

THE TOWN OF OKOTOKS  
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
AGENDA

Wednesday, March 5, 2025  
7:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBER

Pages

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair \_\_\_\_\_ will call the meeting to order and provide a traditional land acknowledgement.

The Town of Okotoks acknowledges the original stewards of this land that we know and call Treaty 7 Territory, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy First Nations the Kainai, Siksika and Piikani. The Stoney Nakoda First Nations, which includes the Bearspaw, Chiniki and Goodstoney, the Dene First Nation of Tsuut'ina and the Metis Nation of Alberta. We Vow to continue honouring and respecting the Indigenous Peoples Sacred and Traditional ways of life and will carry on this special relationship with the land so that generations to come can enjoy, use, and live off the land as their ancestors did. We honour and respect this space, the water, the animals, and all the beings who have a spirit and have been here long before us.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOTION REQUESTED: That the agenda for the March 5, 2025 Family and Community Support Services Committee be adopted as presented.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

3.1 Family and Community Support Services Committee - January 14, 2025 3  
MOTION REQUESTED: That the minutes of the Family and Community Support Services Committee meeting held January 14, 2025 be adopted as presented.

3.2 Family and Community Support Services Committee - January 15, 2025 9  
MOTION REQUESTED: That the minutes of the Family and Community Support Services Committee meeting held January 15, 2025 be adopted as presented.

**4. CLOSED SESSION**

(This portion of the meeting may be closed to the public if a matter to be discussed is within one of the exceptions to disclosure in Division 2 of Part I of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*.)

**5. MOTION(S) ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION**

## 6. BUSINESS

- 6.1 Presentation: Foothills Community Coalition
- 6.2 Review and Discuss 2024 Family and Community Support Services Final Funding Reports
- 6.3 Round Table  
MOTION REQUESTED: That items 6.1 to 6.3 be received as information.

## 7. REPORTS

- 7.1 Council Update 16
- 7.2 Community & Social Development Team Leader
- 7.3 Youth Representative 17
- 7.4 Youth Representative  
MOTION REQUESTED: That items 7.1 to 7.4 be received as information.

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

- 8.1 2025 Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta Conference - February 7, 2025 18

## 9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Family and Community Support Services Committee is April 2, 2025.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION REQUESTED: That the March 5, 2025 Family and Community Support Services Meeting adjourn at \_\_\_ p.m.

**TOWN OF OKOTOKS  
UNADOPTED MINUTES  
FOR THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025  
IN THE OKOTOKS MUNICIPAL CENTRE COUNCIL CHAMBER**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS** Dan Proctor, Chair  
**PRESENT** Councillor Heemeryck  
Brandon Bailey  
Heather Brown  
Peter Burrell  
Jasmine Song  
Smriti Thiruchitrambalam

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS** Angela Barber  
**ABSENT** Chase Giroux

**STAFF PRESENT** Community & Social Development Team Leader Sian Anderson  
Community & Social Development Administrator Nikki Hamilton  
Community & Social Development Administrator Bethany Pizani

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Proctor called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and provided a traditional land acknowledgement.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOTION: By J. Song that the agenda for the January 14, 2025 Family and Community Support Services Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

3.1 Family and Community Support Services Committee - December 4, 2024

MOTION: By B. Bailey that the minutes of the Family and Community Support Services Committee Meeting held December 4, 2024 be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

### **4. CLOSED SESSION**

None

### **5. MOTION(S) ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION**

None

### **6. PRESENTATIONS**

6.1 Christ the Redeemer Separate School Division - The Connections Program

Aileen Taylor, Mental Health Coordinator, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$35,000.00.

The core elements of the Connections Program are therapeutic in-school suspensions, school connectedness, restorative practices and mentoring. The primary goals of the Connections Program are to reduce truancy, keep students in school through to graduation, increase student-school and student-community connection and engagement, and mentoring students. Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) funding will be used to support staffing costs.

Smriti Thiruchitrambalam arrived 5:46pm

## 6.2 Christ the Redeemer Separate School Division - Family School Liaison Program

Aileen Taylor, Mental Health Coordinator, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$45,000.00.

The Family School Liaison Program addresses the social, emotional, and mental health of students and their families from kindergarten through grade 12, helping students flourish in both academic and social environments. Staff or counsellors collaborate with administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, and often external agencies to develop support plans to address specific and general concerns of children within the schools. FCSS funding will be used to support staffing costs.

## 6.3 Dusty Boots Ranch - Equine-Assisted Learning & Nature Program

Karen Watson, Alex Dunn, and Debra White, Co-facilitators and Program Coordinators, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$7,837.50

Dusty Boots Ranch Equine-Assisted Learning & Nature Program offers a safe, accessible space where individuals, groups and families can enhance their wellness and skill sets through the gentle power and grace of the horse. Dedicated to providing unique, holistic wellness services that empower all involved while positively impacting communities. FCSS funding will be used to support staffing costs, volunteer training, and program expenses.

## 6.4 Eunoia Equine Connection - Equine-Assisted Learning and Wellness Program

Pauline Hogan and Chloe Grant, Directors, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$16,800.00.

Eunoia Equine Connection Equine-Assisted Learning and Wellness Program emphasizes emotional healing, mindfulness, and nature-based experiences for a broad range of demographics, including children, youth, adults, and seniors. This program offers a diverse array of activities, including groundwork with horses, mindfulness and meditation, emotional exploration, personal growth exercises, and creative expression. FCSS funding will be used to support staffing and program expenses.

#### 6.5 Calgary Catholic Immigration Society - Foothills Community Immigrant Services

Nancy Risdon and Laura Suarez, Settlement/SWIS Coordinator, and Lisa Degenstein, Rural Settlement Program Manager, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$1,656.00

Foothills Community Immigrant Services (FCIS) is an organization providing settlement and integration services to immigrants and refugees in Southern Alberta. FCIS is looking to offer a program to connect newcomer youth to the community, foster cultural understanding, and promote resilience while building relationships between newcomer and Indigenous youth to support successful settlement in Canada. FCSS funding will be used to support staffing and program expenses.

#### 6.6 Foothills Country Hospice Society - Volunteer Services Program

Bonnie Palmer, Coordinator of Volunteers, and Shanon Maksymich, Fund Development Officer, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$19,711.00.

The Foothills Country Hospice utilizes volunteers to support clinical staff, patients and their families. The Volunteer Services Program at Foothills Country Hospice offers meaningful opportunities for volunteers to use their skills and foster personal growth. Volunteers helped expand community grief support and provided companionship through programs like Compassionate Conversations, NODA, and Nav-CARE. FCSS funding will be used to help support staffing and programming expenses.

#### 6.7 Foothills School Division - Family School Liaison Counsellor Program

Lindsay Boucher, Foothills School Division Counselling Coordinator, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$50,000.00.

The Family School Liaison Counsellor Program (FSLC) provides support to meet the needs of individuals, schools, and families to address psycho-social, emotional, and behavioural concerns. FSLC staff work collaboratively with schools and agencies in the community to help students and families develop and strengthen positive coping skills to deal with disruptive, stressful or challenging events. FCSS funding will be used to support staffing costs for Family School Liaison Counsellors.

#### 6.8 Inclusion Foothills - Family Support Program

Judy McMillian-Evans, Family Support, and Orvella Small, Inclusion Foothills Executive Director, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$18,000.00.

The Inclusion Foothills Family Support program provides programming for the families of those living with disabilities. Options are available for parents and caregivers, and siblings, to support them in navigating services, advocacy, skill enhancement, creating open communication and social connections, and building deeper, life-long relationships. FCSS funding will be used to support staffing and programming expenses.

#### 6.9 Junior Achievement Southern Alberta Foothills Region - JA Programming for Okotoks Youth

Keith Ennis, Director of Programs, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$5,000.00.

The Junior Achievement program aims to inspire and educate young Albertans to succeed in the global economy by providing them with opportunities to experience free enterprise, understand business and economics, and develop entrepreneurial, financial literacy and leadership skills. FCSS funding will be used to support staffing and program expenses.

#### 6.10 Okotoks & District Seniors Club - Program Facilitator

Sharon Anderson, Okotoks & District Seniors Club President, and Bev Seitz, Okotoks & District Seniors Club Vice President, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$10,000.00.

The Program Facilitator oversees all Seniors Club programs and provides members with information on available resources and community connections, while working to create an environment that encourages social connection. Seniors are encouraged to be involved in the Club and in the community, to further the understanding that their contributions are valued and appreciated. FCSS funding will be used to support staffing and program expenses.

#### 6.11 Okotoks Meals on Wheels Society - Volunteer Appreciation and Container Fund

Geri Rozander, Okotoks Meals on Wheels Society Accountant, and Luella Wojcik, Okotoks Meals on Wheels Society Coordinator, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$4,600.00.

The Okotoks Meals on Wheels Volunteer Appreciation celebrates and strengthens the bond among 18 volunteers, while the Container Fund aims to subsidize the cost of single-use containers to keep meal prices stable and affordable for clients despite rising costs. FCSS funding will be used for volunteer appreciation to provide meal containers.

### **7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Family and Community Support Services Committee is January 15, 2025.

### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: By B. Bailey that the January 14, 2025 Family and Community Support Services Committee meeting adjourn at 8:47 p.m.

Carried Unanimously



**TOWN OF OKOTOKS  
UNADOPTED MINUTES  
FOR THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025  
IN THE OKOTOKS MUNICIPAL CENTRE COUNCIL CHAMBER**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS** Dan Proctor, Chair  
**PRESENT** Councillor Heemeryck  
Brandon Bailey  
Heather Brown  
Peter Burrell  
Jasmine Song  
Smriti Thiruchitrambalam

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS** Angela Barber  
**ABSENT** Chase Giroux

**STAFF PRESENT** Community & Social Development Team Leader Sian Anderson  
Community Wellness Specialist Magan Braun  
Community & Social Development Administrator Nikki Hamilton  
Community & Social Development Administrator Bethany Pizani

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Proctor called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. and provided a traditional land acknowledgement.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOTION: By P. Burrell that the agenda for the January 15, 2025 Family and Community Support Services Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

None

#### 4. PRESENTATIONS

##### 4.1 Parenting Through Connection - Transform your Parenting

Megan Lachance, Parenting Coach, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$23,000.00.

Transform your Parenting is a 12-week program that combines education with coaching and support to help parents with key concepts such as attachment, values, boundaries, emotional intelligence, nervous system regulation, mindset, playful parenting, anger and aggression, and communication skills. Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) funding will be used to support staffing costs to provide this program at no cost to participants.

Heather Brown arrived 5:38pm

Smriti Thiruchitrambalam arrived at 5:41pm

##### 4.2 Rowan House Society - Preventative Education Program

Haleigh Williams, Community Engagement Coordinator, and Linette Soldan, Rowan House Society Executive Director, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$18,000.00.

The Preventative Education Program is an evidence-based approach designed to provide education and awareness regarding domestic violence and abuse helping the participants recognize the signs of an unhealthy relationship and empower them to make choices that lead to lives free from violence and abuse for themselves, or those they care about. FCSS funding will be used to support staffing and program expenses.

#### 4.3 Solace Grief Support Society - Group Counselling

Deb Gardiner, Vice President, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$2,520.00

Solace Grief Support Society Group counselling provide a safe place to develop the strategies and skills to cope with participants' grief. Counsellors guide participants, teaching them coping skills that support resilience. Sessions are drop-in and open to all members of the community. FCSS funding will be used support staffing and program expenses.

#### 4.4 Wellspring Alberta - Comprehensive Cancer Support

Gina Chavez, Strategic Partnerships Director, and Stephanie Durante, Foundation and Government Relations Coordinator, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$20,000.00.

Wellspring Alberta offers free programs, support services, and resources that address the emotional, social, and practical needs of individuals living with any type of cancer. People diagnosed with cancer, caregivers, and children across Alberta can access programs and services online, in-person and by phone. FCSS funding will support program expenses.

#### 4.5 Wild Rose Community Connections - DadConnexx

Keeley McLeod, Program Coordinator, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$27,248.00.

The DadConnexx Program builds capacity for Dads and other positive, influential males in a child's life, by providing education on parenting and connecting families to meaningful community resources. Monthly events bring male caregivers and their children together to build relationships, memories and parenting skills, and outreach is provided for individualized supports to promote positive parenting. In addition, social events that include the whole family to further strengthen relationships and support networks, and learning opportunities are provided. FCSS funding will be used to support staffing and program expenses.

## 5. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: By J. Song that the meeting go into Closed Session as the matters to be discussed during this portion of the meeting are within one of the exceptions to disclosure in Division 2 of Part I of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act.* at 7:01.

Carried Unanimously

### 5.1 Funding Discussion (*FOIP s.23(1) and 24(1)(g)*)

#### In Attendance

Committee members Dan Proctor, Councillor Heemeryck, Brandon Bailey, Heather Brown, Peter Burrell, Jasmine Song, Smriti Thiruchitrambalam  
Community & Social Development Team Leader Sian Anderson  
Community Wellness Specialist Magan Braun  
Community & Social Development Administrator Nikki Hamilton  
Community & Social Development Administrator Bethany Pizani

MOTION: By H. Brown that the meeting come out of Closed Session at 9:08 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

## 6. MOTION(S) ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION

### 6.1 Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools - The Connections Program

MOTION: By S. Thiruchitrambalam that Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools - The Connections Program be funded \$20,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

### 6.2 Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools - Family School Liaison Program

MOTION: By H. Brown that Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools - Family School Liaison Program be funded \$40,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.3 Dusty Boots Ranch - Equine-Assisted Learning & Nature Program

MOTION: By J. Song that Dusty Boots Ranch - Equine-Assisted Learning & Nature Program not be funded.

Carried Unanimously

6.4 Eunoia Equine Connection - Equine-Assisted Learning and Wellness Program

MOTION: By B. Bailey that Eunoia Equine Connection - Equine-Assisted Learning and Wellness Program not be funded.

Carried Unanimously

6.5 Calgary Catholic Immigration Society - Foothills Community Immigrant Services

MOTION: By P. Burrell that Calgary Catholic Immigration Society - Foothills Community Immigrant Services be funded \$1,650.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.6 Foothills Country Hospice Society - Volunteer Services Program

MOTION: By Councillor Heemeryck that Foothills Country Hospice Society - Volunteer Services Program be funded \$19,700.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.7 Foothills School Division - Family School Liaison Counsellor Program

MOTION: By S. Thiruchitrambalam that Foothills School Division - Family School Liaison Counsellor Program be funded \$50,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.8 Inclusion Foothills - Family Support Program

MOTION: By H. Brown that Inclusion Foothills - Family Support Program be funded \$18,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.9 Junior Achievement Southern Alberta Foothills Region - JA Programming for Okotoks Youth

MOTION: By J. Song that Junior Achievement Southern Alberta Foothills Region - JA Programming for Okotoks Youth be funded \$5,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.10 Okotoks & District Seniors Club - Program Facilitator

MOTION: By B. Bailey that Okotoks & District Seniors Club - Program Facilitator be funded \$10,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.11 Okotoks Meals on Wheels Society - Volunteer Appreciation and Container Fund

MOTION: By P. Burrell that Okotoks Meals on Wheels Society - Volunteer Appreciation and Container Fund be funded \$4,600.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.12 Parenting Through Connection - Transform Your Parenting

MOTION: By Councillor Heemeryck that Parenting Through Connection - Transform Your Parenting not be funded.

Carried Unanimously

6.13 Rowan House Society - Preventative Education Program

MOTION: By S. Thiruchitrambalam that Rowan House Society - Preventative Education Program be funded \$18,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.14 Solace Grief Support Society - Group Counselling

MOTION: By H. Brown that Solace Grief Support Society - Group Counselling be funded \$2,500.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.15 Wellspring Alberta - Comprehensive Cancer Support

MOTION: By J. Song that Wellspring Alberta - Comprehensive Cancer Support be funded \$5,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.16 Wild Rose Community Connections - DadConnexx

MOTION: By B. Bailey that Wild Rose Community Connections - DadConnexx be funded \$20,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

**7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Family and Community Support Services Committee is March 5, 2025.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: By P. Burrell that the January 15, 2025 Family and Community Support Services Committee meeting adjourn at 9:14 p.m.

Carried Unanimously



# Regular Meeting Highlights

FEBRUARY 24, 2025

*Council Meeting Highlights are provided for the benefit of residents with the intent of providing a short, informal report on what occurred at Council meetings. Council discussion and decisions are available for viewing on the Town of Okotoks website at [okotoks.ca](http://okotoks.ca).*

Council received the following reports as information:

- **Community Safety 2024 Fourth Quarter Report**
- **Okotoks Municipal Enforcement 2024 Annual Report**
- **Affordable Housing Reserve Fund**
- **2025 Community Survey Proposed Questions**
- **Chief Administrative Officer Approvals**
- **Responses to Councillor Inquiries and Suggestions - On-Street Parking**

**Arts and Culture Activation Grant Policy CMD-F-2.4** - Council approved amendments to Arts and Culture Activation Grant Policy CMD-F-2.4.

**Bylaw 10-25 - Land Use Redesignation - Wedderburn Phase 8** - a bylaw to amend Land Use Bylaw 17-21 by redesignating approximately 3.26 hectares (8.05 acres) of land comprising Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 181 0673 from Agricultural & Land Holdings District to Traditional Neighbourhood District and Recreation & Open Space District was given first reading. A public hearing will be held for this Bylaw on March 24, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

**Bylaw 11-25 - Land Use Redesignation - D'Arcy Phase 15** - a bylaw to amend Land Use Bylaw 17-21 by redesignating approximately 7.81 hectares (19.31 acres) of land comprising Lot 3, Block 9, Plan 181 0640 from Agricultural & Land Holdings District to Traditional Neighbourhood District and Recreation & Open Space District was given first reading. A public hearing will be held for this Bylaw on March 24, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

**Bylaw 33-24 - Land Use Bylaw Amendment - Ridgemont Phase 1** - a bylaw to amend Land Use Bylaw 17-21 by redesignating approximately +/- 12.82 ha (+/- 31.68 acres) of land within the Ridgemont North Area Structure Plan from Agricultural & Land Holdings District to Neighbourhood Core District, Traditional Neighbourhood District, and Recreation & Open Space District was given third reading and passed.

**Bylaw 07-25 - Governance Committees of Council Bylaw Amendment** - a bylaw to amend Governance Committees of Council Bylaw 04-24 by adding Schedule 5 to establish a Policing Committee in the Town of Okotoks was passed.

## Delegations

- Federal Liberal candidate John Bruinsma was in attendance to introduce himself to Council.
- Members of the Holy Trinity Academy Knights boys and girls curling teams were in attendance to be recognized for their recent successes at the Senior High School South-Central Zone bonspiel.



## FCSS Committee Youth Report – Chase Giroux

As winter comes to an end, temperatures are gradually rising, bringing longer days and the first signs of spring. The break from school provided a much-needed rest after the stress of diploma exams, allowing students to recharge before the final stretch of the academic year. With diploma grades now finalized, universities have begun accepting students, marking an exciting new chapter for many. The transition from winter to spring not only brings warmer weather but also sheds the seasonal depression as the days get longer and we are reminded of the warmth of summer days ahead.

Hello Everyone,

As mentioned in our January 27, 2025 email, the FCSSAA is providing advanced notice of the upcoming release of the guest room block for the 2025 FCSSAA Conference. The conference will be held from November 26-28, offering an opportunity for FCSS directors, staff, board members, and council members from across Alberta to connect, learn, and share. We are pleased to announce that the room block will be available starting **Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM.**

Booking Process:

- Both DoubleTree and Home2 Suites by Hilton will provide booking links that will be live and ready to use starting March 11<sup>th</sup>. These links, which will be sent that morning, will allow you to reserve a room within the block at your exclusive group rate.
- Please note: If you choose to book online, you will need to know in advance which hotel you'd like to stay at, as each property will have its own booking link.
- Alternatively, you can call the hotel directly starting March 11<sup>th</sup> after 9:00 AM. When doing so, please specify that you are booking under the **FCSSAA Conference 2025** room block. Rooms will be available at either hotel.

Room Rates and Availability:

- Room rates will be available through Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025. After this date, any unbooked rooms will be released to the general inventory.
- **Please note: Room bookings will not be accepted prior to Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.**

As this is a municipal election year, the hotel understands that many programs may not yet have finalized attendee details. If you are unsure of the names of all board members attending, you may book the rooms under a single name or the FCSS program's name. These bookings can be updated with the individual delegates' names before the conference.

Additional Reminders: We will send further reminders closer to March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Hotel Information:

DoubleTree by Hilton West Edmonton

- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- 24-hour fitness center and heated indoor pool
- Stages Kitchen & Bar, featuring menus by Executive Chef Adam Brack
- A warm chocolate chip cookie at check-in

[www.westedmonton.doubletree.com](http://www.westedmonton.doubletree.com)

Home2 Suites by Hilton West Edmonton (located next door to the DoubleTree)

- All-suite hotel with flexible space
- 24-hour fitness center and saline pool
- Pet-friendly rooms

[www.westedmonton.home2suites.com](http://www.westedmonton.home2suites.com)

If you have any questions please forward them to Colleen at [coordinator@fcssaa.com](mailto:coordinator@fcssaa.com)

We look forward to seeing you at the conference!

**Judy Macknee**

Executive Assistant

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