

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

CAO – CORPORATE SUPPORT

Public Participation Events

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>
Land Use Bylaw information session This will be divided into two sessions; beginning at 7:30 and 8:15pm. Both will include a brief presentation followed by a Q and A period. Pre-registration is recommended but not necessary as a link on the Town's website will be provided the night of the event.	May 13 7:30 – 9:30 pm
Additional details can be found at www.okotoks.ca in the Municipal Government / Public Participation Section	

COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY

COVID and River Monitoring Update

The Director of Emergency Management (DEM) Weekly Situation Briefing is attached for review.

Community Wellness

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Funding – Accepting Applications

Community Wellness is accepting a second round of Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Funding applications until Wednesday, May 26 at noon. \$80,000 will be available for distribution to agencies serving Okotoks residents. This funding is intended to support community serving agencies that are providing preventative social supports and programs. Funding is being made available for community investment to ensure that agencies have capacity to continue to meet the increasing needs in the community. Agencies are able to request funds for both existing and new initiatives that align with the FCSS Mandate. Additional details and the application form can be found online at www.okotoks.ca/funding.

Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) Program Review

In fall 2020 Community and Social Services launched a review of the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) program. The changes noted in the overview from the Ministry below do not affect the Act or Regulation substantively, with the exception of the noted change allowing FCSS Programs to request funds be used to support food and basic needs in an emergency.

The review began with stakeholder engagement focusing on four themes:

- FCSS Mandate;
- Funding Prioritization;
- Enhanced Collaboration and Coordination; and
- Accountability and oversight.

FCSS stakeholders were invited to provide input to the review through an online survey. One of the messages FCSS heard from stakeholders through the survey and other communication was the need for flexibility in responding to emerging and changing social needs during extenuating circumstances such as those faced by Albertans during the pandemic.

The review has concluded and will result in the development of a framework to strengthen the FCSS program. The framework, which will be developed in consultation with stakeholders and implemented later this year, will have a stronger focus on prevention and enhanced accountability measures. Throughout the development of the framework, FCSS programs will continue to have avenues for input related to the administration of FCSS funding.

Regulation amendments were proposed to allow for the provision of direct assistance in the case of a public health emergency under the *Public Health Act* or extenuating circumstances as determined by the Minister, align FCSS audit requirements for review engagements with ministry requirements, and address the expiry date and other minor housekeeping changes.

The Regulation changes will take effect July 1 and are outlined as follows:

- Add the flexibility to provide vulnerable Albertans with direct assistance like food provision, during extraordinary times of crisis, such as pandemics or natural disasters. The current regulation does not allow intervention supports.
- Align FCSS audit requirements for review engagements with CSS requirements by changing the threshold for a review engagement report from \$100,000 to \$250,000.
- Repeal section 12 as this section refers to a previous section of the Regulation, which was repealed in 1995 and is no longer required in the current Regulation.
- Improve the consistency of the language in the Regulation around the word “services” to clarify that municipal costs of a program relate to “services provided under the program”.
- Extend the expiry date to June 30, 2032.

Community Wellness will participate in consultation opportunities as the Province works towards developing the new framework.

The Okotoks Family Resource Centre (OFRC) has been approved to receive a \$50,000 Grant from the Calgary Foundation as part of the Calgary Foundations, (Phase 3 – Resilience), Pandemic Recovery Grant Program. This grant will support

general program delivery through 2021 and first quarter of 2022. Funds will ensure staffing and programs are in place to sustain the vital services OFRC provides to support mental wellness, safety, financial security and social inclusion for Okotoks and surrounding Foothills residents. The Calgary Foundation grant was timely and will help to offset the loss of reduced longstanding funding from the Alberta Government due to the province restructuring of grant streams in 2019 and 2020.

Programs, Culture & Heritage

Licensed Child Care – Okotoks School Age Care

Recognizing that many parents of school-age children rely on out-of-school care programs so they can go to work, all out-of-school care programs can continue full-day operations (if permitted by the school or facility where the program is located) during the school closure period. Children's Services will not monitor learning/educational arrangements; these will be conversations between families and operators, and families and their children's teachers.

The Okotoks School Age care is making plans to continue providing full day child care to those families requiring the support during the move to on-line schooling for Kindergarten to grade twelve.

Indoor Recreation Facilities

Replacement of the fire suppression system at the Okotoks Recreation Centre will go out for tender again to ensure completion in 2022. Although the contract was awarded to Premium Fire in early 2021 they requested a cancelation of the contract due to inability to meet the contracted requirements. As the contract had been awarded we could not move to the next vendor on the current bid submission.

The solar project for Pason Centennial Arenas has been awarded to Skyfire Energy. The system will produce 478.8 kWdc (400.0 kWac). Work is expected to commence in early Q3.

COMMUNITY GROWTH, INVESTMENT, & SUSTAINABILITY

Administration continues to do its best to be responsive to the needs of the business community in light of the ongoing challenges posed by COVID 19. Two areas where we have needed to adapt quickly include the temporary patio program and our soon-to-be launched mobile vending unit program.

Patio Program – UPDATE Temporary

Feedback and uptake of our temporary patio program has been very positive, with 8 businesses currently taking advantage of the program, including:

- Sweetgrass Deli (1- 49 Elizabeth Street)
- Royal Duke Hotel (2 Elizabeth Street)
- Salute (40E Elizabeth Street)

- Hubtown Brewing Company (41 Elizabeth Street)
- The George (101-31 Southridge Dr)
- F45 Training (191-31 Southridge Dr)
- Toms House of Pizza (300-235 Milligan Dr)
- Red Rock Pizza Ltd (421-200 Southridge Dr)

The program was initially launched in response to the restrictions imposed by Covid 19, and designed to support the food, hospitality and retail business sectors. However, since launch, Administration has received inquiries from businesses outside of these sectors. In response the program has been updated to incorporate changes that allow for wider usage, including:

- The program now runs April 1 – October 31 each year (formerly May 1 start);
- The program has a new name: Outdoor Patios, Fitness Areas & Retail Spaces;
- Some other minor changes within the document to provide clarity;
- Ability for gyms/fitness facilities to utilize the program for outdoor spaces;

The most recent restrictions imposed by the province will be in effect for the next 3 weeks. We anticipate that during this time uptake of the program will be limited, but administration will continue to work on communicating and promoting this program, so that businesses can take advantage of it once restrictions are lifted. This includes working on a digital map for the Town of Okotoks that will highlight all of the businesses with temporary and permanent patios.

Mobile Vending Unit Program – Soft Launch

The terms and conditions, guidelines and application form for the Town's Mobile Vending Unit (MVU) program were completed last year, and prepared as a pilot program for launch in 2022. At the request of several businesses within the Town, the decision was made to soft launch the MVU program this year. Recognizing the benefit to the business and community as whole, the program is being modified to provide greater flexibility for MVU's to operate, while still staying within the regulations set out in the Town's bylaws.

Within this updated program, MVU's are now able to operate on public roadways. Significant changes to the MVU for the soft launch include:

- MVU's must provide proof of invitation from the business they are operating adjacent to;
- The business providing an invitation to an MVU must apply for a seasonal temporary parking pass for the invited MVU. (Only applicable to businesses located in restricted parking areas);
- MVU's operating on public property are required to provide proof of liability insurance naming the Town as co-insured;

Administration is still in the process of finalizing these changes. Once complete, the program will be communicated and promoted more widely, and moderate uptake is anticipated once provincial restrictions are lifted.

Community Development & Engineering

Northridge Phase 2 – Project Update

The Northridge Drive Phase 2 project is expected to resume this week. The work will complete the project that was started last year and include top lift paving, landscaping and construction of a pathway north of Bannister Gate on the West side. Traffic disruptions are expected and will include lane closures; two-way traffic accommodation will be in place for limited full North/Southbound closures. Weather permitting this work is expected to be complete by the end of June.

Prepared by:
Elaine Vincent
Chief Administrative Officer
May 06, 2021