



Community Services Standing Committee Meeting July 15, 2025

AGENDA

A. CALL TO ORDER AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

B. REVIEW

- a. Agenda
- b. Minutes
- c. Visions and Values
- d. Declaration of Financial Interest

C. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Community Services Director's Report

D. ADMINISTRATION

E. OTHER BUSINESS

F. EXCUSING OF COUNCILLORS

G. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

H. ADJOURNMENT



Community Services Standing Committee Meeting

MINUTES

The Community Services Standing Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 10th, 2025 @ 6:30 pm within the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Cr. Benwell, Cr. Heaton, Cr. Karasiuk, D/M Keizer, Mayor Fergusson, Cr. Tuckey, Cr. Cox, and Cr. Couvrette
Regrets: Cr. Bathe and Mayor Fergusson
Staff Present: Tracy Thomas, Senior Administrative Officer
Raveena Brown, Executive Secretary
Emily Colucci, Director of Community Services
Andrew Grenier, Director of Municipal Services

A. CALL TO ORDER

D/M Keizer called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and handed the chair to Cr. Heaton. Cr. Heaton read the acknowledgment of First Nations.

B. REVIEW

a. Agenda

Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk
Seconded by: D/M Keizer

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

PASSED

b. Minutes

Moved by: Cr. Benwell
Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette

That the minutes from the Community Services Standing Committee Meeting on May 13th, 2025, be adopted as presented.

PASSED

- c. Vision and Mission
- d. Declaration of Financial Interest

C. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

a. Community Services Director’s Report

Director Colucci reported that magician Quincy Film has been booked for a July 4 performance, with support from Metis Council and Salt River First Nation. Pool staff training is scheduled for early July, with two staff pursuing NL certification. Two full-time summer recreation staff and one term position have been secured. Despite staffing challenges, preparations are underway for the pool reopening once water service is restored.

D. ADMINISTRATION

- a. Briefing Note – Fireweed Festival Donation Request – For Committee discussion and recommendation to council, if any.

Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk
Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette



Community Services Standing Committee Meeting

That Council approve the donation of \$2500 from the Music Festival budget line to the Fireweed Festival. \$1000 of it being put towards the rental of the stage, and \$1500 as a monetary donation.

PASSED

Director Colucci noted that the request could be handled similarly to last year. While the organizers have asked for more this time, the Town previously provided \$2,500 in total, including \$1,000 allocated specifically for the stage. The stage cost was not counted toward the cash contribution, meaning the actual donation was \$1,500.

Director Colucci also pointed out that this event appears to be larger in scale than the other, potentially spanning multiple days with family-friendly activities, vendors, and a broader audience. In contrast, the other event is community-focused and adult-only. Given the difference in scope and reach, Colucci suggested considering proportional rather than equal funding between the two events.

D/M Keizer requested clarification on whether the arena is included in the proposal and if it is available, as there has been some confusion regarding its use. Director Colucci explained that if the arena was not donated, the event organizers could still rent it.

- b. Briefing Note – Howie Fest Donation Request – For Committee discussion and recommendation to council, if any.

Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk
Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette

That Council approve a \$1500 in-kind donation to Howie Fest to be used towards the rental of the arena.

PASSED

While recognizing the intent of the event, Cr. Cox noted a concern with supporting a licensed event that promotes a family-oriented image yet excludes a significant portion of the community—particularly youth and teenagers. He emphasized the importance of considering how such events align with community values and inclusivity.

Cr. Couvrette expressed support for the cultural, musical, and talent-based aspects of the event and noted the value they could offer to youth. He suggested exploring ways to expand the event to allow youth participation, even if a license is required. He proposed the possibility of designating a separate area so that youth can still take part in the general tribute and musical components of the festival.

Cr. Benwell shared that she attended last year’s event, she noted that youth were allowed to participate up to a certain time, after which they were asked to leave before alcohol service began. The event ran smoothly, with staff on hand to monitor the space. She added that the music was great, the crowd was large, and food was available. Prior to the cut-off time, there were games and activities provided for youth and children.

Cr. Couvrette praised the tribute being paid to individuals and emphasized the importance of maintaining a positive approach. He added that youth in the community should be encouraged to participate in events that bring people together.

Director Colucci clarified that hosting a licensed event is permitted under current policy, but alcohol service must be limited to the mezzanine area. Serving alcohol on the rink surface, would be a deviation from the established policy. She emphasized that



Community Services Standing Committee Meeting

administration does not support that change and prefers to keep all alcohol service strictly within the mezzanine area.

Cr. Benwell noted that she has attended several gatherings held on the arena rink surface where alcohol was served. In those instances, alcohol was restricted to the rink surface and not permitted beyond that area. Security personnel were present to enforce this restriction. Director Colucci noted that the facility alcohol use policy was updated in 2021.

Cr. Couvrette requested for a festival outline, asking for clarification regarding the plans for alcohol service. He noted that with this information, Council would have sufficient time to discuss the matter at the next meeting and potentially bring forward a motion.

One suggestion was to explore the possibility of combining the Howie Festival with the Fireweed Festival to create a larger joint event. However, concerns were expressed about maintaining the festival's intended purpose as a tribute to those affected by the plane crash, with some emphasizing the importance of preserving its memorial nature.

c. Briefing Note – Canada Day Parade and Celebration Road Closures

Moved by: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded by: Cr. Karasiuk

That Council approve the following road closures for the 2025 Canada Day Parade and Celebrations:

- Portage Avenue (from McDougal Road to the Conibear Park parking lot) from **8:00 am to 5:00 pm** on July 1st
- McDougal Road (from the Post Office crosswalk to the Anglican Church parking lot) from **11:00 am to 5:00 pm** on July 1st
- Temporary road closures along the proposed parade route as indicated in the request, from **11:30 am to 1:00 pm**

PASSED

E. OTHER BUSINESS

F. EXCUSING OF COUNCILLORS

Moved by: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey

That Cr. Bathe and Mayor Fergusson be excused from the Community Services Standing Committee Meeting on June 10th.

PASSED

G. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Community Services Standing Committee Meeting will be on July 15th, 2025.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk
Seconded by: D/M Keizer

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:16 pm.

PASSED



Community Services Advisory Board Meeting

MINUTES

The Community Services Advisory Board Meeting was held on
Thursday, June 19th, 2025 @ noon within the Curling Lounge.

Present: Jeri Miltenberger, Rohma Nawaz, Allie McDonald, Mike Vassel, and Mitchel Heron
Regrets: Jonah Mitchell, and Rebecca Pumphrey
Staff Present: Emily Colucci, Director of Community Services

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm.

B. DELEGATIONS

Mitchel Heron – Maskwa Engineering (Riverside Park and Lookout Re-development)

During the discussion on community priorities, Mike raised concerns about lighting, noting that ambient light can interfere with aurora viewing. He suggested installing low-level lighting directed toward the ground and proposed a control system that could be managed from the warming shelter to turn lights off when needed. Allie inquired whether the location had been finalized and asked about water access. Jeri asked if it would be possible to build a bunny hill. Mike also mentioned that the Ski Club is interested in bringing back the Attack event and would like it to be considered, though he acknowledged that safety and integration into current planning would need to be addressed. There were additional discussions about community events and whether the lookout area platform should remain in its current location or be moved. Rohma raised a question about whether these plans are allowable under current legislation.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By: Allie McDonald
Seconded By: Rohma Nawaz

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

PASSED

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Community Services Advisory Board Meeting May 29th, 2025

Moved By: Allie McDonald
Seconded By: Mike Vassel

That the minutes from the Community Services Advisory Board Meeting on May 29th, 2025, be adopted as presented.

PASSED

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. Arena update

Director Colucci shared that banners have been hung and look great. Any other items that people would like added can go to her. Jeri asked about Curling Trophies and if these can be added somewhere. She said she would tell the Curling Club to reach out to the Director.



Community Services Advisory Board Meeting

F. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Community Services Report for June 2025

An update on the Pool was given.

- b. Street Scaping Item Options

Picnic Tables – 1, 3, and 4 (not 2)

Benches – option 1 for downtown core, option 2 for park trails

Garbage Bins – a conversation was had about the possibility of having art wraps done.

Bike Racks – loops for scooters and flat for bikes

G. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Exams, School events done
- NIPDs
- St. Jean Baptiste, June 24th, 2025

H. EXCUSING OF MEMBERS

Moved by: Mike Vassel

Seconded by: Allie McDonald

That Jonah Mitchell, and Rebecca Pumphrey be excused from the CSAB meeting on June 19th, 2025.

PASSED

I. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next CSAB meeting will be held on September 18th, 2025, @ noon within the Curling Lounge at the Fort Smith Community and Recreation Centre.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By: Allie McDonald

Seconded By: Mike Vassel

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 pm.

PASSED

Our Vision and Mission

Community Vision

Fort Smith is a vibrant, future-focused community with a small-town feel, where residents enjoy a high quality of life. With efficient services and sustainable land use, the Town actively preserves and enhances its heritage, culture, and natural environment.

Council Vision

The Town of Fort Smith is a thriving, well-managed local government where proactive stewardship ensures the long-term sustainability of our publicly owned assets. We are committed to sound governance, responsible planning, and delivering services that meet the needs of our residents at reasonable levels.

With a strong organizational culture and a collaborative approach, we foster positive relationships with neighboring First Nations and Metis communities and work together toward shared prosperity. By supporting local economic opportunities, accessible services, and a good quality of life, we create a community where seniors can retire with dignity, young people can build a future, and all residents can feel a sense of belonging and possibility.

Mission

The Town of Fort Smith provides a broad range of essential and valued services that support our community's well-being, both now and for future generations. Through responsible resource management and responsive delivery service, we create a well-functioning and forward-looking community that enriches the lives of all who call Fort Smith home.



RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH ACCEPTS THE COMMUNITY SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE 2025 AS PRESENTED.

BACKGROUND

Recreational Programming

The CRC attendance continues to be high, but lower than the previous month. We do expect to see lower attendance at the building during the summer months. The Gymnasium schedule is consistently full with pop-up programs and events planned throughout the summer. In June, we were able to partner with the Fort Smith Metis Council and Salt River First Nation to host the Hi-Tek Sports Camp. This camp was a five-day camp filled with engaging activities for local youth and their families. Participants had the chance to take part in archery, multi-sport games, leather crafting, food dehydration, outdoor pursuits, wellness sessions, leadership development, team-building exercises, and more. The camp was a great success, with over 180 community members taking part. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the organizers were invited to return on a yearly basis. This partnership highlights the value of working together with local Nations and welcoming outside organizations to support meaningful, community-focused programming. The summer indoor playground in the Curling Rink continues to be well used. This provides an indoor space for the season if people need a chance to get out of the heat or if the air quality is poor.

A new outdoor volleyball program has been launched for the summer and has been well attended. This will be regularly scheduled to run until the end of August.

In June, we launched a new seniors' program with our yoga instructor. The program has been well-received by our participants, who have requested a different class time. The schedule will be adjusted for the fall session.

Another new program in partnership with Aurora College and the Boreal Berry Patch Collective is called Farm to Fork. This youth cooking program encourages participants to cook using ingredients found right in their backyard gardens. We're teaching youth how easy and rewarding it is to prepare meals with fresh, wholesome ingredients straight from the garden. We had 6 youth participating in the first session of the program, and we anticipate higher numbers in future sessions as the program continues to grow.

The Community and Recreation Center teamed up with Salt River First Nation, the Mary Kaeser Library, and the Fort Smith Métis Council to host an exciting evening filled with games, prizes, and fun for our youth. The kids had a blast playing games, winning awesome prizes, and enjoying pizza and pop with their friends. Events like this are so important for our young people. It gives them a chance to enjoy a night that is just for them in a space where they can be themselves, have fun, and feel included. Creating safe, fun, and positive activities helps our youth build confidence, friendships, and a stronger connection to their community.

Zumba, Yoga, Girl Guides, and Table Tennis have ended and will be back in the fall.

We continue to receive positive feedback on the repairs and new equipment in Pete's Gym.

Overall attendance at the CRC was 5021.

MACA funding provides direct support for recreation in Fort Smith through the Youth Centre Initiative, Child and Youth Resiliency Program, and Recreation and Sport. These are critical to our program delivery. All applications were submitted in May. In addition to the previously reported funding awards, we were successfully awarded the Youth Centre Initiative Funding and the Child and Youth Resiliency Funding.

Staff training in June included First Aid and Food Safe. Some of our staff were either newly enrolled in First Aid and Food Safe training or needed to renew expired certifications. To support first aid, we participated in the training sessions offered by Aurora College. Food Safe has been completed online. 15 people were trained overall.

Special Events in June included the Frank Gruben Pride Festival and National Indigenous Peoples Day (NIPD). Both events took place at the Centennial Arena. At NIPD, the CRC staff contributed to the day’s festivities by leading children’s activities. We organized a variety of fun options, including a bouncy castle, frisbee golf, face painting, a fishing pond, and Northern games. The event saw over 500 attendees and was truly invigorating, with Indigenous culture brought to life in a vibrant and meaningful way. The staff also assisted in food service and final clean-up. The ongoing partnerships fostered through the TLC continue to support the collaborative efforts made to celebrate NIPD in our community.

Recreation, Aquatic, Childcare Programming Statistics

Town of Fort Smith Community and Recreation Centre Stats		
Jun-25		
Fort Smith Community and Recreation Centre	June 2025 Sessions	June 2025 Participants
Squash	Operational days 29	43
Pete's Gym	Operational days 29	1179
Sauna	19	40
Yoga	3	12
Yoga (seniors)	2	4
Yoga (chair yoga)	5	22
Youth Dance	1	18
Zumba	2	17
Lunch Crew	13	195
Drop-in soccer/Futsal	12	50
Drop-in Volleyball/Jr Girls Volleyball	13	94
18+ Women’s Volleyball/18+ Drop-In	4	3
Drop-in Badminton	4	0
Outdoor Volleyball	5	52
Youth Night Volleyball	2	9
Family Drop-in Sports	4	8
PWK Volleyball (June 16)	1	40
Parents & Tots Gym	23	160 Parents; 460 Tots
Gym Rentals	10	223
Pickleball	11	80
Girl Guides	1	8
Youth Night	6	89
Youth Drop-In	15	75
AA	5	40
Healthy Families	3	25
ECC Forest Management training	7	53
Metis - Hi - Tec	4	180
Archery	0	0
Farm to Fork (Curling Lounge) June 26	1	6
CRC Daily Total	29	5021
-		
Fort Smith Centennial Arena	June 2025 Sessions	June 2025 Participants
PRIDE	1	60
National Indigenous Peoples Day	1	500
-		

Fort Smith Child Care	June 2025 Sessions	June 2025 Participants
ASCP	19	560/589
Daycare	20	15FT; 2HT; 7FTI; 1 Drop-Ins (HD)
	FTI is for Full Time Infant	

Community & Recreation Centre
Gymnasium
Summer 2025 SCHEDULE

Fort Smith
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Parents & Tots 10:00 - 1:00	Parents & Tots 10:00 - 1:00	Parents & Tots 10:00 - 1:00	Parents & Tots 10:00 - 1:00	Parents & Tots 10:00 - 1:00	Parents & Tots 10:00 - 12:00	
Senior Pickleball 1:30-3:00	Summer Camp 1:00-5:00	Senior Pickleball 1:30-3:00	Summer Camp 1:00-5:00	Summer Camp 1:00-5:00	Rental 1 12:30-1:30	Rental 1 12:30-1:30
Summer Camp 3:00-5:00		Summer Camp 3:00-5:00			Rental 2 2:00-3:00	Rental 2 2:00-3:00
					Rental 3 3:30-4:30	Rental 3 3:30-4:30
Youth Drop-In 5:15-6:45	Futsal U14 5:30-6:45	Youth Drop-In 5:15-6:45	Youth Drop-In 5:15-6:45	Youth Drop-In 5:15-6:15	Futsal U14 5:30-6:45	Family Drop-In 5:00-6:00
Open 18+ Drop-in Sports 7:00-8:30	Futsal 14+ Drop-in 6:45-8:00		Jr Girls Volleyball Club 7:00-8:15	Drop-in Pickleball 6:30-8:00	Futsal 14+ Drop-in 6:45-8:00	Badminton 6:00-7:00
Open 18+ Womens Drop-in Sports 8:30-9:45	Volleyball Drop-in 8:00 - 9:45	Archery (age 13 & up) 7:15-8:15	Volleyball (13 & up) 8:15-9:45	Youth Night (ages 12-18) 8:00-11:15	Youth Night (ages 12-18) 8:00 - 9:30	Volleyball (13 & up) 8:30-9:45
		Drop-in Sports 8:30-9:45		Doors close at 10:00	Youth Night (ages 12-18) 8:00-11:15	
					Doors close at 10:00	



Community Services
Community Services Monthly Report

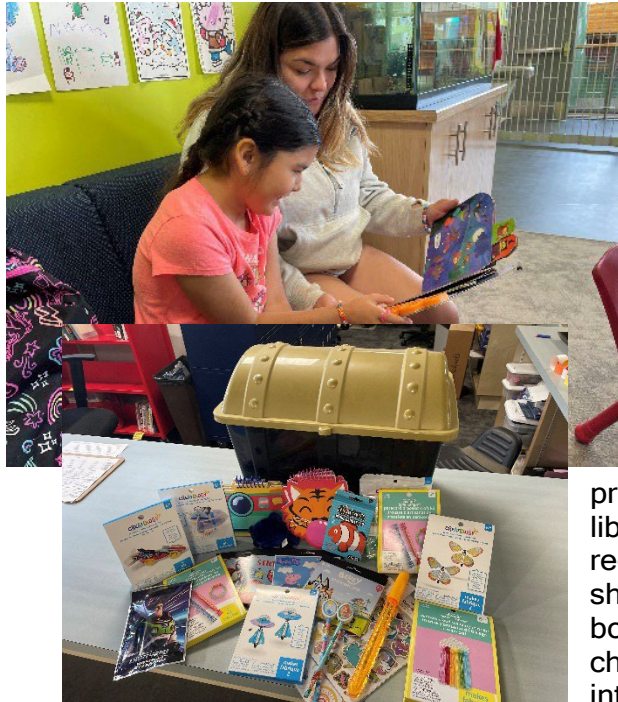
Community Services Monthly Report

The Sauna continued to operate in June. A Program Coordinator has been hired on a term basis to oversee the Aquatics program, as well as a full-time lifeguard. Current staffing levels are low, but outreach and training are being planned to increase staff. A National Lifeguard Course has been scheduled for July 2-6 and will result in 2 more Lifeguards being trained to work at the pool. Following the completion of the course, a pool schedule will be released for the July 8th opening.

William Schaefer Memorial Swimming Pool						
** Sauna Only Open at this time **						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
CLOSED						CLOSED
	Sauna (5:00-9:00)	Sauna (5:00-9:00)	Sauna (5:00-9:00)	Sauna (5:00-9:00)	Sauna (5:00-9:00)	

Mary Kaeser Library

Visitation continues to be steady in the library, with numbers comparable to last year. There are fewer kids hanging out in the library with the nicer weather, and the patrons that are coming are often looking for assistance or specific items, so the staff are kept busy.



The Program Coordinator is also working on a way to capture data about the use of online services for e-books, music, and other media, that can be accessed as part of the larger GNWT Library services with a Mary Kaeser Library card. Storytime, a program that promotes early literacy through stories, songs, and activities, continues each Monday morning. The kids/tweens book club met in June and will pause for the summer. More members have joined, and interest has grown enough that the Program Coordinator is working on a Teen Book Club for an older age range in the fall. Adding to the literacy-based programming has been an ongoing goal in the library. Cooks and Books has been very well received. Promoting the social joys of literacy and sharing, this is a different take on a traditional book club. This month featured recipes with cheese. The Teen Kitchen program has evolved into the Farm to Fork Cooking Program for the

growing season. The CRC team will be taking the lead on this. Attendance has been significant, and the participants have enjoyed learning how to prepare some of their own dishes. Teen Nights have had good turnouts.

This is another option for teen programming that provides non-physical activity-based recreation. Additional training for staff is in progress to assist with program planning and youth engagement. The most popular night was "Slime Night" and this will become a repeated program.



The Indigenous Author display was very popular for Indigenous History Month. Many books were checked out, and the Library Program Coordinator continues to prioritize additions to the library collection from Indigenous authors and Indigenous stories.

The Library hosted a Rainbow/Drag Storytime as part of the Frank Gruben Pride Festival with a book giveaway that lasted throughout the month of June.



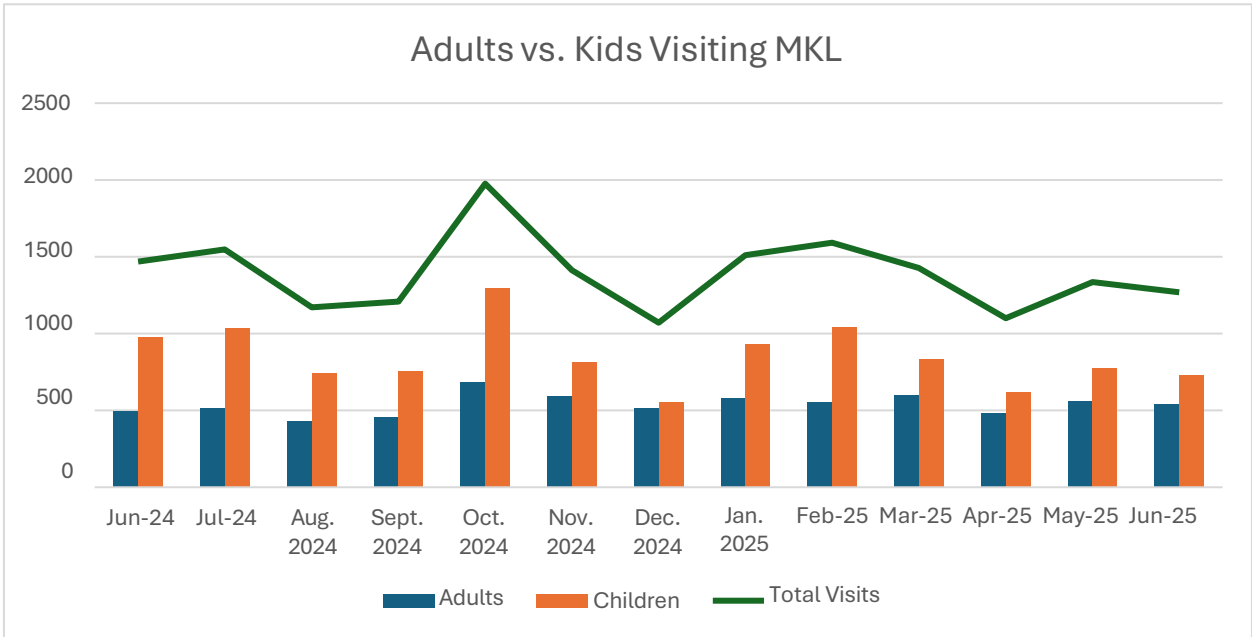
New furniture was added through youth funding to create more inviting spaces. The additions have been well received.

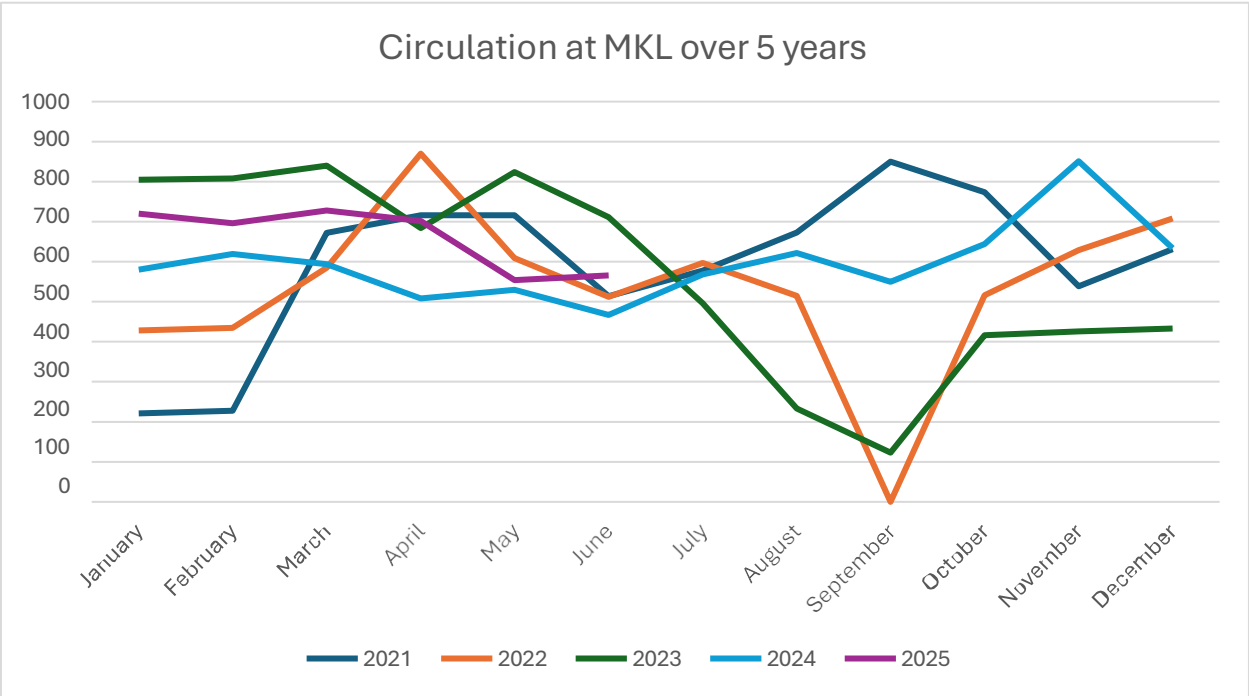
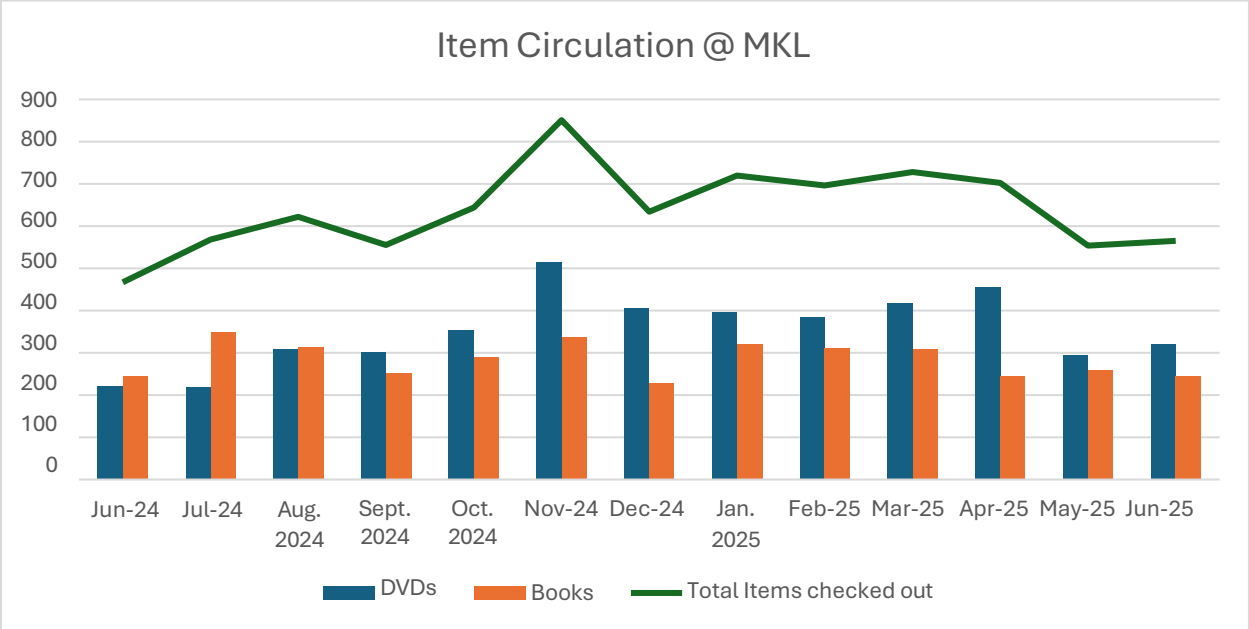
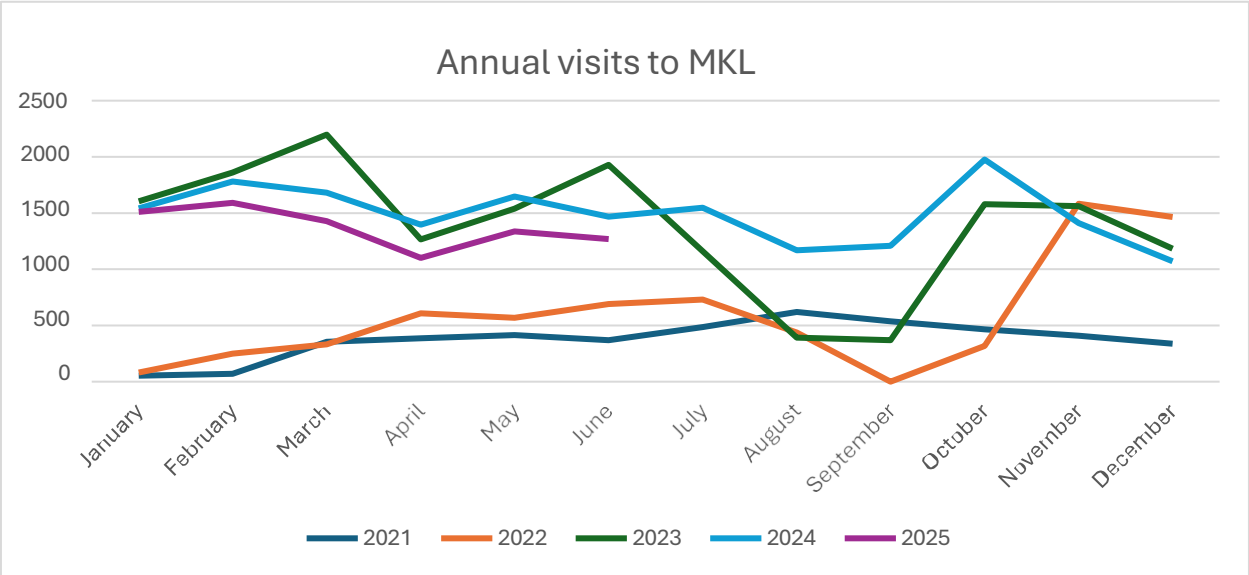
Lots of people are already signing up for the child, teen, and adult summer reading challenges. There are great prizes for participants, so everyone is encouraged to join!

Upcoming programming includes Teen Night, Paper Cranes with the NLMCC, Cooks and Books, Teen Kitchen partnered with the Boreal Berry Collective for a "Farm-to-Fork" program, adult art night, Parks Canada visit, and Movie Night featuring Indigenous films from the National Film Board of Canada.

Mary Kaeser Library
Activity Report June 2025

	Jun-24	Last Month	Jun-25	YTD
Adults	493	558	541	3308
Children	976	778	728	4928
Total attendance	1469	1336	1269	8236
CAP Computer Users	346	303.25	253	1696.3
CAP Computer Hours	421	249.67	242.75	1503.4
Wifi users	262	251	233	1527
Programming:				
Family literacy	22	31	39	151
Adult programs	11	14	5	50
Seniors programs	1	n/a	n/a	14
Curious Creators (Friday Kids)	4	26	28	110
Special events (Other)	60	n/a	n/a	104
Outreach/partnerships	n/a	69	16	101
holiday/spring break/summer reading	29	n/a	24	32
Teen programs	5	32	21	112
Class/daycare visits	77	149	95	678
Total program Attendance	209	321	228	1352
Other				
Circulation stats	461	554	566	3960
Inter-library loan requests (MKL patrons)	8	1	1	68
Inter-library loan requests (NWT patrons)	12	12	8	99
Printing	386	590	405	3101
Reference	71	93	106	629
Operational Hrs	209	219	215	1266







Community Services
Community Services Monthly Report

Community Services **Date:** July 9, 2025

Mary Kaeser Library

JUNE

2025

Hours

Monday: 10:00-7:00
Tuesday: 12:00-7:00
Wednesday: 10:00-7:00
Thursday: 12:00-7:00
Friday: 12:00-7:00
Saturday: 12:00-6:00
Sunday: 12:00-4:00




867-872-0362

library@fortsmith.ca

2nd Flr Community & Rec Centre

facebook.com/MaryKaeserLibrary

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

Storytime

10:30-11:30

Storytime

10:30-11:30

Kids Book Club

3:30-4:30

Teen Night

Slime

7:00-9:00

Cooks & Books

Cheese!

7:00

Curious Creators Club

Slime

3:30-4:30

Rainbow Storytime

1:30pm

Storytime

10:30-11:30

Movie Night

Ever Deadly

7:00 pm

Teen Night

Candy Sushi

7:00-9:00

CLOSED

Teen Kitchen

Farm to Fork

3:30-5:30

Teen Night

Nerf Tag

7:00-9:00

CLOSED

CLOSED

MARY KAESER LIBRARY

July 2025

HOURS

Monday: 10:00-7:00
Tuesday: 12:00-7:00
Wednes.: 10:00-7:00
Thursday: 12:00-7:00
Friday: 12:00-7:00
Saturday: 12:00-6:00
Sunday: 12:00-4:00

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Booknic & bike scavenger hunt 1:30-3:30	Teen Night Music Jam Session 7:00-9:00	Cooks & Books Salads 7:00		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Storytime 10:30-11:30	Movie night Ever Deadly 7:00	Teen Night Movie Night 7:00-9:00 Turtle Birthday 1:30-3:30	Paper cranes with NLMCC 1:30-3:30		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Storytime 10:30-11:30 Teen Kitchen 3:30-5:30	Beavers & Muskrats Parks Canada 1:30-3:30	Teen Night Stop Motion Video Editing 7:00-9:00 Compass challenges 1:30-3:30			
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	Storytime 10:30-11:30		Teen Night Follow-along Painting 7:00-9:00 STEM activities 1:30-3:30	Summer Reading Challenges begin! Prizes available. Visit MKL for more info!		


867-872-0362
library@fortsmith.ca
2nd Flr Community & Rec Centre
facebook.com/MaryKaeserLibrary



Childcare



The enrollment in the toddler/preschool level of the Daycare and After School Program continues to be at capacity. There are two vacancies in the infant program. We had a small graduation for the daycare children who will be heading to JBT and the ASCP next year. The ASCP has wrapped up for the summer, leading to the summer camp for July and August. Enrollment is full with a waiting list. The Program Coordinator and I have met with ECE multiple times over the last month to get answers on how the funding can be applied in our workplace. It has been accepted that the additional funding will cover any differences between the wage grid and our current pay grid. Indeterminant and Term employees already meet or exceed their wage grid, and casual employees fall slightly short. A payment schedule is being worked on.

Summer Camp has been licensed with ECE, which will now provide funding to a program that had no external funding previously.



Economic and Tourism Development



Early Quick Win:

On June 5, JBT organized a mascot run at our outdoor track.

This event was for students who could not travel to Hay River for track & field to experience a fun event in Town.

The ETDO & Recreation and Special Events Coordinator brought many of our place branding items to ensure the event was successful.

- Event Tents
- Feather Flags
- Water Jug
- Speaker & Generator
- Wireless Microphone & Music

The motive behind participation wasn't just to ensure the kids had a fun afternoon, but that the parents & teachers could see that the Town can help elevate & facilitate their events.

The ETDO emceed the race, did the count-down & coordinated a picture of all students & staff.



Frank Gruben Pride:

The Town of Fort Smith donated the use of the arena on June 14th for the Frank Gruben Pride Festival. Besides participation in the parade, the Town of Fort Smith did not have a hugely active role in this year's Frank Gruben Pride Festival.

ETDO would like to mention the potential that LGBT+ travellers have when it comes to tourism. Large events targeted to this market could perform well as a report from Canada's Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (CGLCC) states that LGBT+ travellers spend nearly 7 times the amount as the general travelling publics.



Combining the desire for travel with the beauty of our community could mean a significant increase in visitation for June, should the Town of Fort Smith continue the partnership with Fort Smith Pride and decide to promote inclusive activities for this time.

National Indigenous People's Day:

While not contributing with cash donations, the Town of Fort Smith was a crucial partner in the facilitation of the event. The Town of Fort Smith took the lead on youth activities throughout the entirety of National Indigenous Peoples' Day & coordinated vendors to sell their services and products to the crowd. The Town of Fort Smith staff also served food to the community at the fish fry.

The Visitor Information Centre was moved to the event grounds for the day. The Town of Fort Smith VIC staff set up a mobile Visitor Booth to provide information to visitors, materials for their adventures, but also facilitated a scavenger hunt bingo with over 50 youth participants.

The event remains one of the most important events in the community.

The ETDO designed online marketable material for the event. This graphic performed well online, reaching over 2.9k Facebook accounts.



Capital Project Updates

1. CRC exterior entrance improvements - Contractor has been contacted and is awaiting a schedule of work
2. CRC backup generator and heating - adjusting the original scope
3. CRC signage - Sign locations and sizes are being identified for order. A photography quote is being sought to provide updated facility photos for the outdoor sign.
4. Street Scaping - items have been identified through CSAB and the Community Services team. Garbage bins will be the highest priority item. The number of units has been established, and a quote has been requested from the supplier.
5. William Schaefer Memorial Pool Partial Retrofit - Majority of projects are fully completed. Outstanding work on the steam room, the electronically controlled valve, and the VFD replacement has not yet arrived for the air handling unit.
6. Centennial Arena Upgrades - no progress to report
7. Pete's Gym Equipment (evergreen) - Complete
8. Community Art Initiative - Funding reporting has been completed. The next funding project will open in July/August, and we will submit another application in that cycle.
9. Phone System Upgrades - Quotes have been requested through Northwestel for system upgrades for the CRC and other municipal buildings.



REPORT TO COUNCIL

Community Services

Date: July 9, 2025

Community Services Monthly Report

Prepared by:

Emily Colucci

Director of Community Services

Date: July 9, 2025

Reviewed by:

Emily Colucci

Acting Senior Administrative Officer

Date: July 11, 2025