow. *(to accept for information or to authorize the attendance of Council and Administration)*

k)

l)

m)

8. COUNCIL, COMMITTEE & STAFF REPORTS

- a) Mayor's Report
- b) Deputy Mayor's Report
- c) Councillor's Reports (x 3)
- d) CAO Report
 - Meeting regarding AFRRCS radios with Alberta Emergency Management Agency
- e) Public Works Report

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- Brownlee LLP "Emerging Trends in Municipal Law 2021" agenda for February 11 municipal law seminar

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

Pg 106

- a) Development Officer Report – January 2021 development permit report from Tony Sonnleitner

P9107
b) High Speed Internet – January 28, 2021 press release from Gerald Soroka, MP, Yellowhead Riding, regarding high speed internet and spectrum deployment in rural communities

P9108-113
c) Alberta Municipal Affairs – Red Tape Reduction Report – January 29, 2021 email from CAO Wildman attaching The Town of Onoway report submitted to the Government of Alberta

d)

e)

f)

10. CLOSED SESSION – n/a

11. ADJOURNMENT

12. UPCOMING EVENTS:

- February 11, 2021 – Brownlee Muni Law Seminar 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Virtual)
- February 18, 2021 – Regular Council Meeting 9:30 a.m.
- March 4, 2021 – Regular Council Meeting 9:30 a.m.
- March 18, 2021 – Regular Council Meeting 9:30 a.m.

TOWN OF ONOWAY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE ONOWAY CIVIC OFFICE AND ZOOM MEETING

DRAFT

	PRESENT	<p>Mayor: Judy Tracy Deputy Mayor: Lynne Tonita Councillor: Lisa Johnson (via Zoom) Councillor: Jeff Mickle (via Zoom) Councillor: Pat St. Hilaire (via Zoom) Administration: Wendy Wildman, Chief Administrative Officer Jason Madge, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer/Public Works Manager Debbie Giroux, Recording Secretary</p>
1.	CALL TO ORDER	Mayor Judy Tracy called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2.	AGENDA Motion #013/21	<p>MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lynne Tonita that Council adopt the agenda of the regular Council meeting of Thursday, January 21, 2021 with the following corrections and additions:</p> <p>CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:</p> <p>7b) Census 2021 – should read “Administration will put this (not his) information on the Town’s website ... ” Upcoming Events – should list the second February Council Meeting date as February 18, not February 21.</p> <p>ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:</p> <p>7h) Creek Burning 7i) Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) President’s Summit on Policing</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
3.	MINUTES Motion #014/21	<p>MOVED by Councillor Lisa Johnson that the minutes of the Thursday, January 7, 2021 regular Council meeting be adopted, as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
4.	APPOINTMENTS/PUBLIC HEARINGS	n/a
5.	FINANCIAL REPORTS Motion #015/21	<p>MOVED by Councillor Jeff Mickle that the January 18, 2021 Revenue and Expense Report be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

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TOWN OF ONOWAY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE ONOWAY CIVIC OFFICE AND ZOOM MEETING

6.	POLICIES & BYLAWS Motion #016/21	<p>MOVED by Councillor Pat St. Hilaire that the background information prepared by Administration regarding Council remuneration in other municipalities for Council to review along with Policy C-COU-REM-1 be accepted for information and that Administration update this information for the next Organizational meeting scheduled for October, 2021.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
7.	ACTION ITEMS Motion #017/21	<p>MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lynne Tonita that the discussion regarding Covid-19 be accepted for information, that Council and Administration continue to monitor developments, and Administration to bring this item back to the next Council meeting for further discussion; and specifically further consideration be given to using MOST funds to provide possible tax assistance to businesses in the Town that have lowered revenues due to Covid-19.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
	Motion #018/21	<p>MOVED by Councillor Pat St. Hilaire that Council of the Town of Onoway supports the 2021 Census and encourages all residents to complete their census questionnaire online at www.census.gc.ca as accurate and complete census data support programs and services that benefit our community; and that Administration put the Census information on the Town's website and Onowaves up to and including May, 2021.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
	Motion #019/21	<p>MOVED by Councillor Lisa Johnson that the January 8, 2021 memo from Wendy Wildman to the 10 municipalities who are part of Onoway Regional Fire Services (ORFS) regarding the 5 year contract extension and 2021 budget be accepted for information and that Council and Administration be authorized to attend the meeting with Alberta Municipal Affairs AFRRCS staff being held on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 in Onoway.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
	Motion #020/21	<p>MOVED by Councillor Jeff Mickle that Council and Administration be authorized to attend the January 26, 2021 Extended Producer Responsibility 101 virtual Seminar being held by the Recycling Council of Alberta at a cost of \$99.00 per person.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

TOWN OF ONOWAY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE ONOWAY CIVIC OFFICE AND ZOOM MEETING

	Motion #021/21	<p>MOVED by Mayor Judy Tracy that Administration wait until January 29 to receive comments from the Onoway Facility Enhancement Association (OFEA) to assist Administration with completing the blanks in the draft survey for the community hall before proceeding with surveying community residents (with or without comments from OFEA).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
	Motion #022/21	<p>MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lynne Tonita that the costs to rent the gym at the Heritage Centre for the October 18, 2021 municipal election be shared with Northern Gateway Public Schools, should a school board election be required in October, 2021.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
	Motion #023/21	<p>MOVED by Councillor Jeff Mickle that the review and discussion of the draft 2021 operating and capital budgets be accepted for information, that Administration aim for a 0% increase in the operating and capital budgets for 2021, and that another draft of both budgets be brought to the next Council meeting for review.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
	Motion #024/21	<p>MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lynne Tonita that the discussion regarding creek burning be accepted for information; that Jason Madge, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer/Public Works Manager work on a remedy or ask the Fire Department to do a controlled burn in the spring.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
	Motion #025/21	<p>MOVED by Councillor Pat St. Hilaire that Council and Administration be authorized to attend the AUMA President's Summit on Policing being held on February 4 and 17, 2021.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
8.	COUNCIL, COMMITTEE & STAFF REPORTS Motion #026/21	<p>MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lynne Tonita that the verbal Council reports and the written and verbal reports from the Chief Administrative Officer and the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer/Public Works Manager be accepted for information as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

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TOWN OF ONOWAY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

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COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE ONOWAY CIVIC OFFICE AND ZOOM MEETING

9.	INFORMATION ITEMS Motion #027/21	<p>MOVED by Councillor Pat St. Hilaire that Council accept the following items for information as presented:</p> <p>a) Telus 61.5 metre tower – January 4, 2021 notice from the Lac Ste. Anne Bulletin advising of a tower being erected at RR 15 and Hillview Crescent</p> <p>b) GFOA Alberta – List of Online Webinars being held in February and March at a cost of \$150.00 to \$200.00 per webinar</p> <p>c) EQUS – January 5, 2021 letter thanking the Town for the donation to their silent auction in support of Adopt-A-Family</p> <p>d) Town of Onoway Library Board ad – January 18 ad put in the Bulletin for 2 board members</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>															
10.	CLOSED SESSION	n/a															
11.	ADJOURNMENT	As all matters on the agenda have been addressed, Mayor Judy Tracy declared the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.															
12.	UPCOMING EVENTS	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">February 4, 2021</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Regular Council Meeting</td> <td style="width: 30%;">9:30 a.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>February 11, 2021</td> <td>Brownlee Muni-Law Seminar (Virtual)</td> <td>8:00 a.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>February 18, 2021</td> <td>Regular Council Meeting</td> <td>9:30 a.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 4, 2021</td> <td>Regular Council Meeting</td> <td>9:30 a.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 18, 2021</td> <td>Regular Council Meeting</td> <td>9:30 a.m.</td> </tr> </table>	February 4, 2021	Regular Council Meeting	9:30 a.m.	February 11, 2021	Brownlee Muni-Law Seminar (Virtual)	8:00 a.m.	February 18, 2021	Regular Council Meeting	9:30 a.m.	March 4, 2021	Regular Council Meeting	9:30 a.m.	March 18, 2021	Regular Council Meeting	9:30 a.m.
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Mayor Judy Tracy

Debbie Giroux
Recording Secretary

TOWN OF ONOWAY
Bylaw 778-21

A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF ONOWAY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, FOR THE PURPOSE TO REGULATE THE SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF WATER AND TO REGULATE THE SANITARY SEWAGE COLLECTION SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Municipal Government Act, Chapter M-26, 2000 with amendments thereto, provides that a Council of a Municipality may pass a bylaw for services provided by or on behalf of the municipality, public utilities, and to regulate or prohibit the supply and distribution of water and sanitary sewage collection system.

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Town of Onoway, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

SECTION 1 **TITLE**

1. This Bylaw may be cited as "The Town of Onoway Water and Sewer Utility Bylaw".

SECTION 2 **DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Bylaw and in the Schedules attached hereto, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 2.1 **“Application”** means the application made by the consumer in writing on the required form to the Town for the supply of water or sewer services;
- 2.2 **“Abnormal Reading”** means the readout on the water meter that represents the volume of water used by a particular consumer that varies significantly from the normal pattern of use, whereas significantly is determined by the factor of 4 times or greater the normal volume of usage for that particular period of consumption.
- 2.3 **“Combined Service”** means the services or service pipes used or intended to be used to supply water for fire protection as well as water for purposes other than fire protection;
- 2.4 **“Consumer”** means any person who uses water or sewer services supplied by the Town;
- 2.5 **“Council”** means the Municipal Council for the Town of Onoway;
- 2.6 **“Fire Line”** means a pipe that is intended solely for the purpose of providing a standby supply of water for fire protection purposes;
- 2.7 **“Meters”** means meters and all other equipment and instruments supplied and used by the Town to be used to calculate the amount of water consumed on the premises upon which such meters are situated;
- 2.8 **“Municipal Manager”** means the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town or his/her designate;
- 2.9 **“Person”** includes a partnership, a firm a body corporate, a body politic, and the heirs,

TOWN OF ONOWAY
Bylaw 778-21

executors, administrators or other legal representatives of a person to whom the context can apply according to law;

- 2.10 **“Private Service or Private Service Pipe”** means that portion of a pipe used or intended to be used for the supply of water which extends from the service valve to a meter;
- 2.11 **“Service Valve”** means the valve on a Town Service Pipe;
- 2.12 **“Sewage Lagoon Hauler”** means a contractor who, in agreement with the Town of Onoway and holding a valid Temporary Sewage Dumping Permit, is allowed to dispose of sewage waste collected from residences within the town boundaries which are not connected to the sanitary sewer works collection system;
- 2.13 **“Sewer”** shall mean the system of sanitary sewer works owned and operated by the Town and all accessories and appurtenances thereof and the storm sewer system owned and maintained by the Town and all accessories and appurtenances thereof;
- 2.14 **“Sewer Main”** means those pipes installed by the Town or the developer for the Town in streets or alleys for the conveyance of sewage throughout the Town to which service pipes may be connected;
- 2.15 **“Sewer Utility”** means the system of sanitary sewer works owned and operated by the Town and all accessories and appurtenances thereof;
- 2.16 **“Shut-off”** means an interruption in or discontinuation of the supply of water;
- 2.17 **“Sprinkling”** means the distribution of water to the surface or subsurface of lawns, gardens, or other areas, situated outside buildings by pipes, hoses, sprinkler or any other method;
- 2.18 **“Street or Streets”** shall include all highways, roads, lanes, alleys, avenues, easements, thoroughfares, utility lots, drives, bridges and ways of public nature, sidewalks, boulevards, parks, public square and other public places unless the contrary is expressed or unless such construction would be consistent with the context of this Bylaw;
- 2.19 **“Town”** means the Town of Onoway or its duly authorized representatives;
- 2.20 **“Town Service Pipe”** means that portion of a pipe used for the supply of water which extends from the water main to the service valve or that portion of pipe used for sewer service which extends from the sewer main to the property line;
- 2.21 **“Water Main”** means those pipes installed by the Town or the developer for the Town in streets or alleys for the conveyance of water throughout the Town from which service pipes may be connected; and
- 2.22 **“Water Utility”** means the system of water works owned and operated by the Town and all accessories and appurtenances thereof.

TOWN OF ONOWAY
Bylaw 778-21

SECTION 3 ADMINISTRATION

- 3.1 The Water and Sewer Utility of the Town of Onoway, comprised of water mains, sewer mains, intermediate mains, lift stations, service pipes, fire hydrants, valves, meters, service and all other appurtenances together with the sale of water, shall be under the management and control of the Municipal Manager;
- 3.2 The Municipal Manager has authority to shut off water for any consumer or consumers for any reason which, in the opinion of the Municipal Manager, necessitates such shutting off, provided that the Municipal Manager shall give notice of such shutting off (Except in an Emergency; notice will be given, if possible, for emergency situations);
- 3.3 The Town does not guarantee the pressure nor the continuous supply of water and the Town reserves the right at any and all times, without notice, to change the operating water pressure and to shut off water; neither the Town, its officers, employees or agents shall be liable for the change in water pressure nor for the shutting off of water or should the water contains sediments, deposits, or other foreign matter;
- 3.4 Consumers depending upon a continuous and uninterrupted supply or pressure of water or having processes or equipment that require particularly clear or pure water shall provide such facilities as they consider necessary to ensure a continuous and uninterrupted supply, pressure or quality of water required for this use;
- 3.5 The Town may, as a condition to the supply of water, inspect the premises of a consumer who applies to the Town for such supply in order to determine if it is advisable to supply water to such consumer;
- 3.6 The Town may, with the permission of the consumer, inspect the premises of the consumer in order to do any tests on water piping or fixtures belonging to such consumer so as to determine if this Bylaw is complied with and, in the event that such consumer fails or refuses to give such permission, the supply of water to that consumer may be shut off;
- 3.7 The Town may at such times and for such length of time as considered necessary or advisable, regulate, restrict or prohibit the distribution of water to the surface of lawns, gardens or other areas situated outside buildings by way of hoses, sprinklers or any other method; and
- 3.8 In exercising the authority conferred by paragraph 3.7 of this section, the Town:
 - 3.8.1 Shall cause to be published in a local newspaper that is circulated in the Town and/or others mean of advising the general public, with a public notice giving reasonable detail of the regulation, restriction or prohibition of sprinkling being imposed which may be limited as to time or times specified or which may be unlimited as to time in which latter case, a similar public notice shall be given of the cessation of such regulation, restriction or prohibition; and
 - 3.8.2 May regulate, restrict or prohibit sprinkling in all or any part or parts of the Town and in so doing the Town may provide different times during which different consumers may sprinkle by reference to compass direction related to streets, odd and even street addresses, or such other manner as the Town consider appropriate.

TOWN OF ONOWAY
Bylaw 778-21

SECTION 4 PROHIBITIONS

4.1 Restricted use of Town facilities:

4.1.1 No consumer shall operate, use, interfere with, obstruct or impede access to the water or sewer utilities or any portion thereof in any manner not expressly permitted by this Bylaw; if the consumer is in default of this, the Municipal Manager may cause the water being supplied to such consumer to be shut off until such consumer complies with all of the provisions of this Bylaw;

4.2 Wastage

4.2.1 No consumer shall cause, permit or allow the discharge of water so that it runs to waste, whether by reason of leakage from underground piping, a faulty plumbing system or otherwise;

4.2.2 The Municipal Manager may cause the water supply to any consumer who violates paragraph 4.2.1 of this Bylaw to be shut off until such time as the consumer establishes, to the satisfaction of the Municipal Manager, that he/she has taken such steps as may be necessary to ensure that any water supplied to him/her by the Town will not run to waste and further forfeit the right to be supplied with water and, additionally, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine, as per "Schedule A" of this Bylaw; and

4.2.3 The Municipal Manager shall give notice to such consumer prior to causing the water supply to be shut off; and

4.2.4 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Municipal Manager may under such condition as they may consider reasonable allow a consumer to discharge water so that it runs to waste or unless the municipality installs a bypass flow if such consumer's water service would be susceptible to freezing;

4.3 Use of Water

4.3.1 No consumer shall be permitted to:

4.3.1.1 Lend, sell or otherwise dispose of water unless specifically licensed or permitted by the Town of Onoway to do so;

4.3.1.2 Give away or permit water to be taken from their water service in bulk quantities for use in residential, commercial, industrial, or oil and gas applications located outside of municipal boundaries unless specifically or permitted to do so by the Town.

4.3.1.3 Use or apply any water to the use or benefit of others or to any other than his own use and benefit; with the exception of supporting not-for-profit events or fundraisers that may include car washes, spray contests, and other similar type events upon first receiving permission from the Town of Onoway.

4.3.1.4 Increase the usage of water beyond that agreed upon with the Town;

4.3.1.5 Wrongfully or improperly waste water;

TOWN OF ONOWAY

Bylaw 778-21

4.3.2 Any consumer who contravenes paragraph 4.3.1 of this Bylaw forfeits any right to be supplied with water and, in addition, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine, as per "Schedule A" of this Bylaw; and

4.3.3 Any landowner who rents his/her property in a manner so as to be subject to the Landlord and Tenant Act shall be exempt from the provisions of paragraph 4.3.1 of this Bylaw so long as the use and benefit of the water accrues solely to the benefit of the tenant(s);

4.5 **Noise and Pressure Surges**

4.5.1 No consumer shall cause, permit or allow any apparatus, fitting or fixture to be or to remain connected to his/her water supply or allow his/her water supply to be operated in such a manner as to cause noise, pressure surges or other disturbances which may in the opinion of the Municipal Manager result in annoyance or damage to other consumers or the water utility. The Municipal Manager may cause the water supply to any consumer contravening the provisions of this section to be shut off provided that the Municipal Manager shall give notice to such consumer prior to such water supply being shut off. The water supply to any such consumer shall not be restored until such time as the consumer has paid to the Town all costs incurred by the Town in shutting off and turning on such water supply plus a fine as set out in "Schedule A" of this bylaw;

4.6 **Contamination**

4.6.1 No consumer shall cause, permit or allow to remain connected to his/her water supply or sewer any piping, fixture fitting, container or other apparatus which may cause water from a source other than the water utility or another harmful or deleterious liquid or substance to enter the water or sewer utilities. The Municipal Manager may cause the water supply to any consumer contravening the provisions of this section to be shut off provided that the Municipal Manager shall give notice to such consumer prior to such water supply being shut off. The Water supply to such consumer shall not be restored until such consumer has paid to the Town all costs associated with the shutting off and turning on of the water supply plus any applicable fine for contravention of the bylaw as set out in "Schedule A" of this bylaw;

4.7 **Bylaw**

4.7.1 The provisions of the Bylaw shall form part of a contract between the consumer and the Town for the supply of water and this supply shall be subject to all the provisions of this Bylaw.

4.8 **Sewer**

4.8.1 No person shall throw, deposit or leave in the municipal sewer system, through trap, basin, grating, manhole or other appurtenance of any Town sewer any butcher's offal, garbage, litter, manure, sanitary pads, baby diapers, rubbish or refuse of any kind, except necessary toilet discharge, toilet paper and kitchen slops properly discharged through a private sewer line from a residence or non-residential building into the Town sewer lines;

4.8.2 No person shall permit to be discharged into any sewer any liquid, chemical, trade wastes or any liquids heated to a temperature higher than 170 degrees Fahrenheit;

TOWN OF ONOWAY

Bylaw 778-21

- 4.8.3 No person shall make or cause to be made any connection with any Town sanitary sewer line or house drain, an appurtenance thereof for the purpose of conveying or which may convey into the same any inflammable or explosive material, storm water, roof drainage, sump pumps, cistern or tank overflow;
- 4.8.4 No person shall interfere with the free discharge of any Town sewer, sanitary or storm, or any part thereof, or do any act or thing which may impede or obstruct the flow or clog up any Town sewer or appurtenance thereof. This will include the discharge of any improper materials such as grease from cooking;
- 4.8.5 Grease traps of sufficient size and approved design shall be placed on the waste pipes of all hotels, restaurants, laundries, grocery stores and other such places as the Town may direct; and
- 4.8.6 No commercial or private sewer hauling service shall be allowed to dump any materials in the sewage system without first obtaining a Temporary Sewage Dumping permit.

SECTION 5 METERS

5.1 **General**

- 5.1.1 All water meters shall be supplied by the Town and application for such meter shall be made at the Town office; all meters shall be owned and maintained by the Town;
- 5.1.2 All water supplied by the Town through a private service shall be measured by a meter unless otherwise provided under this Bylaw or unless a special agreement is entered into between the Town and the consumer.

5.2 **Installation Responsibility**

- 5.2.1 All water meters shall be supplied by the Town, and the original meter to a property shall be installed by a Journeyman Plumber at the consumer's expense and all replacement meters will be supplied by the Town unless the meter is being replaced as a direct result of negligence, abuse, destruction, or other any other means other than general wear and tear. The owner will be responsible for the installation of all replacement meters. The manner of installation of the meter shall be approved by the Town;

5.3 **Subsidiary Meter**

- 5.3.1 A consumer may, for his/her own benefit, install a meter between the meter supplied by the Town and the point of use of the water supply, provided that the Town shall not maintain such meter, nor shall such meter be read by the Town;

5.4 **Installation**

- 5.4.1 A consumer shall make provision for the installation of a water meter to the satisfaction of the Town and, when required, shall install a proper valve bypass as per paragraph 5.12 following:
- 5.4.2 **Any consumers**

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5.4.2.1 Whose water supply is not metered, or

5.4.2.2 Whose water meter is not positioned to the satisfaction of the Town, shall make proper provision for a meter to be installed or the meter to be moved as the case may be, all costs of which shall be paid by the consumer and in default of payment the water supply of such consumer shall be shut off until such costs are paid;

5.5 Special Meter Reading

5.5.1 A consumer who requests of the Town a special meter reading shall pay the fee designated in "Schedule A" of this Bylaw;

5.6 Testing or Calibration on Disputed Meter Reading

5.6.1 In the event a meter reading is disputed by either the Town or the consumer, a written notice shall be given to the other. In the case of the consumer disputing the meter accuracy, a deposit, in accordance with "Schedule A" attached to this Bylaw, shall accompany the written notice. Following written notice, a meter situated on the premises of such consumer shall be tested or calibrated by a proper official designated by the Town. In the event that the said meter is found to be accurate within 98.5% to 101.5% of the water passing through same, the expense of such test or calibration shall be born by the party giving such notice in the amount designated in "Schedule A". In the event that the said meter is found not to be accurate within the aforesaid limits, the same shall forthwith be repaired or replaced by another meter and the expense of so doing shall be borne by the Town (unless the meter is of over 5/8 of an inch) and the dispute deposit shall be returned;

5.6.2 In the event that a meter is found not to be accurate within the limits set out in paragraph 5.6.1 of this Bylaw hereof, the accounts based upon the reading of that faulty meter, for the maximum of six (6) monthly bills rendered immediately preceding the date of such test or calibration shall be corrected in proportion to the error of the meter in excess of the aforesaid limits and the consumer shall pay or there shall be refunded to the consumer, as the case may be, the amount so determined which payment or refund shall be accepted by both the Town and the owner as settlement in full to the date thereof of all claims on account of such meter;

5.7 Meter Chamber

5.7.1 When in the opinion of the Municipal Manager the building or other premises intended to be supplied with water are too far from the Town service to conveniently install a meter in such building or premises, or if a number of buildings are to be supplied for any other reason in the opinion of the Municipal Manager, then the consumer shall, at his sole cost, construct and maintain a container for a meter and such container shall in all respect including location, construction, size, access and otherwise howsoever be satisfactory to the Municipal Manager;

5.8 Meter Size

5.8.1 The size of the water meter shall be determined as follows:

5.8.1.1 If the internal diameter of the private service is 1 inch or less, a 5/8 inch meter shall be used;

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5.8.1.2 If the internal diameter of the private service exceeds 1 inch, the size of the meter shall be one size smaller than the size of the private service;

5.8.1.3 If the private service is a combined service (to supply water for fire protection as well as water for other purposes) the internal diameter of the private service branch to be used for such other purposes shall determine the meter size;

5.9 Non-Registering Meter

5.9.1 If upon the reading of a meter it is determined that the meter has failed to properly record the flow of water, the Municipal Manager shall estimate the flow and render an account based upon such method as he considers to be fair and equitable;

5.10 Protection of Meter

5.10.1 Every consumer shall provide adequate protection for the meter as supplied by the Town against freezing, heat or any other internal or external damage failing which the consumer shall pay to the Town all costs associated with the repair of such meter which amounts shall be recoverable in the same manner as water rates;

5.11 Reading

5.11.1 The meters of all consumers where practicable shall be read once a month, or when a change in property ownership has taken place (that the municipality is aware of) and before the new owner has occupied the property or as soon as possible after the new owner has taken possession.

5.12 Bypasses

5.12.1 Any consumer having a meter 2 inches in size or larger shall at his expense construct and maintain a proper bypass valve satisfactory to the Town which bypass shall be sealed by the Town and shall be opened by the consumer only in the case of emergency. The consumer shall notify the Town within 24 hours after the seal on the bypass is broken failing which the Municipal Manager may cause the water supply to such consumer to be shut off until satisfactory arrangements have been made for the calculation of and payment for water supplied and not recorded on the meter and payment of a fine, as per "Schedule A" of this bylaw is paid;

5.13 Meter Valves

5.13.1 Any consumer having a meter smaller than 2 inches in size shall, at his/her sole cost and expense, supply and maintain valves on both sides of and within 12 inches of the meter;

5.14 Water Meters - Installation/Repairs

5.14.1 Meters and shut off valves must be installed in an area readily accessible for meter reading, inspection repair and removal, and their location shall be subject to the approval of the Town. All meters shall be located on the consumer's side of the approved shut off valve;

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- 5.14.2 No person shall do, or shall cause to be done, or shall permit to be done, any act or thing which may obstruct, interfere with or impede direct and convenient access to a meter for the purpose of installation, inspection, removal, repair, replacement reading or the like at all times; and
- 5.14.3 All consumers shall give free access to all or part of the building or property in which water is delivered or consumed to the Town or its employees to install, inspect, repair and read the meter or anything of a similar nature;
- 5.14.4 When a developer is building a show home or a residence under a contract, the developer shall obtain a water meter of appropriate size from the Town following the required procedure of written application and shall install at the time of construction.

SECTION 6 **SERVICE AND SERVICING**

6.1 **Owner Responsibility**

- 6.1.1 The owner of a parcel of land is responsible for the construction of the portion of the municipal public utility services connection from the main lines to the boundary of the road or easement as well as for the portion located above, on or underneath the owner parcel; and is responsible for the costs of construction, and the work done on Town property must be done by the Town or a contractor approved by the Town.
- 6.1.2 The owner of a parcel of land is responsible for the maintenance and repair of any portion of the utility services, starting from the property line; located above, on or underneath their parcel; and
- 6.1.3 Notwithstanding 6.1.2, any property owner who causes damage to municipal public utility services may be responsible for the costs of maintenance and repair of the municipal public utility service connection if, in the mind of the Town, there are extenuating circumstances that may warrant;

6.2 **Application For New Infrastructure Connection**

- 6.2.1 Any new construction on placing new services connection being water or sewer in the Town shall complete an Infrastructure Connection Permit, and submit to the Town with the permit fee specified in “Schedule A”, together with any required documents. This submission shall be made not less than 30 days prior to requiring the services;
 - 6.2.1.1 All installation and connection services and equipment shall be as per Onoway Minimum Design Standards and shall be inspected by the Town;
 - 6.2.1.2 Any installation or connection done or equipment used but not inspected by the Town, will place the responsibility of repair and maintenance on the owner, even if the repair or damage is on Town property;
- 6.2.2 **Meter Activation Fee**
 - 6.2.2.1 Any person applying for the supply of water and sewer services hereunder shall make payment of the fee designated in “Schedule A” of this Bylaw and the fee shall be retained by the Town.

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Such application shall be made in writing not less than 48 hours prior to requiring the service except that it shall coincide with the normal business hours of the Town;

6.3 Plumber and Plumbing Contractors

6.3.1 All persons doing any work or service upon a private service or the plumbing system attached thereto shall comply with the provisions of the Plumbing and Drainage Regulations of the Department of Health or the Province of Alberta and any Bylaws of the Town applicable thereto;

6.4 Number of Services

6.4.1 Unless the Municipal Manager otherwise approves or requires, there shall not be more than one private service to any building or site;

6.5 Depth of Service

6.5.1 Unless otherwise approved by the Municipal Manager a private service shall be buried to a depth of at least 2.44 meters at the property line;

6.6 Fire Protection

6.6.1 A combined service or fire line shall not be installed without the prior approval of the Municipal Manager. A fire line shall be used only for fire protection purposes, and the Municipal Manager shall determine whether or not a meter shall be affixed to such fire line and if the Municipal Manager requires such a meter, the same shall be supplied and installed in a manner satisfactory to the Municipal Manager at the sole cost and expense of the consumer;

6.7 Temporary Water Service

6.7.1 When, for any reason, a temporary water service is required, an applicant shall pay in advance the whole cost of its construction, together with the cost of abandoning it when no longer needed. Application for such service construction shall be made as per section 6.1. If, in the opinion of the Municipal Manager, a meter should be installed on a temporary service, the applicant shall provide a safe and adequate meter setting in a stated location, and shall be responsible for the protection of the whole installation while his/her account is open for service. The applicant will be responsible for the payment of any application rates and charges as set out in Schedule "A" attached to this Bylaw.

6.8 Service Termination

6.8.1 No permit for the demolition or removal of a building shall be issued by the Town nor shall any person cause, permit or allow to be demolished or removed, a building connected to a water main until there has been paid to the Town the cost of disconnecting the Town service at the property line in the amount set out in "Schedule A". Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Municipal Manager may, in circumstances which he considers appropriate, permit the service to remain connected to the water main;

6.9 Thawing Service

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- 6.9.1 The cost of thawing a frozen service shall be borne as follows:
 - 6.9.1.1 If the private service or the plumbing system connected thereto is frozen, as determined by the Town, costs shall be borne by the consumer;
 - 6.9.1.2 If the Town service is frozen as a result of the negligence of the consumer, as determined by the Town, costs shall be borne by the consumer;
 - 6.9.1.3 If the Town service is frozen, as determined by the Town, costs shall be borne by the Town. If the Municipal Manager is of the opinion that a private service or plumbing system has frozen without any negligence on the part of the consumer or any other person for whose negligence the consumer is responsible, the Municipal Manager may waive the cost of one thawing during any one winter season which shall be deemed to run from November 15th to May 15th; and
 - 6.9.1.4 The Town shall not thaw a private service or plumbing system unless the consumer shall first have signed an acknowledgement recognizing that thawing may be inherently dangerous to property including the private service or plumbing system and may cause damage to electrical system or the outbreak of fire and waiving any claim against the Town for any such damage whatsoever;
- 6.10 **Size**
 - 6.10.1 The size of the service required for residential purposes shall be determined by the Plumbing and Drainage Regulation of the Province of Alberta, providing that the Town shall not install a service having a size smaller than 5/8 of an inch;
- 6.11 **Boilers and The Like**
 - 6.11.1 In any case where a boiler or equipment of a nature similar to that of a boiler is supplied directly from a service, such boiler or other equipment shall be equipped with at least one safety valve, vacuum valve or other device sufficient to prevent the collapse or explosion thereof in the event the water supply thereto is shut off;
- 6.12 **Disconnection**
 - 6.12.1 The supply of water to any consumer may be shut off for any or all of the following reasons:
 - 6.12.1.1 Repair;
 - 6.12.1.2 Want of Supply;
 - 6.12.1.3 Non-Payment of Accounts Rendered;
 - 6.12.1.4 Defective Piping, or
 - 6.12.1.5 For any reason which the Municipal Manager or Council considers sufficient;

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6.12.2 Reconnection of the water service will be done by the Town upon the cessation of the problem causing the disconnection and the payment of the fee for reconnection as set out in "Schedule A" of this Bylaw.

6.13 Requested Water Turn Off and/or On

6.13.1 If a consumer requires the supply of water to be shut off for his own purposes, he shall therefore pay the amount specified in "Schedule A" of this Bylaw.

6.14 Water Valves, Hydrants

6.14.1 No contractor/owner shall turn the water service on for testing purposes or uses. This is to be completed by the Town of Onoway Public Works staff, who will ensure the water service is turned on or off. Infractions will be charged as per Schedule A.

6.14.2 No person, corporation or consumer, other than if authorized by the Town in advance, shall touch, turn or disturb any fire hydrant, curb stop, water valve or anything associated with the water supply system. Approval for all connections to the Town water system as specified in this Bylaw shall require the prior approval of the Town; Infractions shall be charged as per Schedule A

6.15 Vacant Services

6.15.1 Any owner of a premise requesting the water service not be disconnected after the building has been vacated shall apply in writing in person to the Town on the form supplied by the Town and shall pay the amount specified in "Schedule A" of this Bylaw;

6.15.2 The meter shall be read and no water shall be consumed by the vacant property;

6.15.3 If any water is consumed while on vacant services charges, the Municipal Manager shall reverse the monthly billing as it was prior to the commencement of vacant services and the owner of the premise will have to pay the difference of both charges or the water services may be shut off.

6.16 Curb Stops

6.16.1 The contractor and/or owner shall ensure that the curb stop, c.c., or water valve is at a height flush with the finished grade prior to water service being provided; and

6.16.2 In the event that the curb stop is inaccessible and the Town is needing to repair/maintain/shut off this curb stop the Town will undertake whatever action is required to access this curb stop and complete the necessary repair/maintain/shut off with all associated costs being charged to the property which caused the curb stop to become inaccessible.

6.17 Final Approval

6.17.1 A premise shall be approved for occupancy by the Safety Codes Officer only after all provisions of Section 6 have been complied with and the water meter along with proper remote reading equipment is in place. At this time final approval for occupancy shall be given.

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SECTION 7 **BILLING AND COLLECTION**

7.1 **General**

7.1.1 All rates and charges payable hereunder shall be paid to the Town;

7.1.2 The Municipal Manager has authority to establish the Meter Activation Fee based on the nature of service or services and equipment being provided to a consumer and will provide the consumer with a quote for the required services that will remain in effect for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of issuance. The fee may be established using any or all of the following parts and/or services or additional equipment required to complete all associated works:

1. The Water Meter at the cost for the Town to replace into inventory at the time of ordering.
2. Waterline Flushing to be charged at the actual labour and material costs, should a staff member be called out after regular business hours, a minimum of 3 hours labour will be charged to the customer based on hourly rate set by Council on an annual basis.
3. Waterline Turn On is to be charged out at the actual cost of labour, should a staff member be called out after regular business hours, a minimum of 3 hours labour being charged based on hourly rate set by Council on an annual basis.
4. Account Set Up to be charged at a rate that is set by Council on an Annual basis.
5. Additional or Special Equipment that is required to complete the associated works is to be paid by or billed to the Owner or Customer directly from the source of such equipment or services.

7.1.3 Failure of an owner or renter to receive an account shall in no way affect the liability to pay the account.

7.2 **Owner Responsibility**

7.2.1 The Owner will receive and pay all Town utility bills for the property that is serviced by utilities services, unless a renter/owner agreement is signed; stating that the renter will be paying and receiving the utility bills and the agreement form is received by the Town.

7.2.2 When a current renter moves out of a rental property, it is the owner's responsibility to inform the Town of the change of billing address and the owner will be responsible for payment of the utility services charges;

7.3 **Renter Responsibility**

7.3.1 The Renter will receive and pay all Town utility bills for the property that he/she is renting that is serviced by utility services, if a renter/owner agreement is signed, as per "Schedule B" of this Bylaw, stating that the renter will be paying and receiving the utility bills is received by the

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Town;

7.4 Charges

7.4.1 There shall be paid for all water supplied and sewer service rendered hereunder the amounts set out in "Schedule A" of this Bylaw.

7.4.2 **Abnormal Readings** – In the event that there is a significant volume of water consumed or utilized as a result of a faulty appliance or fixture, the account holder can apply to the Chief Administrative Officer for a One-Time adjustment that is based upon an average consumption rate using the past twelve months of usage excluding the abnormal month of consumption. The decision to provide a price adjustment is at the sole discretion of the Chief Administrative Officer.

7.5 Application - Contract – Termination

7.5.1 Application for water supply and sewer services shall be made in writing in person to the Town for this purpose together with payment of the fee. The application for water supply and sewer services may be made by the Town of Onoway in the name of the registered property owner at the time the Town is notified by the Land Titles Office if the registered property owner has not made application for water supply and sewer services before this time.

7.5.2 No provision, agreement, term, condition or representation not contained in an application for water supply and sewer services, which contract is not transferable and shall remain in full force and effect until the consumer has notified the Town of his/her desire in writing to terminate the said contract or until said contract shall have been terminated by the Town;

7.5.3 Following written notification by a consumer of his/her desire to terminate a contract hereunder, the Town shall shut off the water supply as soon as reasonably practicable and the consumer shall be liable for and shall pay all of the rates and charges payable hereunder until the time of such shut off including the costs of such shut off, all as designated in "Schedule A" of this Bylaw;

7.5.4 All applications for connection or notification to terminate shall allow a minimum of 24 hours before such application or notification order is to become operative provided that such time period falls within the normal business hours of the Town;

7.6 Consumption

7.6.1 Subject to the other provisions of this Bylaw, the rates payable by a consumer as set out in "Schedule A" for all water supplied shall be determined by reference to the reading of the meter supplied to such consumer;

7.7 Payment Period

7.7.1 All accounts, including interim accounts for utilities services, shall be due and payable on the last working day of the month of the statement. Accounts not paid on or before that day shall be liable to a penalty of 3.5%;

7.8 Unpaid Accounts

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- 7.8.1 Any owner who fails to pay his/her account may have the outstanding balance that is more than 30 days overdue automatically transferred to his/her property tax roll;
- 7.8.2 The Municipal Manager may authorize any overdue account to be transferred to the owner's property tax roll at his/her discretion;
- 7.8.3 There shall be an Overdue Account Transfer Fee as listed in "Schedule A" of this Bylaw charged when an account balance is transferred to the tax roll.
- 7.9 **Reconnection Fee**
- 7.9.1 In the event any water service has been discontinued for reason of non-payment of account rendered, a reconnection fee shall be requested before the service is reconnected, as per "Schedule A" of this Bylaw;
- 7.10 **Enforcement and Collection**
- 7.10.1 The Municipal Manager is authorized to transfer any outstanding utility charges to the related tax roll as the Municipal Manager deems necessary, such transfer being subject to the Administration Fee as set out in "Schedule A" of this Bylaw;
- 7.10.2 In the event where the Town is unable to disconnect water services to a property which has unpaid utility fees, all unpaid utility fees will be transferred to the related tax roll.
- 7.10.3 Any property owner that fails to pay his/her account, that is more than 30 days in arrears, will receive the notice to disconnect and will have the applicable notice to disconnect fee applied to their utility account. Failure to either pay the account as per the notice to disconnect, or make payment arrangements with the Town, will result in disconnection of service and will be subject to the disconnection fee.
- 7.11 **Interim Account**
- 7.11.1 In any case in which the Town has rendered on account based upon an estimate of water supplied, the Town shall, upon reading the meter in respect of which the estimate was made, render an account for water supplied to that time and since the time the said meter was last read by the Town after crediting all amounts received from the consumer in respect of such estimated accounts;
- 7.12 **Single Billing**
- 7.12.1 A separate account shall be rendered in respect of each meter; and
- 7.13 **Partial Period**
- 7.13.1 Where any service rate or charge is designated by reference to a time certain, the charge for a lesser period of time shall be calculated on a proportional basis.

SECTION 8 APPEALS

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8.1 General

8.1.1 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Bylaw or "Schedule A", any consumer who feels himself aggrieved in respect of rates charges to him/her under "Schedule A", on the grounds that such rates are unfair, unreasonable or discriminatory may, by notice of appeal in writing delivered to the Municipal Manager specifying the grounds of such appeal, appeal such rates. Such appeals shall in the first instance heard and determined by the Municipal Manager, provided that if such consumer is not satisfied with such determination, he may further appeal the matter to Council and the decision of Council shall be final.

8.2.1 In the event that a resident would like to appeal their bill on the premise if a "One Time" billing consideration for uncharacteristically high consumption, they must send a copy of the letter to the Chief Administrative Officer outlining such request along with a copy of their consumption history and the reason for the water loss/use. The Chief Administrative Officer may at his/her sole discretion, grant a remedy that he/she sees reasonable at the time of the occurrence.

SECTION 9 PENALTIES

9.1 General

9.1.1 Any person found to be violating any provision of this ordinance shall be served by the Town with written notice stating the nature of the violation and providing a reasonable time limit for the satisfactory correction thereof. The offender shall within the period of the time stated in such notice, permanently cease all violations;

9.1.2 Any person who shall continue any violation beyond the time limit provided for in paragraph 9.1.1 shall be guilty of a misdemeanour and a conviction shall be fixed in the amount not exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each violation. Each day in which any violation shall continue shall be deemed a separate offence; and

9.1.3 Any person violating any of the provisions of this Bylaw shall become liable to the Town for any expense, loss or damage occasioned to the Town by reason of such violation.

9.1.4 Any person who contravenes, disobeys, refuses or neglects to obey any provision of the bylaw is *guilty of an offence and liability on summary conviction of a fine of up to \$500.00 plus costs.*

SECTION 10 AMENDMENTS

10.1 General

10.1.1 The Council of the Town of Onoway may, by Bylaw or resolution in Council, alter, amend or repeal any or all of the Schedules which form part of the Bylaw.

SECTION 11 VALIDITY

11.1 Bylaw 754-19 shall be rescinded in its entirety upon effective date of this bylaw.

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11.2 That this Bylaw shall take effect on the date of final passing, and these rates shall be effective starting January 1st, 2021 consumption.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 4th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021.

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 4th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021.

UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED TO FOR THIRD READING THIS 4th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021.

READ A THIRD AND FINAL TIME THIS 4th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021

Signed February 4th, 2021.

Mayor Judy Tracy

Chief Administrative Officer, Wendy Wildman

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SCHEDULE A

Rate Schedule

effective for January 1st, 2021 consumption billings

Water Rates		
Water System Charges – Monthly Basis		
\$ Based on Water Meter Size	Metric Water Meter	Imperial Water Meter
\$11.70	15 mm	5/8"
\$29.00	20 mm	3/4"
\$71.30	25 mm	1"
\$193.25	40 mm	1 1/2 "
\$362.70	50 mm	2 "
\$849.50	75 mm	3"
\$1,532.00	100 mm	4"
\$1,957.13	150 mm	6"
\$2,382.26	200 mm	8"
Water Commodity Charge		\$5.60 per cubic meter
Water Commodity Charge – residential construction (unmetered) 1" line		\$150.00/month (unmetered)
Water Commodity Charge – commercial construction (unmetered) 1" line & up		\$500.00/month (unmetered)
Water Commodity Charge – multi unit (unmetered)		\$150.00/month plus \$75.00 for each additional unit/month
Water Commodity Charge – Fire Department (cost + 20%)		\$6.72 per cubic meter (cost + 20%)
Bulk Water Sales/Sales to Non Town Users (cost + 20%)		\$6.72 per cubic meter (cost + 20%)
WILD Water Phase I Debenture Charge		\$5.20 per month per customer
WILD Water Phase II Debenture Charge		\$3.30 per month per customer

Sewer Rates		
Sewer System Charge – Monthly Basic		
\$ Based on Water Meter Size	Metric Water Meter	Imperial Water Meter
\$7.25	15 mm	5/8"
\$13.45	20 mm	3/4"
\$29.50	25 mm	1"
\$75.45	40 mm	1 1/2 "
\$139.50	50 mm	2 "
\$323.00	75 mm	3"
\$579.70	100 mm	4"
Sewer usage shall be determined by water consumption and shall be the same, regardless of where the water was deposited.		
Sewage Commodity Charge		\$1.64 per cubic meter
Sewage Commodity Charge (no water meter)		\$25.00 per month

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SEWER FORCEMAIN REPLACEMENT (8 yrs 2017 to 2024)	\$6.30 per month per customer
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Miscellaneous Rate	
Administrative Fee – monthly on each utility bill	\$5.00
Overdue Account Transfer Fee	\$25.00
Inspection Fee for New Infrastructure Connection Permit (6.2)	\$100.00
Notice to Disconnect (letter)	\$50.00
Special Meter Reading (Other than Terminal)	\$100.00
Meter Test or System Test	\$100.00
Service Kill/Service Disconnect (unpaid account)	\$50.00
Connection or Reconnection of water service	\$50.00
Connection or Reconnection of water service within 2 hours	\$100.00
Vacant services	\$30.00/month
Bylaw Contravention as per Water Valves/Hydrant section	\$250.00 first offence, \$500.00 second offence
Bylaw Contravention (any section not referenced above)	\$200.00

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Schedule B – Renter/Owner Agreement

Date: _____

Town of Onoway
Box 540
Onoway, AB T0E 1V0

RE: Property Located at: _____
Utility Account # _____
Meter Read _____
Effective Date _____

Dear Utility Clerk:

I am the property owner of the above noted property located within the Town of Onoway.

I am renting this property to:

Renter's Name

Mailing Address & Phone Number

The above named renter and I agree that the water, sewer and garbage bill for this property will be mailed to the renter. However, as the owner, I acknowledge that I am ultimately responsible for the payment of the billing. I also acknowledge that any unpaid balance from this account can be transferred to this property tax roll, at the discretion of the Town of Onoway. I agree that water service will be shut off at this property for non-payment **only at my request**. The Town of Onoway is not obligated to collect unpaid accounts on my behalf.

Owner's Name – Please print

Owner's Signature

Date

I am the above named renter and I agree that any information regarding my utility account may be released to the property owner at any time at the request of the owner **OR** at the discretion of the Town of Onoway.

Renter's Name – Please Print

Renter's Signature

Date

(The above information is being collected for the purposes stated)

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WATER & SEWER CONNECTION PERMIT
4812 – 51st Street
Onoway, AB T0E 1V0
Phone: (780) 967-5338
Fax: (780) 967-3226

Tax Roll # _____
Dev. Permit # _____

Permit Fee \$50

<input type="checkbox"/> New Installation	<input type="checkbox"/> Detached Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional	
<input type="checkbox"/> Service Disconnection			

PLEASE RETURN FORM AND ATTACHMENTS TO THE ONOWAY TOWN OFFICE.

Applicant (Contractor): _____

Project: _____

Municipal Address: _____

Legal Address: Lot: _____ Block: _____ Plan: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone#: _____ or _____

Proposed Work: Water Service Size _____ mm _____ inches
Sanitary Sewer Service Size _____ mm _____ inches
Storm Sewer Service Size _____ mm _____ inches

Stamped Engineering Drawings Attached? Yes No

Proposed Construction Date: From: _____ To: _____

Conditions:

1. Permit is not valid unless authorized signature completed below.
2. Stamped Engineering Drawings required for water services larger than 25 mm (1 inch) and for sanitary sewer larger than 150 mm (6 inches). All Multi Family, Commercial, Industrial and Institutional developments require stamped Engineering Drawings.
3. All work must conform to the Town Engineer's Standards as determined by the **General Manager of Planning and Infrastructure**. Water Service **MUST** be Type K Copper and Sanitary Sewer Service **MUST** be PVC-SDR 35. Any work completed with materials other than these shall be replaced at the sole cost of the applicant
4. Only authorized Town personnel to operate water shut off valves at or near the property line.

Subject to this application being approved, the undersigned acknowledges responsibility for all work and materials associated with the project, including any damages to any Public Utilities or local improvements including but not limited to curb stops, water shut off valves, curbs, sidewalks, roadways, lanes, etc. The applicant shall be responsible for the prevention and/or clean up of any spillage, littering or garbage associated with this project. No ground water of any kind including weeping tile, roof down spouts, or site drainage shall be allowed to enter the sanitary sewer system.

THE APPLICANT HEREBY AGREES TO ABIDE BY THE TOWN WATER & SEWER BYLAW AND ALL THE ABOVE NOTED CONDITIONS:

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applicant's Printed Name: _____

Town of Onoway Authorization for Permit: _____

The Information on this form is collected under the authority of Paragraph 32c. of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, SA, 1994, Ch.F-18.5, and shall only be used for the purpose for which it was collected.

TOWN OF ONOWAY
Bylaw 779-21

A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF ONOWAY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, FOR THE PURPOSE TO REGULATE THE COLLECTION, REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE, REFUSE, ASHES, RECYCLE MATERIALS, AND ORGANICS IN THE TOWN OF ONOWAY.

WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act, Chapter M-26, 2000 with amendments thereto, provides that a Council of a Municipality may pass a bylaw for services provided by or on behalf of the municipality for public utilities; and

WHEREAS Council deems it in the interest of the municipality to ensure the timely and appropriate collection, removal and disposal of household waste, refuse, ashes, recycle materials and organics;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Town of Onoway duly assembled hereby enacts as follows:

SECTION 1 CITATION

1. This Bylaw may be cited as "The Town of Onoway Waste Collection Bylaw".

SECTION 2 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 For the purpose of this Bylaw and in the Schedules attached hereto, unless the context otherwise requires:
- 2.2 **"Application"** shall mean the application made by the consumer to the Town for either household waste collection, recycle collection or both household waste and recycle collection;
- 2.3 **"Application Fee"** shall mean the amount of money required to be paid under and by virtue of this Bylaw by the consumer before the Town supplies household waste collection or recycle collection to the consumer which money is retained by the Town;
- 2.4 **"Bylaw Officer"** shall mean each and every member employed and duly sworn in as a Bylaw Enforcement Officer for the Town of Onoway;
- 2.5 **"Collection Day"** shall mean the day or days during each week on which household waste, organics or recycling is regularly collected from a specific premises, together with the seven (7) hour period immediately preceding and seven (7) hour period immediately following that day;
- 2.6 **"Commercial Premises"** shall mean any café, restaurant, warehouse, wholesale or retail business place, office building, garage or service station, factory or industrial plant, any other building or premises except a dwelling or multiple family dwelling;
- 2.7 **"Consumer"** shall mean any person who uses household waste, organics or recycling services supplied by the Town;
- 2.8 **"Council"** shall mean the Municipal Council of the Town of Onoway;

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- 2.9 **“ Dwelling ”** shall mean a building occupied for residential purposes, other than a multiple family dwelling;
- 2.10 **“ Household Waste ”** shall mean discarded ashes, crockery, cloth, wrappings, plastics and other items of household refuse, but does not include recycle materials as defined in this bylaw, human or animal excrement, medical wastes such as hypodermic syringes or industrial waste, or animal carcasses;
- 2.11 **“ Household Waste Cart ”** shall mean a rolling bin with a connected flip-open lid issued by the waste service provider;
- 2.12 **“ Household Waste Dumpster ”** shall mean a metal container of “ Heil Waste Container ” design;
- 2.13 **“ Household Waste Service Provider ”** shall mean the person or firm appointed by the Town for the purpose of collecting and disposing of Household waste and refuse;
- 2.14 **“ Householder ”** shall mean any person occupying any dwelling or place of residence, but shall not include any person who is merely a boarder, roomer, or lodger therein, or any occupant of a multiple family dwelling;
- 2.15 **“ Industrial Waste ”** shall mean materials from excavations, materials from lot clearing and building construction, repairs, alterations, or maintenance, debris from any building removed, or destroyed by fire or any other cause, material from manufacturing processes, dead animals, waste from garages and service stations, condemned matter or waste from factories or other works, or from warehouses, ashes from industrial plants, and other similar waste materials other than human or animal excrement, or household waste;
- 2.16 **“ Multiple Family Dwelling ”** shall mean a building or buildings which are, or are intended to be, occupied as a residence by more than two tenants living independently of one another in the same or a separate building, and shall include apartments, hotels, motels, boarding and rooming houses, and row housing and also includes any room or suite of rooms in any building containing any commercial premises;
- 2.17 **“ Municipal Manager ”** shall mean the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town or their designate;
- 2.18 **“ Organics ”** shall mean grass cuttings, garden refuse, leaves, food wastes (excluding meats, bones or cheese) or other materials which are easily composted but shall not include branches or tree limbs;
- 2.19 **“ Organics Cart ”** shall mean a rolling bin with a connected flip-open lid issued by either the Town or the Town’s House Waste Service Provider;
- 2.20 **“ Organics Service Provider ”** shall mean the person or firm appointed by the Town for the purpose of collecting and disposing of Organics;
- 2.21 **“ Person ”** includes a partnership, a firm a body corporate, a politic, and the heirs, executors, administrators or other legal representatives of a person to whom the context can apply according to law;

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- 2.22 **“Proprietor”** shall mean the occupant of commercial premises and the person in charge of a multiple family dwelling and, where such premises are unoccupied, shall mean the owner thereof;
- 2.23 **“Recycle Service Provider”** shall mean the person or firm appointed by the Town for the purposes of collecting and disposing of Recycle Materials;
- 2.24 **“Recycle Materials”** shall mean materials which are determined by the Recycle Service Provider for the Town to be recyclable and may include but are not necessarily limited to newspaper, mixed paper, box board, cardboard, washed and flattened tin cans which must be set out separately from the other materials;
- 2.25 **“Street or Streets”** shall include all highways, roads, lanes, alleys, avenues, easements, thoroughfares, utility lots, drives, bridges and ways of public nature, sidewalks, boulevards, parks, public square and other public places unless the contrary is expressed or unless such construction would be consistent with the context of this Bylaw;
- 2.26 **“Town”** shall mean the Town of Onoway or its duly authorized representatives;

SECTION 3 HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION

- 3.1 No householder, proprietor, property owner or other person within the Town shall dispose of household waste **EXCEPT** in accordance with this bylaw;
- 3.2 All properties in Town must have Household waste collection service in accordance with this Bylaw;
- 3.3 Household waste shall be at the pick-up location by 7:00 a.m. on collection day;
- 3.4 Household waste collection shall be every week;
- 3.5 Unless otherwise permitted or instructed by the Town or the Waste Service Provider, all Household Waste Carts set out for collection must be placed on the roadway in front of the property the Household waste Carts belong to. The Household Waste Carts must be placed not less than 0.5 meters and not more than 1.5 meters from the edge of the road, with the arrow on the Household Waste Cart lid pointing away from the property, perpendicular to the edge of the road. The Household Waste Cart lid must be in a closed position, covering the mouth of the Household waste Cart, at all times while the Cart is placed in the position for pickup as outlined in this Bylaw. Household waste Carts must be set out for collection in such a manner as not interfere in any way with vehicular or pedestrian traffic;
- 3.6 Any Household waste Cart which is set out for collection at a location other than as directed in this Bylaw shall be deemed to be a violation of this bylaw, and the Bylaw Enforcement Officer will be contacted. Every effort will be made to determine who placed the Household waste Cart in the location and the person will be contacted;
- 3.7 The Waste Service Provider shall provide a Household Waste Cart of sufficient size as specified by the Town (with lids closed) generated from those premises during the period between

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- Household waste collections. Household waste must not be packed in to the household waste cart in a manner that will prevent the cart from being emptied;
- 3.8 The Municipal Manager, in his/her sole discretion, may require that any property use a larger size Household waste Cart or Household waste Dumpster;
- 3.9 No person shall place or keep any can, container or receptacle for industrial waste upon any lane or street in the Town except as specifically provided in this bylaw;
- 3.10 The owner, tenant, occupant or other person in charge of a dwelling or other building shall at all time ensure that Household Waste Carts, or other receptacles provided for the purpose, are not allowed to spill over or accumulate on any land or street or adjoining public or private property. Every such person shall be held responsible for any violation of this section regardless of the cause of such violation. Failure to contain Household waste in approved containers may also be considered a violation of and result in action under the Unsightly Premises Bylaw;
- 3.11 No person shall directly or otherwise dispose of or permit any person to dispose of any explosive, inflammable, volatile, noxious or dangerous device, substance or thing in any Household waste Cart. Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall be deemed to have thereby created an offence and shall be liable to the penalties provided for a breach of this bylaw;
- 3.12 No person shall directly or otherwise dispose of or permit any person to dispose of any hypodermic syringes or needles or other Bio Hazardous waste in any household waste container. These are Bio Hazardous Waste and must be discarded in the appropriate manner which is to place them in an enclosed container and return them to a facility intended to handle such materials;
- 3.13 No person shall directly or otherwise dispose of or permit any person to dispose of any feces, whether human or animal, or any carcass of any dead animal in any Household waste container. Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall be deemed to have thereby created an offence and shall be liable to the penalties provided for a breach of this bylaw;
- 3.14 Disposal of any refuse by burning is not permitted unless a permit in writing to do so has been received from the Fire Department. Notwithstanding this, no permit will be approved by the Fire Department for open burning in that area designated as Central Business District as outlined in the Town of Onoway Land Use Bylaw. The Municipal Manager, in his/her sole discretion, shall ultimately have the discretion to restrict burning in any area of the Town at any time and for any duration deemed necessary;
- 3.15 In the event that a permit to burn is issued, the applicant is entirely responsible to see that the burning takes place without danger to other properties or inconvenience to neighbouring properties and the Town shall in no way be held responsible for any damage or inconvenience experience;
- 3.16 No person shall directly or otherwise dispose of or permit any person to dispose of hot ashes, burning matter, or unwrapped wet Household Waste in any Household waste Cart or dumpster;
- 3.17 Except on Collection Day, all Household Waste Carts shall be kept and maintained on the premises of the householder or proprietor. Failure to return the Household Waste Cart to the premises of the householder or proprietor following Collection Day shall be in breach of this

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bylaw and the householder, proprietor or property owner shall be liable to the penalties provided for a breach of this bylaw. Any Household Waste Carts located on any street or lane in the Town, other than on Collection Day, may be removed and disposed of at the discretion of the Bylaw Officer without compensation to the owner thereof;

- 3.18 No Household waste collection shall be made from the inside of any dwelling or from the basement or upper floors of any multiple family dwelling or commercial premises;
- 3.19 No person other than a lawful user thereof, or any authorized employee of the Town or House Waste Service Provider, shall open any Household Waste Carts or remove anything therefrom, or in any way disturb the contents thereof, nor shall any other persons handle, interfere with, or in any manner disturb any Household Waste of any kind put out for collection for removal;
- 3.20 When any Household Waste Cart or Dumpster has been condemned or is deemed insufficient by the Bylaw Officer, and written notice to that effect has been given to the householder or proprietor, the condemned Household Waste Cart or Dumpster may be removed and disposed of along with the Household Waste from the premises, in which case the householder or proprietor shall forthwith provide a suitable Household waste Cart or Dumpster, to the satisfaction of the Municipal Manager, to replace the one that has been condemned and removed;
- 3.21 No person shall operate a vehicle in the Town while it is carrying household waste or industrial waste unless that portion of the vehicle in which the material is being carried is securely covered or the material is secured to prevent any part of such material from falling off, or out of, the vehicle while in transit;
- 3.22 No person shall deposit any dead animal, manure, excreta, refuse, household waste, liquid waste or other filth upon or into any street, ditch, lane, highway, byway, water, well, wharf, dock, lake, pond, river, bank, stream, or onto any land except with the written consent of the Town. Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall be deemed to have thereby created an offence and shall be liable to the penalties provided for a breach of this bylaw;
- 3.23 All loose paper, paper boxes, straw and other packing or waste material from stores, warehouses and other buildings with the said Town and all loose grass, weeds, twigs and other combustible matter shall not be allowed to accumulate on any premises within the said Town, but shall be so disposed of as not to create a nuisance and any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall be liable to the penalties provided for a breach of this Bylaw;
- 3.24 Any person disposing of household waste, trees or tree clippings or other refuse onto private or public property, unless designated as a disposal site within the said Town, shall be liable to the penalties provided for a breach of this Bylaw.

SECTION 4 ORGANICS COLLECTION

- 4.1 No householder, proprietor, property owner or other person within the Town shall dispose of Organics **EXCEPT** in accordance with this bylaw;
- 4.2 All properties in Town that have a Household waste Cart must also have Organics Collection service in accordance with this Bylaw;

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- 4.3 Organics shall be at the pick-up location by 7:00 a.m. on collection day;
- 4.4 Organics collection shall be every week during May to October;
- 4.5 Unless otherwise permitted or instructed by the Town or the Organics Service Provider, all Organic Carts set out for collection must be placed on the roadway in front of the property the Organic Cart belong to. The Organic Carts must be placed not less than 0.5 meters and not more than 1.5 meters from the edge of the road, with the arrow on the Organic Cart lid pointing away from the property, perpendicular to the edge of the road. The Organic Cart lid must be in a closed position, covering the mouth of the Organic Cart, at all times while the Cart is placed in the position for pickup as outlined in this bylaw. Organic Carts must be set out for collection in such a manner as not interfere in any way with vehicular or pedestrian traffic;
- 4.6 Any Organic Cart which is set out for collection at a location other than as directed in this Bylaw shall be deemed to be a violation of this bylaw, and the Bylaw Enforcement Officer will be contacted. Every effort will be made to determine who placed the Organic Cart in the location and the person will be contacted;
- 4.7 The Waste Service Provider shall provide every property with an Organic Cart of sufficient size to contain the organics (with lids closed) generated from those premises during the period between Organics collections. Organics must not be packed in to the Organic Cart in such a way that will prevent the Cart from being emptied;
- 4.8 Every householder and proprietor shall maintain and keep in good condition sufficient Organic Cart as required by this bylaw for all Organics upon the premises owned or occupied by him, and shall ensure that the container lid is kept securely over the mouth of all such containers except when said cans are actually being filled or emptied;
- 4.9 All other regulations as apply to Household waste collection shall also apply to Organics collection.

SECTION 5 RECYCLING COLLECTION

- 5.1 No householder, proprietor, property owner or other person within the Town shall dispose of Recycle Materials **EXCEPT** in accordance with this bylaw;
- 5.2 All residential properties in Town that have a Household Waste Cart must also have Recycling Collection in accordance with this Bylaw;
- 5.3 Recycle materials shall be at the pick-up location by 7:00 a.m. on collection day;
- 5.4 Recycle materials collection shall be every week;
- 5.5 All recycle materials set out for collection must be placed on the boulevard or front of the property, in a manner that is accessible for the Recycle Service Provider, but does not interfere in any way with vehicular or pedestrian traffic;

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- 5.6 All Recycle Materials set out for collection in accordance with this bylaw must be placed and secured in a Blue Bag, with the exception of cardboard boxes which must be collapsed and secured to any other cardboard boxes also set out for collection on the same collection day with twine, string, or some other similar material to secure multiple items together for an extended period of time;
- 5.7 Materials for recycling collection shall be placed in blue bags so that the contents can be viewed to ensure that there is no contamination of the material. If any contamination of Recycling Material is noted, the material will not be collected and a sticker noting the contamination will be placed on the bag. Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall be deemed to have thereby created an offence and shall be liable to the penalties provided for a breach of this bylaw;
- 5.8 Any Recycle Materials which are set out for collection at a location other than as directed in this bylaw, or in a manner other than directed in this bylaw will be left at the location where it is placed and the Bylaw Enforcement Officer will be contacted. Every effort will be made to determine who placed the Recycle Materials in the location and the person will be contacted;
- 5.9 The owner, tenant, occupant or other person in charge of a dwelling or other building shall provide sufficient means to contain the Recycle Materials generated from those premises during the period between Recycle Material collections in an orderly manner and that Recycle Materials are not allowed to spill over or accumulate on any land or street or adjoining public or private property. All plastic bags and loose material must be suitably tied to ensure that the Recycle Materials are not disturbed, spread or distributed due to animals, weather conditions, vehicles or other persons. Every such person shall be held responsible for any violation of this section regardless of the cause of such violation. Failure to contain Recycle Materials in an approved manner may also be considered a violation of an result in action under the Unsightly Premises Bylaw;
- 5.10 The Recycle Service Provider will only collect Basic Volumes of Recycling Materials. Should the householder or proprietor require greater weekly disposal of Recycle Materials, they will contract with a contractor in the business of Recycle Material disposal to provide this service;
- 5.11 Every householder, proprietor, or other person shall dispose of Recycle Materials upon the premise owned or occupied by him by placing or causing the same to be placed for pickup in a manner described in this bylaw, but not elsewhere;
- 5.12 All other regulations as apply to household waste collection shall also apply to recycle collection.

SECTION 6

ADMINISTRATION

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 The provisions of the Bylaw shall form part of a contract between the consumer and the Town for Household waste and/or Organics and/or Recycle collection hereunder which supply shall be subject to all the provisions of this Bylaw;
- 6.1.2 Any provision, agreement, term, condition or representation contained in this contract is not

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transferable and shall remain in full force and effect until the consumer has notified the Town of his/her desire in writing to terminate said contract or until said contract shall have been terminated by the Town. Following written notification by a consumer of his/her desire to terminate a contract hereunder, the Town shall discontinue Household waste, Organic or Recycle collection will be discontinued as soon as reasonably practicable and the consumer shall be liable for and shall pay all of the rates and charges payable hereunder until the time of such discontinuation. Termination can only be done in instances of property sale or transfer or if the service level is changed in accordance with this bylaw.

6.1.3 Account information, account changes or account cancellations can only be made by the registered property owner.

6.2 Owner Responsibility

6.2.1 Ownership of all Household Waste and Organic Carts belong to the Waste Service Provider. Each property will be permitted use of the carts solely for the purposes outlined in this Bylaw. Maintenance, repair to ensure the continuing good working order of the carts, and proper and secure storage shall be the responsibility of the property owner. Replacement of the carts in instances of damage or theft by anyone other than the Waste Service Provider or the Town or Town's agent will be the responsibility of and at the cost of the property owner or account holder, as designated in "Schedule A" attached to and forming part of this Bylaw and which may be amended from time to time by resolution of Council;

6.2.2 The Town will bill the registered owner, as reported by the Alberta Land Titles Office, for utility services in accordance with this Bylaw, unless the registered owner has made provisions for direct renter billing as specified in this Bylaw. In the event of change of property ownership, the Town will bill the new registered owner upon notification of transfer of title from the Alberta Land Titles Office.

SECTION 7 BILLING, COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

7.1 General

7.1.1 The full cost of Household waste, Organics and Recycling collection and disposal shall be paid out of the general revenue of the Town and collected through fees established by Council. These fees shall be included on the utility billing in accordance with this Bylaw. These fees form "Schedule A" of this Bylaw;

7.1.2 Should the Town be unable to determine the actual fees to be billed to any property, the Municipal Manager shall estimate the fees to be charged and render an account based upon such methods he considers to be fair and equitable;

7.1.3 All rates and charges payable hereunder shall be paid to the Town;

7.1.4 Failure of an owner or renter to receive an account shall in no way affect the liability to pay the account.

7.2 Owner Responsibility

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7.2.1 The Owner will receive and pay all Town utility bills of the property that is serviced by utilities services, unless a renter/owner agreement is signed; stating that the renter will be paying and receiving the utility bills. This form must be received and processed by the Town prior to the implementation of billing to the renter of any property.

7.2.2 When a current renter moves out of a rental property or a non-owner account holder wishes to discontinue their account, it is the owner's responsibility to inform the Town to administrate the change of billing address and the owner will be responsible for payment of the utility services charges;

7.3 Renter Responsibility

7.3.1 The Renter will receive and pay all Town utility bills for the property that he/she is renting that is serviced by utilities services, if a renter/owner agreement is signed, as per "Schedule B" attached to and forming part of this Bylaw and which may be amended from time to time by resolution of Council; stating that the renter will be paying and receiving the utility bills and the form is received by the Town;

7.4 Payment Period

7.4.1 All accounts, including interim accounts for utilities services, shall be due and payable on the last working day of the following month of the statement. Accounts not paid on or before that day shall be liable to a penalty of 3.5% per month.

7.5 Unpaid Accounts

7.5.1 Any owner who fails to pay his/her account will have the outstanding balance that is more than 30 days overdue automatically transferred to his/her property tax roll;

7.5.2 The Municipal Manager may authorize any overdue account to be transferred to the related tax roll as the Municipal Manager deems necessary;

7.5.3 Any overdue account transferred to the property tax roll shall have overdue account transfer fee applied to the account at the time of transfer, as specified in "Schedule A" forming part of this Bylaw and which may be amended from time to time by resolution of Council.

7.6 Partial Period

7.6.1 Where any service rate or charge is designated by reference to a time certain, the charge for a lesser period of time shall be calculated on a proportionate basis.

SECTION 8 APPEALS

8.1 General

8.1.1 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Bylaw or "Schedule A", any consumer who feels

TOWN OF ONOWAY
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himself aggrieved in respect of rates charged to him/her under "Schedule A", on the grounds that such rates are unfair, unreasonable or discriminatory may, by notice of appeal in writing delivered to the Municipal Manager specifying the grounds of such appeal, appeal such rates. Such appeals shall in the first instance be heard and determined by the Municipal Manager, provided that if such consumer is not satisfied with such determination, he may further appeal the matter to Council and the decision of Council shall be final.

SECTION 9 OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

9.1 General

- 9.1.1 Any person found to be violating any provision of this ordinance shall be served by the Town with written notice stating the nature of the violation and providing a reasonable time limit for the satisfactory correction thereof. The offender shall within the period of the time stated in such notice, permanently cease all violations;
- 9.1.2 Any person who shall continue any violation beyond the time limit provided for in paragraph 9.2 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and a conviction shall be fixed in the amount not exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each violation. Each day in which any violation shall continue shall be deemed a separate offence; and
- 9.1.3 Any person violating any of the provisions of this Bylaw shall become liable to the Town for any expense, loss or damage occasioned to the Town by reason of such violation.
- 9.1.4 Any person who contravenes, disobeys, refuses or neglects to obey any provision of the bylaw is guilty of an offence and liability on summary conviction of a fine of up to \$300.00 plus costs.
- 9.1.5 Any written notice issued under provision 9.1 of this bylaw shall be deemed to be sufficiently served if served personally upon the person alleged to have committed the breach or upon the owner, occupier or other person in charge of the premises upon which the breach is alleged to have been committed or if mailed to the address of the owner, occupier or other person in charge of the premises upon which the breach is alleged to have been committed.

SECTION 10 AMENDMENTS

10.1 General

- 10.1.1 The Council of the Town of Onoway may, by Bylaw or resolution in Council, alter, amend or repeal any or all of the Schedules which form part of the Bylaw.

SECTION 11 SEVERANCE

- 11.1 If any provision herein is adjudged by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, then that provision shall be severed from the remainder of this Bylaw and all other provisions of this Bylaw shall remain valid and enforceable.

SECTION 12 VALIDITY

**TOWN OF ONOWAY
Bylaw 779-21**

- 12.1 That Bylaw 671-08 be rescinded in its entirety upon passing of this bylaw.
- 12.2 This Bylaw shall come into force and effect on the date of final passing, and these rates shall be effective starting January 1st, 2021 collection.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 4th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 4th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021

UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED TO FOR THIRD READING THIS 4th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.

READ A THIRD AND FINAL TIME THIS 4th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.

Signed February 4th, 2021.

Mayor Judy Tracy

Chief Administrative Officer Wendy Wildman

TOWN OF ONOWAY
Bylaw 779-21

SCHEDULE "A" Waste Bylaw Fee Schedule

1. HOUSEHOLD WASTE & ORGANIC FEES:

65 Gallon Waste Cart and 96 Gallon Organics Cart \$16.40 per month, for both carts

(the fee collected for waste and organics includes the cost of the waste service provider, the waste tippage fees, and the spring cleanup/hhw roundup)

2. RECYCLE FEES

Residential Property Collection \$3.22 per month

3. OTHER FEES

Cart Replacement \$130.00 per Cart

Overdue Account Transfer Fee \$25.00 per month transferred

Notifications

COVID-19: State of public health emergency. [Mandatory measures remain in effect provincewide.](#)

Close



[COVID-19 info for Albertans](#)

Stronger public health measures

Mandatory, provincewide restrictions are in effect to protect the health system and slow the spread of COVID-19.

On this page:

- [Path forward starts February 8](#)
- [Gathering restrictions](#)
- [Business and service restrictions](#)
- [Step 1 changes](#)
- [The path forward](#)
- [Financial support](#)
- [Why restrictions are needed](#)
- [What else you should do](#)
- [Enforcement](#)

Path forward starts February 8

Alberta is bending the curve to protect our health system, but we must be careful not to lift restrictions too quickly.

A roadmap was developed to help Albertans understand how restrictions will be eased in steps over the coming months. [A Path Forward](#) outlines the sectors that will see gradual restriction changes at each step based on hospitalization benchmarks.

Step 1 changes come into effect February 8. All other restrictions remain in effect.

Translated resources

COVID-19 resources are available in Af-Soomaali, Arabic, 中文, हिंदी, 한국어, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ, Español, Français, Tagalog, Tiếng Việt and Urdu on [alberta.ca/CovidTranslated](https://www.alberta.ca/CovidTranslated).

- [EARLY STEPS](#)

Restriction changes to outdoor gatherings, funerals and personal services came into effect Jan. 18.

We are here

- [STEP 1](#)

Benchmark to ease restrictions:
600 hospitalizations and declining

February 8, 2021

- [STEP 2](#)

Benchmark to ease restrictions:
450 hospitalizations and declining

At least 3 weeks after Step 1

- [STEP 3](#)

Benchmark to ease restrictions:
300 hospitalizations and declining

At least 3 weeks after Step 2

- [STEP 4](#)

Benchmark to ease restrictions:
150 hospitalizations and declining

At least 3 weeks after Step 3

Previous date Next date

Gathering restrictions

Alberta declared a State of Public Health Emergency to reduce cases and protect the health care system. Social gatherings are the top source of transmission of COVID-19.

All indoor social gatherings are prohibited. Outdoor social gatherings can have up to 10 people. This will be enforced with \$1,000 fines.

Indoor social gatherings

Mandatory restriction – Provincewide – Effective Dec. 8

All indoor social gatherings are prohibited – public and private.

- Close contacts are limited to household members only
- People who live alone can have up to 2 close contacts:
 - these must be the same two contacts throughout the duration of the restriction
 - if the close contacts do not live alone, visits cannot be held at their home
 - single parents who only live with their children under 18 are permitted to have up to 2 close contacts

This restriction does not apply to:

- co-parenting arrangements
- service visits from caregivers, health or childcare providers
- home maintenance and repairs
- mutual support group meetings

Outdoor social gatherings

Mandatory restriction – Provincewide – Effective Jan. 18

Outdoor social gatherings are limited to 10 people maximum and must not have an indoor component.

- Backyard gatherings that require movement in/out of homes are not permitted.
- Attendees should remain distanced at all times and follow all public health measures.

See [sport and physical activities](#) for information on outdoor recreation.

Out-of-town travel and visitors

Returning to Alberta

- If you do not have a household in Alberta, you must not stay in other people's homes while these restrictions are in place.
- If you belong to the household, you are permitted to return to the home (e.g., child returning home from post-secondary).
 - If participating in the [Border Testing Pilot Program](#), all program directives must be followed before rejoining the household.

Visitors to Alberta

- Out-of-town visitors cannot stay in other people's homes while these restrictions are in place, regardless of where they are coming from.

While we appreciate this may affect travel plans to visit family, the increase in cases is very serious. These measures are required to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Weddings and funerals

Mandatory restriction – Provincewide – Revised Jan. 18

Wedding and funeral receptions are not permitted.

Wedding ceremony and funeral service attendance is limited to:

- 10 people maximum for wedding ceremonies
- 20 people maximum for funeral services, with mandatory masking and 2 metre physical distancing between households

The maximum limit:

- includes the officiant, bride/groom and witnesses
- does not include funeral service or facility staff, funeral clergy or event organizers who are not considered an invited guest
- applies to any facility, including places of worship and funeral homes
- applies to services held indoors or outdoors, seated or non-seated

This measure will help limit exposure, reduce outbreaks and protect vulnerable attendees.

Places of worship

Mandatory restriction – Provincewide – Effective Dec. 13

Faith services are limited to 15% of fire code occupancy for in-person attendance:

- Physical distancing between households must be maintained
- Mask use is mandatory

Alternatively:

- Virtual or online services are recommended
- Drive-in services where people do not leave their vehicles and adhere to guidance are allowed

Additional safety measures:

- In-person faith group meetings and other religious gatherings are:
 - not permitted in private homes while these measures are in effect
 - permitted when conducted at a place of worship as long as physical distancing and public health measures are followed
- Faith leaders and other speakers can remove their masks while speaking if there is a distance of 2 metres. The mask must be put on again once finished speaking.
- Group performance activities, such as choir singing and playing music, are permitted if they are normal worship practices and not for the purpose of entertainment. Performers must wear masks at all times.

Business and service restrictions

Some businesses are required to temporarily close, reduce capacity or limit in-person access.

[Masks are mandatory](#) in all indoor public places, indoor workplaces, and places of worship.

Working from home

Mandatory - Provincewide - Effective Dec. 13

Working from home is mandatory unless the employer requires the employee's physical presence to operate effectively.

Retail

Mandatory restriction – Provincewide – Effective Dec. 13

Retail services and shopping malls must limit customer capacity to 15% of fire code occupancy (not including staff) or a minimum of 5 customers. This includes individual stores and common areas ([see calculating occupancy limits](#)).

- Curbside pick up, delivery and online services are encouraged
- Shopping mall food courts open for grab and go only
- Shop alone or only with the people you live with ([see tips for shoppers](#))

Retail services include but are not limited to:

- Retail businesses
- Shopping centres and malls
- Grocery stores, markets and pharmacies
- Clothing and sporting goods stores
- Computer and technology stores
- Hardware and automotive
- Liquor and cannabis
- Pet supply stores
- Gift shops

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Restaurants, bars, pubs, lounges and cafes

*Mandatory restriction – Provincewide – Effective Dec. 13**

- All restaurants, pubs, bars, lounges and cafes are closed to in-person service.
- Take out, curbside pickup and delivery services are allowed.

*These restrictions will change February 8. See Step 1 changes for details.

Entertainment and recreation facilities

Mandatory restriction – Provincewide – Effective Dec. 13

All entertainment businesses and entities must close, including:

- Casinos, bingo halls, gaming centres
- Racing centres, horse tracks, raceways
- Bowling alleys, pool halls
- Legions and private clubs (nightclubs must remain closed)
- Art galleries, libraries and museums
- Science and interpretive centres
- Amusement and water parks
- Children's play centres and indoor playgrounds
- Movie theatres, auditoria and concert halls
- Banquet halls, conference centres and trade shows

All indoor recreation facilities must close, including:

- Gyms and studios
- Fitness and recreation centres
- Spas, pools, indoor rinks and arenas
- Day and overnight camps
- Community halls and centres

Outdoor recreation is permitted, but facilities with indoor spaces except for washrooms will be closed.

Personal and wellness services

Mandatory restriction – Provincewide – Effective Jan. 18

All personal and wellness services can open by appointment only.

- Walk-in services are not permitted.
- Appointments should be limited to one-on-one services.
- Businesses must follow all current public health guidance.
- Home-based businesses must follow the restrictions for the type of service they provide.

Personal services include:

- esthetics, manicure, pedicure, body waxing, make-up
- body, nose and ear piercing, and tattoos
- artificial tanning and spray tanning
- facial, eyebrow and eyelash treatments
- cosmetic skin and body treatments
- laser hair and tattoo removal
- hairstyling and barbering

Wellness services include:

- floatation tanks
- reflexology
- colonic irrigation

Health, social and professional services

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Mandatory - Provincewide - Revised Jan. 18

The following services can open by appointment only as long as public health orders and sector guidance is followed. Appointments should be limited to one-on-one services.

Regulated health services can open by appointment only

- physicians, dentists
- physical therapists
- optometrists
- chiropractors
- hearing aid practitioners
- acupuncturists
- naturopaths

Non-regulated health services can open by appointment only (effective Jan. 18, 2021)

- massage therapists (a prescription or referral is no longer required)
- manual osteopaths
- kinesiologists
- athletic therapists

Professional services can remain open by appointment only:

- lawyers
- mediators
- accountants
- photographers

Social services can remain open for in-person services including:

- social, protective or emergency services
- shelters for vulnerable persons
- not-for-profit community kitchens, religious kitchens and soup kitchens

Home-based businesses should follow the restrictions for the type of service they provide.

Hotels, motels, hunting and fishing lodges

Mandatory - Provincewide - Effective Dec. 13

Hotels, motels, hunting and fishing lodges may remain open but must follow restrictions:

- No spa, pool or gym access
- No in-person dining (room service only)

Performance activities

*Mandatory restriction – Provincewide – Effective Dec. 13**

Performance activities include dancing, singing, theatre and playing wind instruments.

Outdoor settings

- Rehearsals and practices are permitted up to a maximum of 10 participants. Physical distancing and other relevant guidelines must be followed.
- Performances with audiences are not permitted.

Indoor settings

- No group performances in indoor settings are permitted.
- Rehearsals, practices and lessons involving 2 or more are not permitted unless it is 1-to-1 with a coach or instructor.

Lessons

- 1-to-1 in-person lessons are permitted.
- Virtual lessons are strongly encouraged where possible.
- Lessons can't occur in facilities that are closed under the current measures

School settings*

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- Phys Ed., band and drama classes are permitted to continue
- Assemblies, performances, concerts, and inter-school games, activities and competitions are not permitted.

Places of worship

- Indoor group performance activities conducted in a place of worship, such as choir singing and playing music, are permitted provided these are normal activities conducted as part of worship practices and not for the purpose of entertainment.

*Restrictions on school-related performance activities will change February 8. See Step 1 changes for details.

Sport and physical activities

*Mandatory restriction – Provincewide – Effective Dec. 13**

Group activities

Group physical activities, including team sports, fitness classes and training sessions, are prohibited or restricted across Alberta.

- Outdoor group physical activity must be limited to 10 people or fewer.
 - It is strongly recommended that the activity is kept to members of the same household.
 - Members of different households must maintain 2 metre distancing at all times.
 - See [guidance for outdoor winter recreation](#).
- Outdoor group activities where 2 metre distancing cannot be maintained are prohibited.
 - Shiny, tag and pick-up hockey are prohibited.
- Outdoor recreation amenities can be open to public access unless specifically closed by public health order.
 - This includes outdoor skating rinks, sledding hills and Nordic ski areas.
 - More than 10 people may use an outdoor recreation amenity at the same time (for example, public access to a local rink) as long as physical distancing is maintained between households.
- Outdoor team sports must also be limited to 10 people or fewer and 2 metre distancing must be maintained at all times.
- Indoor group physical activities are prohibited unless:
 - the activity involves students at a school or post-secondary institution as part of an education program
 - the activity involves students at a post-secondary institution

One-on-one training*

- One-on-one training, such as personal training with a fitness trainer or coach, can continue virtually or in-person at a client's home or at an outdoor location as outlined under [Part 7 of Order 42-2020](#).
 - One-on-one training is not permitted inside a fitness studio, gym, rec centre or other facility prohibited to public access.
 - A fitness facility can be accessed by staff for the purposes of producing a video or livestreamed class, but it cannot be opened for clients, even one-on-one.

*One-on-one training restrictions will change on February 8. See Step 1 changes for details.

Public health orders and exemptions

Public health orders

- [Order 01-2021](#) (relaxing restrictions on outdoor social gatherings, funeral attendance and personal and wellness services)
- [Order 42-2020](#) (masks, gatherings, business restrictions)
- [Order 44-2020](#) (counselling services, end of life visits and group physical activities)

Exemptions

- [Equestrian exercise](#)
- [Essential work camps and work sites](#)
- [Massage therapy](#)
- [Food services in ski hill facilities](#)

Step 1 changes

As part of Step 1 of the path forward, the following restriction changes come into effect on Monday, February 8. All other restrictions remain in place.

Restaurants, pubs, bars, lounges and cafes

Mandatory restrictions - Provincewide - Effective Feb. 8

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Restaurants, pubs, bars, lounges and cafes can open for in-person service.

- Maximum of 6 people per table; individuals must be from same household or the 2 close contacts for people living alone
- Contact information must be collected from one person of the dining party
- Liquor service ends at 10 pm
- In-person dining must close by 11 pm
- No entertainment allowed (e.g., no VLTs, pool tables, live music, etc.)

Children's sport and performance activities

Mandatory restrictions - Provincewide - Effective Feb. 8

- Children's sport and performance activities are permitted if related to school activities, such as physical education classes.
- K-12 schools and post-secondary institutions are allowed to use off-site facilities to support curriculum-related educational activities.

Indoor fitness

Mandatory restrictions - Provincewide - Effective Feb. 8

Group or team sports not permitted

- No sports games, competitions, team practice, league play or group exercise of any kind is allowed.

One-on-one training is permitted

- Only one-on-one or one-on-one household training is permitted for indoor fitness activities (e.g. fitness in dance studios, training figure skating on ice, one-on-one lessons).
- Sessions have to be scheduled or by appointment. No drop-in or groups allowed.

Safety requirements:

- One-on-one sessions cannot interact with others and there must be a minimum of 3 metres distance between sessions in the same facility.
- Trainers must be professional, certified and/or paid trainers who are providing active instruction and correction. Passive supervision of a physical activity is not considered training.
- Trainers should remain masked during the session; clients are not required to wear a mask while exercising
- More than one trainer and client 'pair' are allowed into the facility, studio, rink, court, pool, ice surface, etc. so long as:
 - Each trainer and client stays 3 metres away from all other trainers and clients at all times, including in entryways and exits.
 - Each trainer can only interact with their assigned client, and each client can only interact with their assigned trainer.
 - No interaction between clients or between trainers is allowed.
 - No 'cycling through' multiple trainers as in circuit training.

The path forward

Public health measures will be eased in steps based on hospitalization benchmarks.

Each step sets a more predictable path for easing restrictions, while protecting the health system.

Once hospitalizations are within range of the benchmark, decisions to move to the next step will be considered. The lowest-risk activities in each sector will be considered for change first.

Moving between steps will happen at least 3 weeks apart to assess the impact on cases.

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Steps based on hospitalization benchmarks

STEP 1 <600 hospitalizations	STEP 2 <450 hospitalizations	STEP 3 <300 hospitalizations	STEP 4 <150 hospitalizations
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STEP 1 <600 hospitalizations	STEP 2 <450 hospitalizations	STEP 3 <300 hospitalizations	STEP 4 <150 hospitalizations
<p>Potential easing in these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurants • Indoor fitness • Indoor and outdoor children's sport and performance (school-related) 	<p>Potential easing in these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail • Banquet halls • Community halls • Conference centres • Hotels • Further easing of indoor fitness and children's sport and performance 	<p>Potential easing in these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult team sports • Casinos, racing centres and bingo halls • Indoor social gatherings, with restrictions • Indoor seated events (movie theatres and auditoria) • Libraries • Museums, art galleries, zoos, interpretive centres • Places of worship 	<p>Potential easing in these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amusement parks • Concerts (indoor) • Festivals (indoor and outdoor) • Funeral receptions • Indoor entertainment centres and play centres • Performance activities (singing, dancing and wind instruments) • Sporting events (indoor and outdoor) • Tradeshows, conferences and exhibiting events • Wedding ceremonies and receptions • Workplaces (lift working from home)

Financial support

Canada's COVID-19 economic response plan

Financial support programs are available to help people, families and businesses facing hardship as a result of COVID-19.

[Find a program](#)

Small- and medium-enterprise relaunch grant

Funding is available for small- and medium-sized businesses, co-ops and non-profits impacted by COVID-19 to offset a portion of their costs.

[Learn more](#)

Why restrictions are needed

Albertans have a responsibility to slow the virus's spread and make sure the health system can continue supporting patients with COVID-19 and many other needs.

There is a time lag between when people get infected and when new cases are identified. This means the cases we see today were infected up to 2 weeks ago.

We must work together to protect each other. The greater the community spread, the more likely it will infect our loved ones [most at-risk of severe outcomes](#), including death.

What else you should do

Continue following existing public health measures to keep everyone safe:

- Stay 2 metres apart from others
- Wear a mask in public spaces, indoor workplaces and places of worship
- Practice good hygiene: wash your hands often and cover coughs and sneezes
- [Monitor your symptoms](#) every day
- If sick, stay home, get tested, and follow [mandatory isolation requirements](#) while waiting for results:
 - if positive, isolate for 10 days or until symptoms are gone, whichever is longer
 - if negative, stay home until you're better
- Download and use the [ABTraceTogether contact tracing app](#) when out in public

Enforcement

If you violate a [public health order](#), you may be subject to a \$1,000 fine. Additionally, you can be prosecuted for up to \$100,000 for a first offense.

If you are concerned someone is not following public health orders, you can:

- remind them that not following orders is against the law and puts people at risk
- request service from AHS public health inspectors online or call [1-833-415-9179](tel:1-833-415-9179)

[Submit a request online](#)

News

COVID-19 Vaccines in the Workplace (/news/2021/01/covid-19-vaccines-workplace/)

Jan. 28, 2021 (Jan. 28, 2021, 6 a.m.) in COVID-19 (/news/categories/covid-19/), News (/news/categories/news/), Seminars/Educational Leadership (/news/categories/seminars/)

by Lauren Chalaturnyk (https://www.rmr.com/people/chalaturnyk/)

As the COVID-19 vaccine begins to roll out across Alberta, employers may be wondering how vaccinations will be managed in the workplace.

While this is a new issue that has yet to be tested in the courts or tribunals, there are guiding principles that employers should keep in mind when considering how to implement a vaccination policy in their workplace.

Because COVID-19 presents such a serious health risk, employers must ensure that they are providing a safe and healthy work environment in accordance with their obligations under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. To date, this has included measures such as increased PPE in the workplace.

physical barriers, and physical distancing measures.

However, with the introduction of vaccines, health and safety obligations must be balanced with an employee's reasonable expectation of privacy and their rights under the *Alberta Human Rights Act*. Making a vaccine mandatory for employees is a significant invasion of their bodily autonomy and employers must remain mindful of that fact.

In determining how to manage vaccines in the workplace, employers should consider the following:

1. Any vaccination requirement should be clearly set out in a policy. We recommend that employers start considering what this policy should look like now, so that it is ready and employees have received plenty of notice before vaccines are available to the general public in late 2021.
2. Employers can make vaccines mandatory but must provide for some exemptions or exceptions where an employee cannot receive the vaccine on the basis of a protected ground in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* (i.e. disability). Exemptions might include unpaid leaves of absence, alternative work arrangements such as working from home, or provision of additional PPE for workers who cannot be vaccinated.
3. Employers should consider the nature of their workplace and whether mandatory vaccinations are necessary to achieve their obligations under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. If there are less invasive options that still meet those obligations, those should be considered before making vaccination mandatory.
4. The steps an employer can take when an employee refuses to get vaccinated will depend on why the employee has refused to be vaccinated. In almost all cases, termination should be avoided.
5. Employees can be required to provide medical information in relation to vaccinations or refusals to be vaccinated. However, any medical information collected by an employer is subject to strict requirements under privacy legislation and should be carefully collected and managed.
6. If an employer has made vaccination mandatory in the workplace and an employee suffers an adverse reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine, that employer is unlikely to be liable for that adverse reaction.

These are just some of the issues and principles that employers should take into consideration when determining how to manage COVID-19 vaccines in the workplace. While this issue is complex and ever-evolving, employers can position themselves to mitigate against many of the risks associated with vaccinations in the workplace if they start considering their policies and procedures now.

To learn more, join us for a complimentary webcast on February 18: [COVID-19 Vaccines and the Workplace: Your Questions Answered](#)

(<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/2965558/1DACB7A02287F4AFEECBB133544B4D5E>). Our panel will go deeper and answer your questions. This is the fourth instalment of our series *Managing COVID-19 as an Employer in Alberta*.

Any policy, and its implementation, should be tailored to address specific workplace circumstances, which will vary from employer to employer. Please feel free to contact any member of our [employment team \(https://www.rmrf.com/areas-of-law/labour-employment/\)](https://www.rmrf.com/areas-of-law/labour-employment/) to address issues of specific concern in your workplace.

This post is meant to provide information only and is not intended to provide legal advice. Although every effort has been made to provide current and accurate information, changes to the law may cause the information in this post to be outdated.

[← Previous \(/news/2021/01/covid-19-vaccines-and-workplace-your-questions-ans/\)](#)

[Next → \(/news/2021/02/rmrf-assists-launching-first-inuit-language-tv/\)](#)

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January 27, 2021

Honourable Premier Kenney
Alberta Premier

Email: premier@gov.ab.ca

Dear Honourable Premier Kenney,

Thank you for your response to our letter regarding our position on the handling of COVID-19 restrictions. We appreciate the tenuous position the government is in when making decisions surrounding the containment of COVID-19.

The MD of Spirit River appreciates the importance of preserving life, however we also recognize that the loss of lives during the shutdown will not be limited to those who die from COVID-19.

The aftermath of the lockdown as identified in the paper *COVID-19: Rethinking the Lockdown Groupthink*, by Ari R Joffe MD, FRCPC with the Stollery Hospital, clearly outlines the massive cost both financially and to human lives if we continue with the lockdowns.

In the paper Joffe states, "... lockdowns are far more harmful to human health than COVID-19 can be." We have attached a copy of his paper.

There are numerous other Physicians and papers, including the Great Barrington Declaration (gbdeclaration.org), a statement written by three public health experts from Harvard, Stanford and Oxford, that back the findings of Joffe.

Our council wishes to publicly state that we support the governments steps to reopening the economy and choosing a balanced approach to ensure a quick return to our economy and our wellbeing. We commend the leadership role you are taking.

Sincerely,

Tony Van Rootselaar, Reeve
Municipal District of Spirit River

Cc: Honourable Tyler Shandro Minister of Health
Honourable Nate Glubish, Minister of Service Alberta
Honourable Doug Schweitzer, Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation
Todd Loewen, MLA Central Peace Notley
Dan Williams, MLA Peace River

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Subject: M.D of Spirit River No. 133 - Letter to Premier Kenney RE: COVID-19 Lockdowns

Good afternoon all,

For your perusal, please find attached a letter from Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 to the Honourable Premier Jason Kenney regarding the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns on Albertans, as well as a paper published by Ari R Joffe, MD, FRCPC with the Stollery Hospital.

Thank you,

Montana Kuhar

Executive Assistant

Municipal District of Spirit River #133

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Rethinking the Lockdown Groupthink

COVID-19: Rethinking the Lockdown Groupthink

Author: Ari R Joffe MD, FRCPC*

Affiliation: Department of Pediatrics, Division of Critical Care Medicine, University of Alberta and Stollery Children's Hospital, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; John Dossetor Health Ethics Center, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

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Keywords: Cost-benefit analysis; COVID-19; Groupthink; Lockdowns; Public Health

Abstract: The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has caused the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) worldwide pandemic in 2020. In response, most countries in the world implemented lockdowns, restricting their population's movements, work, education, gatherings, and general activities in attempt to 'flatten the curve' of COVID-19 cases. The public health goal of lockdowns was to save the population from COVID-19 cases and deaths, and to prevent overwhelming health care systems with COVID-19 patients. In this narrative review I explain why I changed my mind about supporting lockdowns. First, I explain how the initial modeling predictions induced fear and crowd-effects [i.e., groupthink]. Second, I summarize important information that has emerged relevant to the modeling, including about infection fatality rate, high-risk groups, herd immunity thresholds, and exit strategies. Third, I describe how reality started sinking in, with information on significant collateral damage due to the response to the pandemic, and information placing the number of deaths in context and perspective. Fourth, I present a cost-benefit analysis of the response to COVID-19 that finds lockdowns are far more harmful to public health than COVID-19 can be. Controversies and objections about the main points made are considered and addressed. I close with some suggestions for moving forward.

Rethinking the Lockdown Groupthink

Introduction

The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) initially caused Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in China in December 2019, and has caused a worldwide pandemic in 2020. In response, most countries in the world implemented lockdowns, restricting their population's movements, work, education, gatherings, and general activities in attempt to 'flatten the curve' of COVID-19 cases. Even now, as the so-called 'second-wave' of COVID-19 cases is occurring, governments are considering and some implementing another lockdown to again 'flatten the curve'. The public health goal of lockdowns is to save the population from COVID-19 cases and deaths, and to prevent overwhelming health care systems with COVID-19 patients. I was a strong proponent of lockdowns when the pandemic was first declared.¹

In this narrative review I explain why I changed my mind. First, I explain how the initial modeling predictions induced fear and crowd-effects [i.e., groupthink]. Second, I summarize important information that has emerged relevant to the modeling. Third, I describe how reality started sinking in, with information on significant collateral damage from the response to the pandemic, and on the number of deaths in context. Fourth, I present a cost-benefit analysis of the response to COVID-19. I close with some suggestions for moving forward.

An important point must be emphasized. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused much morbidity and mortality. This morbidity and mortality have been, and continue to be, tragic.

1. The initial predictions induce fear

1.1 How it started: modelling

Early modeling made concerning predictions that induced fear (Table 1). Kissler et al. predicted the need for intermittent lockdowns occurring for a total of 75% of the time, even after July 2022, to avoid "overwhelming critical care capacity."^{2,4} In their discussion they wrote that the response "is likely to have profoundly negative economic, social, and educational consequences... We do not take a position on the advisability of these scenarios given the economic burden...."² On March 16, 2020, the Imperial College COVID-19 Response Team published modelling of the impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI) to reduce COVID-19 mortality and healthcare demand in the United States (US) and United Kingdom (UK).⁵ They wrote that suppression "needs to be in force for the majority [>2/3 of the time] of the 2 years of the simulation," without which there would be 510,000 deaths in Great Britain and 2.2 million deaths in the United States by mid-April, surpassing ICU demand by 30 times.⁵ In their discussion they wrote that "we do not consider the ethical or economic implications [page 4]... The social and economic effects of the measures which are needed to achieve this policy goal will be profound [page 16]...."⁵ The Imperial College COVID-19 Response Team extended this to the global impact of the pandemic on March 26, 2020,⁶ and estimated that without lockdowns there would be "7.0 billion infections and 40 million deaths globally this year."⁶ In their discussion they wrote "we do not consider the wider social and economic costs of suppression, which will be high and may be disproportionately so in lower income settings."⁶ In a later publication, this group modeled that "across 11 countries [in Europe], since the beginning of the epidemic [to May 4], 3,100,000 (2,800,000 – 3,500,000) deaths have been averted due to [NPI] interventions...."⁷ Another group similarly claimed that, in 5 countries [China, South Korea, Iran, France, US], NPIs "prevented or delayed [to April 6] on the order of 62 million confirmed cases."⁸

Rethinking the Lockdown Groupthink

1.2 How it took off: Crowd Effects [Groupthink]

There ensued a contagion of fear and policies across the world.⁹⁻¹² Social media spread a growing sense of panic.¹³ Popular media focused on absolute numbers of COVID-19 cases and deaths independent of context, with a “sheer one-sided focus” on preventing infection.¹² There was an appeal of group hysteria; “everyone got a break from their ambitions and other burdens carried in normal life”, and became united in crowds, which have a numbing effect.⁹ There was talk of “acting together against a common threat”, “about seeming to reduce risks of infection and deaths from this one particular disease, to the exclusion of all other health risks or other life concerns”, with virtue signaling to the crowd, of “something they love to hate and be seen to fight against.”⁹ A war effort analogy is apt, with the “unquestioning presumption that the cause is right, that the fight will be won, that naysayers and non-combatants [e.g., not wearing a mask] are basically traitors, and that there are technical solutions [e.g., vaccine and drugs] that will quickly overcome any apparent problem or collateral damage.”⁹ This was associated with a “disregard and disinterest on the part of individuals in the enormity of the collateral damage, either to their own kids, people in other countries, their own futures....”⁹ The crisis was framed as a “war against an invisible enemy,” presenting the false choice between “lives and livelihood,” spreading fear and anxiety while ignoring the costs of the measures taken - this resulted in conformity and obedience.^{12,13} There has been a strong positive association between new daily and total confirmed COVID-19 cases in a country and support for the heads of government, reflecting the “rally ‘round the flag’” effect [“the perception that one’s group is under attack and hence unity is required to defend the group”].¹⁴

The NPIs spread to ~80% of OECD countries within a 2-week period in March 2020.¹⁵ A main predictor of a country implementing NPIs was prior adoptions of a policy among spatially proximate countries, i.e., the number of earlier adopters in the same region.¹⁵ Variables not predicting adoption of NPIs included the number of cases or deaths, population >65 years old, or hospital beds per capita in the country.¹⁵ It seems we were all “stuck in this emotional elevation of COVID-19 deaths and suffering above everything else that could possibly matter.”¹⁶ There was the unquestioned assumption that “there were and are no alternatives to extreme measures implemented on entire populations with little consideration of cost and consequences [externalities].”¹⁰ Even now, how a country ‘performed’ is measured by COVID-19 cases and deaths without denominators, without other causes of deaths considered, without considering overall population health trade-offs “that cannot be wished away” [e.g., the future of our children from lack of education and social interaction, and “changes to our wealth-generating capacity that has to pay for future policies”],⁹ and without considering how sustainable current policies are [protection is temporary and leaves us susceptible; “there is no exit from the pandemic; there is only an exit from the response to it”¹⁰].

All of this, even though in October 2019 the WHO published that for any future Influenza pandemic: travel-related measures are “unlikely to be successful... are likely to have prohibitive economic consequences”; “[measures] not recommended in any circumstances: contact tracing, quarantine of exposed individuals, border closure”; social distancing measures [closures of workplace, avoiding crowding and closing public areas] “can be highly disruptive, and the cost of these measures must be weighed against their potential impact”; and “border closures may be considered only by small island nations in severe pandemics... but must be weighed against potentially serious economic consequences.”¹⁷ Referring to the 2009 influenza pandemic, Bonneux and Van Damme wrote that “the culture of fear” meant that “worst-case thinking replaced balanced risk assessment” on the part of influenza “experts”.¹⁸ But “the modern disease expert knows a lot about the disease in question, but does not necessarily know much about general public health, health economics, health policy, or public

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policy, which are much more about priority setting and hence resource allocation between competing priorities [because resources are limited, wise allocation saves lives]."¹⁹

Some of this crowd effect is related to cognitive biases, "the triumph of deeply human instincts over optimal policy."²⁰ Identifiable lives bias included the identifiable victim effect [we ignore hidden 'statistical' deaths reported at the population level], and identifiable cause effect [we prioritize efforts to save lives from a known cause even if more lives would be saved through alternative responses]. Present bias made us prefer immediate benefits to even larger benefits in the future [steps that would prevent more deaths over the longer term are less attractive].²⁰⁻²² The proximity and vividness of COVID-19 cases (i.e., availability and picture superiority bias), and anchoring bias [we adhere to our initial hypothesis, and disregard evidence that disproves our favorite theory] affected our reasoning.^{21,23} Superstitious bias, that action is better than non-action even when evidence is lacking, reduced anxiety.¹² Escalation of commitment bias, investing more resources into a set course of action even in the face of evidence there are better options, made us stand by prior decisions.²⁴ We need to take an "effortful pause", reflecting on aspects of the pandemic that don't fit with our first impressions.²⁵ The groupthink ["the tendency for groups to let the desire for harmony and conformity prevail, resulting in dysfunctional decision-making processes... becoming less willing to alter their course of action once they settle on it"] needs to be replaced by deliberative consideration of all the relevant information.²⁴

2. Important New Information Emerging

2.1 The Infection Fatality Rate (IFR)

Based on seroprevalence data as of September 9, 2020, including 82 estimates from across 51 locations in the world, Ioannidis found that the median corrected IFR was 0.23% [range 0.00 to 1.54%].²⁶ Among those <70 years old the median crude and corrected IFR was 0.05% [range 0.00 to 0.31%]. He estimated that for those <45 years old the IFR was almost 0%, 45-70 years old about 0.05-0.30%, and ≥70 years old ≥1%, rising to up to 25% for some frail elderly people in nursing homes.²⁷ He estimated that at that point there were likely 150-300 million infections that had occurred in the world, not the reported 13 million, most being asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic.^{26,27} The WHO recently estimated that about 10% of the global population may have been already infected, which, with a world population of 7.8 billion, and 1.16 million deaths, would make a rough approximation of IFR as 0.15%.²⁸

Even these numbers are most likely a large *over-estimate* of the IFR. First, in serosurveys the vulnerable [e.g., homeless, imprisoned, institutionalized, disadvantaged people], who have higher COVID-19 incidence, are more difficult to recruit. Second, there is likely a healthy volunteer bias in serosurvey studies. Third, and most importantly, there is a lack of sensitivity of serology.²⁹⁻³⁴ Many reports now document there is often a rapid loss of antibody in COVID-19 patients that were less severely ill.²⁹⁻³⁶ Moreover, at least 10% of COVID-19 patients never seroconvert, and many more may only develop a mucosal IgA response,^{37,38} or only a T-cell response [which may be the case in up to 50% of mild infections].^{39,40} Finally, most data come from unusual epicenters where "infection finds its way into killing predominantly elderly citizens" in nursing homes and hospitals,²⁶ and where "[in Italy, Spain, France] an underfunded, understaffed, overstretched and increasingly privatized and fractured healthcare system contribute to higher mortality rates... [Lombardy] has long been an experimental site for healthcare privatization."¹⁰ With "precise non-pharmacological measures that selectively try to protect high-risk vulnerable populations and settings, the IFR may be brought even lower."²⁶

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A serology-informed estimate of the IFR in Geneva, Switzerland put the IFR at: age 5-9 years 0.0016% (95% CrI 0, 0.019), 10-19 years 0.00032% (95% CrI 0, 0.0033), 20-49 years 0.0092% (95% CrI 0.0042, 0.016), 50-64 years 0.14% (95% CrI 0.096, 0.19), and age 65+ outside of assisted care facilities 2.7% (95% CrI 1.6, 4.6), for an overall population IFR 0.32% (95% CrI 0.17, 0.56).⁴¹ Similarly, a large study from France found an inflection point in IFR around the age of 70 years [see their Figure 2D].⁴²

2.2 High-risk groups

Ioannidis et al. analyzed reported deaths from epicenters, in 14 countries and 13 states in the United States, to June 17, 2020.⁴³ They found that in those age <65 years the relative risk of death was 30-100X lower in Europe and Canada, and 16-52X lower in the USA, compared to those ≥65 years old.⁴³ They estimated that those age 40-65 years old have double the risk of the overall <65 year old group, and females have 2X lower risk than males.⁴³ This is compatible with a steep inflection point in the IFR around the age of 70 years old. Older adults in nursing homes accounted for at least half of the COVID-19 deaths in Europe and North America, and over 80% in Canada.^{44,45} In nursing homes the usual median survival is ~2.2 years, with a yearly mortality rate >30%, even without COVID-19.⁴⁶ Outbreaks of the seasonal respiratory coronavirus in adults living in long-term care facilities are common, with case-fatality rates of 8%.⁴⁷ Ioannidis et al estimated that the average daily risk of COVID-19 death for an individual <65 years old was equivalent to the risk from driving between 12-82 miles/day during the pandemic period, higher in the UK and 8 states [106-483 miles/day], and only 14 miles/day in Canada.⁴³

By far the most important risk factor is older age.⁴¹⁻⁴³ There is a ~1000 fold difference in death risk for people >80 years old versus children.⁴³ In the largest observational study I am aware of, the OpenSAFELY population in the UK, including over 17 million people with 10,900 COVID-19 deaths, compared to those age 50-59 years old, the Hazard Ratio for death from COVID-19 ranged from 0.06 for those age 18-39 years, to >10 for those age >80 years.⁴⁸ In comparison, even important co-morbidities such as severe obesity, uncontrolled diabetes, recent cancer, chronic respiratory or cardiac or kidney disease, and stroke or dementia rarely had HR approaching ≥2.⁴⁸ Those co-morbidities with HR>2, including hematological malignancy, severe chronic kidney disease, and organ transplant, affected only 0.3%, 0.5%, and 0.4% of the total population.⁴⁸

A rapid systematic review found that only age had a “consistent and high strength association with hospitalization and death from COVID-19... strongest in people older than 65 years....”⁴⁹ Other risk groups for mortality had either a low-moderate effect [obesity, diabetes mellites, male biological sex, ethnicity, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, COPD, asthma, kidney disease, cancer] and/or were inconsistently found to have an effect in the literature [obesity, diabetes mellites, pregnancy, ethnicity, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, COPD, kidney disease].⁴⁹ Even with these risk factors, the absolute risk may still be low, given the overall IFR in the population at that age.

2.3 Objection: Is This Age Discrimination?

An objection may be that singling out the elderly as high risk is age discrimination. This is false on two counts. First, pointing out the truly high-risk group is the elderly is only emphasizing that this is the group that requires protection from severe COVID-19 outcomes. Second, as Singer has pointed out, “what medical treatment does, if successful, is prolong lives. Successfully treating a disease that kills children and young adults is, other things being equal, likely to lead to a greater prolongation, and thus do more good, than successfully treating a disease that kills people in the 70’s, 80’s, and 90’s.”⁵⁰ In fact, when we try to stay healthy “what we are trying to do is to live as long as we can, compatibly with

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having a positive quality of life for the years that remain to us. If life is a good, then, other things being equal, it is better to have more of it rather than less.”⁵⁰ We should count every quality adjusted life year equally, whether it is in the life of a teenager or a 90-year old.^{50,51} This was also the conclusion of “The Fair Priority Model” for global vaccine allocation, prioritizing preventing premature death using a standard expected years of life lost metric.⁵²

Different from discrimination such as racism [“no one who is black was ever white”), in this case “everyone who is old was once young”, i.e., there is an impartial age-neutral perspective from which we can all see that it is in everyone’s interests to save the lives of younger people.⁵¹ In a thought-experiment, Singer asks us to imagine that you have just become a parent, at some stage in your child’s life she is likely to be infected with a dangerous virus, and her chances of being infected and dying from the infection are the same in any year of her life. Now imagine that curative drug A, effective if <40 years old, and drug B, effective if >40 years old, are so costly that the government cannot afford both to be produced. Which drug should be produced? It is clearly contrary to your child’s interests to vote for drug B: this would increase her risk of dying before her 40th birthday; to improve her chances of living a longer life, we vote for drug A.⁵¹

Veil of ignorance reasoning is a widely respected and transparent standard for adjudicating claims of fairness. A fair distribution of resources is said to be one that people would choose out of self-interest, without knowing whom among those affected they will be: what would I want if I didn’t know who I was going to be? In an experimental study participants were asked to decide whether to give the last available ventilator in their hospital to the 65 year old who arrived first and is already being prepped for the ventilator, or the 25 year old who arrived moments later, assuming whoever is saved will live to age 80 years old. In the veil of ignorance condition, the participant was asked to “imagine that you have a 50% chance of being the older patient, and 50% the younger.”⁵³ Asked if “it is morally acceptable to give the last ventilator to the younger patient”, 67% in the veil of ignorance condition vs. 53% in control answered ‘yes’ (odds ratio 1.69; 95% CI 1.12, 2.57); compared to younger age participants (18-30 years), older participants (odds ratio 3.98) and middle age participants (odds ratio 2.02) were more likely to agree.⁵³ Asked if “you want the doctor to give the ventilator to the younger patient”, 77% answered ‘yes’, maximizing the number of life-years saved rather than the number of lives saved.⁵³

2.4 The Herd Immunity Threshold

The classical herd immunity level is calculated based on the basic reproduction number (R_0) as $(1 - 1/R_0)$, and is the proportion of the population that must be immune to a virus before the effective reproduction number (R_e) is <1, and thus the virus cannot perpetuate itself in the population. This calculation assumes a homogeneously mixing population, where all are equally susceptible and infectious. For R_0 2.5, the threshold is ~60% of the population. However, the assumption is not valid, as there is heterogeneity in social mixing and connectivity, with higher and lower levels of activity and contacts. One model incorporating heterogeneity of social mixing found the threshold, for R_0 2.5, to be 43%, and likely lower as other heterogeneity in the population was not modelled [e.g., sizes of households, attending school or big workplaces, metropolitan versus rural location, protecting the elderly, etc.].⁵⁴ A model that incorporated variation in connectivity compatible with other infectious diseases found that for R_0 3, the threshold is 10-25% of the population developing immunity.⁵⁵ Another model that “fit epidemiological models with inbuilt distributions of susceptibility or exposure to SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks” calculated “herd immunity thresholds around 10-20% [because]... immunity induced by infection... [contrary to random vaccination] is naturally selective.”⁵⁶ In support of this heterogeneity,

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it is now known that there is overdispersion of transmission of SARS-CoV-2, with 80% of secondary infections arising from just ~10% of infected people.⁵⁷⁻⁵⁹

2.5 Objection: consider Sweden

It has been claimed that Sweden's strategy of achieving herd immunity failed, with excess deaths and a suffering economy. However, that is not clear. First, cases and deaths fell consistently in later July/August, with deaths continuing at a very low level into October despite no lockdown.⁶⁰ Second, serosurveys in mid-July found 14.4% of the population may be seropositive; thus, with 5761 deaths as of August 1, in a population of 10.23 million, the crude IFR may have been 0.39%, and even lower considering the sensitivity of serology discussed above.⁶¹ Early on, Sweden did not adequately protect those in nursing homes, a failing that also inflates the IFR.⁶² The excess all-cause mortality per 100,000 up to July 25, 2020 in Sweden was 50.8, lower than in England and Wales, Spain, Italy, Scotland, Belgium, Netherlands, France, and the US.^{62,63} Third, in a globalized world, with entangled webs of supply, demand, and beliefs, "what we do here will devastate people not just here, but also elsewhere and everywhere."⁶⁴ Compared to Denmark, with an economy heavily dependent on pharmaceuticals, Sweden's recession looks bad. However, compared to the European Union, Sweden looks good; the European Commission forecasts a better 2020 economic result for Sweden (GDP -5.3%) than many other comparable European countries (e.g., France -10.6%, Finland -6.3%, Austria -7.1%, Germany -6.3%, Netherlands -6.8%, Italy -11.2%, Denmark -5.2%).⁶⁵

2.6 The Exit Strategy

Herd immunity appears to be the only exit from the response to COVID-19. This can be achieved naturally, or through vaccine. For the reasons given here, it is very possible that the lockdowns are only delaying the inevitable.

There are problems with the natural herd immunity approach involving the currently projected and implemented waves of lockdowns. First, this will take years to occur, causing economic and social devastation. This also assumes immunity is long-lasting such that cycles of shutting down can be successful over 2 or 3 years, and without which it is more likely COVID-19 will be an annual occurrence.² Second, the less devastating test-trace-isolation/quarantine strategy seems not feasible. In the United States it was estimated that there would be a need to train an extra 100,000 public health workers, and to do >5 million SARS-CoV-2 tests per day, necessitating the building of many new very large testing factories.⁶⁶ Countries would still need to keep borders closed and maintain physical distancing (e.g., no large events) in order to make contact tracing feasible; this would be for years, during which people may become very reluctant to be tested. Modeling suggests that to be successful, because asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic individuals may account for 48-62% of transmission (even in nursing home residents),⁶⁷ contact tracing and quarantine would have to occur within 0.5 days for >75% of contacts, necessitating mobile app technology that has its own feasibility and ethical problems.⁶⁸⁻⁷⁰

Vaccine induced herd immunity involves many assumptions. First, there will be the discovery of an effective and safe vaccine that does not cause antibody-dependent (or other immune) enhancement; this, even though the problem in severe COVID-19 may be the host response, especially in the elderly and children.⁷¹⁻⁷³ Second, the immune response will be durable, not last for only months, and have little immunosenescence [reduced response to vaccine with rapid decline of antibody levels] in the elderly.^{72,74} Third, that mass production and delivery of the vaccine will occur very soon, and be done equitably to all humans on Earth; otherwise, there is the risk of conflict, war, and terrorism in response

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to gross inequity in vaccine distribution.⁵² In response to the 2009 pandemic of H1N1 Influenza the United States achieved a weekly vaccination rate of only 1% of the population.⁷² Vaccine refusers may include 30% of the population in North America and globally,^{72,75} and if they have “increased contact rates relative to the rest of the population, vaccination alone may not be able to prevent an outbreak.”⁷² There is already competition among high income countries, and likely crowding out of low-income countries that represent about half of the human population.⁷⁶ The only globally eradicated human disease is smallpox, which took “30 years to achieve”, and the “fastest historical development of a [new] vaccine was 4 years (Merck: mumps), while most take 10 years.”⁷⁷

3. Reality Sinking In

3.1 Iatrogenic Collateral Harms: lockdown as a ‘drug’ with dangerous side-effects when its use is prolonged

The COVID-19 response has threatened to make, and likely has already made, several Sustainable Development Goals for the most vulnerable among us in low-income countries out of reach.⁷⁸⁻⁸² The numbers involved are staggering, and in the many millions (Table 2). The response has had major detrimental effects on childhood vaccination programs, education, sexual and reproductive health services, food security, poverty, maternal and under five mortality, and infectious disease mortality.⁷⁸⁻⁹³ The effect on child and adolescent health will “set the stage for both individual prosperity and the future human capital of all societies.”⁹⁴ The destabilizing effects may lead to chaotic events (e.g., riots, wars, revolutions).^{95,96}

In high-income countries, the collateral damage has also been staggering (Table 3), affecting visits to emergency departments and primary care for acute (e.g., myocardial infarction, stroke) and ‘non-urgent’ (‘elective’ surgery, and cancer diagnosis and treatment) conditions, intimate partner violence, deaths of despair, and mental health.^{12,97-112} Of excess deaths occurring during the pandemic in high-income countries, 20-50% are not due to COVID-19.^{62,113-115} There was an unexplained 83% increase of 10,000 excess deaths from dementia in England/Wales in April, and an increase in non-COVID-19 Alzheimer disease/dementia deaths in the US, attributed to lack of social contact causing a deterioration in health and wellbeing of these patients.^{115,116}

COVID-19 “Is a disease of inequality and it also creates even more inequality.”⁹⁵ Unequal structural determinants of health meant that disadvantaged minorities have experienced a greater toll from the COVID-19 “Great Lockdown”,¹¹⁷ with contributors including lower income (e.g., economic and job insecurity), homelessness or crowding at home (and in transportation), worse health care (and pre-existing health disparities), and inability to work from home (e.g., for essential, manual, and temporary workers).^{45,95,118,119} COVID-19 policing has involved “racial profiling and violence, crippling punishments for those living in poverty, and criminalization of mental health.”¹²⁰ Refugees are particularly vulnerable, undertaking “arguably the most essential form of travel... with little access to water, space or health care.”¹²⁰ The effect on the health of women and girls is particularly severe, disproportionately affecting sexual and reproductive health services, income, and safety.^{121,122}

3.2 Numbers in Context

Numbers without denominators and without context are deceiving. Some data in this section may put the COVID-19 pandemic numbers in perspective.

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Assuming all deaths *with* COVID-19 are deaths *from* COVID-19, in the USA as of August 22, 2020, COVID-19 was the cause of 9.24% of overall deaths; this means that >90% of deaths are not a focus of our attention (ETable 1, see Additional file 1).¹²³ Similarly, in Canada, COVID-19 was the cause of 5.96% of estimated deaths over the first 6 months of 2020, again meaning >94% of deaths are not a focus of our attention, and not being reported daily in the press as are COVID-19 deaths (ETable 2, see Additional file 1).^{124,125} A similar analysis in the UK found that, during 16 weeks of the pandemic, the risk of death was “equivalent to experiencing around 5 weeks extra ‘normal’ risk for those over [age] 55, decreasing steadily with age, to just 2 extra days for schoolchildren... [and in those] over 55 who are [detected as] infected with COVID-19, the additional risk of dying is slightly more than the ‘normal’ risk of death from all other causes over one year.”¹²⁶

Across the world in 2019 there were 58,394,000 deaths, >4.87 million deaths/month and >159,983 deaths/day; COVID-19 deaths are shown relative to these underlying deaths in Table 4.^{127,128} The number of deaths is highly unequal, with far more deaths at earlier ages in low-income countries and Sub-Saharan Africa.¹²⁷ If all countries were to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of Under 5 Mortality Rate <25 deaths/1000 by 2030, from the year 2015 this would avert 12.8 million deaths.¹²⁹ From 2000-2017, if all units had an Under 5 Mortality Rate that matched the best performing unit in each respective country, this would have averted 58% of deaths in those under 5 years, that is, 71.8 (68.5 to 74.9) million deaths.¹³⁰ A realistic projection was that if the pandemic takes 5 years for “full cycling”, 60% of the global population is infected, and the IFR is 0.19%, COVID-19 will account for 2.9% of global deaths. If only 10% of the high-risk population are infected, COVID-19 will account for 0.6% of global deaths over 5-years.⁹⁵

Some causes of death in the world are given in Table 5; COVID-19 deaths (~3500/day up to September 4, 2020) are also shown.¹³¹⁻¹⁴³ For example, there are an estimated 4110 deaths/day from Tuberculosis,¹³³ 3699 deaths/day from motor vehicle collisions,¹³¹ 21,918 deaths/day due to use of tobacco,¹³² >3400 deaths/day from Under 5 cases of pneumonia or diarrhea,^{137,138} and 30,137 deaths per day from dietary risk factors.¹³⁹ The WHO has estimated that if all people would adopt a vegan diet this would avert 13.7 M (95% CI 7.9, 19.4) deaths by 2030.⁸⁴ Some of these deaths are preventable if we were to take appropriate action, and some we as a society have decided we are willing to accept in trade-off for our freedom and wellbeing.

4. An Informed Cost-Benefit Analysis of Lockdowns

4.1 The Corona Dilemma

The economist Paul Frijters has asked us to consider “The Corona Dilemma” (Figure 1a and 1b) modelled after the so-called “Trolley Problem” in philosophy.¹⁴⁴ He asks us to imagine “you are the decision maker who can pull the lever on the train tracks to avoid the coming train from going straight.”¹⁴⁴ Our options are to divert the train or not. “If you do not divert the train – you are letting the virus rage unchecked [i.e., COVID-19 deaths].”¹⁴⁴ On the other hand, “if you pull the lever – the diverted train will put whole countries into isolation, destroying many international industries and thus affecting the livelihood of billions, which through reduced government services and general prosperity will cost tens of millions of lives [i.e., COVID-19 reaction].”¹⁴⁴ The world pulled the lever, and the unintended health consequences of these measures did not play a part in modelling or policy.

4.2 Cost-Benefit Analysis

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Medical and Public Health experts are not expert in this type of analysis.^{18,19} Health resources are finite. We all take health risks to ensure a better future for ourselves, family, children, and society. "Wellbeing of the population is the ultimate goal of government."^{145,146} To compare outcomes of policies we need a common single metric of measurement to weigh trade-offs and make rational decisions. The goal is to maximize the sum of years lived by the population,⁵² weighted by the health quality of those years [i.e., Quality Adjusted Life Years, QALY] or the wellbeing quality of those years [i.e., Wellbeing Years, WELLBY]. The QALY misses some important things that are valued by individuals, including joy, status, and things that give fulfillment like jobs. The WELLBY measures the value of anything that makes life enjoyable, and captures almost everything that is important to people. It is measured by life satisfaction, asking "overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?" and rated on a Likert Scale from 0 ["not at all"] to 10 ["completely"]; the usual healthy level is '8', and those indifferent between living on or not at all score '2' – 1 regular year of happy life (1 QALY) is worth 6 WELLBY.^{145,146} Despite some limitations, cost and benefit should be measured in terms of human welfare in the form of length, quality, and wellbeing of lives, and "to make no assessment is just to make policy in a vacuum."¹⁴⁷

First, consider the benefits of lockdown, preventing COVID-19 deaths. Using the age distribution of deaths and comorbidities, in the UK the average person who died due to COVID-19 had 3-5 healthy years left to live; that is, 3-5 QALY, or 18-30 WELLBY.^{95,144,147} This number was even lower in Italy.¹⁴⁴ We can calculate that lockdowns 'saved': 50% infected to herd immunity X 0.3% IFR X 7.8 Billion people X 5 QALY lost per death = 11.7 million deaths, 58.5 million QALY, or 360 million WELLBY. The number is likely much lower than this for several reasons: it is likely <40% to herd immunity, the IFR is likely <0.24%, some deaths would occur even with lockdowns [that might prevent at most 70% of deaths; in Sweden it was estimated lockdown could have prevented one-third of deaths],¹⁴⁸ with focus on retirement and nursing homes we might avoid many of the excess deaths, and we cannot stay locked down forever [if no 'exit strategy' exists, then lockdown is not really a 'strategy'¹⁰]. A more realistic number is at least 2X lower, well fewer than 5.2 million deaths 'saved'. It is also worth mentioning that the efficacy of lockdown has been questioned in several studies, reducing the benefit of lockdown potentially markedly further (ETable 3, see Additional file 1).¹⁴⁹⁻¹⁵⁵

Second, consider the costs of lockdown.^{144,156-158} An important point must be made here. We are not comparing COVID-19 deaths vs. economy as prosperity. Rather, it is COVID-19 deaths vs. recession deaths – it's lives versus lives, as the economy is about lives. "It's horrible either way... [we're] advocating for the least people to die as possible."¹⁵⁹

Expected costs of the recession in lives can be calculated based on two methods. One uses historical evidence of a strong long-run relation between government spending [economic development] and life expectancy.^{144,156-158} Government expenditures on healthcare, education, roads, sanitation, housing, nutrition, vaccines, safety, social security nets, clean energy, and other services determines the population wellbeing and life-expectancy.¹⁴⁴ If the public system is forced to spend less money on our children's future, there are statistical lives lost [people will die in the years to come]. The social determinants of health, including conditions of early childhood, education, work, social circumstances of elders, community resilience (transportation, housing, security), and fairness (economic security) determine lifespan.¹⁶⁰ As a general rule, US\$10K/year GDP buys an additional 10 years of life, so in a life of 75 years, US\$750K buys 10 years in life expectancy = US\$75K/QALY.^{144,156-158} This is a maximum cost; in India US\$25K/QALY is appropriate [most effect occurs for vulnerable and marginalized groups].¹⁴⁴ The other method is based on government numbers that are used to estimate how much health and life expenditures buy. Since the lockdown is a government public health policy, "it is saving lives which is what the lockdown was for... we are treating decisions on how to face COVID-19 in the same way as

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decisions... are made about resources to apply to the treatment of cancer, heart disease, dementia, and diabetes."¹⁴⁷ Based on research on how costly it is to save people from illness (how government services maintain health), in the UK it is US\$20K/QALY, and using consumer willingness to pay it is US\$80K/QALY.¹⁴⁴⁻¹⁴⁶ This again is a maximum cost, as this is for Western countries, who are at least 3X wealthier than the average country in the world; you can save a life in poor countries with US\$2-3K, and lives are saved more cheaply with the first few billions spent.^{144,161} It is estimated that in 2020-2021 the world economy will shrink by at least US\$8-9 trillion (about 6% of GDP), and this will take many years to recover (Figure 2).^{144,156,157,162,163} The loss in terms of GDP will be "easily US\$50 trillion over the coming decade",^{144,156} with lockdowns ordering businesses and workplaces to stop functioning, ports closed, business bankruptcies, and resultant disrupted supply and demand chains.^{64,164,165} We can calculate that the recession resulting from lockdowns 'cost': US\$50 trillion X 40% as government expenditure ÷ US\$100K/QALY = 200 million QALY, or 1.2 billion WELLBY. This is an underestimate, and the actual figure is likely at least 12X higher for several reasons: the number US\$100K/QALY was used when it is far less than this for half the world population residing in low-income countries and may be much lower even in high-income countries, and a conservative estimate of world GDP loss during the pandemic was used, particularly if there is another prolonged period of lockdown.

Another cost of lockdown is the loneliness and anxiety effect on individuals. It is estimated that loneliness from isolation costs 0.5 WELLBY/person/year.^{145,146} If lockdowns last for 2 months to 4 billion people, this results in a cost of 333 million WELLBY.¹⁵⁶ The cost is likely far higher, as this assumes only 2 months of lockdown, and does not include the effect of loneliness on life-span (i.e., early mortality) and disease that occurs particularly to young people.¹⁶⁶⁻¹⁷²

The last cost considered here is the effect of unemployment. It is estimated that unemployment costs 0.7 WELLBY/unemployed person/year.^{145,146} Since it is estimated there will be 400 million additional unemployment years due to the lockdowns, the cost is 280 million WELLBY/year.^{156,173} The cost is likely at least 3X higher, as recovery from unemployment will occur over several years, we do not consider the effect on wellbeing to the families of the unemployed, and we do not consider the effect on deaths of despair in young people or on loss of health insurance.

The effects of loneliness and unemployment on life-expectancy are not considered in the costs above, only the loss of life-satisfaction in WELLBYs. Recent literature has summarized the major effect of individual income, social network index (i.e., integration in a social network), and adverse childhood experiences on life-span, early mortality, risk of chronic diseases (including heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, stroke, cancer, lung disease, Alzheimer's, substance use, depression), and suicide rates.¹⁶⁶⁻¹⁷² Recent financial difficulties, history of unemployment, lower life satisfaction, and history of food insecurity are associated with mortality in the United States.¹⁶⁷ Actual or perceived social isolation is one of the top 3 risk factors for death due to cardiovascular disease, increases risk of death in the next decade by 25-30%, and "risks creating cohorts of individuals who are less socially functional."^{168,174} Unemployment is associated with a mean adjusted hazard ratio for mortality of 1.63.¹⁷⁵ Life stress is associated with development and exacerbation of asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, anxiety disorders, depression, cardiovascular disease, chronic pain, HIV/AIDS, stroke, certain types of cancer, and premature mortality.¹⁷⁶ Especially concerning are the effects on children during "the early years" of life, increasingly recognized as the period of greatest vulnerability to, and greatest return on investment from, preventing adverse long-term outcomes that can have lasting and profound impacts on future quality of life, education, earning potential, lifespan, and healthcare utilization.¹⁶⁹⁻¹⁷² The early years of life are a critical period when a child's brain develops from social interaction and experiences, thus providing the foundation for their entire future life potential. During the pandemic children are being

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exposed to increased intimate partner violence, family financial crises, disrupted education, an increasing achievement gap (i.e., low-income families who do not have access to computer, internet, space, food, and parental support cannot participate in online learning), loneliness, physical inactivity, lack of support services (e.g., school lunches, access to early childhood services and aids for those with disability), etc.^{87,88,104,107,177-179} These adverse childhood experiences have permanent impacts that cannot be compensated for by later improvements in social situations.

The cost-benefit analysis is shown in Table 6, finding on balance the lockdowns cost a minimum of 5X more WELLBY than they save, and more realistically, cost 50-87X more. Importantly, this cost does *not* include the collateral damage discussed above [from disrupted healthcare services, disrupted education, famine, social unrest, violence, and suicide] nor the major effect of loneliness and unemployment on lifespan and disease. Frijters and Krekel have estimated that “the [infection] fatality rate should be about 7.8% to break-even and make a radical containment and eradication policy worthwhile, presuming that would actually eliminate the disease.”¹⁸⁰ A similar cost-benefit analysis for Canada is shown in ETable 4 (see Additional file 1), with the cost at least 10X higher for lockdowns than the benefit. A different analysis for Australia is shown in Table 7, estimating the minimum cost is 6.6X higher than the benefit of lockdown.^{181,182} Another cost-benefit analysis for the UK used National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines for resource decisions, that 1 QALY should cost no more than US\$38.4K. Assuming lockdown could save up to 440K people [although more likely at most: 66.65 million population X 40% to herd immunity X 0.24% IFR = 64K people] of 5 QALY each, and a minimum GDP loss of 9% [i.e., assuming lost output comes back quickly, and not including any health costs of unemployment or disrupted education], “the economic costs of the lockdown... is far larger than annual total expenditure on the UK national health service... the benefits of that level of resources applied to health... would be expected to generate far more lives saved than is plausibly attributable to the lockdown in the UK... The cost per QALY saved of the lockdown looks to be far in excess... (often by a factor of 10 and more) of that considered acceptable for health treatments in the UK.”¹⁴⁷ The authors estimated the benefit of easing restrictions for over the next 3 months outweighs the cost by 7.3-14.6X.¹⁴⁷ “A cost-benefit analysis of 5 extra days at COVID-19 alert level 4” for New Zealand found that the cost in QALY was 94.9X higher than the benefit.¹⁸³ Finally, a cost-benefit analysis for the US is shown in Table 8, finding the cost of lockdown would be at least 5.2X the benefit.^{184,185}

4.3 Objection: the economic recession would happen without lockdown

This is unlikely, particularly if the fear is appropriately controlled with clear communication on risk, numbers with denominators and context, and important trade-offs, as this information becomes available. The resources and attention should be directed towards protecting the most vulnerable (i.e., the elderly). The evidence for policy impact on total human welfare should be based on a wide range of expertise, including economists, and not only health experts. The CIDRAP group published suggestions for communication during a crisis, which included advice to not over-reassure (i.e., be realistic about the course post-lockdown – cases and deaths will climb), to express uncertainty (i.e., explain the difficult dilemmas and trade-offs, and why we choose which course; explain that the initial reaction was temporary, buying time to figure out next steps); to validate emotions (i.e., admit waves of disease will occur and there may be economic devastation); and to admit and apologize for errors (i.e., we must resurrect a devastated economy in order to save lives).¹⁸⁶

The severity of mandated lockdowns was directly linked with the severity of the economic collapse.^{147,181,187-191} These were direct commands to halt work, restrict travel, restrict the number of people inside dwellings, close factory floors, stay at home, etc. Economic activity, GDP loss, and

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unemployment were temporally, within weeks, related to lockdown orders.¹⁸¹ There was a dramatic decline in employment, consumer spending, and economic outcomes largely accounted for by different degrees of restrictions in different countries.^{181,188,189} The consensus, for example by the Bank of England, the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund (e.g., the “calamitous Great Lockdown”), and the Chief Medical Officer of Health in Canada (e.g., “the extensive slowdown in the Canadian economy as a result of public health emergency measures” on p. 29), is that the economic recession is a result of the lockdowns.^{45,117,190,191,192}

4.4 Objection: consider the ‘long-haulers’

The long-term effects of COVID-19 illness need to be studied and clarified. Much of the current information is based on anecdotes (i.e., single cases) in the press. It may be expected that survivors of ARDS due to COVID-19 will have significant quality of life sequelae similar to ICU survivors from other causes of ARDS, or even lower given the lower cytokine levels in COVID-19.^{193,194} It may also be expected that some survivors of COVID-19 that did not require hospitalization will have significant lingering symptoms for months similar to what occurs with other causes of community acquired pneumonia.¹⁹⁵ The few studies reported to date do not well quantify the severity and duration of long-term symptoms such as fatigue, breathlessness, ‘foggy thinking’, etc., making it difficult to interpret the impact on cost-benefit analyses.¹⁹⁶⁻²⁰⁰ The highest rates of ‘long-COVID-19’ are from crowdsourced online data where there is likely a strong selection bias in participation.²⁰¹⁻²⁰³ In addition, most of these reports do not compare to contemporary controls during the pandemic, controls who are often experiencing social isolation, unemployment, and loneliness. For example, one survey of people without COVID-19 in the United States found a high prevalence of anxiety (25.5%), depressive (24.3%), and trauma and stressor related (26.3%) disorders, with 13.3% who started or increased substance use to cope, and 10.7% who seriously contemplated suicide in the last 30 days.²⁰⁴ The Household Pulse Survey in the US found that in 2019 11% of adults had symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder, while in April-August 2020 35-40% did.²⁰⁵ Another survey in US adults found the prevalence of depression symptoms was more than 3-fold higher during COVID-19 than before, and worse for those with lower social and economic resources.²⁰⁶ A survey in Australia found worse exercise (47.1%), mental wellbeing (41%), weight gain (38.9%), screen time (40-50%), and life satisfaction (down by an average of 13.9%) during the pandemic.²⁰⁷ In Canada, 57% of children 15-17 years old reported their mental health was “somewhat worse” or “much worse” than it was prior to physical distancing measures during the pandemic, and Canadians ≥15 years old had a 23% decrease in reported “excellent or very good self-perceived mental health”.^{177,208} Although there will likely be many ‘long-haulers’, the incidence, severity, and duration of long-term symptoms would need to be very high to change the cost-benefit balance. Given that at a generous minimum the cost-benefit balance is at least 5X against lockdowns, the sequelae of COVID-19 would need to cost well over 200 million QALY worldwide, and likely >10X that number, to make the cost-benefit analysis in need of reconsideration.

4.5 Objection: Low-income countries are particularly susceptible and need protection

The Imperial College COVID-19 Response Team modeled the effect on low-income countries.²⁰⁹ These countries were hypothesized to be more susceptible to COVID-19 deaths, even with markedly lower population over age 65 years (about 3%), due to several factors: larger size of households [i.e., more homogeneous contact patterns], far fewer hospital and ICU beds, lower quality of health care, and unique co-morbidities [e.g., HIV in >1%, tuberculosis in >25%, and malnutrition in >30% of the population].²⁰⁹ For suppression to have benefit, it was estimated to need to be in force 77% of the time [compared to 66% in high-income countries] over the 18 months of modeling [and “well beyond the

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time window of our simulations”].²⁰⁹ However, modeling inputs were overestimated, with >90% of the population infected, and baseline IFR at in high-income countries 1.03%. Moreover, low-income countries are more vulnerable to lockdown adverse effects for several reasons: lower ability to work from home, more household based transmission (when confined to home), economic vulnerability [a higher degree of informal labor markets, and marginal capacity to provide support for ensuring livelihoods], slower build-up of herd immunity [given limited health care capacity], little testing capacity, wider health risks from diverting all attention to a single disease, and future health system failure once suppression measures are lifted (also see Table 1).^{209,210} The effects of a recession on government spending is magnified when this spending was already insufficient to improve the social determinants of health. In India, the desperation is leading to an increase in child trafficking.²¹¹ Surveys in Africa indicate a very low IFR; for example, in Kenyan blood donors 5% were seropositive yet the country reported only 100 deaths, in Bantyre, Malawi, a serosurvey found 12.3% of healthcare workers were seropositive yet only 17 deaths were reported, and in two cities in Mozambique seropositivity was 3% and 10% yet only 16 deaths were reported.²¹² It is extremely likely the cost-benefit analysis is even more against lockdown in low-income countries for these reasons.

5. Discussion:

5.1 What to do now: change the trolley track

5.1.1 Other calls for a change in response priorities

Several other groups and individuals have made calls for a change in COVID-19 response priorities (Table 9).²¹³⁻²²⁰ In an open letter on July 6, 2020, to the Prime Minister and Premiers of Canada signed by many former deputy ministers of health, chief public health officers, and medical deans, the authors called for “A Balanced Response.”²¹³ They write that the current approach “carries significant risks to overall population health and threatens to increase inequalities... Aiming to prevent or contain every case of COVID-19 is simply no longer sustainable...”²¹³ In an open letter to the National Cabinet in Australia signed by many economists and medical experts with the Australian Institute for Progress, the authors make similar points.²¹⁴ They write that “to analyze the COVID-19 effect it is necessary to understand it as shortening life. But the lockdowns and the panic have also had a cost in shortening life for others.”²¹⁴ Ioannidis called for evidence to guide policy, noting many of the collateral and recession effects discussed above.²¹⁵⁻²¹⁹ “Shutdowns are an extreme measure. We know very well that they cause tremendous harm.”²¹⁶ A resignation letter by an economist in the Australian Treasury wrote that “the pandemic policies being pursued in Australia... are having hugely adverse economic, social and health effects... The need for good policy process does not disappear just because we face a public health crisis...”²²⁰ The “Great Barrington Declaration” written on October 4, 2020, by infectious disease epidemiologists and public health scientists recommends “Focused Protection.”²²¹ The declaration writes that “current lockdown policies are producing devastating effects on short and long-term public health... leading to greater excess mortality in years to come...”²²¹

A caveat to quoting these open letters is that “petitions cannot and should not be used to prove that the positions of the signatories are scientifically correct,” as this would be based on the fallacies of ‘argument ad populum’ and ‘invoking authority’, and have other drawbacks.²²² These open letters are used only to show that many have expressed views similar to those expressed here, and this might open the door to serious consideration of the empirical evidence and arguments presented above.

5.1.2 Objection: Herd Immunity Is a Dangerous Idea

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There are several objections that have been made to the idea of opening up society to achieve natural herd immunity.²²³⁻²²⁶

First, an objection is that natural herd immunity assumes the immunity is long lasting, and this may not be the case.²²³⁻²²⁶ If immunity is short-lived, then COVID-19 may become an endemic and likely yearly viral infection as predicted by Kissler.² In the event of short-lived immunity it will still be important to achieve natural herd immunity to protect the high-risk groups (i.e., the elderly) now and yearly (until a vaccine is widely available) without recurrent and prolonged lockdowns that devastate the economy and thus population life-expectancy and wellbeing. Notably, if immunity is not long-lasting this will be a problem for possible vaccine induced herd immunity as well, as the world population will need vaccines to be produced and delivered everywhere at least each year.

Second, another objection is that the costs in deaths, mental and physical health and suffering, socioeconomic inequities, and harming the economy will be too high.^{223,224} This objection ignores the discussion above of the trade-offs involved that include not only COVID-19 direct effects, but also indirect effects of the response to COVID-19, the collateral damage and cost-benefit analysis where it was shown that the costs of all these effects is in fact much higher with lockdowns.

Third is the objection that uncontrolled transmission in younger people would inevitably result in infections in high-risk groups with high mortality.²²³⁻²²⁶ The ability to successfully shield continuing care facilities and hospitals from COVID-19 is questioned.^{223,224} Prolonged isolation of high-risk groups is said to be "unethical".²²³ The objection is odd, as if we cannot protect those in nursing homes nor hospitals, why are we using personal protective equipment at all? In addition, prolonged isolation of *all* groups is what has occurred now, and based on the cost-benefit analysis this is what is unethical by causing far more harm to all, including the high-risk elderly. Of course, infection *can* still spread to high-mortality populations; however, the goal is to reduce this risk. Moreover, <10% of the population is at high-risk, accounting for >90% of potential deaths; surely we can focus on protecting this subgroup of people.²¹⁹ Monitoring in Europe shows that despite increasing COVID-19 cases, excess mortality has only shown a slight increase, suggesting protection of the most vulnerable may be feasible.²²⁷ Modelling has also suggested that social distancing of those over 70 years of age would prevent more deaths than a fixed duration of social distancing of the entire population.²²⁸

Fourth is the objection that healthcare systems will be overwhelmed by uncontrolled spread.^{223,224} This is a worrisome possibility, as health-care providers may be forced to make painful rationing decisions. If a healthcare system is overwhelmed, the effects would have to be extreme to make the benefit of lockdowns to save ICU capacity comparable to the long-term costs. There are several ways to minimize this possibility, including a focus on protecting those at high-risk (see below), information dissemination to cause fast awareness of voluntary sensible self-imposed use of handwashing and (in crowded areas) masks,^{229,230} limiting very large gatherings, and expanding critical care capacity when necessary. Forecasting of healthcare capacity needs in the short or medium term, even when built directly on data and for next day predictions, has consistently failed, and most healthcare systems were not overwhelmed despite sometimes being stressed with high peaks of cases.^{219,231} Forecasting failure led to elderly patients being discharged to nursing homes (where there was high mortality), and largely empty wards (unnecessarily affecting hospital utilization for other serious conditions); in Canada "overall ICU occupancy rates did not exceed 65% (p. 12)".^{45,219} Lockdowns in anticipation of forecast healthcare incapacity should not be done, especially if based on forecasting that is not released for public scrutiny nor repeatedly fit to real-time data to verify accuracy. In addition, if there are insufficient ICU beds for

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the population due to underfunding, the effects of the recession on government healthcare spending in the future will markedly adversely worsen this situation in the long-term.

Fifth is the objection that natural herd immunity is not achievable.²²³⁻²²⁶ This is based on the few case reports of re-infection, the Brazilian city of Manaus where seroprevalence was up to 66% yet there is currently a resurgence of COVID-19 cases, and the claim that natural herd-immunity has never occurred. The seven published case reports of re-infection, four with symptoms [one requiring hospitalization, and one death in an immunocompromised 89 year old with few details reported], when 10% of the world population has likely been infected over the past 10 months cannot yet provide evidence that severe reinfection and contagion is at all common.²³²⁻²³⁷ Regarding Manaus, the high seroprevalence likely reflected the special situation of a relatively homogeneous cohort of people in overcrowded low socioeconomic urban situations, with reliance on crowded long riverboat travel; now there seems to be a different demographic cohort of young wealthy individuals being exposed.²³⁸⁻²⁴⁰ In addition, the peak seroprevalence in blood donors in Manaus was 51.8% in June, while another study of household seroprevalence in Manaus on May 14-21 found this to be 12.7% [the respective numbers for Sao Paulo were closer, at 6.9% and 3.3% in the two serosurveys].^{240,241} Even correcting for a possible lower sensitivity of capillary blood used in the household survey does not explain the difference, as the corrected seroprevalence might be up to 19.3%.²⁴² Regarding historical natural herd-immunity, it is likely that this was achieved for several infections, with outbreaks that occurred as births added sufficient numbers of new susceptible young individuals (e.g., for Measles, Mumps, Rubella).

Finally, an important point to emphasize is that the information in this review does *not* depend on natural herd immunity being achieved. The collateral damage, and the cost-benefit analysis showed that lockdowns are far more harmful than a risk-tailored population specific response. "Public health is the science and action of promoting health, preventing disease, and prolonging life... ensuring that Canadians can live healthy and happier lives (p. 59-60);"⁴⁵ some suggestions for how to do this is discussed below.

5.1.3 Some suggestions: What can we do?

5.1.3.1. Focus on protecting those at high risk: A risk-tailored, population-specific response.²⁴³ This starts with better public understanding of the risks and trade-offs involved.¹⁸⁶ Protection should focus on high-risk groups: those hospitalized [e.g., prevent nosocomial infection],²¹⁶ in nursing homes [e.g., staff work in only one facility, adequate personal protective equipment supply, more staff, equitable pay],²⁴⁴ prisons, homeless shelters, and certain demographics [e.g., age ≥ 70 years, those with multiple severe co-morbidities].²⁴³ There should be investment in improving the social determinants of health [e.g., "invest in strategies that address health inequities and better serve the elderly, people experiencing homelessness, and those living with limited means"²⁴³].^{45,160,245} Don't lock everyone down, regardless of their individual risk, as this will cause more harm than benefit.²¹⁶ It is not true that "no one is protected until everyone is protected."⁴⁵

5.1.3.2. Open schools for children:^{87,246} School provides essential educational, social, and developmental benefits to children.²⁴⁷ Children have very low morbidity and mortality from COVID-19,¹⁷⁴ and, especially those ≤ 10 years old, are less likely to be infected by SARS-CoV-2^{57,249-251} and have a low likelihood to be the source of transmission of SARS-CoV-2.^{178,252} Children account for 1.9% of confirmed cases worldwide.²⁴⁸ School closures don't seem to have an impact on community outbreaks.^{178,253} Modelling predicted that school and university closures and isolation of younger people would increase the total number of deaths [postponed to a second and subsequent waves].²²⁸ Modelling also predicted that

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school closures alone would prevent only 2-4% of deaths.²⁵⁴ We need to educate parents and teachers regarding their low risk, and focus teachers with greater vulnerability due to age or multiple co-morbidity on remote learning. Until schools open, education is lacking especially for those with the fewest opportunities, worsening social disparities that education systems are intended to level. Similarly, allow visitation in children's hospitals and pediatric long-term care facilities, where the risk even with co-morbidities is so low as to not warrant the tragedy of sacrificing our most vulnerable in the false hope of protecting them.^{43,48,49,178}

5.1.3.3. Build back better: Maybe we have learned that the "government can intervene decisively once the scale of an emergency is [or seems] clear and public support is present."²⁵⁵ Maybe we can "recalibrate our sense of omnipotence seeing the ability of 'natural' forces to shock the global economy."²⁵⁵ Maybe we can tip "energy and industrial systems towards newer, cleaner, and ultimately cheaper modes of production that become impossible to outcompete."²⁵⁵ This would involve investment in clean technologies [e.g., renewable energy, green construction, natural capital, carbon capture and storage technologies], and conditional [on measurable transition] bailouts. This is because climate change, like the COVID-19 response, will involve market failures, externalities, international cooperation, and political leadership: the devastation is just in slow motion and far graver. The aggregate fiscal stimuli aimed at alleviating the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis for 149 countries amount to US\$12.2 trillion.²⁵⁶ Climate experts have estimated that "the additional investment needed to shift low-carbon energy investment onto a Paris-compatible pathway thus amounts to about US\$300 billion per year globally over the coming 5 years... 12% [of total pledged stimulus to date] when considered over the entire 2020-2024 period...."²⁵⁶ Moreover, "subtracting divestments from high-carbon fossil fuels... indicates that the overall increase in net annual investments to achieve an ambitious low-carbon transformation in the energy sector are notably small... 1% [of the total announced stimulus to date] over the 2020-2024 period."²⁵⁶ A green recovery may be a driver of employment, spur innovation and diffusion of technologies, reduce stranded assets, and result in a more sustainable and resilient society.^{117,256}

5.2. Some Research Priorities

More information will help to optimize responses to the pandemic. This particularly applies to possible prevention, prophylaxis, and treatment of COVID-19. How effective cloth masks are at preventing infection, or at reducing severity of infection needs more study.^{257,258} The safety, efficacy, and durability of protection from vaccines, particularly in high-risk groups, must be determined in large Phase III randomized controlled trials.²⁵⁹ Novel treatments are in clinical trials, with dexamethasone having benefit on mortality in those with severe COVID-19 requiring oxygen treatment.²⁶⁰ Research is also required to determine the frequency and severity of reinfections.²⁶¹ The frequency, duration, and severity of 'long-COVID' requires better study. The impact of influenza on COVID-19 morbidity and mortality requires study, as both viruses may compete for the same susceptible individuals.²⁶¹ Importantly, research on "the impending authoritarian pandemic... [the] toll being inflicted on democracy, civil liberties, fundamental freedoms, [and] healthcare ethics..." (e.g., due to those responses that were not strictly necessary nor proportionate, largely copied from the "authoritarian example of others") is required to prevent regression and "erosion of rights-protective democratic ideals and institutions"²⁶² across the globe.²⁶²⁻²⁶⁴

6. Conclusion

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“The destruction of lives and livelihoods in the name of survival will haunt us for decades.”¹⁰ The decisions we made entailed “trade-offs that cannot be wished away.”¹⁰ The most affected by the pandemic response are “the poor, the marginalized, and the vulnerable,” while we in high-income countries have shifted “negative effects... to places where they are less visible and presumably less serious.”¹⁰ We must open up society to save many more lives than we can by attempting to avoid every case (or even most cases) of COVID-19. It is past time to take an effortful pause, calibrate our response to the true risk, make rational cost-benefit analyses of the trade-offs, and end the lockdown groupthink.

Abbreviations

COVID-19: Coronavirus Disease 2019

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

IFR: Infection Fatality Rate

ICU: Intensive Care Unit

NPI: Non-pharmaceutical Intervention

QALY: Quality Adjusted Life Years

SARS-CoV-2: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2

UK: United Kingdom

US: United States

WELLBY: Wellbeing Adjusted Life Years

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Declarations

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Figure Titles and Legends

Figure 1(A). The Trolley Dilemma using numbers compatible with the Corona Dilemma.

Legend: Modified with permission from Frijters P, reference 144.

Figure 1(B). The Corona Dilemma choices explicitly explained.

Legend: Modified with permission from Frijters P, reference 144.

Figure 2. Explanation of how acute GDP loss of 6-7% will accumulate over the decade to a loss of at least US\$50 trillion.

Legend: Reproduced with permission from Frijters P [Personal Communication].

Additional Files

Additional file 1.pdf

Title: ETables

ETable 1. Total and COVID-19 deaths in the USA, as of August 22, 2020

ETable 2. COVID-19 deaths in Canada as of August 30, 2020 compared to deaths in 2018.

ETable 3. Studies suggesting that the efficacy of nonpharmaceutical interventions to prevent spread of COVID-19 are not as high as some predicted.

ETable 4. Cost-benefit analysis in WELLBYs for Canada's response to COVID-19.

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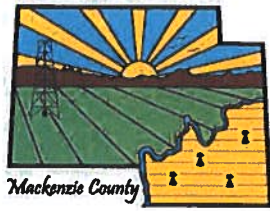
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Mackenzie County

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January 27, 2021

The Honourable Jason Kenney
Premier of Alberta
307 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Premier:

RE: REOPENING RECREATIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES

While we appreciate the work the government has done to ensure the safety of Albertans, we recognize the extreme toll the pandemic has taken on our residents, businesses and recreational centres.

We strongly urge the Provincial Government to reopen access to indoor recreational facilities, such as arenas, to the public and establish additional supportive public health guidelines. These could include allowing facility rentals for private functions.

Additionally, we urge the Provincial Government to reopen all business services as many are at risk of closing permanently and losing their livelihood. In our rural remote northern location, services such as restaurants are extremely limited. Reinstating in-person service will assist in sustainability into the future.

Again, we thank you for your efforts in keeping Albertans safe, and we look forward to having a conversation with you to discuss the specific needs of our communities. Please feel free to contact me at (780) 926-7405 or by email to josh@mackenziecounty.com.

Yours sincerely,

Josh Knelsen
Reeve

- c: Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Mr. Dan Williams, MLA Peace River
Rural Municipalities of Alberta – Member Municipalities
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association – Member Municipalities
Mackenzie County Council
La Crete Chamber of Commerce
Fort Vermilion & Area Board of Trade
High Level Chamber of Commerce

Community Emergency Management Program (CEMP) Review

YEAR: 2020/2021

Community / Municipality / Regional Name:
Town of Onoway
Regional Partners:
LSAC Mayerthorpe Alberta Beach LSA SV's
Emergency Management Officials Present at Meeting:
Jason Madge DEM Janice Christiansen DDEM
Date of Review:
26 January 2021
Field Officer(s):
Mark Pickford John Swist
Field Officer(s) Signature(s):
<i>Mark Pickford & John Swist</i> AEMA Emergency Management Field Officer, North Central Region ☎ Cell 780-999-3812/ 780-289-3874 🌐 Web page: http://www.aema.alberta.ca

Summary:

Bylaw Comments

Bylaw meets the requirements of the LEMR.

Emergency Program Comments

Risk Assessment should be reviewed and plan amended where required.
#31 ESS roles and responsibilities should be defined ie: registration, food services, sanitation etc and updates while they are evacuated need to be in the plan.

Exercise & Training Comments

Onoway had some individual training booked that had to be postponed due to COVID related issues. FO's will catch them up in the new training cycle. The town participated in a TT in a regional partnership with the LSASV's and was successful in a shake out of a wildfire response in the region. Onoway will need to build towards and conduct a TT for its own municipality in 2021/2022. As well, some individual training was accomplished for the command and general staff positions and will have to be maintained in the coming year. The council will also have to stay current if any new council are elected in the upcoming municipal elections.

Best Practices Comments

Good Hazard Specific plans with addition of Pandemic and BCP. We have made some recommendations to assist. Pls see Best Practices checklist.

Bylaw: 768-19 19 Dec 2019

#	LEMR	Requirements	Yes	No	N/A
1	Section (1)	Appoints an emergency advisory committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Section 2(2)(a)	Sets out the purposes of the committee, both during an emergency or disaster and when those events are not occurring.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Section 2(2)(b)	Establishes that the committee provides guidance and direction to the local authority's emergency management agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Section 2(2)(c)	Establishes procedures that must be followed when declaring a state of local emergency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Section 2(2)(d)	Identifies the committee's membership and Chair by title or position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Section 2(2)(e)	Sets out a minimum meeting frequency for the committee, which must be at least once per year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Section 2(2)(f)	Outlines committee quorum and procedural requirements for decision making unless these requirements are set out in another local authority bylaw	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Section 3(1)	Establishes the local authority's emergency management agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Section 3(2)(a)	Sets out the responsibilities of the agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Section 3(2)(b)	Appoints a person as the director of emergency management, or states that a person who holds a specified title or position is appointed as the director of emergency management by virtue of holding that title or position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Section 3(2)(c)	States that the agency is responsible for the administration of the local authority's emergency management program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Section 3(2)(d)	Identifies the frequency at which the agency must report to the emergency advisory committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be once per year - Must include an update on the agency's review of the local authority's emergency plan 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Section 3(2)(e)	States that the command, control and coordination system prescribed by the Managing Director of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency will be used by the local authority's emergency management agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Section 3(2)(f)	If the agency is acting as the agent of more than one local authority, indicates which local authorities the agency is acting for	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15	Section 7(1) 7(2)	If the local authority has delegated some or all of its powers or duties under the Act to a regional services commission, states which powers or duties are delegated, and whether the local authority will maintain an independent emergency management agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16	Section 7(2)	If the local authority is to be represented by a joint committee, sets out which powers or duties are delegated to the joint committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17	Section 7(3)(a)	If a summer village has delegated some or all of its powers or duties under the Act to another local authority, states which powers or duties have been delegated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18	Section 7(3)(b)	The other local authority must establish in a bylaw that it has accepted the powers and duties that have been delegated to it from the summer village	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Bylaw Comments

Bylaw meets the requirements of the LEMR.

Emergency Program:

#	LEMRR	Requirements	Yes	No	N/A
19	Section 4(a)	A description of the administration of the emergency management program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Section 4(b)	The procedures for implementing the emergency plan during an emergency or exercise response	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Section 4(c)	The local authority's plan for preparedness, response and recovery activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Section 4(d)	A Hazard and Risk Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Section 4(e)	Emergency management program exercises that the local authority will engage in	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Section 4(f)	The plan for regular review and maintenance of the emergency plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Section 4(g)	The emergency management agency's plan for regular review and maintenance of the emergency plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Section 4(h)	How the command, control and coordination system prescribed by Section 3(3) LAEMR will be used by the emergency management agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Section 4(i)	The assignment of responsibilities to local authority employees and elected officials, by position, respecting the implementation of the local authority's emergency plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Section 4(j)	A training plan for staff assigned with responsibilities under the emergency plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Section 4(k)	The mechanisms that will be used to prepare and maintain an emergency management staff contact list for employees and elected officials who have been assigned responsibilities respecting the implementation of the emergency plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Section 4(l)	The plan for communications, public alerts and notifications during exercises, emergencies and disasters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Section 4(m)	The plan for providing emergency social services during an emergency or disaster	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32	Section 5(1)	The emergency management agency must review the emergency plan that applies to that local authority at least once per year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33	Section 5(2)	The emergency management agency must make the emergency plan that applies to that local authority available to the Alberta Emergency Management Agency for review and comment annually	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
34	Section 5(3)	In the case of a summer village that has delegated their duties relating to the maintenance of an emergency plan to another local authority, that other local authority's emergency management agency is responsible for complying with subsection (1) and (2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Emergency Program Comments

Risk Assessment should be reviewed and plan amended where required.
 #31 ESS roles and responsibilities should be defined ie: registration, food services, sanitation etc and updates while they are evacuated need to be in the plan.

Exercises & Training:

#	LEMR	Requirements	Yes	No	N/A
35	Section 6(1)	Unless an exercise under subsection (2) is carried out that year, the emergency management agency must engage in at least 1 exercise per year in which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants identify a significant possible emergency or disaster scenario - Discuss how the local authority would respond to and resolve emergency management issues that may arise from the scenario 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36	Section 6(2)	The emergency management agency must engage in at least 1 exercise every 4 years in which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants identify a significant possible emergency or disaster scenario - Carry out actions as if the significant emergency or disaster was actually occurring, but without deploying personnel or other resources 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
37	Section 6(3)	The emergency management agency has met the requirements of subsection (2) by responding to an emergency or disaster within the previous 4 years that resulted in the implementation of the emergency plan and a written post-incident assessment that included observations and recommendations for improvement and correction action	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
38	Section 6(4)	The emergency management agency has met the requirements of subsection (1) and (2) by participation in a regional emergency exercise that required the utilization of relevant portions of the local authority's emergency plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39	Section 6(5)	The emergency management agency must submit an exercise notification to the Alberta Emergency Management Agency 90 days prior the commencement of the exercise referred to in Section 6(2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
40	Section 6(6)	The exercise notification must outline the exercise scenario, state the exercise objectives, identify the participants and state the date the exercise will be conducted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
41	Section 8(2)(a)	Each elected official must complete the Municipal Elected Officials course within 90 days of taking official oath	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
42	Section 8(3) 8(4) 8(5)	Councillors of an ID, persons with delegated powers and duties for an ID, Special Areas Board members – each person must complete the Municipal Elected Officials course within 90 days of appointment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
43	Section 10(1) 10(2)	The Director of the Emergency Management Agency must complete courses, as posted by the Managing Director of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency on the agency website, within 18 months of appointment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic Emergency Management - ICS 100, ICS 200, ICS 300 - Director of Emergency Management course 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
44	Section 12(1) 12(25)	(Exemptions, extensions or alternate course credit may be granted by the Managing Director, Alberta Emergency Management Agency).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
45	Section 11(1) 11(2)	Each employee of the local authority who has been assigned responsibilities respecting the implementation of the emergency plan must complete courses, as posted by the Managing Director of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency on the agency website, within 6 months of assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic Emergency Management - ICS 100 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Exercise & Training Comments

Onoway had some individual training booked that had to be postponed due to COVID related issues. FO's will catch them up in the new training cycle. The town participated in a TT in a regional partnership with the LSASV's and was successful in a shake out of a wildfire response in the region. Onoway will need to build towards and conduct a TT for its own municipality in 2021/2022. As well, some individual training was accomplished for the command and general staff positions and will have to be maintained in the coming year. The council will also have to stay current if any new council are elected in the upcoming municipal elections.

Best Practices:

#	Requirements	Yes	No	N/A
46	Pre-Identification of Hazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
47	Shelter-in-Place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
48	Evacuation Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
49	Re-Entry Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
50	Pets Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
51	Livestock Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
52	Post Event Procedures/Guidelines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
53	Mass Cass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
54	Wild Fire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
55	Sever Weather	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
56	Pandemic/Epidemic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
57	Power Outage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
58	Spill or Release	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
59	Pandemic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
60	BCP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Best Practices Comments				
<p>MOUs should be updated Re-entry plan should be developed Pet plan should be developed to assist ESS plan</p>				

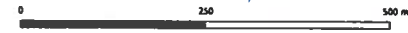
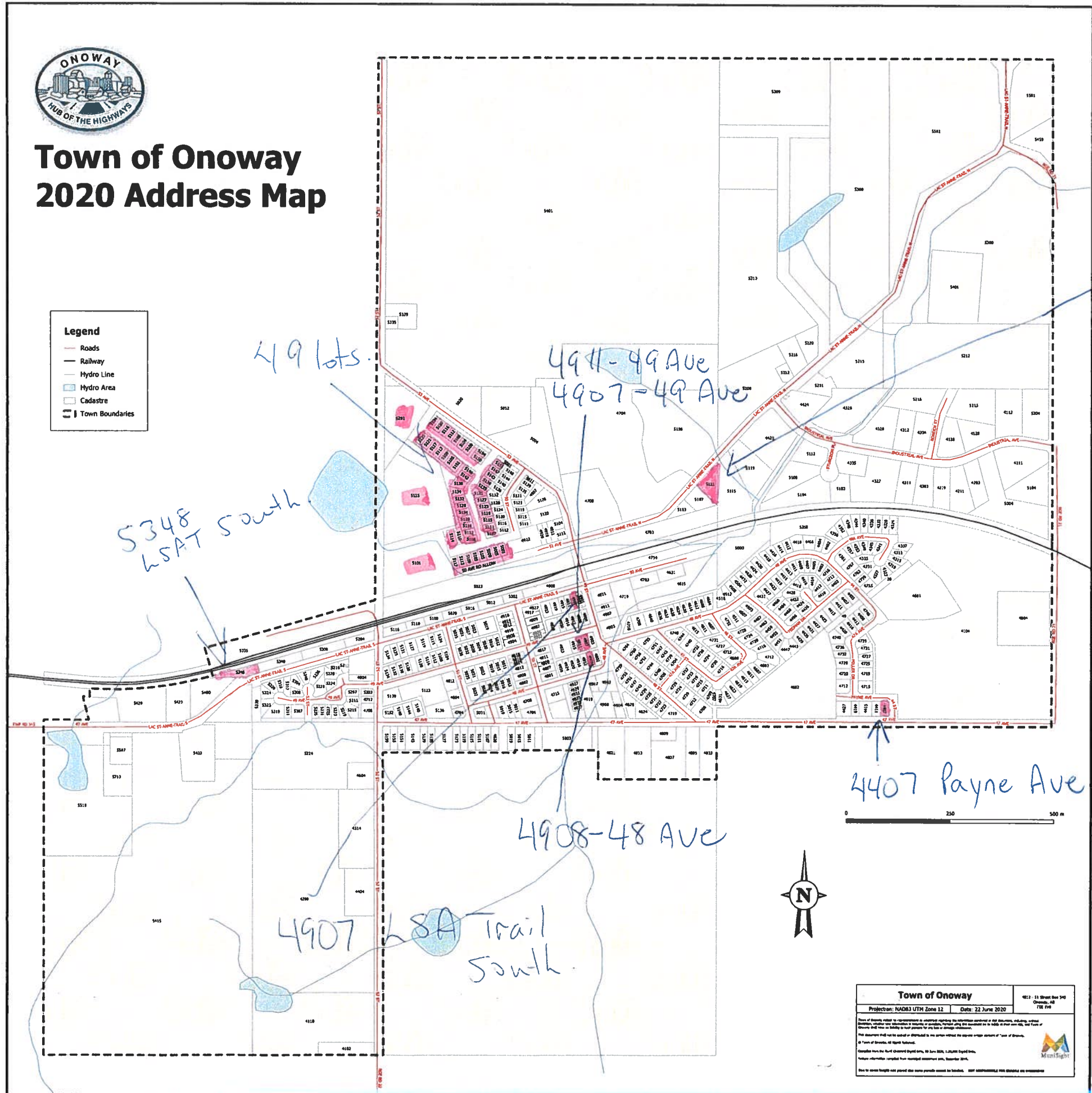
	A	B	C	D	E
1	TR#	Address	Assessed Value	Zoning	Other comments:
2	596000	4407 Payne Avenue	\$39,300	R1 - residential , 66 x 122	Town owns lot outright, all sale proceeds belong to Town (had discussed investing back into Payne Ave)
3	49000	4908 - 48 Avenue	\$48,900	R1 - residential - 50 X 125	Received through tax sale -\$43,417.42 owed in back taxes & costs 4911 acquired, sold, acquired back, 4907 purchased for \$55,000, both owned out right
4	53000 & 52000	4911-49 Ave and 4907-49 Ave	42,800 & 34,800	C1R - downtown mixed use - com/res, 50 X 125 each	
5	35000	4907 Lac Ste. Anne Trail South	\$34,800	C1 - Office, Retail Service , 50 x 125	Transferred in 2007 for \$19,926, owned outright
6	106000	5111 Lac Ste. Anne Trail North	\$61,100	R3 - High Density, 254 x 22	Transferred in 2004 for \$3,400, owned outright
7	365000	5348 Lac Ste Anne Trail South	45,000	C3-Highway, 360 x 73.5	Acquired for Tax Forfeiture 2018
8		49 LOTS		RMHS - Manufactured Home Subdivision	Acquired in 2016



Town of Onway 2020 Address Map

Legend

- Roads
- Railway
- Hydro Line
- Hydro Area
- Cadastre
- Town Boundaries



Town of Onway
 Projection: NAD83 UTM Zone 12 Date: 22 June 2020
 4023 - 11 Street Box 540
 Onway, AB
 T9E 0V6

Users of Onway are advised to re-verify the accuracy of the information provided in this document, including, without limitation, whether the information is accurate, complete, current, and consistent with the information provided in other sources. Onway does not warrant the accuracy, completeness, currentness, or consistency of the information provided in this document. Onway is not responsible for any loss or damage caused by the use of this information. Onway is not liable for any loss or damage caused by the use of this information. Onway is not responsible for any loss or damage caused by the use of this information. Onway is not responsible for any loss or damage caused by the use of this information.

Created from the ArcGIS Online Digital Data, 10 June 2020, 1:30 PM Digital Data.
 Vector information compiled from municipal datasets, December 2019.
 Due to screen height not printed, data source provided cannot be located. 2020 INFORMATIONAL ONLY. ONWAY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE USE OF THIS INFORMATION.

From: Judy Tracy <jtracy@onoway.ca>
Sent: January 26, 2021 6:55 PM
To: Wendy Wildman; Debbie Giroux; Jason Madge
Cc: Lynne Tonita; Lisa Johnson; Pat St.Hilaire; Jeff Mickle
Subject: Fwd: Evening offering of Virtual Partnerships and Collaboration – An edifying alternative to Netflix

Can we add this to our next agenda please.

I would like to registered for this, and please register whom ever else wants to take this course. It is in the evening so it will not interfere with day time meetings.

Judy

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Exec. Assistant on behalf of Dan Rude" <EA_DRude@auma.ca>
Date: January 26, 2021 at 3:23:13 PM MST
To: Judith Tracy <jtracy@onoway.ca>
Subject: **Evening offering of Virtual Partnerships and Collaboration – An edifying alternative to Netflix**

Dear Mayors, Councillors and CAOs,

The Elected Officials Education Program is excited to offer our first course of 2021, a virtual offering of [Regional Partnerships and Collaboration](#). This course will build on our strong set of offerings in 2020. It is being offered through a combination of three interactive Zoom sessions structured for participants to be able ask questions of the instructor and engage in small group breakout room discussions (where the real learning occurs).

New for this session, **the course will be held in the evening** to allow for elected officials with obligations during the work day to participate.

Regardless of where your municipality is at with your Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework(s), this course will provide you with the skills, tools and inspiration to help build intermunicipal relationships and overcome the challenges inherent in regional partnerships. Visit the EOEP website for more information and to register for the virtual [Regional Partnerships and Collaboration Course](#).

The course schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, February 11 6:30 – 9:00 pm
- Thursday, February 18 6:30 – 9:00 pm
- Thursday, February 25 6:30 – 9:00 pm

Why should you consider registering in this course?

- Municipal Elections are in less than 1 year! Why did I need to add this dose of reality? - So you can take training to help you be the best elected official that you can be with credentials backing your desire represent your constituents and provide services as effectively as possible.
- Course Content. EOEP courses are structured to provide up-to-date information on being an Alberta elected official on the topics that matter. As evidenced by the multiple sell outs of the courses that were repeated in 2020, the instructors are engaging and the content valuable.
- An Accommodating & reduced Time Commitment. The course is divided into 3 evening modules of 2.5 hrs per session to make them engaging and easier to accommodate around participant work schedules.
- Affordability. The fee for this course is reduced from the standard EOEP course fee to \$200. Plus there will be no travel, hotel, or meal costs as normally required for an in-person course away from home.
- Interaction and learning from fellow councillors. The EOEP course will leverage Zoom's unique capability for participants to go into breakout rooms to have small group discussions like you do at a face to face EOEP course. Learn from others and make connections with councillors from all across Alberta.
- A New method of attending a course. Be a part of something new - especially if you haven't tried it yet. **Yes You!** We are planning have face to face courses at future conventions when conditions allow. However, this is not likely until later this year. In the meantime and between conventions, we will use virtual offerings. We challenge those that have not ever taken an EOEP course or, those that have not taken a EOEP course in this new format to try it out.

If further help is needed please contact the EOEP Registrar at registrar@eoep.ca or at 780-989-7431.

Have a great day!

Dan Rude | Chief Executive Officer

ALBERTA URBAN MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION

D: 780.431.4535 | C: 780.951.3344 | E: drude@auma.ca
 Alberta Municipal Place | 300-8616 51 Ave Edmonton, AB T6E 6E6

Toll Free: 310-AUMA | 877-421-6644 | www.auma.ca



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Elected Officials Education Program

About »

Courses »

Home Regional Partnerships & Collaboration – ZOOM

Regional Partnerships & Collaboration – ZOOM

Map Unavailable

Date/Time

Date(s) - Feb 11

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Categories No Categories

Register

Upcoming Courses
Regional Partnerships & Collaboration - ZOOM -
all courses

Regional Partnerships and Collaboration (3 evening sessions)

In life, and in the municipal world, working with your neighbors is not always easy. If done right, it can provide major benefits. The EOEP's *Regional Partnerships and Collaboration* course will provide participants with an opportunity to learn about required collaborative tools such as Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs), as well as other approaches municipalities can take to build meaningful partnerships with their municipal neighbors in a way that is fair and mutually beneficial.

In addition to intermunicipal collaboration, the course will examine ways that municipalities can work with organizations within their community to provide strong and sustainable services as well as the skills to successfully negotiate and communicate. If you're interested in how your municipality can transform collaboration from a requirement to an opportunity, sign up for *Regional Partnerships and Collaboration* to learn from experts in the field, as well as from your elected official colleagues.

Module 1 : Introduction to Collaboration

After completing this module, participants will be able to:

- Identify the value and opportunities of working collaboratively within a region to foster the development of resilient and sustainable communities and regions
- Learn about the fundamentals of the collaboration process

Module 2: Collaboration Framework

After completing this module, participants will be able to:

- Identify desired ICF outcomes, take inventory of your municipality's services and consider who should be on your negotiating team
- Learn how to design your ICF outcomes and your role in the process
- Develop your ICF by summarizing your services and explore your options
- Understand the ICF dispute resolution process

96

Module 3: Skill Building for Consensus

After completing this module, participants will be able to:

- Use communication skills including active listening, open ended questions and reflection
- Understand how to effectively negotiate

Refund Policy

- One month or more prior to course date: full refund
- Two weeks prior to course date or less: \$75 administration fee
- One week prior to course date: 50% administration fee
- Less than one week prior to course date or no-show: No refund

ABOUT

About EOEP
MGA Requirements
FAQ
Privacy Policy
Legal Notice

Courses

Course Descriptions
Additional Materials

Contact Us

Phone: 780-989-7431
Email: registrar@eoep.ca

[About](#)

[Courses](#)

[Contact Us](#)



Budget 2021 - February 25, 2021

Alberta Counsel is here to help you make sense of the numbers

The Government of Alberta will be tabling Budget 2021 on Thursday, February 25. This budget will be the most important document the government will release before the next election in 2023.

The following day, our government relations team will be presenting a comprehensive webinar to help your organization make sense of the numbers as well as to understand the direction the province will take. Additionally, we will take your organization's questions to help you understand how your team may be impacted by the newly released fiscal plan.

Date: February 26, 2021

Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Online

Tickets: albertacounsel.com/budget2021

Cost: \$75.00

debbie@onoway.ca

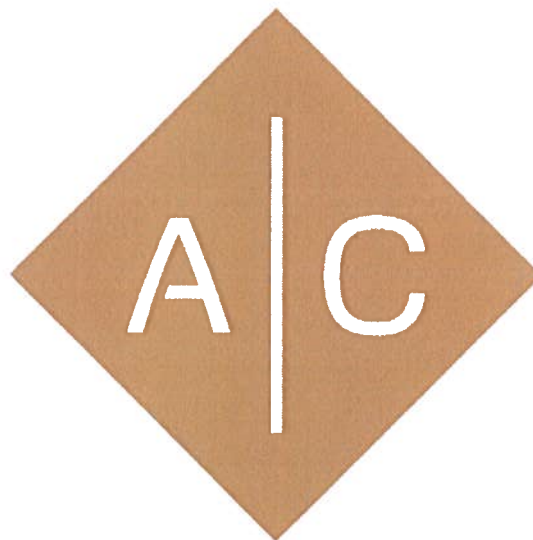
From: Judy Tracy <jtracy@onoway.ca>
Sent: January 27, 2021 12:07 PM
To: Wendy Wildman; Jason Madge; Debbie Giroux
Subject: Fwd: Provincial Budget Analysis - Webinar Event

Sent from my iPad


Begin forwarded message:

From: Alberta Counsel <news@albertacounsel.com>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:28:07 AM MST
To: jtracy@onoway.ca
Subject: Provincial Budget Analysis - Webinar Event
Reply-To: Alberta Counsel <news@albertacounsel.com>

[View this email in your browser](#)



ALBERTA COUNSEL




PROVINCIAL BUDGET ANALYSIS

\$75
+GST

**February 26, 2021
12:00PM -1:30PM**

Tickets:
www.albertacounsel.com/budget2021

Our government relations team will provide a comprehensive overview of Budget 2021 and how your organization may be impacted. We will look at overarching themes along with ministry specific budgets to answer your organization's questions.



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Our mailing address is:

800, 9707-110 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2L9

Want to change how you receive these emails?



January 20, 2021



Town of Onoway
PO Box 540
Onoway, AB T0E 1V0

Attn: Mayor and Council

RE: Need for a Stronger Western Canadian Municipal Advocate

The past few years have presented convincing evidence of the continued lack of advocacy and blatant disregard at the federal level for Western Canada's needs and one of its highly significant industries that impacts us all: the natural resources industry. Our Council here at the Municipal District of Bonnyville (M.D.) is beyond frustrated with this lack of effective representation that Western Canadian municipalities receive.

Currently, our only voice at the national table is that of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). From their website, FCM states they "...advocate for municipalities to be sure their citizens' needs are reflected in federal policies and programs. Year after year, our work benefits every municipal government and taxpayer in Canada, and our programming delivers tools that help municipalities tackle local challenges."

Question: Do you feel that FCM advocates for the needs of your municipality or western Canada?

Question: Does the annual FCM Conference agenda/tours provide relevant value for your municipality?

Question: Are the needs of western Canada different than those of eastern Canada, and if so, is it time we entertain the idea of a WCM (Western Canadian Municipalities)?

To their credit, FCM did add a Western Economic Solutions Taskforce as one of their 15 program areas. Unfortunately, this initiative – which was created to mitigate the genuine alienation and hostility western Canadian municipalities experienced at the 2019 FCM Annual Conference held in Quebec City – has not produced any real results.

Our hope is that this letter will spark the much-needed conversation and potential solution to this long-standing issue. We sincerely request that you and your Council take the time to truly reflect on the level of service you are receiving from your current federal advocate. Are they truly the federal voice advocating for your citizens and your municipality?

(101)



The M.D. and many other communities across Alberta and western Canada are proud supporters and partners of the oil and gas industry. We wish to be a part of a solution that supports industry competitiveness rather than be forced to absorb Ontario's and Quebec's concepts of crippling changes that impact our municipal sustainability.

Thank you in advance for your Council's reflection on this topic and we look forward to hearing any feedback you may have.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Sawchuk".

Greg Sawchuk
Reeve

cc: Mr. Barry Morishita, President, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
Mr. Paul McLaughlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta

/eq

Onoway & District Chamber of Commerce NEWSLETTER



February 2021

Learning Opportunities:

You are invited to this virtual **North Central Regional Business Support Network** meeting on **Tuesday, February 16th, 2021 from 11:30am to 1:30pm** via ZOOM.

At this meeting, you will have the opportunity to hear a keynote presentation from **Dr. Lynora Saxinger, Infectious Disease Specialist from the University of Alberta** on the following topics:

- Current state of COVID-19
- Spread of infection
- New variants
- Workplace safety
- Vaccines

An update from regional municipalities and chambers will also be shared and you will have a chance to connect with leaders from across the region.

There is no cost to register, simply click [HERE](#) to confirm your attendance.

Please see attached invitation poster for more information or visit www.AlbertaBSN.ca.

WHITECOURT BUSINESS SUPPORT NETWORK MAYERTHORPE BUSINESS SUPPORT NETWORK

North Central Regional Business Support Network presents

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Lynora Saxinger, Infectious Diseases Specialist - University of Alberta

Current state of COVID, spread of infection, new variants, how to continue to stay safe, plus information on new vaccines.
Time allotted for open discussion.

VISIT www.albertabsn.ca for more events

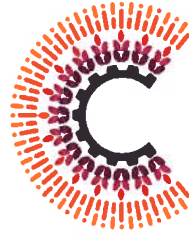
February 16th, 2021 | 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM | Free to Attend | Virtual Zoom Meeting us02web.zoom.us/j/81828990477

REGISTER on www.eventbrite.ca

BARRHEAD BUSINESS SUPPORT NETWORK FOX CREEK BUSINESS SUPPORT NETWORK

103

4815 – 44 Ave
Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1V5
www.gprchamber.ca
780.963.4545



**GREATER
PARKLAND
REGIONAL
CHAMBER**



Wednesday January 6, 2021

Dear Valued Supporter

The Greater Parkland Regional Chamber of Commerce (Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, Rural Parkland County and Wabamun) had planned to host the annual State of the Region Address on March 12, 2020 in the Spruce Grove Hall at Heritage Park, Stony Plain. Sadly, this event was postponed and then cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

Your support of the State of the Region Address 2020 was greatly appreciated however, due to its cancellation please find enclosed a refund for your ticket purchase.

Please be advised that we are already in the planning stages for this year's event that will be hosted virtually and will be streamed live from the Spruce Grove Hall at Heritage Park, Stony Plain on Thursday March 11; further details will follow.

Regards & thank you for your support

Jodie MacPherson, Members Services Specialist

jmacpherson@gprchamber.ca

Enc: cheque

CK# 3580
\$150.00

2104

G | P | R | C



BROWNLEE LLP
Barristers & Solicitors EST. 1935

Emerging Trends in Municipal Law 2021

February 11, 2021

&

February 18, 2021

8:30 a.m.	Welcome and Introductory Remarks
8:45 a.m.	Drafting and Implementing Development Agreements in Challenging Times
10:00 a.m.	Municipal Management of Water Courses and Drainage
11:00 a.m.	Whose Line is it Anyway? New Law and the Best Practices to Manage the Line Between Municipal and Private Utilities
11:45 a.m.	Lunch Break
12:45 p.m.	COVID Liability for Occupiers: What You Need to Know
1:45 p.m.	Tax Incentives: Giving a Little (or a lot) to Grow the Tax Base
2:30 p.m.	Case Law and Legislative Update
3:00 p.m.	Bear Pit Session
3:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks

***Note: time will be allotted for questions at the end of each presentation**

Town of Onoway

Report to Council

Meeting: February 4, 2021 - Regular Council Meeting

Originated By: Tony Sonnleitner, Development Officer, Town of Onoway

2021 has begun quietly from a Development perspective, but with great hopes.

No Development Permits were issued during January 2021.

Staff safe and healthy.

Regards,

Tony Sonnleitner, Development Officer



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Gerald Soroka, MP

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2021

MP Soroka Questions the Minister on High Speed Internet

OTTAWA: Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, rose in the House of Commons to question the Minister on holding providers accountable in ensuring spectrum deployment in rural communities.

MP Soroka stated: *“Mr. Speaker, for many rural Canadians, including thousands in my riding, wireless high-speed Internet is the only broadband solution available. Internet in my riding is offered to constituents at speeds of zero megabytes and up. However, with access to more spectrum, they could receive 50 megabytes download and 10 megabytes upload.”*

When the government is auctioning spectrum, what is it doing to hold providers accountable to ensure they deploy spectrum in rural communities?”

Hon. Maryam Monsef (Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development, Lib.) replied: *“Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his important advocacy both with spectrum auctions and subsidies for those communities where the business case to connect households to high-speed Internet simply is not there.”*

Our government is there. Spectrum auctions include a carve-out for smaller rural communities. We have worked diligently to ensure smaller Internet service providers receive at least a third of our investment, the other third has gone to indigenous communities and that last third goes to larger ISPs.

If my colleague wants to connect to talk about how we can support his community in getting connected, my team and I are always here for him.”

debbie@onoway.ca

From: cao@onoway.ca
Sent: January 29, 2021 2:12 PM
To: 'Debbie Giroux'
Cc: 'Jason Madge'
Subject: FW: Town of Onoway 2020 Red Tape Reduction Report
Attachments: MSP Red Tape Report for Onoway 2020.pdf

Deb – for our next meeting.

Wendy Wildman

CAO

Town of Onoway

Box 540

Onoway, AB. T0E 1V0

780-967-5338 Fax: 780-967-3226

cao@onoway.ca

NOTE EMAIL CONTACT INFORMATION HAS CHANGED TO: cao@onoway.ca

This email is intended only for the use of the party to which it is addressed and for the intended purpose. This email contains information that is privileged, confidential, and/or protected by law and is to be held in the strictest confidence. If you are not the intended recipient you are hereby notified that any dissemination, copying, or distribution of this email or its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify us immediately by replying to the message and deleting it from your computer.

From: cao@onoway.ca <cao@onoway.ca>
Sent: January 29, 2021 2:00 PM
To: ma.municipalstimulus@gov.ab.ca
Subject: Town of Onoway 2020 Red Tape Reduction Report

Please find attached for the Town of Onoway.

Thank you,

Wendy Wildman

Chief Administrative Officer

108



Municipalities that receive funding under the MSP are required to reduce red tape. This template has been developed to provide guidance about the province's expectations for municipalities to reduce red tape to further advance our shared objective of returning our economy to prosperity.

The requirement to reduce red tape is not related to individual MSP projects. Municipalities may reduce red tape in ways that are entirely unrelated to MSP projects.

What is Red Tape?

The Government of Alberta defines red tape as unnecessary time and resources spent by citizens and businesses to comply with regulatory and administrative requirements imposed by legislation; regulations; and associated policies, forms and guides. More specifically for the purposes of the MSP, red tape reduction means actions taken in support of the following objectives:

- Make it easier to start up a new business in your community.
- Streamline processes and shorten timelines for development and subdivision permit approvals.
- Make your community a more attractive destination for new investment and/or tourism.

What do municipalities need to do?

Municipalities are required to make measurable progress in at least one of these areas, develop a red tape reduction plan, and report it to Municipal Affairs using this form by February 1, 2021. For the 2020 report only, if no progress was made in 2020, municipalities must still complete the section indicating their plans to meet this commitment in 2021.

Municipal Affairs will review the submitted plan and determine whether it is sufficient based on the actions identified and the circumstances of the municipality. Please include any information Municipal Affairs should be aware of when reviewing your plan. The 2020 Red Tape Reduction Report must be approved by the Minister before the 2021 MSP payment will be released. Municipalities will undertake their plan and must report on concrete progress using a separate form by February 1, 2022.

The actions listed below are examples of ways that local governments may choose to reduce red tape, but municipalities are not limited to these examples. Based on your local circumstances, you can develop any plan or action that achieves one or more of the objectives cited above. You are encouraged to take as many steps as reasonable to enhance the environment in your community for local investment.

Submission

Summary:

- Complete this form, and ensure it is approved at the appropriate level within the municipality.
 - You are required to indicate how your municipality intends to reduce red tape in 2021.
- E-mail the completed form to ma.municipalstimulus@gov.ab.ca by February 1, 2021 by clicking on the "Submit to E-mail" button below.
- Take action to reduce red tape.
- Report on the concrete progress you have made to reduce red tape using the 2021 Red Tape Reduction Report Template, and submit it to Municipal Affairs by February 1, 2022.

This template, the MSP program guidelines, and other program resources are available at www.alberta.ca/municipal-stimulus-program.aspx.

If you have any questions regarding this template or the MSP, please e-mail ma.municipalstimulus@gov.ab.ca.

About this Form

Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader can be used to complete this form. Open the form in Acrobat or Adobe Reader, and fill out the form electronically. When you are finished, click "Save Form" to save a copy of the form for your records. Press the "Submit to E-mail" button to send the completed form as an attachment to ma.municipalstimulus@gov.ab.ca. Scanned copies of the form will not be accepted.

Please note that you must use the text boxes to elaborate on your plans or the report will not be considered sufficient.

Municipality Name	ONOWAY
Date	Jan 29, 2021

1. Please indicate any steps your municipality has taken to reduce red tape in 2020. Please note that MSP funding is NOT conditional on reducing red tape in 2020, though any steps you have taken to reduce red tape should be noted. Use "+" and "-" buttons beside each objective to see example actions.

a) Make it easier to start up a new business.

- Implement incentives to encourage new businesses.
- Streamline or speed up processes for obtaining a business licence.
- Review the process for establishing a business and eliminate any unnecessary municipal requirements.
- Work with neighbouring municipalities to establish common business licensing systems, or recognize business licences from other Alberta municipalities.
- Establish a paperless process for business licence applications, and/or an option for electronic payment of application fees.
- Create a section on the municipality's website providing information on how to start a business, including municipal licensing requirements and application forms, process documents, and/or other guidance documents.
- Review and evaluate municipal regulatory requirements to limit and mitigate unintended impacts on small business.
- Work with neighbouring municipalities to coordinate bylaws for weight restrictions, noise restrictions, dust abatement requirements, or other factors that impact commercial/industrial activity.
- Consult with a local post-secondary institution about how to help students establish new businesses after graduation.
- Other (Please specify briefly and elaborate below)

Please elaborate on your response, including metrics and performance targets..

For two years now the Town has been working with Lac Ste. Anne County on a economic partnership and "promote business opportunity" in the greater Onoway area. Through this partnership, the Town initiated Business Licenses in 2019 and these licenses are effective in both the County and Town. Just recently the Village of Alberta Beach joined this initiative. While this initiative is still relatively new, a great deal of work has been done and the partnership committee will continue to work towards its goals.

b) Streamline processes and shorten timelines for development and permit approvals.

- Establish internal targets for issuing subdivision application decisions that are faster than legislated timelines.
- Establish internal targets for issuing development permit decisions that are faster than legislated timelines.
- Prepare process summaries and checklists of required materials for subdivision and development permit applications.
- Update the municipal website to clearly communicate subdivision and development permit approval processes.
- Establish an online application process for subdivision and development applications.
- Establish an electronic payment system for subdivision and development permit applications.
- Other (Please specify briefly and elaborate below)

Please elaborate on your response, including metrics and performance targets.

The Town works closely with the Development Authority and we are aware there is work that can be done to issue

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development permit decisions that are faster than legislated timelines, to improve our communications on the municipal website regarding subdivision and development permit approval processes and to improve our on-line application processes. The Town has established an electronic payment option.

c) *Make your municipality a more attractive destination for new investment and/or tourism.* + -

- Implement incentives for new investment or tourism, such as new property tax incentives now allowed under the *Municipal Government Act*.
- Develop an action plan to reduce red tape with clearly defined objectives, actions, and targets, and make it available on the municipality's website.
- Partner with neighbouring municipalities to promote investment and economic development opportunities at a regional level.
- Develop and implement asset management policies, plans, and strategies to ensure infrastructure supports long-term economic growth.
- Develop measures of economic activity supported by municipal capital assets (such as roads) and incorporate into asset management plans.
- Assess how the community's long-term plans align with and support Alberta's long-term economic strategies.
- Other (Please specify briefly and elaborate below)

Please elaborate on your response, including metrics and performance targets.

The Town is very excited with the work the current economic partnership group is doing and will continue to encourage, grow and support this initiative.

2. How do you plan to measurably reduce red tape in 2021? Please check all that apply. Please note that a refund of MSP funding may be required if there is insufficient progress in reducing red tape in 2021. Use "+" and "-" buttons beside each objective to see example actions.

a) *Make it easier to start up a new business.* + -

- Implement incentives to encourage new businesses.
- Streamline or speed up processes for obtaining a business licence.
- Review the process for establishing a business and eliminate any unnecessary municipal requirements.
- Work with neighbouring municipalities to establish common business licensing systems, or recognize business licences from other Alberta municipalities.
- Establish a paperless process for business licence applications, and/or an option for electronic payment of application fees.
- Create a section on the municipality's website providing information on how to start a business, including municipal licensing requirements and application forms, process documents, and/or other guidance documents.
- Review and evaluate municipal regulatory requirements to limit and mitigate unintended impacts on small business.
- Work with neighbouring municipalities to coordinate bylaws for weight restrictions, noise restrictions, dust abatement requirements, or other factors that impact commercial/industrial activity.
- Consult with a local post-secondary institution about how to help students establish new businesses after graduation.
- Other (Please specify briefly)

b) *Streamline processes and shorten timelines for development and permit approvals.* + -

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- Establish internal targets for issuing subdivision application decisions that are faster than legislated timelines.
- Establish internal targets for issuing development permit decisions that are faster than legislated timelines.
- Prepare process summaries and checklists of required materials for subdivision and development permit applications.
- Update the municipal website to clearly communicate subdivision and development permit approval processes.
- Establish an online application process for subdivision and development applications.
- Establish an electronic payment system for subdivision and development permit applications.
- Other (Please specify briefly)

c) Make your municipality a more attractive destination for new investment and/or tourism.



- Implement incentives for new investment or tourism, such as new property tax incentives now allowed under the *Municipal Government Act*.
- Develop an action plan to reduce red tape with clearly defined objectives, actions, and targets, and make it available on the municipality's website.
- Partner with neighbouring municipalities to promote investment and economic development opportunities at a regional level.
- Develop and implement asset management policies, plans, and strategies to ensure infrastructure supports long-term economic growth.
- Develop measures of economic activity supported by municipal capital assets (such as roads) and incorporate into asset management plans.
- Assess how the community's long-term plans align with and support Alberta's long-term economic strategies.
- Other (Please specify briefly)

d) How do you intend to measure the results of your actions? Include a brief description of your action(s), baseline data (your current state) and quantitative targets. For example:

- We plan to review our processes for approving business licenses. Currently it takes a new business with a complete application approximately 4 weeks to obtain a license. We hope through our process review to bring that down to 2 weeks.
- We partner with two neighbouring municipalities to network with businesses and share economic development opportunities in our region. We intend to expand this group to include one more municipality.

-The Town plans to work with the Development Authority with respect to the timing of the issuance of development permit decisions. The plans will include work on updating our municipal website to include more background information and direction when it comes to subdivision and development permit processes and will implement fillable forms on our website to provide the users with more options. In addition, we plan to design a form that will allow for completed permit applications to be submitted directly to the development officer electronically from the Town's website.

-The Town plans to encourage growth of the existing economic partnership initiative by expanding the partnership to include the 12 Summer Village communities and the Town of Mayerthorpe. The group is currently comprised of Onoway, Alberta Beach and Lac Ste. Anne County.

-The Town plans to do a comprehensive review of our current processes and policies in place and take strides to improve throughout.

-The Town will get involved in and stand behind initiatives that support bringing reliable high-speed internet to our Town and our rural communities as this will certainly help make the region as a whole a more attractive place for not only new business start ups but also living in rural Alberta in general.

-The Town will have open discussions with current and future Council members regarding business operations and how we can thoughtfully and consistently support businesses within and outside of our municipal boundaries.

3. Is there anything else you wish to share about your municipality's efforts to reduce red tape, or your municipality's unique circumstances regarding red tape reduction?

The Town of Onoway is situated in the Lac Ste. Anne region at the hub of major transportation routes. Onoway strives for balanced business development, environmentally sustainable industry and ample recreational opportunities while maintaining our friendly and respectful small town atmosphere. The Town is currently very supportive of collaborating with our municipal neighbours and look forward to understanding ways in which we can even further assist in supporting the economic development of the region. The red tape initiative reminds us that there can always be better ways and better processes that can be put in place and this initiative will certainly challenge us to think outside the box and also remind us of the importance of efficiencies and in finding the benefits of being supportive of these new initiatives. By focusing on our targeted actions, we hope to attract new business, better our relationships with our regional partners and streamline many of our processes for our current and future residents.

Certification



As a representative of the above municipality, I have been authorized to submit this red tape reduction report on behalf of the municipality.

Wendy Wildman

Print Name

7809675338

Telephone Number

The personal information you are providing on this form is being collected to support the administration of the Municipal Stimulus Program and is authorized under section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The personal information will be managed in accordance with the privacy provisions of the FOIP Act.

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