



Council of the Town of Fort Smith
May 19th, 2026 @ 7 pm

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Confirmation of Quorum and Acknowledgment of First Nations

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. DELEGATIONS

- a. Monthly Policing Report - RCMP

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting of Council May 5th, 2026
- b. Special Meeting of Council May 7th, 2026

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6. DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

7. ADMINISTRATION

- a. Community Services
 - i. Director's Report
- b. Municipal Services
 - i. Director's Report

8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

- a. Bylaws
- b. Appointments – Advisory Boards
- c. Mayor and Council / Board Representatives

9. PROCLAMATIONS

10. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Regular Meeting of the Council will be held on June 2nd, 2026, with reports from Protective and Corporate Services.

11. EXCUSING OF COUNCILLORS

12. IN-CAMERA

- a. That Council move in-camera in accordance with the Cities, Towns, and Villages Act, Section 23(3) (d).

13. QUESTION PERIOD

14. ADJOURNMENT



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The department has filled the Protective Services Coordinator position, welcoming Spencer Porter, whose background in wildfire and emergency management is expected to strengthen operations and provide additional stability.

On the administrative side, work continues on business license renewals and development permits ahead of the busy construction season. Bylaw enforcement opened 28 files, with the majority related to animal control, which is typical for spring.

The emergency management plan review has been completed and adopted, with distribution to local partners and plans to share it publicly. Ongoing efforts will focus on emergency preparedness messaging in advance of wildfire season.

Cr. Benwell noted that a resident has been waiting for some time for a business licence related to a baking. She was unsure of the circumstances causing the delay, but emphasized that the individual is still waiting and is hoping for a response as soon as possible.

Director McNab advised that he will follow up with the Lands and Development Officer to determine the status and confirm whether there are any outstanding home-based food business applications.

Cr. Cox noted that he has reviewed the 2025 Wildfire Protection Plan and asked whether a 2026 version is currently being developed.

Director McNab explained that the Community Wildfire Protection Plan follows a five-year cycle and was most recently completed in 2024, with the next full update scheduled for 2029. In the meantime, the plan is reviewed periodically, and recommendations are made as needed.

Cr. Bathe shared that he happened to be present at an EMS scene earlier in the day and commended the crew for their professionalism. He noted that their conduct clearly reflects the value of the training being provided.

Cr. Couvrette referred to the Capital Report and his previous concerns regarding GNWT's delays in transferring land for the fire training grounds. He noted that while progress is being made, the report also mentions exploring an alternate site, which he expressed disappointment about, as he believes there should be stronger support to enhance community safety.

He asked whether there are plans to return to the originally proposed site in the future, and if so, what costs might be associated with relocating equipment and infrastructure.

Director McNab advised that Administration recently received a follow-up from GNWT ECC Lands regarding the application. He noted that the proposed training site is subject to consultation requirements, and that this process, rather than GNWT Lands itself, is what is currently causing delays. He added that ECC Lands has been responsive, and Administration will continue working through the consultation process.

With respect to the alternate site, Director McNab indicated there is a strong opportunity to partner with Aurora College, which has expressed interest in collaboration. He also noted that the training facilities are relatively mobile and require minimal site preparation, so while there would be some costs associated with relocating, they would not be significant. He added that, upon further consideration, he prefers the alternate site option.



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Cr. Karasiuk noted that the Council passed a motion last year regarding parking changes on Simpson Street. With the snow now nearly melted, he asked for an update on the status of implementing parallel parking.

Director McNab advised that he recently spoke with Director Grenier and confirmed that all signage and required equipment are in place. He noted that installation is pending ground conditions softening enough to allow for drilling, and the work is expected to be completed within the next couple of weeks.

b. Corporate Services

- i. Director's Report
- ii. Account's Paid List
- iii. Correspondence

c. Briefing Note: Updated Fireweed Festival Donation Request

26-086

Moved by: Cr. Tuckey
Seconded by: Cr. Bathe

That the Council approve a \$2,500.00 cash donation and in-kind support with an estimated value of up to \$2,500.00 to Fireweed Festival NT, including event services, facility use, and Riverside camping access, subject to operational capacity, and that all activities comply with applicable bylaws and policies.

PASSED

d. Briefing Note: Update to Signing Authorities

26-087

Moved by: Cr. Cox
Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey

That the Council approve the signing authority records be updated to add David Henderson as of May 5th, 2026.

PASSED

8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

a. Bylaws and Policies

i. Briefing Note: 2026 Mill Rate Bylaw No. 1084

26-088

Moved by: Cr. Bathe
Seconded by: Cr. Cox

That Council select the Mill Rate calculation and associated property class weighting to be used in the preparation of the 2026 Mill Rate Bylaw No. 1084.

TABLED

26-089

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

That Council hold a Special Meeting on May 7, 2026 to discuss the 2026 Mill Rate Bylaw.

PASSED



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ii. SAO Employment Bylaw No. 1077

# 26-090	Moved by: Cr. Cox Seconded by: D/M Keizer
That the SAO Employment Bylaw No. 1077 be given third and final reading by title only.	
PASSED	

iii. Land Disposal Bylaw No. 1080

# 26-091	Moved by: Cr. Tuckey Seconded by: Cr. Cox
That the Land Disposal of Lot 1752 Plan 4330 23 Whitford Rd. Bylaw No. 1080 is to be given third and final reading by title only.	
PASSED	

iv. Land Disposal Bylaw No. 1081

# 26-092	Moved by: Cr. Couvrette Seconded by: D/M Keizer
That the Land Disposal of Lot 1759 Plan 4330 7 Whitford Rd. Bylaw No. 108 be given third and final reading by title only.	
PASSED	

v. Land Disposal Bylaw No. 1082

# 26-093	Moved by: Cr. Cox Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey
That the Land Disposal of Lot 1739 Plan 4330 446 Calder Ave. Bylaw No. 1082 be given third and final reading by title only.	
PASSED	

vi. Land Disposal Bylaw No. 1083

# 26-094	Moved by: Cr. Bathe Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette
That the Land Disposal of Lot 1763 Plan 4330 14 Whitford Rd. Bylaw No. 1083 be given third and final reading by title only.	
PASSED	

b. Mayor and Council Round Table

- i. Cr. Bathe noted he had not attended any meetings since the last Council meeting, but raised concerns about potential school cuts discussed in the community. He highlighted the broader impacts of reductions related to programs such as Jordan's Principle, noting potential economic and educational effects, including the loss of teachers and support staff.

He encouraged residents to advocate to their MLA and MP, and suggested Council consider supporting efforts to secure additional funding for schools. He also expressed interest in hearing more from the District Education Authority on the situation and how Council can assist.

- ii. D/M Keizer reported that he had not attended other meetings since the last Council meeting, but did attend the Red Dress Day ceremony in Fort Smith on behalf of the



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Town. He noted that Cr. Benwell also attended and spoke, and that Cr. Heaton was present in her role with the board.

He described the event as moving and acknowledged the community's efforts, including the red dresses displayed throughout town, which served as a reminder of the importance of the day.

- iii. Mayor Fergusson was excused.
- iv. Cr. Tuckey noted concerns regarding the placement of some of the red dresses displayed around town. He advised that he received a few calls from residents who were unhappy with certain locations. Drawing on past discussions about appropriate placement, he suggested that more care be taken in selecting locations in the future to avoid similar concerns.
- v. Cr. Cox noted that with the snow quickly disappearing, conditions are expected to become very dry in the coming weeks. He encouraged residents to begin thinking about emergency preparedness, including reviewing their insurance coverage and taking steps around their properties, such as clearing leaves, to reduce fire risk.
- vi. Cr. Couvrette acknowledged the Red Dress event and noted it was good to see several Councillors and the Deputy Mayor representing the community, along with strong participation from residents.
- vii. Cr. Benwell thanked everyone who participated in the Red Dress walks, including the Aurora College event, noting the strong turnout and community engagement on an important day. She also shared a personal reflection on the meaning behind a red dress displayed near the lagoon, suggesting it may symbolize that loved ones are found in many places, and spoke to her own experience to underscore that point.
- viii. Cr. Heaton was excused.
- ix. Cr. Karasiuk acknowledged Red Dress Day and thanked those who participated and helped organize the events. He also commented on the recent audit presentation, noting that he found it difficult to follow and not particularly useful, especially when viewed online. He suggested that the format and delivery of future presentations be reviewed to improve clarity and value for Council.

9. PROCLAMATIONS

Environmental Sensitivities/Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (ES/MCS) Awareness Day

26-095

Moved by: D/M Keizer

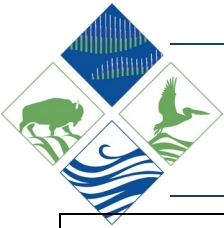
Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey

That the Mayor and Council approve the proclamation as stated:

WHEREAS Environmental Sensitivities (ES), including Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS), can substantially limit function and significantly impact quality of life; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Human Rights Commission recognizes Environmental Sensitivities [1]; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that more than one million people in Canada have been



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Mayor	Senior Administrative Officer
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MINUTES

The Special Meeting of Council was held on
Tuesday, May 7, @ 7 pm within the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Fergusson, D/M Keizer, Cr. Benwell, Cr. Heaton, Cr. Karasiuk, Cr. Bathe, Cr. Tuckey, Cr. Cox, and Cr. Couvrette

Regrets:

Staff Present: David Henderson, Senior Administrative Officer
Raveena Brown, Executive Secretary
Cassandra Gibbons, Director of Corporate Services

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Mayor Fergusson confirms quorum and reads the Acknowledgment of First Nations.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

26-099 **Moved by: Cr. Couvrette**
Seconded by: Cr. Cox

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

PASSED

3. ADMINISTRATION

- a. Briefing Note: 2026 Mill Rate Bylaw

26-100 **Moved by: Cr. Cox**
Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette

That Council select the Mill Rate calculation scenario 1 and associated property class weighting to be used in the preparation of the 2026 Mill Rate Bylaw No. 1084.

PASSED

Director Gibbons provided Council with a detailed explanation of the 2026 taxation calculations and mill rate options.

She explained that:

- The 2026 operating budget had a shortfall of about \$150,000, requiring additional taxation.
- Property assessments increased significantly due to the territory-wide reassessment, but no changes were made after the Board of Revision review.
- Two approaches were outlined: a **gross taxation view** (including grants in lieu of taxes) and a **net view** (excluding them). She stressed the importance of understanding both for long-term financial planning and risk awareness.
- The **net mill rate** was calculated at **1.23%**, while the gross scenario would be higher if grant revenues were lost.

She then walked through four taxation scenarios:

- **Scenario 1 (recommended):** Maintain the current approach from 2025. Balanced and familiar, with less risk of confusion during a year of major assessment changes.
- **Scenario 2:** Shift more burden to industrial and commercial sectors, reducing residential impact but risking pushback from those sectors.



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- **Scenario 3:** Even 50/50 distribution across all property types, though potentially unpopular with residents.
- **Scenario 4:** Maximize relief for residents, but significantly increase pressure on commercial taxpayers.

Her overall recommendation was to proceed with **Scenario 1**, emphasizing stability, clarity in messaging, and minimizing disruption during an already volatile assessment year.

Cr. Couvrette asked for clarification, confirming his understanding that all four scenarios presented would generate the required revenue to meet the Town's 2026 budget.

Director Gibbons confirmed that each scenario applies different weighting and distribution of taxation, but all ultimately generate the required revenue to meet the 2026 budget.

D/M Keizer noted that, as someone without a mathematical background, there has been a lot of confusing discussion around negative figures throughout the year. He asked for clarification on how to explain the information to taxpayers, specifically whether it means their taxes would actually decrease.

Director Gibbons explained that the significant increase in property assessment values during the general reassessment caused concern in the community, with many residents worried their taxes would rise sharply. She noted that Administration worked to reassure residents at the time, emphasizing that higher assessments do not directly translate into higher taxes.

She clarified that the apparent decrease in the mill rate is a result of the large increase in overall property values across the community. Because the total assessment base is much higher, the required tax revenue can be generated with a lower mill rate. In other words, the formula adjusts to the higher assessment values, which is why the percentage appears smaller. She reiterated that assessment values and actual taxes are not the same, and this distinction was a key part of earlier public messaging. She also asked Council to share any feedback they might have to assist with communications.

Cr. Bathe supported proceeding with Scenario 1, noting it keeps the approach consistent and makes communication with residents simpler. He explained that the key change is the updated property assessments, not the overall balance of taxation.

He suggested framing it for the public by comparing a typical residential property: what it was assessed at previously and what the taxation looked like, versus the new assessed value and resulting taxes under the current budget. He noted this approach would be easier for residents to understand than relying solely on the table, or could be used alongside it for clarity.

Director Gibbons noted that in preparation for the rollout of the new garbage program, Administration has taken steps to ensure communications are thorough and accessible, including creating a program-specific webpage. She added that if Council is supportive, a similar approach could be used for this initiative, with a dedicated online space to share information and updates.

D/M Keizer referred to previous discussions and notes regarding property taxation and asked whether Council is comfortable with how vacant and derelict lots are being addressed. He noted that some measures could be handled through bylaws, while others might be addressed through taxation.

He specifically questioned whether there had been consideration of applying a different tax rate to vacant lots, such as increasing the rate above the current level, and sought confirmation that Council is aligned on the approach moving forward.



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Cr. Karasiuk noted that addressing vacant and derelict properties would require clearer bylaws or policies. He explained that enforcement cannot rely on subjective judgment, as terms like “derelict” are not clearly defined and need specific parameters.

He added that distinctions such as vacant, undeveloped, or unoccupied properties should be clearly categorized, likely through defined property classes. He emphasized that these classifications should focus on whether a property is developed or not, rather than whether a home is simply unoccupied.

Director Gibbons explained that property classifications in the tax system are based on whether a lot is developed or undeveloped, and do not allow for weighting based on property condition or appearance.

She noted that addressing derelict properties through taxation would be complex and resource-intensive. It would require annual inspections, specialized expertise, and additional staffing, which could significantly burden Administration and potentially delay the taxation process.

Instead, she advised that derelict properties are better addressed through bylaws rather than taxation. However, creating a clear and enforceable definition of “derelict” has proven challenging due to legal and practical limitations. She added that the number of such properties in the community is relatively small, and suggested that strengthening the existing unsightly properties bylaw may be a more practical approach.

D/M Keizer clarified that he was referring to vacant, undeveloped properties where lots remain uncleared and may pose fire risks, rather than derelict buildings. He noted that these properties are often left untouched after purchase and can become hazards if not maintained.

He recalled previous discussions about potentially applying a higher tax weighting to undeveloped lots as a way to encourage development, and asked Council to confirm whether that approach had been considered or if he was misremembering.

Cr. Bathe noted that this issue has come up before through the Housing Needs Assessment and earlier discussions with the Sustainable Development Board, where there was a recommendation to consider measures to encourage development of vacant lots.

He recalled that in discussions with Director Hood the previous year, it was noted that taxation on these properties is so low that even a significant increase would have minimal financial impact. Despite that, he expressed the view that even a small incentive or pressure could be worthwhile, and indicated interest in exploring whether such an approach is feasible.

Cr. Karasiuk expressed concern that there is no clear distinction between vacant and undeveloped residential properties in the current classification system. He noted that some vacant lots, such as one behind his home, are cleared, maintained, and fire-smarted, yet would still be treated the same as unmanaged lots.

He emphasized that there is a meaningful difference between maintained vacant properties and undeveloped lots with natural growth that may pose fire risks, and raised concern that the current system does not account for that distinction.

Director Gibbons clarified that in the tax system, “vacant” refers to residential land with no development, meaning there are no structures on the property. It does not refer to a home that is unoccupied.



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She explained that if a structure exists, it is still taxed as a residential property regardless of whether it is lived in. In cases where properties are owned by the Government of the Northwest Territories, taxes are applied through grants in lieu.

She also noted that undeveloped, treed lots are still subject to municipal bylaws. Property owners are responsible for maintaining their lots, and if a property becomes overgrown or poses a fire risk, it falls under the unsightly properties bylaw and can be subject to enforcement or fines.

Cr. Cox supported proceeding with Scenario 1, noting that with many changes already happening this year, introducing additional adjustments would make communication with the public more difficult.

He suggested that in future years, once things are more stable, Council could revisit options to apply more pressure on vacant lots. However, he emphasized the importance of distinguishing between vacant and derelict properties, noting that derelict properties present a greater concern.

He also pointed out that upcoming updates to public safety and related bylaws may provide an opportunity to address these issues. Additionally, he acknowledged that the community and Protective Services are still building capacity, particularly around FireSmart efforts, and are working to address gaps from previous years. He concluded that further changes are not necessary at this time.

4. COUNCIL BUSINESS

a. Bylaws and Policies

i. 2026 Mill Rate Bylaw No. 1084

# 26-101	Moved by: Cr. Cox Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette	
That the 2026 Mill Rate Bylaw No. 1084 be given first reading by title only		
		PASSED

ii. 2026 Mill Rate Bylaw No. 1084

# 26-102	Moved by: Cr. Bathe Seconded by: D/M Keizer	
That the 2026 Mill Rate Bylaw No. 1084 be given second reading by title only		
		PASSED

iii. 2026 Mill Rate Bylaw No. 1084

# 26-103	Moved by: Cr. Heaton Seconded by: Cr. Karasiuk	
That the 2026 Mill Rate Bylaw No. 1084 be given third and final reading by title only		
		PASSED

5. PROCLAMATIONS

6. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Regular Meeting of Council (Community & Municipal)	May 19 th , 2026, @ 7 pm, to be chaired by Cr. Cox
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May 7, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Regular Meeting of Council (Protective & Corporate)	June 2 nd , 2026, @ 7 pm, to be chaired by Cr. Tuckey
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7. EXCUSING OF COUNCILLORS

8. QUESTION PERIOD

9. ADJOURNMENT

# 26-104	Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk Seconded by: D/M Keizer
That the meeting be adjourned at 7:32 pm.	
PASSED	



REPORT TO COUNCIL

Fort Smith
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Community Services
Community Services Monthly Report

Date: May 19th, 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH ACCEPTS THE COMMUNITY SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL 2026 AS PRESENTED.

Recreation Programming

April was a steady and productive month for Recreation and Special Events. With Spring Break occurring during the month, efforts focused on maximizing public access to recreational spaces and increasing daytime facility usage. Pickleball participation continued to perform above average, while teen and youth programming saw a slight decline in attendance, which is typical during school breaks. Pete's Gym experienced increased usage throughout the month, reflecting continued community interest in fitness and wellness opportunities.

The Thebacha Business Development Trade Show was a significant success, providing an excellent opportunity for community engagement and interdepartmental collaboration. The Town of Fort Smith was represented by both Community Services and Protective Services staff, including the Childcare Program Coordinator, Library Arts and Culture Coordinator, Economic and Tourism Development Officer, and the Director of Community Services. Staff connected with residents and organizations to share information about municipal programs and services, strengthen community relationships, and promote upcoming initiatives. Face painting offered by CRC staff was especially popular with families attending the event, and the library also generated strong interest, resulting in numerous new memberships being created on-site.



April also marked the conclusion of the Fort Smith Centennial Arena's winter programming season. Community Services staff dedicated significant effort toward annual facility clean-up and transition activities in preparation for spring and summer use. These efforts were clearly reflected when the arena successfully hosted the Thebacha Business Development Trade Show on April 25. In the week prior, the facility was also utilized by the GNWT for annual wildland firefighter fitness testing. The month highlighted the importance and versatility of the arena as a multi-purpose community facility capable of supporting a wide range of events and operational needs, even during the off-season.

Recreational Programming Schedule & Statistics

Community & Recreation Centre Gymnasium SPRING 2026 SCHEDULE						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Parents & Tots 10:00 - 12:00	Parents & Tots 10:00 - 1:00	Parents & Tots 10:00 - 12:00	Parents & Tots 10:00 - 1:00	Parents & Tots 10:00 - 1:00	Parents & Tots 10:00 - 12:00	
					Rental 1 12:30 - 1:30	Rental 1 12:30 - 1:30
Senior Pickleball 1:30 - 3:00	Senior Walking 1:00 - 2:00	Senior Pickleball 1:30-3:00	Senior Walking 1:00 - 2:00	ASCP 1:00 - 5:00	Rental 2 2:00 - 3:00	Rental 2 2:00 - 3:00
ASCP 3:00 - 5:00	ASCP 3:00 - 5:00	ASCP 3:00 - 5:00	ASCP 3:00 - 5:00		Rental 3 3:30 - 4:30	Rental 3 3:30 - 4:30
Women's Baseball 5:15 - 6:00	Open Drop-In 5:00 - 5:30	Men's Baseball 5:15 - 6:00	Youth Drop-In 5:15 - 6:45		Youth Drop-In 5:15 - 6:15	Drop-In Badminton 5:00 - 6:30
Youth Drop-In 6:15 - 7:00	Minor Baseball 5:30 - 8:00	Youth Drop-In 6:15 - 6:45	Archery 7:15 - 8:30	Drop-in Pickleball 6:30 - 8:00	Futsal U12 6:30 - 8:00	Badminton 6:00 - 7:00
Badminton 9+ 7:15 - 8:00		Girls Volleyball (Ages 12 - 16) 7:00 - 9:15		Open Drop-In 9:15 - 9:45	Youth Night (Ages 12 - 18) 8:00 - 11:15 Doors close at 10:00	Youth Night Volleyball (Ages 12-18) 8:00-9:30
Womens Volleyball 8:00 - 9:45	Volleyball (13 & up) 8:00 - 9:45	Volleyball 8:30-9:45	Youth Night (Ages 12-18) 9:30 - 11:15 Doors close at 10:00	Volleyball (13 & up) 8:30 - 9:45		



REPORT TO COUNCIL

Town of Fort Smith Community and Recreation Centre Stats				
Apr/2026				
102055				
Fort Smith Community and Recreation Centre	Mar 2026 Sessions	Mar 2026 Participants	April 2026 Sessions	April 2026 Participants
Squash	Operational days 31	61	Operational days 28	46
Pete's Gym	Operational days 31	1275	Operational days 28	1343
Senior Lane Swim	2	15	21	63
Public Swim	2	78	21	684
Public Lane Swim	3	10	51	206
Parents & Tots Swim	2	1 Parents; 2 Tots	21	26 Parents; 51 Tots
Daycare Swim	1	14	9	118
ASCP Swim	0	0	9	226
JBT 2/33 PWK 1/8	0	0	3	41
Pool Rentals	0	0	1	15
Sauna	29	256	28	158
Kayak Club	0	0	2	27
NLMCC	-	-	-	-
Active Aging/Senior Walking	3	14	3	11
Snowboarding Event	2	72	-	-
Drop-in soccer/Futsal	8	124	14	158
Drop-in Volleyball/Jr Girls Volleyball	18	126		
18+ Women's Volleyball/18+ Drop-In	2	30	2	46
Drop-in Badminton	4	18	4	8
Women's Squash League	4	21	2	12
Pi Day	1	30	-	-
Family Drop-in Sports	4	25	4	25
Open Squash League	4	23	2	12
Parents & Tots Gym	23	131 Parents; 323 Tots	24	117 Parents; 275 Tots
Gym Rentals	14	188	8	148
Pickleball	11	71	11	82
Girl Guides	5	29	4	36
Youth Night/Youth Night Volleyball	10	134	4	37
Youth Drop-In	18	128	15	124
AA	10	53	7	28
Healthy Families	1	6	2	9
Cooks N' Books Feb 12/March	1	17	0	0
Crib Night	4	5	3	2
Yoga	3	7	2	9
Teen Nights - Wednesday Activities	4	40	4	30
Curling	30	192	-	-
Frolics Bingo	1	136	-	-



REPORT TO COUNCIL

Frolics Kids Carnival	1	319	-	-
EIM training	-	-	2	20
CRC Daily Total	31	4883	28	4869
Comments:	Pool closed. Opened March 30			
Fort Smith Centennial Arena	Mar 2026 Sessions	Mar 2026 Participants	April 2026 Sessions	April 2026 Participants
Fire Fighting Fitness Test			3	213
Staff training (use of arena)			3	48
Trade Show			2	912
Comments:			Arena closed March 31, 2026, for ice events.	

Fort Smith Child Care	Mar 2026 Sessions	Mar 2026 Participants	April 2026 Sessions	April 2026 Participants
Summer Camp	21	423/630	20	470/600
Daycare	22	16FT; 2HT; 1FTI; 2 Drop-Ins (HD)	20	14FT; 4HT; 1FTI; 0 Drop-Ins (HD)
Comments:	FTI is for Full-Time Infant		FTI is for Full-Time Infant	

Aquatics

The William Schaefer Memorial Pool returned to full operations throughout April, with additional evening hours added to extend public access and increase programming availability for residents. The expanded schedule was well-received and helped support continued participation across a variety of aquatic programs and user groups.

The Town was also pleased to welcome the Fort Smith Paddling Club back to the pool on Sundays as members prepare for the upcoming whitewater season and introduce new participants to the sport. Family-focused programming, including Parents and Tots swims, continued to see strong participation throughout the month.

Aquatics staff also had the opportunity to participate in Elders in Motion training. The Elders in Motion Training Program provides workshops and resources designed to help community leaders facilitate safe, accessible, and community-centred exercise programming for Elders. Feedback from the community regarding Elders in Motion programming has been very positive, and the Aquatics team is eager to continue working collaboratively to expand recreational and wellness opportunities that support residents of all ages and demographics, ensuring inclusive programming opportunities are available for the entire community.

William Schaefer Memorial Swimming Pool

2026 Spring Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 CLOSED		Public Lane (6:30-8:00)		Public Lane (6:30-8:00)			
		Public Lane (9:00-11:00)	Public Lane (9:00-11:00)	Public Lane (9:00-11:00)	Public lane (10:00-11:00)	Public Lane (9:00-11:00)	
		Senior Swim / Parent & Tot (11:00-11:50)	Senior Swim / Parent & Tot (11:00-11:50)	Senior Swim / Parent & Tot (11:00-11:50)	Senior Swim / Parent & Tot (11:00-11:50)	Senior Swim / Parent & Tot (11:00-11:50)	
		Public Lane (12:00-1:00)	Public Lane (12:00-1:00)	Public Lane (12:00-1:00)	Public Lane (12:00-1:00)	Public Lane (12:00-12:50)	Kayak Paddling club (12:00-2:00)
						RENTAL (1:00-2:00) RENTAL (2:00-3:00)	
		Public Swim (3:30-8:30)	Public Swim Wubit night (3:30-8:00)	Public Swim (3:30-8:30)	Public Swim (3:30-8:30)	Public Swim (3:00-8:30)	Public Swim (2:00-4:00)

Mary Kaeser Library

April was a quieter month for the Mary Kaeser Library, which is typical during spring break and the return of warmer weather; however, steady community engagement continued throughout the month. While overall visits and DVD circulation were lower than usual, book circulation remained consistent, and new DVD titles have since been purchased to help refresh the collection. Library programming was intentionally paused during April to allow staff to focus on planning upcoming initiatives and onboarding new team members, including one new indeterminate employee and two new casual staff currently undergoing training.



Community outreach remained a strong focus, with the library participating in the local trade show, where 74 attendees entered a draw featuring books by Indigenous authors. The event also resulted in 16 new library memberships and 15 books being checked out, supporting both literacy and community connection. The library also partnered with Arctic Energy Alliance to host an Earth Day event featuring activities and a movie night, further strengthening collaborative programming opportunities within the community. In addition, the library received new glow-in-the-dark filament for the 3D printer, expanding creative and interactive opportunities for patrons.



Programming resumed in May with the return of Storytime, Teen Nights, and book clubs for children and youth. The Crochet and Craft Drop-In Night saw strong participation, with 12 attendees, and additional partnership programming included activities with the Wilder Institute as well as Science RendezVous events in collaboration with ARI at JBT.

Mary Kaeser Library Activity Report April 2026

	Apr-25	Last Month	Apr-26	YTD
Adults	479	571	496	2152
Children	622	812	643	2861
Total attendance	1101	1383	1139	5013
CAP Computer Users	259	244	224	920.7
CAP Computer Hours	224.75	212.25	208.65	850.6
Wifi users	215	254	185	882
Programming:				
Family literacy	5	43	40	159
Adult programs	10	19	n/a	44
Seniors programs	2	0	1	3
Curious Creators (Friday Kids)	4	7	n/a	38
Special events (Other)	n/a	45	42	87
Outreach/partnerships	n/a	n/a	74	74
holiday/spring break/summer reading	8	n/a	n/a	n/a
Teen programs	20	29	6	98
Class/daycare visits	34	76	107	360



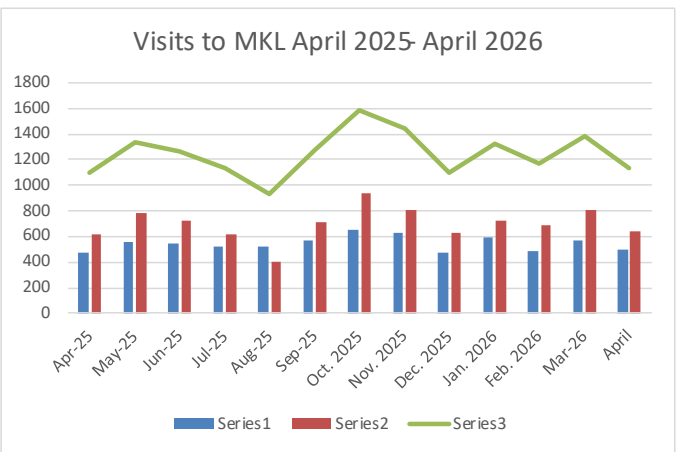
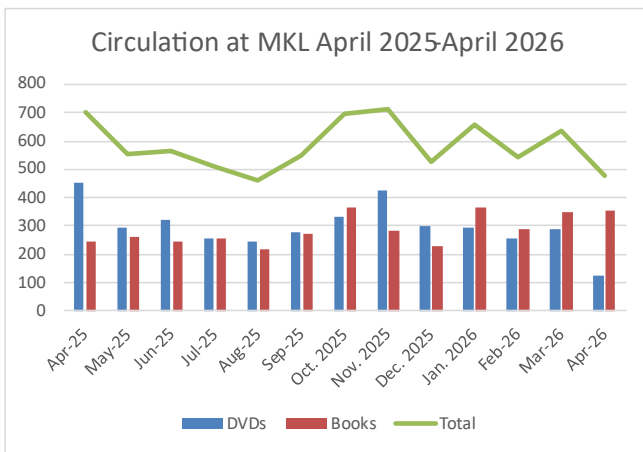
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Fort Smith
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Community Services
Community Services Monthly Report

Date: May 19th, 2026

Total Program Attendance	83	219	270	863
Other				
Circulation stats	702	638	479	2321
Inter-library loan requests (MKL patrons)	10	5	12	42
Inter-library loan requests (NWT patrons)	22	24	14	73
Printing	601	462	542	2185
Reference	114	328	323	880
Operational Hrs	208	230	197	856



Mary Kaeser Library

May 2026

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
26	27 Story Time 10:30-11:30	28 Kids' book club 3:30-4:30	29	30	1	2
3	4 Story Time 10:30-11:30	5 Teen Book Club 4:00-5:00	6 Crochet & Craft Drop-in 7:00-9:00	7 Teen Night Smoothies 7:00-9:00	8 Wilder Institute Crane Crafts 2:00-4:00	9
10	11 Story Time 10:30-11:30	12	13	14 Teen Night Hangout 7:00-9:00	15	16
17	18 CLOSED	19	20	21 Teen Night Decorate tote bags 7:00-9:00	22	23
24	25 Story Time 10:30-11:30	26 Kids' book club 3:30-4:30	27	28 Teen Night Hangout 7:00-9:00	29	30

Childcare

Daycare

During April, the Childcare Program welcomed the spring season through a variety of play-based learning activities and themed programming. Weekly learning themes focused on seasonal exploration, environmental stewardship during Earth Week, rhyming activities, and learning about insects. With warmer weather returning, children were able to spend significantly more time outdoors, including visits to the museum and JBT Park. Outdoor play opportunities, such as puddle jumping and muddy play, were especially enjoyed by participants and supported sensory and exploratory learning experiences. The month concluded with a visit from the Oral Health Team, during which all children received dental checkups.

Operationally, the department successfully onboarded and began training two new casual staff members to support program delivery. Demand for childcare services continues to remain high, with the current daycare waitlist sitting at 22 children.



ASCP

The After School Care Program (ASCP) continued to provide full-day programming throughout Spring Break. The two-week period was exceptionally busy; however, through strong preparation and organization by staff, programming was delivered successfully. Participants enjoyed twice-weekly swimming sessions, increased outdoor play opportunities, and a variety of crafts and sports activities throughout the break. Staff were also able to benefit from a well-deserved four-day Easter long weekend between programming weeks. The program welcomed two new participants on April 1, and currently maintains a waitlist of five children anticipated to fill openings for the upcoming school year.



Economic & Tourism Development

Thebacha Trade Show



The Town of Fort Smith proudly continued its support of the 2026 Thebacha Trade Show as a Gold Sponsor, with municipal representation spread across four booths, including three community-focused booths and one dedicated to Fire Services. Sponsorship of the event also included promotional advertising within printed trade show materials, highlighting four major summer events taking place in Fort Smith this year.

Throughout the event, the Economic and Tourism Development Officer (ETDO) engaged attendees in discussions surrounding upcoming community events, tourism opportunities,

local history, and recreational amenities. The recently acquired prize wheel proved to be a highly effective engagement tool, creating interactive opportunities for visitors while encouraging conversations around camping, local fun facts, and the history of Fort Smith.

The trade show also provided an opportunity to showcase and sell Town merchandise. During the single-day, six-hour event, merchandise sales totaled \$439.09, with embroidered keychains proving to be the most popular item. The Fireweed Festival edition keychain was particularly well received by attendees, generating strong interest in future merchandise designs and community-branded promotional items.

This begs the question... which design should be next?

Northern Sky Corridor

On April 27, there was a webinar to dive into Destination Canada's project, "the Northern Sky Corridor".

This is a marketable path that leads RV / rubber tire travel from Edmonton up north. ETDO led a guided tour in Nov 2024 to Destination Canada, Explore Edmonton and Northwest Territory representatives during the initial stages of the project. In the summer of 2025, ETDO met with FraserwayRV owner Gord Rees, who developed a print magazine including the route. Of the 30-page document, Fort Smith & WBNP is mentioned in 4 pages during the Wood Buffalo Route, the stretch from Enterprise > Hay River > Fort Smith.



Marketing partnership projects are underway that ensure potential visitors are aware of the unique opportunities Fort Smith offers. Further work can be done locally to stimulate tourism entrepreneurs and



develop better wayfinding signage/tourism infrastructure that can support visitors while ensuring their time when they get to Fort Smith.

WOOD BUFFALO ROUTE

Enterprise to Fort Smith & Wood Buffalo National Park

800km (return) | 3 days (8-9-10)

Part 4 The Northern Sky Corridor runs north on Hwy 2 from Enterprise, then southwesterly on Hwy 5 to Fort Smith and Wood Buffalo National Park.

DAY EIGHT
Hay River. Known as the *Transportation Hub of the North*, Tugs, barges, commercial fish boats, and a Canadian coast guard station occupy a busy harbour located at the mouth of the Hay River. Fisherman's Wharf pavilion offers fresh baked white fish baked from and bread, and arts and crafts. The pavilion is only open 10am-3pm on Saturdays.

Hay River Museum NHTS has information panels explaining the history of St. Anne Roman Catholic Church and St. Peter's Anglican Church, established in late 1800s.

River barges transport oil and supplies to remote settlements along the Mackenzie River as far as the Beaufort Sea in the Arctic during a congested summer shipping window.

Pine Point was the location of an open-pit mine that operated between 1964 and 1988, and once housed two thousand residents in an industrial town. The town site is now completely abandoned, with some buildings relocated to Hay River and Fort Resolution. A chronicle of the challenges of cold-weather mining and governing lead-zinc ore is described in the Hay River Museum & Visitor Centre.

Angus Lookout Tower is a decommissioned fire observation tower. The 87' tower has been replaced by aerial and satellite surveillance in spotting forest fires, and pinpointing their location.

TRAVEL TIP:
Stay 120m away from birds or all times.



PHOTOS

- 1 Previous page photo: Buffalo spook height the highway - Gord Fries
- 2 Fisherman's Wharf Pavilion, Hay River - Gord Fries
- 3 Salt Plains, Wood Buffalo National Park - Sandra Kauri
- 4 Forest fire warden's overview and areas of forest forest - Gord Fries

18 Northern Sky Corridor R9 Touring Guide



Roberta Rodua: Northern Observatory was renamed by TAWRAS in her honor as Canada's first woman in space. A freshwater geosee serves as a landmark that was related with localities to circulate water to the town, even when temperatures are below -20C.

More than 5,000 ha are divided into four different populations that roam freely over 300,000 ha. Their range has been expanding outside the park.

Fort Smith Mission Heritage Site, St. Joseph's Catholic Parish was the headquarters of the Oblate Roman Catholic Church who operated schools and hospitals across the North between 1875 and early 1980s. Self-guided tour of the bishop's residence and hospital building can be arranged. Headquarters at the cemetery show the names of numerous priests from the Oblate Order.

The park lies on a band of high aurora activity. The Milky Way and constellations are prominent in late summer, and planets like Jupiter, Mars, Saturn and Venus are visible at various times throughout the year. The dark skies offer excellent views of shooting stars, satellites, comets and the International Space Station as it orbits the earth.

DAYS NINE & TEN

Wood Buffalo National Park is Canada's largest national park, and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site with numerous features: the world's largest population of free-roaming bison, the largest casual nesting grounds of the whooping crane, one of the largest inland deltas in the world, the finest example of gypsum karst in North America, and a vast area of the world's best natural ecosystems.

Pine Lake Observation Site hosts an annual Quik Sky Festival. A Sky Circle is the perfect location to gaze at the summer borealis. Telescopes can be set up for viewing on a camera foundation. RV sites and a day-use area for swimming in the shallow aquamarine waters at Pine Lake beach. No life guards.

The UNESCO World Heritage List includes WBNHP for its cultural and natural properties, and deemed to be "preserved for future generations".

PHOTOS

- 1 Whiting (Bullhead or snowhead - known as the dog) was used during the winter fishery on Great Slave Lake. Hay River museum - Sandra Kauri
- 2 Sky Circle benches for the gazing of Pine Lake Observation Site - Gord Fries
- 3 Nightfall photo site of this section of Pine Point territory - Gord Fries
- 4 Prime Minister Mark Carney at Fort Smith - Official photo provided by the Prime Minister's Office in Ottawa

Internet Testing Project

ETDO has been talking with the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) about their community testing program. This provides a free, custom, geo-fenced testing portal where community members can submit their internet speed tests to assess the health of their internet connection in Fort Smith.

The tests reveal average speeds and their ISP, meaning we can see how many people are on Starlink vs Northwestel, and if Northwestel is honest about their commitment that each household has 50 Mbps speed by 2030. ETDO believes that is currently not the case.

Capital Project Updates

Administration continues to review and prioritize approved capital projects for the 2026 season. With recent organizational transitions and ongoing operational planning, project timelines and next steps are currently being evaluated to ensure alignment with departmental capacity, procurement requirements, and organizational priorities. Further updates on individual projects, anticipated timelines, and implementation plans will be provided to Council as information becomes available.

Prepared by:
Director of Community Services
Lauren Howes
Date: May 14th, 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH ACCEPTS THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT AS PRESENTED.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Sidewalk repair and improvements – We have had a request to extend the tender closing date and will have an update in the next report.

Garbage Truck – Update on project

- **Garbage Truck update:**
The garbage truck has arrived, and staff have been trained in the operation of this new piece of equipment.
- **Garbage cart update:**
No new update at the time of writing this report.

Water licence renewal – Has been finalized and delivered to MVLWB.

Ice Resurfacer Replacement – No new updates for this report.

Water Tower Truck Fill Station – No new updates for this report.

The old chipper plant demolition – No new updates for this report.

Crosswalk lights – Have been ordered, and then the locations for this year are McDougal and Simpson and Breynat by the Sunset Chalet and the Catholic church.

Main lift station – No new updates for this report.

Landfill Expansion – No update for this report.

Raw Water Intake – No update for this report.

Fire Hydrant Replacement – To be completed next summer season.

Skid Steer Replacement (evergreen) – No update for this report.

PUBLIC WORKS

We have been working on spring activities, preparing for the spring cover that follows the spring cleanup and ensuring the electric fence at the landfill is operating at full capacity. We have also received the new garbage truck; it arrived with a trainer, and our staff has been trained and ready to go with the new garbage collection system. We are also preparing for the spring cleanup to ensure we can deliver fast and efficient service and move into the next seasonal activities.

WATER PLANT

1. Neptune Meter Reader Upgrade

No new updates for this report.

2. Frontier Lift Station

No new updates for this report.

3. Primrose Lift Station

No new updates for this report.

4. Tamarac Pump Panel

No new updates for this report.

5. Filter 3 – Major Repair Needed

This work has been completed, and all filters are back online.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

We have been moving into spring operations, preparing for the summer and construction season with our seasonal labourers cleaning up ditches and green spaces. We have been doing maintenance at the arena with the shutdown of the ice plant and supporting local firefighting organizations with training. We also had some dangerously identified trees removed. These were identified last year, they broke, and that pushed priority. We hired a local contractor to fell and clean the brush. He also bucked the wood into manageable pieces for us to clean and store for future community events. We have pulled the summer equipment from winter storage and are servicing it to be ready for the grass cutting season. We have our long-term experienced employee preparing training for our newer staff to ensure that we have proper ballpark and playground maintenance this season.



Town of Fort Smith

Expression of Interest

Date: May 11, 2026

Name: Rohma Khurram Nawaz

I am interested in sitting on the: Community Services Advisory Board

Advisory Board: Community Services Advisory Board
Sustainable Development Advisory Board
Economic Development Advisory Board

Please provide qualifications/experience/local knowledge to aid Town Council in the review of this application:

- Member of board since March 2021 applying for reappointment.
- Experience working/planning/organizing community events and initiatives both in Fort Smith and other communities with Canada and Internationally.
- Past experience working for the TOFS and NLMCC.
- Support diverse, inclusive and creative community planning approaches and strategies that ensure equitable access to publically funded resources for all.

Email address: rohma.k.nawaz@gmail.com

Signature of Applicant



Town of Fort Smith

Expression of Interest

Date:

Name:

I am interested in sitting on the:

Advisory Board

Please provide qualifications/experience/local knowledge to aid Town Council in the review of this application.

Email:

Signature of Applicant

May 11th, 2026

Allie McDonald - Expression of Interest CSAB

Please provide qualifications/experience/local knowledge to aid Town Council in the review of this application.

For the last (almost) 14 years, I have been an active participant in recreation in Fort Smith and would like to have the opportunity to lend my experience where I can make change. I am currently a teacher at PWK High School, where I am the Athletic Director for our school. Some of the responsibilities that I am in charge of include: gym bookings, organizing tournaments, arranging travel for students and being the school liaison with other coaches/schools in the territory. I am also responsible for coaching soccer, basketball, volleyball and track at the high school level. In addition to my involvement with the high school, I am currently the Secretary of the Fort Smith Women's Hockey Association. I have strived to build inclusive and accessible organizations where players feel welcome and safe while participating in physical activity. At the TSO level, I am currently the Secretary for NWT Track and sit as a board member representing the South Slave on Basketball Northwest Territories (BNWT). I have participated in the AWGs as both a Mission Staff (2016 & 2024) and as a Sport Director for women's hockey, here in Fort Smith (2018).

I have been an active member of CSAB since 2018 and hope to continue being a part of this board. I feel like the work we have accomplished is valuable and aligns with many core values.

In my freetime, I enjoy playing squash, swimming and participating in as many sports as possible. It is clear that I enjoy participating in recreational activities and am an active user of many Fort Smith recreation facilities. Should I be chosen as a member of the CSAB again, I will bring forward a diverse knowledge of recreation initiatives that will be beneficial to my fellow community members. I look forward to this opportunity and hope to hear from you soon.



Town of Fort Smith Expression of Interest

Date:

KEVIN ANTONIASC

Name:

MAY 12 2026

I am interested in sitting on the:

Economic Development Advisory Board

Advisory Board

Please provide qualifications/experience/local knowledge to aid Town Council in the review of this application.

ON FOR LAST 15 YEARS

Email:

Signature of Applicant