



# REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

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Council Chambers, Irricana Centennial Centre, 222 2 Street

Date: June 15, 2026 Time: 7:00PM

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**A. ATTENDANCE**

**B. CALL TO ORDER**

**C. AGENDA**

**D. PRESENTATIONS**

**E. MINUTES**

Item E1: Minutes from June 1, 2026 Regular Meeting

**F. CORRESPONDENCE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**G. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**H. OLD BUSINESS**

**I. NEW BUSINESS**

Item I1: Draft Correspondence Regarding AISH to ADAP Transition

Item I2: Land Use Bylaw Amendment (R-MH District)

Item I3: Chief Administrative Officer Report

**J. COMMUNICATION / INFORMATION**

**K. COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

**L. CLOSED SESSION**

Item L1: Legislative and Administrative Matter, Closed per Sections 28(1) and 29(1) of the Access to Information Act

**M. ADJOURN**

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**Item E1**

Minutes from June 1, 2026 Regular Meeting of Council

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## REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council Chambers, Irricana Centennial Centre, 222 2 Street

Date: June 1, 2026 Time: 7:00PM

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### A. ATTENDANCE

Mayor: Colleen MacLeod  
Deputy Mayor: Julie Sim  
Councillors: Nathaniel Fleming, Megan Hoefnagels, Dawna Polson  
CAO: Doug Hafichuk  
Staff: Patty Malthouse

### B. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor MacLeod at 6:59 pm.

### C. AGENDA

- (i) Item C1: Adopt Agenda  
74:26 Moved by Deputy Mayor Sim to adopt the Agenda, as presented.  
CARRIED

### D. PRESENTATIONS

- (i) None

### E. MINUTES

- (i) Item E1: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for May 19, 2026  
75:26 Moved by Councillor Hoefnagels to accept the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of Council for May 19, 2026, as presented.  
CARRIED
- Item E2: Minutes from May 28, 2026 Special Meeting  
76:26 Moved by Deputy Mayor Sim to accept the Minutes from the Special Meeting of Council for May 28, 2026, as presented.  
CARRIED

**F. CORRESPONDENCE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

- (i) None

**G. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- (i) None

**H. OLD BUSINESS**

- (i) None

**I. NEW BUSINESS**

- (i) Item I1: 2025 FCSS Year in Review

77:26 Moved by Councillor Fleming that Council accept the report for information.

CARRIED

Mayor MacLeod called for a short recess at 7:20 pm

Mayor MacLeod reconvened the meeting at 7:23 pm

- (ii) Item I2: Municipal Development Plan Update and Initiation

Council received a PowerPoint presentation from Bluerock Planning, presented by Jonathan Schmidt, Project Manager/Senior Planner, and Mark Locki, Policy and Engagement. The presentation forms part of the June 1, 2026 Council Agenda Package

Mayor MacLeod called for a recess at 7:33 pm

Mayor MacLeod reconvened the meeting at 7:35 pm

78:26 Moved by Councillor Fleming that Council accept the report for information.

CARRIED

Presenters, Jonathan Schmidt and Mark Locki left the meeting at 8:26 pm.

**J. COMMUNICATION / INFORMATION**

- (i) Item J1: RCMP Quarterly Reporting

## **K. COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

### (i) Roundtable Discussion

#### Mayor MacLeod

- 1) AISH (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped): Mayor MacLeod provided an update regarding recent changes to AISH and the potential impacts on some Town residents.

Discussion included concerns raised by affected residents and the possibility of providing information to the public on how to communicate concerns to the Province. Council also discussed the option of submitting correspondence to the Province regarding the impacts of the changes.

#### Deputy Mayor Sim

- 1) Inter-Agency Meeting: Deputy Mayor Sim reported on her attendance at the recent Interagency Meeting.

She noted that representatives from various agencies were in attendance and shared information and experiences. The meeting was described as informative and provided valuable insight into the services and initiatives offered by participating organizations.

- 2) 211 Alberta: Deputy Mayor Sim spoke regarding the 211 community information and referral service, which provides residents with access to information on community, social, health, and government services. She noted its value in connecting individuals with appropriate supports and resources.

#### Councillor Hoefnagels

- 1) Local Farm Visit: Councillor Hoefnagels provided an update on several activities, including visiting a local farm and noting it as a positive experience.
- 2) Town Planters: Councillor Hoefnagels commented that Town planters and perennial plantings are looking well maintained.
- 3) Pioneer Acres Museum: Councillor Hoefnagels suggested consideration be given to installing a vehicle display at the Town entrance in partnership with Pioneer Acres Museum to improve visibility from Highway 9.

#### Councillor Polson

- 1) Social & Recreation Needs Assessment Committee: Councillor Polson requested an update on the Social and Recreation Needs Assessment Committee and inquired about the date of the first meeting.

Administration informed Council that appointment confirmations had been made, but that the initial Working Group meeting was still being coordinated.

Councillor Fleming

- 1) Irricana Food Bank: Councillor Fleming provided an update on the local food bank, including the transition of new board members, banking, and volunteers.
- 2) He noted that the food bank is a fully functioning community service, located at the KIK Building, offering hampers on an as-needed basis. He further noted that the facility operates with freezer storage only (no refrigeration) and that the local fire department is a key supporter through its fundraising efforts.

79:26 Moved by Mayor MacLeod to direct Administration to prepare a letter to the Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services regarding the implementation of the Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP) and its potential impacts on residents and community support services within the Town of Irricana.

CARRIED

**L. CLOSED SESSION**

- (i) None

**M. ADJOURN**

- (i) Adjournment

80:26 Moved by Councillor Fleming to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 pm.

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Colleen MacLeod  
Mayor

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Doug Hafichuk  
Chief Administrative Officer

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**To:** Mayor and Council  
**From:** Chief Administrative Officer  
**Date:** June 15, 2026  
**Purpose:** Request For Decision  
**Subject:** Draft Correspondence Regarding AISH to ADAP Transition

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**Summary:**

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The purpose of this report is to provide Council with background information regarding the Province's implementation of the Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP) and to present draft correspondence for Council's consideration pursuant to Council Resolution 79:26.

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**Background and Discussion:**

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At its June 1, 2026 Regular Meeting, Council adopted the following resolution:

*"79:26 Moved by Mayor MacLeod to direct Administration to prepare a letter to the Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services regarding the implementation of the Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP) and its potential impacts on residents and community support services within the Town of Irricana."*

The Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP) is a new Provincial disability support program scheduled to be implemented in July 2026. According to the Government of Alberta, ADAP is intended to provide financial assistance, health benefits, personal supports, and employment supports to Albertans with severe disabilities who may be able to participate in the workforce with appropriate accommodations and assistance.

The introduction of ADAP represents a notable change to Alberta's disability support framework and has generated discussion among disability advocates, service providers, municipalities, and affected families regarding both the objectives of the program and the practical implications of its implementation.

The purpose of this report is not to evaluate the merits of the program itself, but rather to provide Council with general background information, summarize concerns that have been raised by municipalities and stakeholders, and present draft correspondence for Council's consideration.

Administration has not undertaken an independent assessment of the Province's policy decision to implement ADAP, nor does Administration possess sufficient information to assess the full implications of the transition for affected residents.

For Council's reference, Attachment 'B' is an information sheet provided by the Airdrie Disability and Resource Center, with Attachment 'C' containing a sampling of publicly available media coverage and municipal advocacy related to the implementation of ADAP.

## **Analysis**

The Province has indicated that ADAP is intended to modernize disability supports, improve access to employment-related assistance, and provide a more flexible framework for Albertans whose disabilities create significant barriers to employment but who may still be capable of workforce participation with appropriate supports.

At the same time, municipalities, advocacy organizations, service providers, and affected families have raised concerns regarding the implementation of the program and its potential impacts on vulnerable residents.

Common themes identified through public discussion and municipal advocacy efforts include:

- Clarity regarding eligibility requirements and assessment processes;
- The transition of existing program participants between AISH and ADAP;
- The accessibility of review and appeal mechanisms;
- Communication and public awareness efforts;
- The potential impact on individuals with complex support needs; and
- The capacity of community organizations to assist residents during the transition period.

Several Alberta municipalities have undertaken advocacy efforts requesting additional information regarding implementation timelines, community impacts, transition supports, and stakeholder engagement. Alberta Municipalities has similarly highlighted concerns regarding implementation readiness and the potential implications for rural communities and service providers.

While disability support programs remain a Provincial responsibility, municipalities and community organizations frequently play an indirect but important role in assisting residents to access services, navigate government systems, and connect with appropriate supports. This can be particularly relevant in smaller communities where specialized social service resources may be limited.

As one example of the challenges facing rural communities, the closure of the Alberta Network for Mental Health's Irricana location in 2025 reduced the availability of local support resources that residents may otherwise have relied upon when navigating significant program transitions or accessing community-based assistance.

The attached draft letter has been prepared with these considerations in mind. Rather than taking a position on the merits of ADAP itself, the correspondence focuses on the importance of ensuring that the transition is transparent, clearly communicated, evidence-informed, and appropriately supported, particularly in rural communities where local service capacity may be limited.

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**Financial Implication(s):**

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There are no financial implications associated with this report.

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**Recommendation:**

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That Council review the draft correspondence attached as Attachment 'A' and provide direction regarding the proposed advocacy letter concerning the implementation of the Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP), including authorization for the Mayor to execute the correspondence on behalf of Council.

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**Recommendation Motion(s):**

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**Option #1:**

Motion #1:                   **THAT** That Council approve the draft correspondence attached as Attachment 'A' and authorize the Mayor to execute the letter on behalf of Council.

**Option #2:**

As determined by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

"Doug Hafichuk"

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Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 'A' – Draft Letter Regarding the Alberta Disability Assistance Program

Attachment 'B' – Handout from Airdrie Disability and Resource Center

Attachment 'C' – Supplemental Information

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**Item I1**

Attachment 'A' – Draft Letter Regarding the Alberta Disability Assistance Program

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**Town of Irricana**  
222 – 2 Street  
Irricana, AB T0M 1B0



June 15, 2026

The Honourable Nathan Neudorf  
Minister of Assisted Living & Social Services  
Alberta Legislature Building  
10800 97 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

*Sent via email*

Dear Minister Neudorf,

Re: Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP)

On behalf of Council and residents of the Town of Irricana, I am writing regarding the Province's implementation of the Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP).

Council recognizes that disability support programs are a Provincial responsibility and appreciates the Government of Alberta's efforts to modernize disability supports and improve employment opportunities for Albertans living with disabilities. We understand that the intent of ADAP is to provide a more flexible framework for individuals who may be capable of participating in the workforce with appropriate accommodations and supports.

At the same time, Council has heard concerns from residents regarding the transition and the potential impacts on individuals who rely upon disability supports to meet their daily needs. As a municipal government, Council's primary concern is not the design of Provincial disability policy itself, but rather the practical impacts that significant program changes may have on vulnerable residents, caregivers, community organizations, and local service systems.

Like many rural municipalities, Irricana has limited local social service capacity and relies heavily on partnerships between provincial agencies, community organizations, volunteers, caregivers, and family members to support residents facing complex challenges. When significant program changes occur, residents often turn to these local networks for assistance in understanding eligibility requirements, application processes, reassessments, appeals, and available supports.

Council is concerned that the transition to ADAP may create additional challenges for vulnerable residents and the organizations that support them, particularly during the

implementation and transition period. This concern is especially relevant in smaller rural communities where access to specialized social and mental health services may already be limited.

In Irricana, the closure of a locally based mental health support organization in 2025 reduced the availability of community-based resources that residents may otherwise have relied upon when navigating significant program changes and accessing support services. While municipalities continue to work closely with community partners to support residents wherever possible, local capacity to respond to increased demand remains finite.

With these considerations in mind, Council respectfully encourages the Province to ensure that the implementation of ADAP is accompanied by clear and accessible communication, robust transition supports, accessible review and appeal mechanisms, and ongoing engagement with municipalities, community organizations, caregivers, and affected individuals. Council further encourages the Province to monitor the impacts of the transition and make adjustments where necessary to ensure vulnerable Albertans continue to receive the supports they require.

The Town of Irricana is committed to supporting residents wherever possible; however, municipalities have limited capacity to respond to gaps that may arise within Provincial support systems. For that reason, Council believes it is important that the transition to ADAP be implemented in a manner that supports vulnerable Albertans while recognizing the realities faced by rural communities and local service providers.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and for your continued work supporting Albertans living with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Colleen MacLeod

**Mayor, Town of Irricana**

P: (403) 935-4672 | F: (403) 935-4270

A: PO Box 100, 222 - 2nd Street, Irricana, AB T0M 1B0

E: [cmacleod@irricana.com](mailto:cmacleod@irricana.com) | W: [www.irricana.com](http://www.irricana.com)

cc: *The Honourable Tara Sawyer, MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills  
Council for the Town of Irricana*

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**Item I1**

Attachment 'B' – Handout from Airdrie Disability and Resource Center

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## PARENT & FAMILY HANDOUT

Understanding AISH, ADAP, PDD and the Canada Disability Benefit (2026)

### **A Quick Guide for Parents, Families, Guardians and Caregivers**

Why This Handout Matters

As your child or family member approaches adulthood, you may have questions about:

- What financial benefits are available?
- What happens when my child turns 18?
- What is AISH?
- What is ADAP?
- What is PDD?
- Will my family member stay on AISH?
- What is the Canada Disability Benefit?
- What forms and assessments are needed?

This handout provides a simple overview of the programs available to Albertans with disabilities and their families.

Understanding the Different Programs

#### **What is PDD?**

Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD)

PDD helps adults with developmental disabilities live as independently as possible in their communities.

PDD Can Fund:

- ✓ Community access supports
- ✓ Residential supports
- ✓ Employment supports
- ✓ Independent living supports
- ✓ Life skills development
- ✓ Service coordination

Important

**PDD does NOT provide monthly income.**

Instead, PDD funds disability-related supports and services.

Who May Qualify for PDD?

A person must:

- ✓ Be 18 years or older
- ✓ Be an Alberta resident
- ✓ Have a developmental disability that began before age 18
- ✓ Have significant limitations in intellectual functioning and daily living skills

## **PDD Application Information**

### **Website**

<https://www.alberta.ca/persons-with-developmental-disabilities-program>

### **What is AISH?**

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped. AISH provides monthly income and health benefits to Albertans whose disability prevents them from earning a living.

Maximum Monthly Benefit

**Up to approximately \$1,974 per month**

AISH Health Benefits May Include

- ✓ Prescription medications
- ✓ Dental care
- ✓ Vision care
- ✓ Ambulance services
- ✓ Medical equipment and supplies

✓ Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL)

Who Qualifies for AISH?

A person must:

- ✓ Be 18 years or older
- ✓ Live in Alberta
- ✓ Meet residency requirements
- ✓ Have a severe and likely permanent disability
- ✓ Be substantially limited in their ability to earn a living
- ✓ Meet financial eligibility requirements

AISH Application Information

Website

<https://www.alberta.ca/aish-how-to-apply>

**What is ADAP?**

Alberta Disability Assistance Program

ADAP is Alberta's new disability assistance program.

It supports people with severe disabilities who may still be able to work with accommodations and supports.

Maximum Monthly Benefit

**Up to approximately \$1,784 per month**

ADAP Can Provide

- ✓ Financial assistance

- ✓ Health benefits
- ✓ Job coaching
- ✓ Employment supports
- ✓ Workplace accommodations
- ✓ Career planning

Who Qualifies?

A person may qualify if:

- ✓ They have a severe disability
- ✓ Disability creates significant barriers to employment
- ✓ They may be able to work with supports
- ✓ They meet financial eligibility requirements

ADAP Information

Website

<https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-disability-assistance-program>

## **Important Information for PDD Families**

### **If My Family Member Has PDD, What Happens?**

This is one of the most common questions families ask.

Good News

Individuals who are:

- ✓ Approved for PDD

OR

- ✓ Receiving PDD services

Will remain on AISH.

## **PDD Medical Exemption**

If your family member has a:

PDD Eligibility Approval Letter

they generally do not need a physician-completed disability assessment for AISH or ADAP.

Instead, submit:

✓ PDD Eligibility Approval Letter

## **Who Remains on AISH?**

The following groups generally remain on AISH:

- ✓ Individuals Eligible for PDD
- ✓ Individuals Receiving PDD Services
- ✓ Individuals Age 60 and Older
- ✓ Individuals in Continuing Care
- ✓ Individuals Receiving Palliative Care

## **What is the Canada Disability Benefit?**

The Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) is a federal monthly benefit intended to reduce poverty among working-age Canadians with disabilities.

Maximum Benefit

Up to:

**\$200 per month**

**(\$2,400 per year)**

### **Who Qualifies?**

Generally, applicants must:

- ✓ Be between ages 18–64
- ✓ Live in Canada
- ✓ File annual income taxes
- ✓ Be approved for the Disability Tax Credit

Canada Disability Benefit Website

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/disability/canada-disability-benefit>

What is the Disability Tax Credit?

The Disability Tax Credit (DTC) is a federal tax credit available to eligible individuals with disabilities.

Important

You must generally qualify for the Disability Tax Credit before receiving the Canada Disability Benefit.

Required Form

CRA Form T2201

Disability Tax Credit Certificate

Who Completes the Form?

Depending on the disability:

- ✓ Physician
- ✓ Nurse Practitioner
- ✓ Psychologist
- ✓ Occupational Therapist

- ✓ Audiologist
- ✓ Physiotherapist
- ✓ Speech-Language Pathologist
- ✓ Optometrist

Disability Tax Credit Website

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/segments/tax-credits-deductions-persons-disabilities/disability-tax-credit.html>

### **Employment Income Exemptions**

AISH Recipients may earn:

| Household Type          | Monthly Employment Income Exemption |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Single Adult            | \$350                               |
| Single Parent           | \$350                               |
| Household with Partners | \$1500                              |

**Before benefits begin to be reduced. They have not yet published what the clawbacks would look like for AISH**

### **ADAP**

Recipients may earn:

| Household Type         | Monthly Employment Income Exemption. |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Single Adult           | \$700                                |
| Single Parent          | \$1100                               |
| Household with Partner | \$1500                               |

Before benefits begin to be reduced.

For families planning budgets, the key takeaway is:

**The first \$700 (single), \$1,100 (parent), or \$1,500 (couple household) is protected. After that, benefits decrease gradually rather than dropping all at once, and ADAP recipients can continue receiving some financial benefits while earning up to about \$45,240 annually.**

### **Documents Families Should Keep**

Create a folder with:

- PDD Eligibility Approval Letter
- Psychological Assessments
- Medical Reports
- Guardianship Documents
- Trusteeship Documents
- Disability Tax Credit Approval
- AISH or ADAP Letters
- Banking Information
- Government Identification

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Can my family member receive both PDD and AISH?

**Yes.**

PDD provides support services while AISH provides income and health benefits.

Does PDD automatically qualify someone for AISH?

Not automatically, but PDD eligibility is recognized by Alberta and can simplify the application process.

Does PDD automatically qualify someone for the Canada Disability Benefit?

No.

A separate Disability Tax Credit application is required.

Will my family member move from AISH to ADAP?

Individuals who are PDD eligible or receiving PDD services generally remain on AISH.

Key Takeaways for Families

- ✓ PDD provides supports, not income
- ✓ AISH provides income and health benefits
- ✓ ADAP provides income, health and employment supports
- ✓ Canada Disability Benefit requires Disability Tax Credit approval
- ✓ Individuals who are PDD eligible generally remain on AISH
- ✓ Individuals age 60+ generally remain on AISH
- ✓ Keep copies of all assessments, approval letters and legal documents

Need More Information?

**AISH**

<https://www.alberta.ca/aish-how-to-apply>

**ADAP**

<https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-disability-assistance-program>

**PDD**

<https://www.alberta.ca/persons-with-developmental-disabilities-program>

**Canada Disability Benefit**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/disability/canada-disability-benefit>

**Disability Tax Credit**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/segments/tax-credits-deductions-persons-disabilities/disability-tax-credit.html>

**Prepared as a community information resource for families, caregivers, support workers and self-advocates.**

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**Item I1**

Attachment 'C' – Supplemental Information

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Edmonton

# Municipalities call on Alberta government to pause changes to disability benefits

AISH recipients moved to new program will receive \$200 less each month

[Natasha Riebe](#) · CBC News · Posted: Apr 16, 2026 6:00 AM MDT | Last Updated: April 16



Listen to this article

Estimated 4 minutes



Edmonton city council is among the Alberta municipalities asking the province to pause its changes to AISH. (Natasha Riebe/CBC)

Several Alberta municipalities are urging the province to pause changes to the provincial Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program, which are set to take effect July 1.

The city councils of Red Deer, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Camrose and Calgary have either passed motions asking the government to put the changes on hold, or are in discussions to do so.

The town council of Claresholm also passed a motion in February and the town council of Rocky Mountain House directed its administration to draft a letter, asking the province to reconsider.



All AISH recipients will be automatically transferred into the province's replacement initiative, called the Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP), according to a [discussion guide](#) posted by the provincial government last summer.

AISH recipients who are moved to ADAP will receive \$200 less each month than they would have previously.

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**AISH recipient, advocates worry about Alberta's new disability benefit program**

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This week, Red Deer Coun. Cassandra Curtis raised a motion, which noted there was a lack of consultation on Bill 12, the legislation permitting the creation of ADAP.

The UCP-majority legislature passed the bill last fall.

Red Deer's motion also directs the province to do a social-economic assessment and to consult persons with disabilities, advocacy organizations and medical professionals before changing AISH.

ADAP focuses on expanding income support options for Albertans who have a severe disability but are still able to work, according to the discussion guide.

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**Advocates call on Alberta government to halt shift to new disability benefits program**

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Curtis said people moving to ADAP may not be able to make up for the program's \$200 deduction in income.

"Some might not be able to find an employer that's able to work with them and their condition," Curtis said in an interview Wednesday.

"And some people also have good days and bad days and won't be able to maintain employment on a stable basis to make up for that difference."

People who want to remain on AISH will only be able to do so if they re-apply and if a medical review panel determines them unable to work.

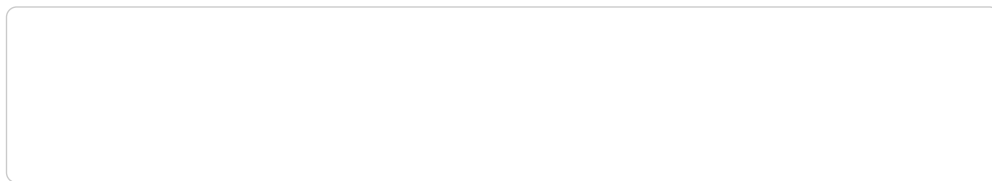
***WATCH | This AISH recipient is 'not optimistic' about Bill 12:***



### This AISH recipient is 'not optimistic' about Bill 12

▶ December 14, 2025 | 1:51

The Alberta government has passed Bill 12, which introduced the new Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP). It will eventually replace the current AISH program for many people with disabilities. Mike Wing, a disability advocate and AISH recipient, is not convinced that ADAP will be an improvement over AISH.



Jason Nixon, the minister of assisted living and social services, said a pause isn't going to happen and that criticism is unfounded.

"Unfortunately because of misinformation, some city councils are asking for things to pause not understanding what the consequences of that decision would be," Nixon told reporters Wednesday.

"The consequences of that would be thousands of people who are not eligible for AISH today would not be able to start receiving ADAP payments in July."

### Advocates push back on Danielle Smith's comment that people are moving to Alberta for social programs

In January, Edmonton city council passed a motion also asking for a pause.

Coun. Keren Tang raised the motion but realized Nixon is unlikely to budge from his position.

"Ultimately, the goal is to make sure this remains top of mind for society, for government, that this is an active conversation."

People affected by the changes are trying to prepare, but there's still a lot of anxiety, Teng said.

"People continue to be concerned," she said. "Four months later, I'm still getting emails."

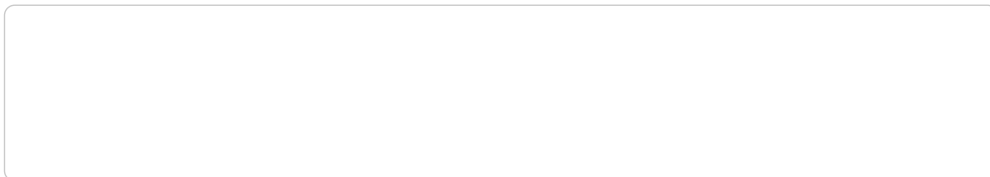


Darryl Learie has been an AISH recipient for nearly 30 years. He recently brought a petition to the Alberta legislature, opposed to the UCP government's changes to AISH. (Janet French/CBC)

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Darryl Learie, an AISH recipient for nearly 30 years, brought a petition containing 5,674 signatures against the changes to the Alberta legislature Tuesday, where the Opposition NDP presented it during question period.

Learie said he suffers from generalized anxiety, depression, ADHD, and is on the autism spectrum. Working for him isn't an option, he said.



"Programs like AISH are designed to remove the pressure of working so that people can focus on managing serious mental health conditions," Learie told news media at the legislature.

"When too much pressure is being put on me, I tend to destabilize and fall apart."

# Cochrane issues advocacy letter amid ADAP transition concerns



[Izaiah Louis Reyes](#)

Jun 4, 2026 1:30 PM



*Cochrane joins eight municipalities and the Inter-city Forum on Social Policy in sending advocacy letters to Alberta. | Daniel Gonzalez/The Cochrane Eagle*

[Listen to this article](#)

00:05:32

The Alberta government is preparing to launch a new disability support stream this July called the Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP), aimed at supporting Albertans with disabilities who

are able to participate in the workforce while still requiring financial assistance. The program will operate alongside the existing Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program.

“Albertans with disabilities and the organizations that support them have made it clear that they want more support and opportunities to earn a living beyond what is offered by the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program,” the province stated on its website.

“They stressed the importance of providing pathways to employment for individuals who are able to work but still require support — something AISH is not designed to provide. ADAP was thoughtfully designed based on input from Albertans with disabilities.”

According to provincial information, some Albertans currently receiving AISH who are considered capable of workforce participation may transition to ADAP. The province said the program is intended to reduce barriers to employment while continuing disability supports, though some recipients and advocacy groups have raised concerns about how the transition will be implemented.

Under current information released by the province, the base rate for ADAP recipients receiving the Canadian Disability Benefit would be lower than the current AISH rate. However, the new program also includes employment income exemptions intended to encourage workforce participation. The province said the program is designed for individuals with different support needs than those who remain on AISH.

For Cochrane resident Jessica Reginato, the proposed changes have created uncertainty about her family’s financial future.

“Before, I could make up to \$2,500 before they deducted dollar for dollar, and now it’s changing,” she said. “People on disability supports are already budgeting down to the dollar. Even a small reduction has a huge impact.”

Reginato also said she has concerns about how eligibility reviews and appeals will function under the new system.

“I’ve been told three or four different stories,” she said. “I was told that it was AISH doctors who were going to be making the decision and that we weren’t going to be able to appeal it or apply again.”

At a recent council meeting, social planning and inclusion advisor Chantal Barber estimated several hundred Cochrane residents could be impacted by the transition.

“StatsCan’s 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability indicates that 28 per cent of Albertans aged 15 and older live with one or more disabilities. Applied to Cochrane, that’s approximately 8,800 residents,” she said. “Of Albertans with a disability, approximately 8.6 per cent currently receive AISH. Applied to Cochrane, that suggests approximately 700 to 800 residents currently receive AISH.”

### **Stay in the Know, Locally**

Get the latest news, stories, and updates  
from around your community – delivered  
straight to your inbox. [Sign Me Up](#)

Barber added the effects would likely extend beyond recipients themselves to family members, caregivers and local support agencies.

“Cochrane FCSS, our food security partners and community agencies will be the first point of contact for many of these residents and their families,” she said.

Members of council emphasized the importance of ensuring vulnerable residents fully understand the changes.

“These are some of our quietest residents,” said Laura McDonald. “These aren’t the folks who are going to be able to advocate the loudest, so keep that in mind.”

In response to concerns raised by residents and community organizations, Cochrane council approved an advocacy letter May 19 asking the province to ensure the transition from AISH to ADAP is transparent, evidence-informed and supported by clear implementation plans and accessible communication. Several other Alberta municipalities and the Inter-City Forum on Social Policy have also submitted letters regarding the program rollout.

“Council appreciates the Government of Alberta’s efforts to modernize disability supports and improve employment pathways for Albertans who are able,” said Mayor Morgan Nagel. “At the same time, we continue to hear from residents and advocates who have concerns about how this transition will be implemented.”

The Town’s advocacy letter asks the province to:

- ensure review and appeal pathways are clearly communicated and accessible;
- continue consultations with disability organizations and municipalities;
- publicly release engagement findings and impact analyses;
- provide implementation support to municipalities and community agencies.

“I was definitely advocating for this letter to come forward for quite a while now,” said Coun. Marni Fedeyko. “When you’re already a person who has needs and doesn’t necessarily understand all the ins and outs of how the policy is changing, you don’t even know where to go.”

Town officials said their preferred outcome would be for the province to address outstanding concerns and provide additional clarity before the July launch date.

“Our hope is to see them continue communicating more about the program and working with affected parties to advance it,” said Matt Knox, director of social development for the Town of Cochrane.



***About the Author: Izaiah Louis Reyes***

Read more

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## Comments (0)

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## Cochrane Council calls for greater clarity on provincial disability support transition



May 21, 2026

(Cochrane, AB) – Cochrane Town Council has approved an advocacy letter to the Government of Alberta regarding the Province’s transition from the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program to the Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP).

The letter asks the province to ensure the transition between AISH to ADAP is transparent, evidence-informed and supported by clear implementation plans and accessible communication for Albertans who rely on disability supports. As one of Alberta’s fastest-growing communities, Cochrane continues to see increased demand on local social systems and community services. Council noted that further clarity is needed regarding review and appeal pathways, cost-of-living considerations, and potential implications for municipal

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Morgan Nagel. “At the same time, we continue to hear from residents and advocates who have concerns about how this transition will be implemented. We see this as an opportunity to work collaboratively with the province by identifying potential gaps and community impacts early, and ensuring the program can be as successful and supportive as possible for impacted residents.”

Council emphasized that its advocacy is intended to support effective implementation of the new program and ensure residents, and community organizations are well-positioned for the transition. Council noted that ADAP has the potential to provide meaningful support for Albertans with disabilities when paired with strong coordination between the province and community partners.

“While this transition may not directly affect every Cochraneite, it is important that residents who rely on these supports feel informed, supported, and protected throughout the process,” said Nagel. “We want to ensure our municipality and community organizations also have the information and resources they need to plan and respond effectively.”

Cochrane is a member of the Inter-City Forum on Social Policy, which has also written to the province regarding implementation readiness and community impacts related to the transition to ADAP.

The province has indicated implementation of ADAP is expected in July 2026.

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## Get In Touch

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 Call (403) 851-2500

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## Land Acknowledgement

The Town of Cochrane gratefully acknowledges that we are situated on Treaty 7 territory, the traditional lands of Iyârhe Nakoda peoples of the Chiniki, Bearspaw and Goodstoney First Nations. Treaty 7 is also home to the Tsuut'ina, Niitsitapi peoples of Siksika, Piikani and Kainai First Nations, as well as the homelands of the Métis residing within the Rocky View Métis District of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government within the Métis Nation of Alberta.

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# Council Report

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**To:** Mayor and Council  
**From:** Chief Administrative Officer  
**Date:** June 15, 2026  
**Purpose:** Request For Decision  
**Subject:** Land Use Bylaw Amendment – R-MH District

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## Summary:

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At its May 19, 2026 Regular Meeting, Council adopted Resolution 68:26 directing Administration to prepare a Land Use Bylaw amendment restoring "Dwelling, Single Detached" as a Discretionary Use within the Residential – Manufactured Home District and return with the proposed amendment for Council consideration.

Administration has prepared the proposed amending bylaw and is seeking First Reading.

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## Background and Discussion:

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At its May 19, 2026 Regular Meeting, Council received a report identifying an alignment issue within the Residential – Manufactured Home District of Land Use Bylaw 007:2023.

Administration noted that the current district does not list "Dwelling, Single Detached" as either a Permitted or Discretionary Use despite the existence of several established homes of this form within the district. Review of previous Land Use Bylaws confirmed that "Single Family Dwelling (traditional stick-built)" was listed as a Discretionary Use within the 2010 Land Use Bylaw.

Following discussion, Council adopted a resolution:

*"68:26 Moved by Councillor Fleming that Council direct Administration to prepare a Land Use Bylaw Amendment restoring "Dwelling, Single Detached" as a Discretionary Use within the R-MH – Manufactured Home District and return with the proposed amendment bylaw for Council consideration."*

Administration has subsequently prepared Bylaw 004:2026, which would amend Land Use Bylaw 007:2023 by restoring "Dwelling, Single Detached" as a Discretionary Use within the Residential – Manufactured Home District. *No changes are proposed to district boundaries, overall density, or the broader intent of the district.*

During preparation of the amending bylaw, Administration identified that the 2010 version of the Land Use Bylaw contemplated Single Detached Dwellings within the district *but did not establish district-specific development standards for that housing form.*

To ensure clarity and provide a consistent regulatory framework moving forward, the proposed amendment includes minimum lot area and minimum lot width requirements for single detached dwellings. The proposed standards have been derived from the Town's current R1 and R2 residential districts and are intended to ensure consistency with other low-density residential areas within the community.

Specifically, the amendment proposes updating 7.5.5 to include:

|                              | Lot Area              | Lot Width      |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| (c) Dwelling Single Detached | (i) 400m <sup>2</sup> | (ii) 13 Metres |

Administration also reviewed other district-specific development regulations, including minimum lot dimensions, setbacks, maximum building height, lot coverage requirements, and minimum habitable floor area requirements, to ensure the proposed amendment was complete and internally consistent.

That review identified that the majority of existing district regulations could be readily applied to Dwelling, Single Detached without modification. The only area where additional clarification was warranted related to minimum habitable floor area requirements.

While the R1 and R2 districts establish a minimum floor area of 93 m<sup>2</sup> for Single Detached Dwellings, Administration is not recommending that standard be applied within the R-MH District. Instead, the existing district minimum of 67 m<sup>2</sup> for principal dwellings is proposed to remain unchanged.

Administration believes this represents the most appropriate and proportionate response to the issue identified. Maintaining the existing minimum floor area requirement preserves consistency with the historical intent of the district, avoids introducing new restrictions that have not previously existed, and remains aligned with Council's direction to restore a historical land use permission rather than undertake a broader redesign of the district.

## **Strategic Alignment**

Administration views the proposed amendment as consistent with the Town's ongoing efforts to improve regulatory clarity, policy consistency, and long-term development readiness. The amendment addresses a narrowly scoped alignment issue while broader Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw review processes continue.

These modest changes ensure that the amendment remains focused on restoring a historical land use permission and establishing clear development standards without materially altering the purpose or character of the district or introducing changes that could lead to unintended outcomes.

## **Policy and Legislative Implications**

The proposed amendment is consistent with Resolution 68:26 and must proceed in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Government Act, including statutory advertising and a formal public hearing prior to Third Reading.

Should Council provide First Reading, Administration will proceed with the statutory advertising requirements prescribed by the MGA and return the bylaw for Public Hearing and consideration of Second and Third Reading at a future meeting.

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## **Financial Implication(s):**

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Minor costs associated with statutory advertising and the public hearing process are expected to be accommodated within existing operating budgets, and total under \$500 cumulatively.

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## **Recommendation:**

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Administration recommends giving first reading to Bylaw 004:2026.

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## **Recommendation Motion(s):**

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### **Option #1:**

Motion #1:                   **THAT** That Council give First Reading to Bylaw 004:2026, being a bylaw to amend Land Use Bylaw 007:2023 by restoring "Dwelling, Single Detached" as a Discretionary Use within the Residential – Manufactured Home District (R-MH) and establishing associated development standards.

**Option #2:**

As determined by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

"Doug Hafichuk"

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Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 'A' – Land Use Bylaw Amendment – R-MH District (Bylaw 004:2026)

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**Item 12**

Attachment 'A' – Land Use Bylaw Amendment – R-MH District

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# BYLAW 004:2026

## A Bylaw of the Town of Irricana, in the Province of Alberta, to amend Bylaw 007:2023, being the 2023 Land Use Bylaw.

**WHEREAS** pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c. M-26, as amended, Council may adopt and amend a Land Use Bylaw;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of the Town of Irricana adopted Bylaw 007:2023 on November 6, 2023, being the Irricana Land Use Bylaw;

**AND WHEREAS** Council has identified the need to amend the Residential – Manufactured Home District (R-MH) regulations to restore "Dwelling, Single Detached" as a Discretionary Use and establish associated development standards;

**AND WHEREAS** Council has held a Public Hearing in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Government Act on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026;

**AND THEREFORE** under the authority of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Town of Irricana, in the Province of Alberta, enacts as follows:

### Title

1. This Bylaw may be cited as the "***Land Use Bylaw Amendment – R-MH District.***"

### Amendments

2. Section 7.5.3 – Discretionary Uses is amended by adding the following subsection:

(g) Dwelling, Single Detached

3. Section 7.5.5 – Minimum Lot Dimension Requirements are amended by adding the following row:

|                              | Lot Area              | Lot Width      |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| (c) Dwelling Single Detached | (i) 400m <sup>2</sup> | (ii) 13 Metres |

### Continuity

4. Except as expressly amended by this Bylaw, all provisions of Bylaw 007:2023 remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

**Severability**

- 5. If any provision of this Bylaw is declared invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions of the Bylaw will remain valid and enforceable.

**Effective Date**

- 6. *Bylaw 004:2026*, being the *Land Use Bylaw Amendment – R-MH District*, is passed when it receives third reading and is signed pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act*.

READ A FIRST TIME this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2026.

READ A SECOND TIME this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2026.

READ A THIRD TIME this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Colleen MacLeod  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Hafichuk  
Chief Administrative Officer



# Council Report

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**To:** Mayor and Council  
**From:** Chief Administrative Officer  
**Date:** June 15, 2026  
**Purpose:** **Provided for Information**  
**Subject:** Chief Administrative Officer Report

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## Summary:

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Administration continues to observe positive momentum across development, operations, and organizational initiatives. Several projects discussed in previous reports have now transitioned from planning into implementation, including summer programming, campground operations, strategic growth planning, and multiple development files. Overall operations remain stable and Administration continues to advance Council's strategic priorities in a measured and deliberate manner.

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## Background and Discussion:

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### Development, Economic Activity & Growth Readiness

Development and investment activity within the community continues to demonstrate positive momentum. Over the past month, several new and returning businesses have commenced operations or reopened within the community, including a vape retail establishment, a concrete cutting and coring business, a new esthetics business, and the reopening of the Irricana Mug.

These investments reflect continued confidence in the community and local business environment. Administration notes that recently available commercial spaces have generally been reoccupied quickly, demonstrating that interest in establishing or expanding businesses within Irricana remains strong and that the primary constraint is not demand, but rather the inventory of suitable space.

Administration is particularly pleased to report receipt of the first formal Development Permit application associated with the Hotel Irricana property. The site represents one of the community's historically significant locations and has been the subject of redevelopment discussions for several years.

Prior to submission, the applicant participated in a Pre-Application Meeting with Administration. Introduced in 2024, these meetings are intended to help applicants understand requirements, identify potential issues early, and improve overall application readiness. Administration has found the program to be an effective tool for supporting applicants and facilitating more efficient development review.

Initial review is underway and, to date, Administration has not identified any significant deficiencies or concerns with the application package. While the application remains subject to the normal review process, Administration is encouraged by the proposal and the potential opportunity to support reinvestment in a prominent Main Street property.

Administration also continues to work with the operators of Gas Plus regarding a proposed expansion of services and associated Development Permit application. While additional information remains outstanding, the file continues to progress positively towards compliance and reinvestment in an existing local business.

Work associated with the final conditions of approval for the Pioneer Industrial Park subdivision also continues to advance. Landscaping requirements are now being fulfilled, and Administration anticipates conducting a final site walkthrough later this summer to verify compliance with the remaining conditions of approval.

Subject to satisfactory completion of the outstanding works, Administration expects the subdivision approval process to be officially concluded by fall. The project represents a positive example of the development process functioning as intended, with approved conditions being fulfilled and the subdivision progressing toward successful completion and close-out.

Administration also notes continued external interest in the community. During the reporting period, Irricana was featured in a CBC News story examining the community's growth potential and strategic position within a rapidly evolving regional economy. <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7200437>

Lastly, work associated with the Municipal Development Plan project continues, following Council's recent presentation from Bluerock Planning. Administration and the consulting team have transitioned into stakeholder identification, and final planning for public engagement. The project remains on schedule and continues to represent a foundational component of the Town's long-term growth strategy.

### **Operations, Recreation & Seasonal Readiness**

Spring maintenance activities have now largely transitioned from planning into execution and completion. Annual rodent control, street sweeping, and community

weed control programs have been completed substantially on schedule and without significant operational concerns. Summer Cleanup Coupons have also been distributed to residents in support of community beautification and responsible waste disposal.

The Splash Park officially opened on June 5 and is anticipated to remain operational through September 15, weather permitting.

Summer Drop-In Programming commenced on June 2. Opening-day attendance was especially strong, with overall first-week participation aligned with anticipated levels. Now entering its third year, the program continues to demonstrate strong participation and increasing operational maturity, reinforcing its role as an important component of the Town's seasonal offerings for residents and visitors.

Recruitment and onboarding for the Town's Junior Recreation Assistants has also been completed, with two local youth joining the organization for the summer season. These positions support recreation programming and facility operations while providing meaningful employment opportunities for local youth.

The Irricana Campground has now completed its first full month of operations under direct municipal management. Administration is pleased with the transition to date, with reservation activity, customer experience, and day-to-day operations generally meeting or exceeding expectations.

Significant preparation occurred during the off-season to support a smooth transition, and early indicators suggest those efforts have been successful. Beyond its role as a recreational amenity, the campground continues to support broader tourism and economic development objectives by encouraging visitors to experience Irricana and contribute to local economic activity.

### **Organizational Capacity & Service Delivery**

The Town's new Resident Services Clerk commenced employment on June 1 and has completed initial onboarding and training activities. As a critical frontline customer service position, the role supports organizational stability, service continuity, and positive resident experiences.

Seasonal recruitment activities have now concluded, with operational and recreation staffing in place to support summer service delivery.

Administration has completed preparatory work associated with recruitment of a certified Water Operator and anticipates posting the position during the upcoming reporting period. This recruitment represents the first (externally visible) step

associated with Council's objective of returning day-to-day water operations to direct municipal delivery.

Administration is also working to enable online credit card payment functionality within the Communal booking and program registration platform. While not expected to materially increase utilization, the enhancement provides residents with additional convenience when accessing related municipal services.

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**Financial Implication(s):**

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No financial implications. The report is provided for information only.

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**Recommendation:**

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Administration recommends that the report be received for information.

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**Recommendation Motion(s):**

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**Option #1:**

Motion #1:           **THAT** the Chief Administrative Officer Report be received for information.

**Option #2:**

As determined by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

"Doug Hafichuk"

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Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENTS:**

N/A