



Council of the Town of Fort Smith
August 25th, 2026 @ 7 pm

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Confirmation of Quorum and Acknowledgment of First Nations

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. DELEGATIONS

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting of Council, August 11th, 2026

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6. DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

7. ADMINISTRATION

- a. Community Services
 i. Director's Report
- b. Municipal Services
- c. Briefing Note: Museum Stewardship Agreement Recommendation

8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

- a. Bylaws / Policies
- b. Appointments
- 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 September 1st, 2026, with reports from Protective and Corporate Services.

11. EXCUSING OF COUNCILLORS

12. QUESTION PERIOD

13. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES

The Regular meeting of the Council was held on
Tuesday, August 11, @ 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Fergusson, D/M Keizer, Cr. Benwell, Cr, Cr. Karasiuk, Cr. Bathe,
Cr. Tuckey, Cr. Cox and Cr. Couvrette
Regrets: Cr. Heaton
Staff Present: David Henderson, Senior Administrative Officer
Raveena Brown, Executive Secretary
Adam McNab, Director of Protective Services
Lauren Howes, Director of Community Services

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. D/M Keizer confirms quorum and reads the Acknowledgment of First Nations. D/M Keizer hands the chair to Cr. Tuckey

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

# 26-063	Moved by: D/M Keizer Seconded by: Cr. Karasiuk
That the agenda be adopted as amended to add a delegation from the RCMP and an expression of interest to section 8 Council Business (C) Appointments	
PASSED	

3. DELEGATIONS

- a. Monthly Policing Report – RCMP

Cst. Nelu Giurgea introduced himself and Cst. Magalie Irvine, noting that they are both new to the community and that Cst. Irvine is a new officer.

Cst. Giurgea provided an overview of notable RCMP occurrences and calls for service for July. He reported that investigations remain ongoing into incidents on July 5 and an arson at a residence on July 9. On July 31, members responded to multiple complaints involving the same individual, including a break and enter at a local business where an overnight staff member was assaulted. The individual was located and arrested after allegedly assaulting responding RCMP members. Several charges are pending. Members sustained minor injuries, while the individual was not injured during the arrest.

Cst. Giurgea reported 32 calls related to missing persons and well-being checks, all of which had positive outcomes. The detachment also responded to numerous assault-related calls, including incidents involving weapons or bodily harm, with several investigations and charges pending. Members responded to multiple Mental Health Act complaints involving individuals at risk of harming themselves, which required immediate intervention and, in some cases, transportation to the hospital for assessment.

Cst. Giurgea noted that July saw 23 reported assaults, excluding sexual assaults, which was higher than the same period the previous year. He advised that he would answer questions where possible or forward them to Detachment Commander Sgt. Jacobson, who was unable to attend due to training in Hay River.

D/M Keizer asked about the current staffing levels at the Fort Smith RCMP Detachment.



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Cst. Giurgea advised that the Fort Smith Detachment currently has eight members, including the Detachment Commander. He noted that staffing remains limited due to a new member undergoing training, another member on a progressive return-to-work schedule, firearms training requirements, and vacation leave. Despite these challenges, coverage has improved. The detachment expects a new Corporal and an additional member to arrive in September, which should further improve shift coverage and service to the community.

Cr. Karasiuk asked whether the two arson investigations involved the same property or two separate properties.

Cst. Giurgea confirmed that the incidents involved two separate properties, one occurring overnight on July 5 and the other on July 9. He noted that property damage was limited and that both investigations remain ongoing, so no further details could be provided.

Cr. Karasiuk noted that there were 49 reported incidents of causing a disturbance or mischief this past month, compared to 31 during the same month the previous year, and asked if there was any indication as to why the number had increased significantly.

Cst. Giurgea advised that, as he is new to the community and began working in Fort Smith in August, he could only provide a limited response. He noted that several individuals had recently been displaced from Wrigley and that calls involving individuals from that community contributed to the increase in calls for service. He did not have a specific number of related files available.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Meeting of Council July 21st, 2026

# 26-064	Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk Seconded by: Cr. Cox
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That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 21st, 2026, be adopted as presented.

PASSED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6. DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

7. ADMINISTRATION

- a. Protective Services
- i. Director’s Report

Director McNab reported that July was a busy month for Protective Services, with 37 calls, including six fire calls and 31 ambulance calls. Both were above the five-year average, which may have been influenced by the evacuation and related activity. Despite reduced staffing and summer leave, regular weekly training continued, with plans for an EMR course in the fall and NFPA 1001 firefighter training beginning in January.

Director McNab highlighted the community's response to nearly 90 evacuees, recognizing Director Howes, Deputy Fire Chief Spencer Porter, volunteers, local businesses, and others who assisted. Three structural firefighters were also deployed to Fort Simpson for 18 days with the Town's structural protection equipment. Their efforts contributed to protecting neighbourhoods threatened by wildfire. After-action reviews will be completed for both the evacuation response and the wildland-urban interface deployment.



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Land and development and business licensing activities remained generally consistent. Bylaw enforcement experienced temporary staffing impacts due to the deployment, with the Lands Officer providing coverage. Upon the Bylaw Officer's return, animal control and public education regarding loose animals became a priority. The July Occupational Health and Safety meeting was postponed due to staffing shortages and will resume in August.

Director McNab also provided an update on the Town's new fire training facilities. The first training unit has arrived in the community and will support search and rescue, roof ventilation, window rescue, and other exercises. A second unit, a flashover training simulator, is expected to arrive within approximately two weeks. Together, the facilities will allow the Fire Department to complete NFPA 1001 certification training locally while continuing opportunities for cross-training with other departments.

Cr. Cox commended everyone involved in the evacuation response, noting the positive feedback shared online. He then asked if there was an estimated timeline for the public distribution of the Animal Control Bylaw.

Director McNab advised that updates to the Animal Control Bylaw had been completed before his leave and that the document is ready for public consultation. He noted that it will be distributed to the local animal society, animal-related businesses such as Northern Hound Supply, and Salt River First Nation as part of the MSA consultation process. He confirmed that the bylaw will be distributed by the end of the week.

Cr. Benwell expressed concerns regarding the 40 km/h speed limit, noting that some residents feel it is too slow and have suggested that 45 km/h would be more reasonable. She asked whether there is an opportunity to reconsider or amend the speed limit.

Director McNab advised that the Integrated Transportation Master Plan, approved by Mayor and Council, identifies 40 km/h as the community speed limit, with some areas designated at 30 km/h. He noted that 40 km/h has also been established in the Town's bylaw for decades. The required 40 km/h signage has been purchased, is in the community, and has been installed along the highway corridor.

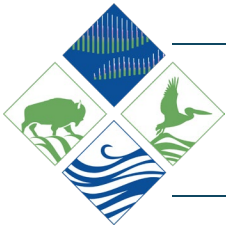
Cr. Benwell noted that the speed limit had previously been posted at 50 km/h in some areas of the community. She reiterated her concern that 40 km/h is too slow and suggested that 45 km/h may be a more reasonable speed limit, particularly given that some areas are already reduced to 30 km/h.

SAO Henderson cautioned against quickly reversing the decision, given the time and financial investment involved in implementing the Transportation Master Plan and associated speed limits. He advised that, if Council wished to reconsider the matter, a motion directing Administration to review the speed limit would be an appropriate first step. He noted that any change would require further discussion, particularly given the recent implementation and enforcement efforts.

Cr. Karasiuk asked for confirmation that all Town equipment loaned or deployed to other communities had been returned to Fort Smith.

Director McNab confirmed that the Type Six engine and Type II trailer deployed to another community have both returned to Fort Smith. The Type II trailer has been rehabilitated, and some missing equipment was identified. Those items will be replaced through the Wildland Urban Interface Agreement. He noted that none of the missing equipment is critical to the trailer's operation and that it is currently available for use.

Cr. Karasiuk asked for an update on discussions with the College regarding a potential location for the fire training grounds.



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Director McNab advised that Administration has reached out to the College several times regarding a potential location, but the primary contact is currently believed to be on leave. Discussions are ongoing. He added that Administration is also pursuing other potential lands through the ECC Lands Department and has a meeting scheduled to discuss those options.

ii. Briefing Note: DPA-039-26 Southern North Outdoors

26-065

Moved by: Cr. Cox

Seconded by: D/M Keizer

That DPA-039-26, submitted by Stephen Ziemann, for the operation of an outdoor recreation equipment rental business, from Lot 1, Plan 220, 90 McDougal Road, Fort Smith, be approved

PASSED

Cr. Couvrette expressed concern regarding the review process and requested clarification on the proposed outdoor recreation equipment rental operation. He asked whether customers would be picking up rental equipment from the property or if the business would operate solely through delivery, noting that customer pickups could increase traffic and potentially impact neighbouring properties.

Cr. Karasiuk added to Cr. Couvrette's concerns, noting that the application indicates an anticipated increase in vehicle and foot traffic. He asked whether an estimate had been provided regarding the frequency or volume of customers attending the property to pick up rental equipment.

Cr. Cox stated that he had no concerns with the application, noting that the business appears to involve small-scale equipment rentals such as bicycles, camping gear, and canoes. He noted that other small businesses generate similar levels of traffic and that potential traffic concerns could be monitored through the renewal process. He emphasized the importance of supporting small businesses and suggested that, if the business grows to the point where traffic becomes an issue, a commercial location could be considered at that time.

D/M Keizer noted that he is familiar with the property and that it was previously used as a church, which regularly generated vehicle traffic and utilized the available parking on the property. Based on his knowledge of the site, he supported Cr. Cox's comments and expressed support for allowing the applicant to establish and grow the business in Fort Smith.

iii. Briefing Note: DPA-040-26 Joel Ngeze

26-066

Moved by: Cr. Cox

Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette

That DPA-040-26, submitted by Joel Negeze, for the operation of a mobile vehicle detailing business, from Lot 3, Plan 220, 86B McDougal Road, Fort Smith, be approved

PASSED

b. Corporate Services

i. Director's Report

SAO Henderson provided an update on Corporate Services, advising that he will remain Acting Director until the new Director of Corporate Services begins on August 17. He noted



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that onboarding will take approximately one to two weeks, after which priority will be given to outstanding financial matters. He also announced that Director Howes has accepted the permanent Director of Community Services position and recognized her performance in the role, including her work during the recent evacuation.

Property tax bills have been issued, and collections are underway. Information regarding the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief program was included in the report to help clarify the process for residents. Payments in lieu of taxes and similar revenues have not yet been invoiced but are being prepared, with no immediate cash flow concerns.

SAO Henderson advised that the final 2025 audited financial statements are still outstanding and will require minor corrections, primarily related to the reporting of capital items. No material changes are anticipated. Administration is also working to improve capital project and grant tracking and reporting following the recent management changes.

Administration is reviewing commercial solid waste pricing in response to concerns raised by larger waste producers. SAO Henderson noted that some recent pressures may have been related to increased demand during the evacuation period and advised that the situation will continue to be monitored before changes are considered.

The Town is also undergoing renewal of its 15-year water licence, with AECOM serving as project manager. Information is currently being distributed to affected parties along the watercourse for feedback, with no significant concerns anticipated as the existing facilities and operations remain largely unchanged.

SAO Henderson outlined the proposed 2027 budget schedule, with the goal of having operating and capital budgets approved by December 31 in accordance with legislation. Completing the capital budget earlier would allow the Town to issue tenders sooner, improve competition, secure contractors before the construction season, and allow staff to focus on implementation at the beginning of the year.

He also recommended reviewing the Rates and Fees Bylaw annually. Regular, incremental updates would help avoid significant increases after several years without adjustments and provide a more consistent approach to maintaining Town fees.

Cr. Couvrette expressed support for the proposed budget calendar, noting that in his nine years on Council, the budget process has typically not begun until around mid-November. He recommended that Council accept and adhere to the proposed schedule and welcomed the opportunity to begin discussing the 2027 budget as early as August.

- ii. Accounts Paid List
- iii. Correspondence

c. Briefing Note: Elders in Motion

d. Briefing Note: Donation Request – Fitz’s Bombers Slo-Pitch Tournament

# 26-067	Moved by: Seconded by:
That Council approve:	
- The waiver of the Harry Sudom Ball Park tournament rental fee for the Fitz Bombers Slo-Pitch Tournament, September 11–13, 2026, with an estimated value of \$363.00; - The donation of a Town of Fort Smith promotional gift basket, with an estimated value of \$78.00; and - A monetary contribution of \$250 toward the Fitz Bombers Slo-Pitch Tournament.	



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PASSED

8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

- a. Bylaws and Policies
- b. Mayor and Council Round Table
 - i. Cr. Cox had nothing to report.
 - ii. Cr. Couvrette expressed condolences on the passing of Gary. He reflected on getting to know Gary during the evacuation and remembered him as a man with a great heart who will be deeply missed.
 - iii. Cr. Benwell had nothing to report.
 - iv. Cr. Heaton was excused.
 - v. Cr. Karasiuk expressed concern regarding information that the Teacher Education Program at Aurora College is being relocated to Yellowknife. He noted ongoing concerns about academic programs being moved away from the Fort Smith Thebacha Campus and suggested that the Town, in collaboration with the Thebacha Leadership Council, take a stronger position on the matter. He stated that if the Teacher Education Program is relocated, an equivalent academic program should be established at the Fort Smith campus.
 - vi. Cr. Bathe supported Cr. Karasiuk's comments regarding changes to programming at Aurora College. He acknowledged that relocating the Teacher Education Program to Yellowknife may provide students with greater access to schools for practicum placements but emphasized that programming in Fort Smith should be expanded in return. He suggested opportunities such as expanding the ENRTP program and increasing heavy equipment and trades-related training to prepare residents for major northern infrastructure projects. Cr. Bathe stressed the importance of training and hiring local workers rather than relying on workers from southern Canada.
 - vii. D/M Keizer had nothing to report.
 - viii. Mayor Fergusson expressed her gratitude to the Fort Smith community for its support of more than 90 evacuees from Wrigley. She noted that evacuees spoke positively about their experience and felt welcomed and supported throughout their stay. She also recognized Director Howes and Deputy Fire Chief Porter for their efforts during the evacuation response.

Mayor Fergusson also addressed concerns regarding Aurora College programming, advising that the Thebacha Leadership Council recently met specifically to discuss the issue and has developed a plan to advocate for Fort Smith. She emphasized that the TLC does not want to see academic programming removed from the community without equivalent programming being introduced and advised that leadership is actively working on a response.

- ix. Cr. Tuckey had nothing to report.



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c. Appointments

# 26-068	Moved by: Cr. Cox Seconded by: Cr. Karasiuk
That Brenda Johnson be appointed to the Development Appeal Board for a two-year appointment ending on August 11, 2028.	
PASSED	

9. PROCLAMATIONS

10. IN-CAMERA

# 26-069	Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk Seconded by: Cr. Cox
That Council move in camera in accordance with the Cities, Towns, and Villages Act, Section 23(b), at 7:52 pm.	
PASSED	

# 26-070	Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk Seconded by: Cr. Cox
That Council move out of in-camera at 8:20 pm	
PASSED	

11. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Regular Meeting of Council (Community & Municipal)	August 25 th , 2026, @ 7 pm, chaired by Mayor Fergusson
Regular Meeting of Council (Protective & Corporate)	September 1 st , 2026, @ 7 pm, chaired by Cr. Karasiuk

12. EXCUSING OF COUNCILLORS

# 26-071	Moved by: Cr. Cox Seconded by: Cr. Benwell
That Cr. Heaton be excused from the Regular Meeting of Council on August 11, 2026.	
PASSED	

13. QUESTION PERIOD

14. ADJOURNMENT

# 26-072	Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey
That the meeting be adjourned at 8:38 pm.	
PASSED	



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Minutes adopted this 1st day of September 2026.

Dana Fergusson
Mayor

Certified Correct by David Henderson
Senior Administrative Officer

RECOMMENDATION:

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

Recreation Programming

July provided a slightly quieter period for regular Recreation programming as staff prepared for a particularly busy August event schedule; however, the department remained actively involved in several community celebrations and partnership initiatives throughout the month.

Canada Day was a significant highlight, with strong community participation and collaboration across Recreation and four additional Town departments. This coordinated approach allowed the Town to deliver a large-scale community celebration with a variety of activities and services without reliance on external volunteers. Partnerships with Tthebatthie Denesųliné and Salt River First Nation further contributed to the success of the event and demonstrated the value of interdepartmental and community collaboration in delivering major community celebrations.

Recreation staff also supported Tthebatthie Denesųliné’s Treaty Day by providing staff assistance, supervising inflatable activities and games, assisting with food service, and supplying tables and chairs. Staff remained on site to support event operations and ensure the space was left clean and organized following the celebration. Participation in Treaty Day provided another valuable opportunity to support community recreation while continuing to strengthen the Town's relationship with the Nation.

The department provided additional community event support to Northern Lights Care Home during July, assisting with event setup and providing staff supervision for a bouncy castle. The successful partnership demonstrated Recreation's continued ability to provide flexible operational support to local organizations and community initiatives.

Summer Parents & Tots programming continued throughout the month and has received positive feedback from participating families. The program provides young families with a consistent and welcoming opportunity to participate in recreational activities together, with continued participation indicating an ongoing community need for accessible family-focused programming.

The Farmers Market also received significant positive feedback regarding its location in the Recreation Centre parking lot. The location provided a convenient and accessible gathering space for residents while increasing visibility for local vendors and supporting community engagement.

Overall, July provided an opportunity to maintain core programming and community partnerships while allowing staff to focus on planning and preparations ahead of a particularly event-heavy August schedule.

Recreational Programming Schedule & Statistics

Town of Fort Smith Community and Recreation Centre Stats				
Jul/2026				
Fort Smith Community and Recreation Centre	June 2026 Sessions	June 2026 Participants	July 2026 Sessions	July 2026 Participants
Squash	Operational days 29	27	Operational days 31	29
Pete's Gym	Operational days 29	1038	Operational days 31	1212
Senior Lane Swim	20	94	13	43
Public Swim	23	663	13	487
Public Lane Swim	51	170	28	97
Parents & Tots Swim	21	73 Parents; 66 Tots	13	16 Parents; 16 Tots
Daycare Swim	9	115	6	78
Summer Camp Swim	8	202	6	110
Lifeguard Training	0	0	6	48

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Community Services
Community Services Monthly Report

Date: August 19th, 2026

Pool Rentals	1	10	0	0
FREE SWIMS - Wallys 2/118 UNW 3/97	-	-	5	215
Water Fun Outdoors at CRC	-	-	2	81
Sauna	29	197	31	107
Kayak Club	1	8	0	0
Active Aging/Senior Walking	4	11	12	14
Drop-in soccer/Futsal	4	0	4	0
Drop-in Volleyball/Jr Girls Volleyball	9	14	12	6
18+ Women'sVolleyball/18+ Drop-In	5	11	8	0
Drop-in Badminton	8	6	12	8
Women's Squash League	over	over	over	over
Open Squash League	over	over	over	over
Parents & Tots Gym (7 d /w - 7 hours/day)**	29	** 232 Parents; 497 Tots	31	** 324 Parents; 889 Tots
Gym Rentals	15	25	10	135
Pickleball	12	25	12	46
Girl Guides	-	-	-	-
Youth Night/Youth Night Volleyball	8	66	9	38
Youth Drop-In	18	50	18	42
Farmers Market	-	-	3	419
Healthy Families	4	34	6	36
Family Drop-in Sports	4	0	4	11
Crib Night	1	5	4	0
Yoga	0	0	0	0
Family & Youth Campfire	-	-	1	4
Theatre Meeting (curling lounge)	-	-	1	40
Archery	-	-	2	3
CRC Daily Total	29	4775	31	4547

<u>Comments:</u> .			Pool Closed July 11-23	
Fort Smith Centennial Arena	June 2026 Sessions	June 2026 Participants	July 2026 Sessions	July 2026 Participants
Canada Day			1	618
National Indigenous Peoples Day	1	546		
Pride	1	82		
<u>Comments:</u> .	Arena closed March 31, 2026, for ice events		Arena closed March 31, 2026, for ice events	

Fort Smith Child Care	June 2026 Sessions	June 2026 Participants	June 2026 Sessions	June 2026 Participants
ASCP (June) Summer Camp (July)	20	560/600	20	338/400
Daycare	20	16 FT; 2HT; 3 FTI; 4 drop-ins	22	13 FT; 7HT; 5 FTI; 3 drop-ins
<u>Comments:</u> .	FTI is for Full-Time Infant		FTI is for Full-Time Infant	

Community & Recreation Centre
Gymnasium
SUMMER 2026 SCHEDULE



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Parents & Tots 10:00 - 5:00	Parents & Tots 10:00 - 5:00	Parents & Tots 10:00 - 5:00	Parents & Tots 10:00 - 5:00	Parents & Tots 10:00 - 5:00	Parents & Tots 12:00 - 5:00	
					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	Summer Camp 8:30 - 5:00	Rental 2 2:00 - 3:00	Rental 2 2:00 - 3:00
Summer Camp 8:30 - 5:00	Summer Camp 8:30 - 5:00	Summer Camp 8:30 - 5:00	Summer Camp 8:30 - 5:00		Rental 3 3:30 - 4:30	Rental 3 3:30 - 4:30
Youth Drop-in 5:00 - 7:00		Youth Drop-in 5:00 - 7:00	Youth Drop-in 5:00 - 7:00	Youth Drop-in 5:00 - 6:15	Drop-In Badminton 5:00 - 6:30	Family Drop-In 5:00 - 6:00
	Open Drop-In 5:00 - 8:00			Drop-in Pickleball 6:30 - 8:00	Futsal U12 6:30 - 8:00	Badminton 6:00 - 7:00
Badminton 9+ 7:15 - 8:30		Basketball 7:00 - 8:00	Archery 7:15 - 8:30	Youth Night (Ages 12 - 18) 8:00 -11:15 Doors close at 10:00	Youth Night Volleyball (ages 12-18) 8:00-9:30	Adult Dodgeball 7:15 - 8:30
Womens Volleyball 8:30 - 9:45	Volleyball (13 & up) 8:00 - 9:45	Open Drop-In 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

Aquatics

July represented an important month of progress for the William Schaefer Memorial Pool, particularly in the areas of staffing, instructor development, and preparations for the return of certified swimming lessons.

Two part-time term employees joined the Aquatics team during the month, including one returning employee and one newly certified National Lifeguard. These additions provide additional operational capacity and represent continued progress toward strengthening staffing levels within the facility.

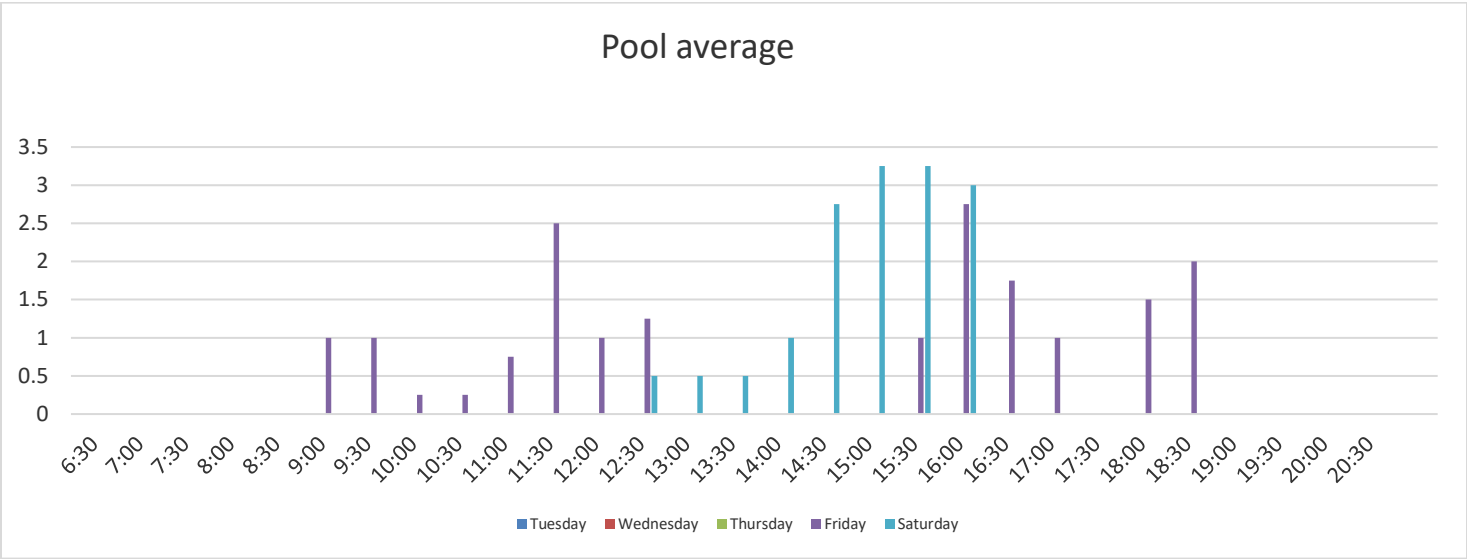
A significant milestone was also achieved with the completion of the combined Swim Instructor and Lifesaving Instructor course. Seven participants successfully obtained certification, including five members of the William Schaefer Memorial Pool's National Lifeguard team. Developing this expertise locally significantly increases the Town's capacity to deliver swimming lessons and lifesaving certification programs in-house and reduces reliance on external instructors.

Work is now underway to reintroduce structured swimming lessons at the facility. Beginning the week of August 16, swimming assessments will be available to community members of all ages. Assessment results will be used to determine existing swimming levels and identify areas of greatest community demand. Staff will then use this information to establish appropriately sized lesson groups, maintain required instructor-to-participant ratios, and develop the fall pool schedule incorporating both regular aquatic programming and swimming lessons.

Overall patron attendance experienced a seasonal downward trend during July, particularly during afternoon periods and on Fridays, with attendance generally beginning to increase later in the afternoon.

Several operational improvements were also initiated during the month. Two-way radios have been ordered to improve communication between lifeguards and Front Desk staff. Following an incident involving broken glass near the aquatic area in early July, staff are also implementing a new cellphone safety policy. Cellphones used within the pool or sauna area will be required to be contained within an appropriate waterproof enclosure to reduce the risk of broken glass entering aquatic spaces.

Aquatics staff have also temporarily returned to the facility's previous method of water testing while the ColorQ 2 testing equipment undergoes thorough cleaning and replacement of sample vials. A standardized testing protocol and additional staff training will be implemented following servicing of the equipment to improve consistency, accuracy, and efficiency in pool chemistry monitoring.



William Schaefer Memorial Swimming Pool

2026 Summer Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 Fort Smith NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CLOSED	Public lane (6:30-8:00)		Public lane (6:30-8:00)			
	Public Lane (10:00-11:00)	Public Lane (10:00-11:00)	Public Lane (10:00-11:00)	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)	Public Swim (12:00-4:00)
	Public Swim (1:00-7:00)	Public Swim Wibit night (3:30-7:00)	Public Swim (1:00-7:00)	Public Swim (1:00-7:00)	RENTAL (1:00-2:00) RENTAL (2:00-3:00) Public Swim (3:00-7:00)	

Mary Kaeser Library

The Mary Kaeser Library maintained steady usage throughout July, with consistent circulation and strong participation in summer programming. Regular programs averaged approximately 10–15 participants, with particularly strong attendance for the STEM robotics programming and Freddy the Turtle’s birthday celebration.

Theatre Camp registration also exceeded initial expectations, with 26 children between the ages of 8 and 12 registered for the program. Preparations continued throughout July for the camp and its concluding public performances, which are scheduled for August 14 and 15.

The quieter summer period has also provided staff with an opportunity to undertake collection and database management work while maintaining regular public services and programming.

August will continue to offer a diverse range of library and arts programming. In addition to Theatre Camp and its performances, the library is planning an adult improv lesson with the possibility of a performance on August 15. A partnership with Parks Canada will bring a public planetarium program to the community, while Storytime and Summer Reading programming will continue throughout the month.

The library will also be undertaking recruitment for a new indeterminate staff member, supporting continued stability and capacity within library operations.

Mary Kaeser Library Activity Report July 2026

	Jul-25	Last Month	Jul-26	YTD
Adults	519	401	438	3448
Children	619	709	620	4941
Total attendance	1138	1110	1058	8389
CAP Computer Users	263	268	237	1718
CAP Computer Hours	207	241	250.25	1567
Wifi users	100	121	114	1283
Programming:				
Family literacy	40	45	38	278
Adult programs	14	4	4	63
Seniors programs	4	n/a	N/A	5
Curious Creators (Friday Kids)	n/a	n/a	n/a	38
Special events (Other)	n/a	n/a	n/a	128
Outreach/partnerships	n/a	n/a	7	151
holiday/spring break/summer reading	157	36	80	116
Teen programs	25	31	28	186
Class/daycare visits	99	55	63	552
Total program Attendance	339	171	220	1517
Other				
Circulation stats	510	383	543	3768
Inter-library loan requests (MKL patrons)	3	4	8	62
Inter-library loan requests (NWT patrons)	15	23	23	131

REPORT TO COUNCIL

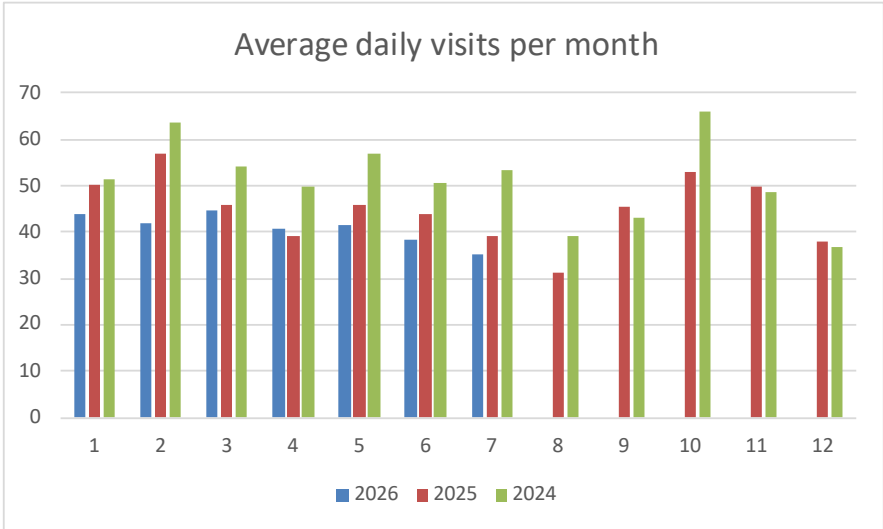
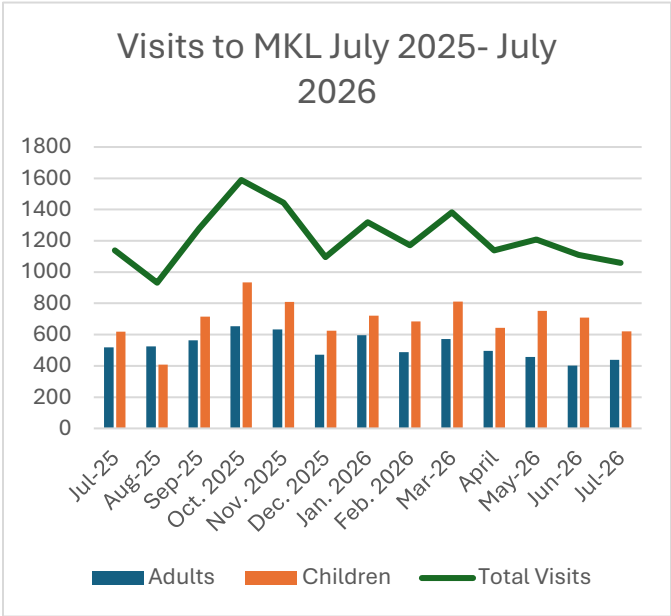
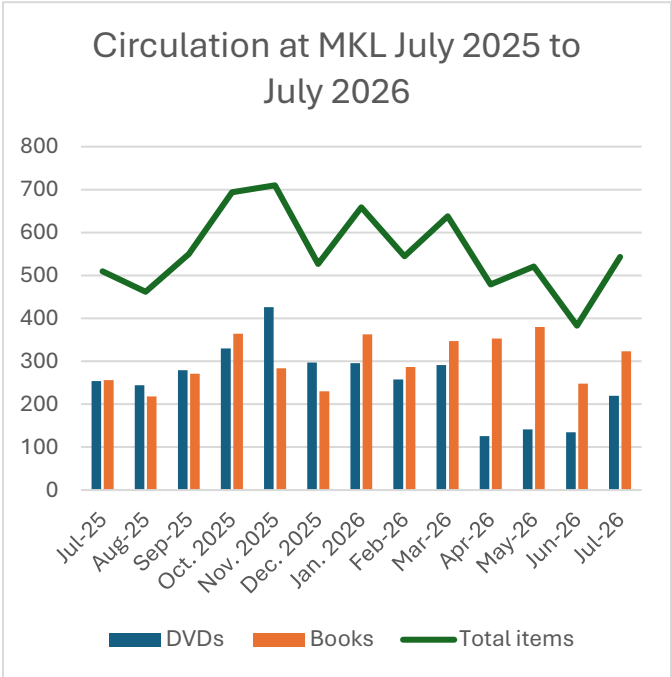
Community Services

Community Services Monthly Report

Date:

August 19th, 2026

Printing	369	341	682	3629
Reference	113	86	77	1133
Operational Hrs	226	216	218	1507



Childcare

Daycare

July was an active month for the Daycare Program, with children participating in outdoor play, swimming, and a variety of group outings. While preschool enrollment remained at capacity, daily attendance was somewhat lower as families travelled during the summer months. Staff used the resulting temporary availability to offer drop-in spaces to families currently on the daycare waitlist, allowing additional families to access childcare services where capacity permitted.



The Daycare also successfully secured just over **\$68,000 through the Early Childhood Infrastructure Fund** to support planned renovations to the facility's kitchen. A tender has been posted for the project, which is anticipated to include new cabinetry, improvements to address ongoing plumbing concerns, and installation of a new commercial-grade dishwasher. The funded project is required to be completed by March 31, 2027, with the construction schedule to be confirmed through the procurement process.

The facility also completed its Environmental Health inspections during the month.



Summer Camp

The Summer Camp Program experienced exceptionally strong participation throughout July, operating between approximately 90% and 100% capacity each week. The program has capacity for 20 children between the ages of 4 and 8 and is supported by a Primary Care worker and assistant.

Each week featured a different programming theme, including Games, Nature, Science, and Water, with activities and community partnerships incorporated throughout the month. The Aurora Research Institute provided weekly STEM programming and coordinated a field trip with Parks Canada to the Salt Plains, giving participants an opportunity to combine recreation with hands-on science and environmental learning.

Children also participated in paddleboarding sessions at the William Schaefer Memorial Pool in partnership with the local Paddle Club, tennis instruction through Joan's Health and Fitness, and a yoga session at The Den. These partnerships provided participants with opportunities to experience a diverse range of recreational activities and connect with local organizations and instructors.





Outdoor programming remained a significant component of Summer Camp whenever weather permitted. Participants enjoyed water play and slip-and-slide activities at Conibear Park, including a special visit from the Fort Smith Fire Department, where children had the opportunity to cool off with assistance from a fire truck.

With four weeks of programming remaining at the conclusion of July, Summer Camp continues to demonstrate strong demand for accessible and engaging summer recreation opportunities for young children in the community.

Economic & Tourism Development

O'Canada



Canada Day 2026 saw around 500 people at Conibear Park for a BBQ & festivities.

2026 was successful and saw:

- 11 local organizations/vendor booths
- Fort Smith band playing O'Canada live
- A themed parade

This year was challenging for a few reasons

- Decreased float participation despite increased prizes
- Musicians were either out of town, unavailable, sick or ghosted requests
- Limited other food vendor options

Last year there were 8 float participants, many bikes along with a few more vendor booths (and street treats). There may not be one sole reason for decreased participation in the parade. ECC had to pull their float as their staff were called out of town to fight fires. Aurora College, after the fact, was contacted about their absence and shared that they tried to get their group together to no avail.

Corporate participation is always spearheaded by one or two individuals... how do we ensure they have ample resources to put on a float?

A suggestion from the public about solo youth bike participants was that the Town of Fort Smith host a bike decorating event at the Community & Recreation Centre a day or two before Canada Day to supply the ribbons, streamers and themed décor to reduce the financial barrier of participation.

Canada Day funding was combined with indigenous peoples day funding through the Celebrate Canada Grant. We apply for this grant in November for the coming year, and decided in 2025 that we would apply for NIPD & Canada Day as we have not done that before. We received \$16,500 through this grant & \$7,500 through the municipal budget for a total of \$24,000. NIPD was a \$10,500 event, and Canada Day was \$12,500, leaving us just under budget.

We will continue to apply for both NIPD & Canada Day funding through Celebrate Canada.



Painting Municipal Buildings

Discussion around branding principles happened in July, with Town Hall getting its final coats of paint.

ETDO wanted to bring this up only to say that visual public-facing decisions should not be hastily made & can be supported through a thorough understanding of brand guidelines and community voice. As the paint settled, we ended up with a clean, modern and professional building (not without some vocal disagreements).



Pop Up Shops:

Throughout the summer, we have been doing after-hours "pop-up shops" at the visitor information centre, bringing the full stock of inventory for anyone to purchase.

This was mainly because of requests from IMT teams (fire crews) who wouldn't be available until 8 PM. We also had multiple community members come through the visitor centre, proving that:

- Late hours are of benefit to community & visitors / temporary workers
- Merchandise can be a revenue generator

ETDO is still working on the best method to bulk sell to local retailers w/ a display stand.

Museum Stewardship Survey:



In July of 2026, a survey went out to the community to ask what's next for the NLMCC. This survey was prompted by Mayor Fergusson as a result of discussion in TLC about becoming high-level stewards of the organization. There were 37 respondents.

Results have been emailed to the Mayor.

Capital Project Updates

CRC Backup Generator and Heating; Administration is currently awaiting follow-up from the project engineers and associated consultants regarding next steps for the Community Recreation Centre backup generator project. Updated renderings, plans, and project details are currently in development and will help inform the next phase of the project. Further updates will be provided to Council as information becomes available.

Snowboard Park and Lookout Development: Engineers have been engaged to update project renderings for the Snowboard Park and Lookout Development project as Administration works toward the targeted project completion timeline of September 2027. Current revisions include exploring opportunities to incorporate and build from existing site infrastructure, including the current shelter and pilings, in order to create a more sustainable and cost-effective development approach. Administration is currently awaiting updated renderings and concept plans before proceeding to the next stages of project planning and development.

Conibear Park Development: Work on the Conibear Park Development project continues, with engineers currently engaged in the design process. Landscaping concepts are in progress, and renderings for the proposed structure are being developed. Current conceptual plans include a stage/bandstand area, public washrooms, and basic kitchen amenities intended to support community events and programming opportunities within the park space.

Prepared by:
Director of Community Services
Lauren Howes
Date: August 19th, 2026

Reviewed By:
Senior Administrative Officer
David Henderson
Date: August 20, 2026



Briefing Note

To: Mayor and Council
From: Administration
Date: 20-Aug-2026
Subject: Museum Stewardship Conveyance And Management Agreement

PURPOSE:

To advise Council of the main risks associated with the proposed transfer of the Northern Life Museum & Cultural Centre property and collection to the Thebacha Leadership Council (TLC).

BACKGROUND:

The Northern Life Museum & Cultural Centre was established in the early 1970s and is operated by the Northern Anthropological and Cultural Society (NACS).

The proposal is for TLC to take ownership of the museum property and collection. NACS would continue to operate the museum.

TLC has four primary partners:

1. Salt River First Nation
2. Tthebatthie Denesuline Nation
3. Fort Smith Métis Council
4. Town of Fort Smith

The purpose of the transfer is to preserve the museum and its collection and improve access to funding. NACS has limited financial resources to maintain the building, collection and operations.

ANALYSIS:

The main risk to the Town is financial.

Although the proposed transfer does not necessarily create an immediate obligation for the Town to fund museum operations, TLC will become the owner of the building and collection. If NACS is unable to fully fund operations, maintenance, insurance or future capital requirements, it is reasonably foreseeable that TLC will be asked to provide financial support. This would, in turn, result in requests to its four member governments, including the Town.

Council should therefore consider the transfer on the understanding that future requests for municipal operating or capital contributions are a significant possibility. The agreement should, however, make clear that no individual TLC member is automatically responsible for a TLC or NACS deficit and that any Town contribution requires separate approval by Town Council.

The Town Currently provides direct financial support of approx. \$40,000 annually

Secondary considerations that should be resolved before execution:

1. The agreement should make it clear that the Town does not become jointly or severally liable simply because it is a TLC member.
2. In the event that NACS can no longer operate the museum the TLC needs the ability to replace NACS, temporarily close the facility, secure records and systems, and protect the collection.



Briefing Note

3. Consideration for the withdrawal of a partner from the TLC or the dissolution of the TLC This becomes particularly important because TLC will own real property and a significant cultural collection. The Town should know whether withdrawal could leave it responsible for liabilities or deficits.

Additionally, items that should be addressed prior to or during implementation :

- confirming title and completing reasonable building and environmental due diligence;
- identifying significant deferred maintenance and foreseeable capital requirements;
- establishing a reasonable inventory of the museum collection;
- clarifying responsibility for loaned artifacts;
- confirming appropriate property, liability and collection insurance;
- establishing appropriate indemnification between TLC and NACS ; and
- requiring regular financial and operational reporting from NACS.

CONCLUSION:

The proposed transfer provides a reasonable way for the four participating governments to help preserve the Northern Life Museum & Cultural Centre and its collection.

The principal concern for the Town is the potential for future financial requests.

Council should understand that TLC ownership may create an expectation that its member governments provide funding when other sources are insufficient. The agreement should protect the Town from an automatic legal obligation to provide that funding. It cannot, however, eliminate the practical possibility that Council will be asked to provide financial support in the future.

The remaining concerns are primarily legal, due diligence and implementation matters. They should be addressed but do not, on their own, provide a reason to oppose the transfer.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council continue to support the transfer of the Northern Life Museum & Cultural Centre property and collection to the Thebacha Leadership Council.

Prior to execution of the agreements, Administration recommends that TLC and its legal counsel confirm that:

1. individual TLC members are not automatically or jointly responsible for TLC or NACS obligations or deficits, and any financial contribution by the Town requires separate approval by Town Council;
2. TLC has appropriate authority to protect the building and collection and appoint another operator if NACS is unable to continue operating the museum; and
3. the consequences of withdrawal of a TLC member or dissolution of TLC are sufficiently defined.

The remaining due diligence, insurance, collection and operational matters should be addressed as part of finalizing and implementing the agreements.



Briefing Note

Motion

That Council authorize the Town of Fort Smith to enter into the Museum Stewardship Conveyance and Management Agreement as a member of the Thebacha Leadership Council, subject to satisfactory clarification of individual member financial liability, the process to be followed if NACS is unable to continue operating the museum, and the financial consequences of withdrawal or dissolution of the TLC.