

THE MD CONNECTION

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

Administration Office 4900B - 50th St Taber, AB T1G 1T2
Ph 403 223 3541 www.mdtaber.ab.ca



COUNCIL MEMBERS

MERRILL HARRIS (Reeve)

Division 1 403-634-0462

JOHN TURCATO

Division 2 403-634-1591

BRIAN BREWIN

Division 3 403-380-0701

TAMARA MIYANAGA

Division 4 403-308-6538

JENNIFER CROWSON (Deputy Reeve)

Division 5 403-308-8610

MURRAY REYNOLDS

Division 6 403-635-8449

LEAVITT HOWG

Division 7 403-622-1408



FINAL THOUGHTS

MD Council reflects on the last 4 years

As we near the end of this term of Council, we have decided to change Reeve's Reflections into a collaboration as MD Council members reflect and provide their final thoughts from the last four years.

This newsletter will arrive shortly before the 2021 Municipal Election, so we would like to take the opportunity to express what an honour and a privilege it has been representing your concerns to higher levels of government, and for trying to find ways to make life better in our great municipality. This position brought enormous responsibilities such as setting the budget, maintaining roadways for the movement of goods and services, operating water treatment facilities, providing fire services, and working with our municipal neighbours for the betterment of all. During the past four years, our Council served on numerous committees and worked alongside Boards to ensure safe water, library access, economic development, housing and stronger inter-municipal relations. Thus, building all aspects of our community.

We would also like to thank our great administration and staff at the MD. They are the ones who make things go. We as Council

provide direction, they do the work. Also, a HUGE thank you to all who volunteer their time and energy to our great fire service. The MD has six fire stations and 90 plus volunteer firefighters who donate their time and energy to train, and practice fire and rescue techniques so that when the alarm sounds, they are ready for whatever they find on the emergency scene. Also, a HUGE thank you to the employers of these fire personnel. It would be nearly impossible to have a volunteer fire service without employers who are willing to let the volunteers leave work to come to our rescue and aid when needed. Our emergency services are amazing, and the volunteers and their families are remarkable. Thank you for your dedication to our safety.

We would like to briefly recognize and introduce six new employees who have joined the MD over the past year. In late 2020, Carley Grant joined the MD as our Communications Coordinator. She is responsible for all media and any communications, such as this newsletter; and Lace Lutz joined the MD as the Executive Assistant and keeps agendas and information flowing to Council. More recently, Corey Greene joined us as our new Project Manager at Public Works. Ben Young

Continued inside...

FINAL THOUGHTS *Continued*

joined us and fills the role of Planning and Economic Development Officer. Nathan Coté has joined us as our new Regional Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Management, and Martin Bozek joined us as our new full-time Safety Coordinator. They each bring many years of experience in their respective fields, and we are excited to have them as part of the MD team.

It is difficult to summarize the scope of work Council has completed in the last four years in a brief summary. One of Council's main responsibilities is to set policy for the organizations. Over the past four years, we have made or revised over 25 policies or amendments to the Land Use Bylaw that guide the work of the MD. We have been open and transparent in our approach by posting agendas online before each Council meeting, by introducing live-streamed public Council meetings, allowing you the convenience to watch proceedings online and in real-time, or by viewing afterwards by visiting the MD YouTube channel. The minutes of meetings are also posted on the MD website after they have been approved. The MD website, social media (Facebook, Twitter), and this newsletter are just some of the ways we communicate what is happening with our public. We have also done what we can to trim down the amount of time Councillors and staff spend in meetings.

The flood event in the spring of 2018 was one of the worst emergencies faced by the MD. The destruction of roads, infrastructure, housing and farmland was devastating for many, but to see the resiliency of how residents, emergency services and staff came together to respond to the crisis was impressive. It also demonstrated the effectiveness of how staff and Council can bring multiple levels of government stakeholders and service providers to the table to help coordinate efforts to minimize the damage to homes, land and individuals.

We have been collaborating well with the RCMP "K" Division and our local detachment commanders. Rural crime has been our main focus, and by supporting a Rural Crime Watch Association in our area, the monthly statistics do indicate a crime reduction. We have also advocated against proposed changes to the RCMP funding model, the proposal to create a provincial police force, and the downloading of provincial responsibilities to municipalities.

Despite serious budget restraints from the economic downturn in the oil and gas sector, we have managed to maintain essential infrastructure to improve road transportation, encourage economic development, and to make life easier for you and your business. Shifting focus from complete road rebuilds to road rehabilitation which involves shoulder pulling and gravel recovery has helped to maintain existing roadways and steady tax rates. Road rehabilitation involves eliminating the "lip"

along shoulder areas allowing for better drainage. Gravel recovery reclaims tons of gravel aggregate lost in our ditches each year due to snowploughing, erosion, and everyday use. Each year roughly 400 miles of roads are topped with new gravel from one of the many MD-owned gravel pits across the municipality. We were able to pave some major areas of roadways to allow smoother transportation of goods and people. As infrastructure projects come forward, we review each one from an 'asset management' perspective, to see what is best for the MD as a whole.

The development of irrigation has positioned the MD as a world-class leader in agriculture, and as a safe and affordable place to raise a family and prosper businesses. Part of this success is attributed to our commitment to working with regional neighbours to advocate for the Southern Regional Stormwater Management projects across southern Alberta. The Horsefly Emergency Spillway was selected as the first of seven possible projects because of its proximity to the Oldman River. The estimated cost of the project is \$47,000,000 with \$39,000,000 received as provincial and federal government funding commitments. The remainder will be shared between the municipal members. With the provincial announcement of 200,000 new irrigation acres, the St Mary River Irrigation District in conjunction with the Province and the Canada Infrastructure Bank will provide funding for two of the remaining projects – the Chin Reservoir expansion and the Sauder Spillway project, west of Medicine Hat.

Working in collaboration with Alberta Transportation, we have finished the development of the much-needed and well-used Vauxhall Safety Rest Stop. Other projects with Alberta Transportation include resource roads, bridge replacements, advocating for the twinning of Highway 3 and the maintenance of provincial highways within the MD. We are working with Alberta Environment on reclaiming an area north of Grassy Lake for a new subdivision since all residential and commercial lots in the previous subdivision have been sold. We are also looking towards more residential lot development in the Hamlet of Enchant.

We are proud and grateful for the opportunity to serve with a strong Council and staff to make the MD of Taber a reflection of our residents and their commitment to advancing the municipality. We wish you all the very best in this busy harvest season.

Stay safe and enjoy this great area that we all get to call home.

Division 1 Councillor – Merrill Harris
Division 2 Councillor – John Turcato
Division 3 Councillor – Brian Brewin
Division 4 Councillor – Tamara Miyanaga
Division 5 Councillor – Jennifer Corwson
Division 6 Councillor – Murray Reynolds
Division 7 Councillor – Leavitt Howg

WHO IS RUNNING

Division 1 Councillor

Merrill Harris - Incumbent
(ACCLAIMED)

Division 2 Councillor

John Turcato - Incumbent
(ACCLAIMED)

Division 3 Councillor

Brian G Hildebrand
403-647-7556
b.hildebrand.farms@gmail.com

Frank Kast
403-795-9756

Division 4 Councillor

Tamara Miyanaga - Incumbent
403-308-6538
tamara.miyana@gmail.com

Ben Elfring
403-634-4958
belfring6@gmail.com

Billy Wenbourne
403-892-4401

Division 5 Councillor

Jennifer Crowson - Incumbent
403-308-8610

John DeGroot
403-654-8700

Division 6 Councillor

Murray Reynolds - Incumbent
(ACCLAIMED)

Division 7 Councillor

Chantal Bacho (ACCLAIMED)

WHERE TO VOTE OCT 18 – 10 to 8 PM

Division 1: Barnwell Senior's Centre

Division 2: MD of Taber Public Works Office

Division 3: Grassy Lake Community Hall
Advanced Polls: Oct 4 – 3 to 8 PM

Division 4: MD of Taber Administration
Office Council Chambers
Advanced Polls: Oct 7 – 3 to 8 PM

Division 5: Hays Civic Centre
Advanced Polls: Oct 5 – 3 to 8 PM

Division 6: Enchant Community Hall

Division 7: Vauxhall Community Hall

Learn more: mdtaber.ab.ca/p/election

DID YOU KNOW?

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

1

We will be holding a vote on the following two referendum questions, in conjunction with the 2021 Municipal Election?

1. Should section 36(2) of the Constitution Act, 1982 - Parliament and the government of Canada's commitment to the principle of making equalization payments - be removed from the constitution?
2. Do you want Alberta to adopt year-round Daylight Saving Time, which is summer hours, eliminating the need to change our clocks twice a year?

To learn more about the referendum questions and more, please visit:

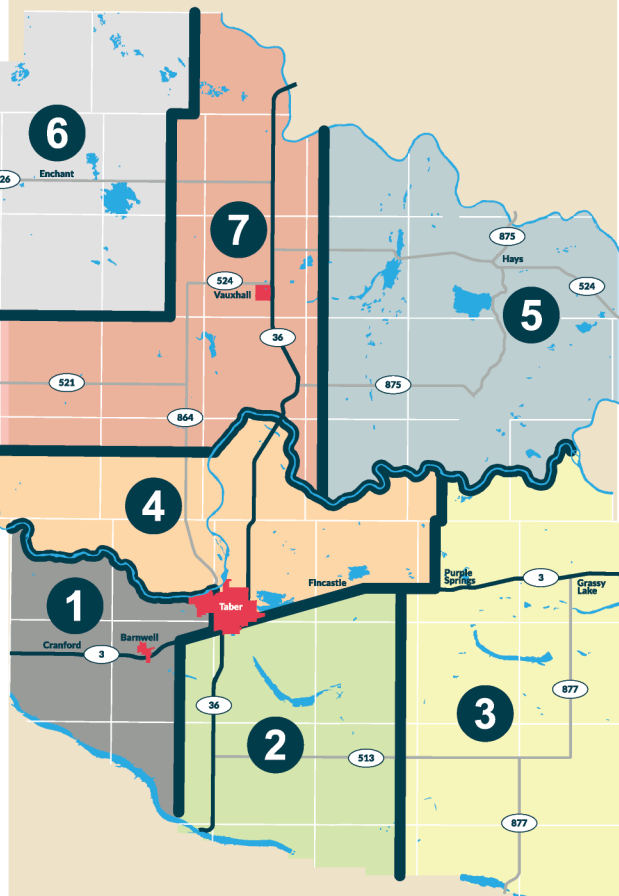
www.elections.ab.ca

2

We will be holding an election to select 3 Senate nominees who may be summoned to the Senate of Canada, to fill vacancies relating to Alberta, in conjunction with the 2021 Municipal Election?

For a complete list of senate candidates and more, please visit:

www.elections.ab.ca



Managing the Horsefly Regional Emergency Spillway Project

For ten years, the Municipal District of Taber (MDT) has been the managing partner of the South Regional Stormwater Drainage Committee. Partners on the committee include the MD of Taber, County of Lethbridge, Town of Coaldale, Town of Taber, Cypress County, Town of Bow Island, County of 40 Mile, City of Medicine Hat, St. Mary River Irrigation District (SMRID), Taber Irrigation District (TID), County of Warner, Cardston County, Alberta Environment, Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Transportation.

In 2014, a provincially-funded regional drainage study was completed, identifying several construction projects and their effectiveness on emergency drainage during periods of excessive overland runoff. Of the proposed projects, the Horsefly Regional Emergency Spillway was recognized as the most critical project in the region.

The \$47-million emergency spillway project was divided into 3 phases (see map) to enlarge 14 kilometres of existing TID irrigation infrastructure. During intense water events, approximately half the full flow capacity of the SMRID main

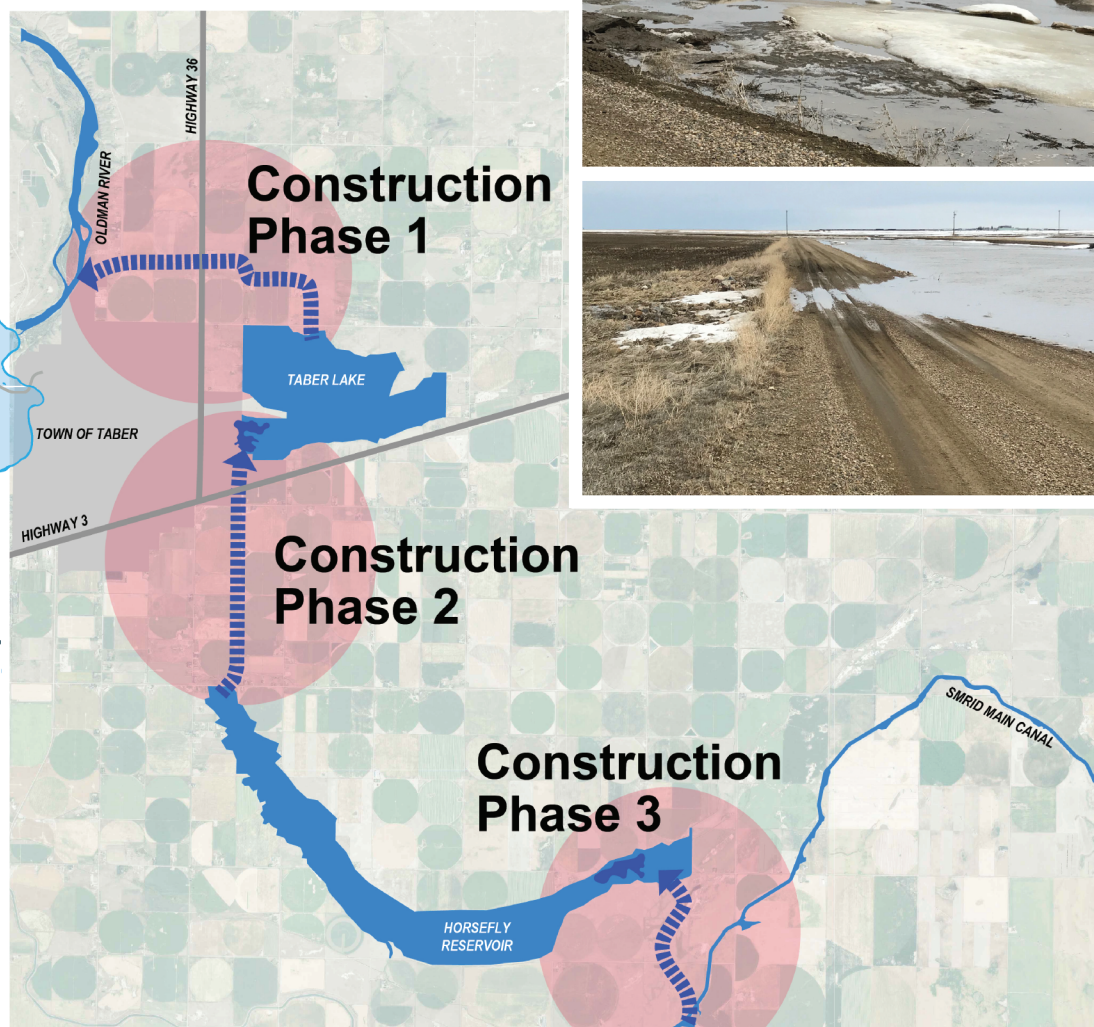
canal will be diverted to the Oldman River, via the Horsefly Reservoir (TID) and Taber Lake in the hopes of protecting residents, area homes and farms downstream towards the City of Medicine Hat.

Before the start of the irrigation season in 2018, the SMRID Main canal south of Grassy Lake reached full capacity due to excessive surface runoff.

On behalf of the committee, the MDT successfully received 83% of the funding from both senior levels of government, leaving municipal partners responsible for the remaining 17%.

MPE Engineering partnered with Stantec Engineering to provide consulting services for Phase 1 of the project. The initial phase is currently in design and going through all Provincial and Federal regulatory requirements and Indigenous consultation with the Blood Tribe and the Metis Nation of Alberta.

Phase 1 construction is scheduled to start mid to late 2022. Design and regulatory work of Phases 2 and 3 will follow in the hopes that all 3 phases will be operational by 2026.



NEW REGIONAL FIRE CHIEF

The Municipal District of Taber (MDT) is pleased to welcome and introduce Nathan Coté as the new Regional Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Management.

Chief Coté was named the MDT Regional Fire Chief in August, and previously served the Town of Taber Fire Department as Deputy Fire Chief and as Deputy Director of Emergency Management for 5 years. He was also responsible for the training program for the volunteer firefighters of the Taber Fire Department.

"I am honoured to serve the people and communities of the MDT as Regional Fire Chief and Director of Emergency

To further enhance his knowledge and skills he took on leadership roles as a member of the planning committee for the annual Alberta Fire Training Conference since 2007, the South Zone representative and one of the founders of the Alberta Fire Training Officers Association since 2017, and as a member of the steering committee for the South Zone All Hazards Incident Management Team (SZAHIMT).

Chief Coté was also active during the 2017 Kenow Fire in Waterton. As Division Supervisor, he was responsible for the townsite and was honoured to be part of the collaborative efforts with departments



Management, and I am excited to support and work with an exceptional team of firefighters," said Chief Coté. "I'd like to recognize all MDT Fire Chiefs and volunteer firefighters for their dedication and commitment. Together, we provide a service that communities can rely on and be proud of."

Before returning to the Taber area, Chief Coté spent 10 years as the Protective Services Coordinator for the County of Forty Mile. As head of Regional Fire Services and overseeing eight fire stations, he also fulfilled the role of Safety Coordinator for County staff.

across southern Alberta. The experience hardened his belief in collaboration and teamwork.

Among Chief Coté's priorities as he steps into this role, is to continue to foster the collaborative regional concept. The continued support and training of volunteer firefighters fulfill a mandate of offering excellence in Emergency Management to the residents and visitors of the MDT.

Nathan is married to his best friend Marcy and they have three children Lyle, Robin and Courtney. They share interests in camping, fishing, hunting with their two dogs Riley and Callie.

VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Proof of identity and current residence is required to be able to vote in municipal elections.

Any of the following documents that has the voter's name and address on it will be accepted as valid proof:

- ✔ Identification issued by a Canadian government, whether federal, provincial or local, or an agency of that government, that contains a photograph of the elector and their name and current address.
- ✔ Bank / credit card statement or personal cheque.
- ✔ Government cheque or cheque stub.
- ✔ Income or property tax assessment notice.
- ✔ Insurance policy or coverage card.
- ✔ Letter from a public curator, public guardian or public trustee.
- ✔ Pension plan statement of benefits, contributions or participation.
- ✔ Residential lease or mortgage statement.
- ✔ Statement of government benefits (for example, employment insurance, old-age security, social assistance, disability support or child tax benefit).
- ✔ Utility bill (for example, telephone, public utilities commission, television, hydro, gas or water).
- ✔ Vehicle ownership, registration or insurance certificate.

A letter or form (attestation) confirming that the person lives at the stated address will also be accepted as valid proof. The letter can be signed prior to the vote by any of the following:

- ✔ authorized representative of a commercial property management company;
- ✔ authorized representative of a correctional institution;
- ✔ authorized representative of a First Nations band or reserve;
- ✔ authorized representative of a post-secondary institution;
- ✔ authorized representative of a facility that provides services to the homeless; or
- ✔ authorized representative of a supportive living facility or treatment centre.

If a voter's identification shows a post office box number as the address instead of a residential or legal address, it can be accepted as verification of current address if it is in reasonable distance to the voting jurisdiction. The address does not have to be in the voting division or ward.

An elected authority could, by bylaw, require additional verification or a combination of verification to establish the person's specific current address. Visit alberta.ca/municipal-elections.aspx for more information.



Election Workers Needed.
Apply Today!

Visit our website:
mdtaber.ab.ca/p/employment

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FAQs

Q. When do I need a development permit?

A. A development permit is required for most developments on your property including (but not limited to): building a garage, building or moving on a shed, additions to home, building a deck, construction of a shop for personal or commercial use, installation of solar panels, if development is less than 150 feet from the centreline of a road including trees and buildings, moving on a shipping container for storage, etc. If you are unsure if your development will require a permit, contact the MD office at 403-223-3541 to speak with a staff member.

Q. What is the cost of a development permit?

A. A residential development permit is \$100, commercial development permits range from \$100 - \$500 depending on the size of development.

Q. How to I apply for a development permit?

A. The development permit application forms can be downloaded from the MD of Taber website in the Planning & Development section. Applications can be emailed to the MD of Taber or dropped off at the office.

Q. How long does it take to get a development permit?

A. All permit applications must be approved at a Subdivision and Development Authority meeting which means that it can take 2-4 weeks to get a permit, so be sure to plan ahead!

Q. If I get a development permit do I also need building, plumbing, gas or electrical permits?

A. Yes. Depending on the type of development, building, plumbing, gas or electrical permits may also be required to ensure the development conforms to relevant building codes. Contact Superior Safety Codes or Park Enterprises to obtain necessary building, plumbing, gas or electrical permits.

If you have any questions about development permits please contact the MD of Taber office at **403-223-3541** or stop by to speak to one of our development team members, we'd be happy to assist!

SMALL BUSINESS SUBCLASS

Is all or part of your property eligible to qualify as a SMALL BUSINESS in the MD of Taber?

In July 2019, the Municipal District of Taber passed a Small Business Subclass Bylaw No 1952. The purpose of Bylaw No 1952, is to create the following Non-residential Assessment Subclasses:

- Vacant Non-Residential Property
- Small Business Property
- Other Non-Residential Property

This allows Council the opportunity to consider differentiating tax rates for each Non-residential Subclass during the annual budget process.

In order to be eligible for your property to be assessed as Non-residential Subclass Small Business Property, the Annual Small Business Application must be submitted to the Municipal District of

Taber by October 31st of each year. Applications received on or before October 31, 2021 will be considered for the 2022 tax year.

To learn more about Non-Residential Subclasses and the Small Business Subclass Bylaw No 1952, or to get a copy of the Annual Small Business Application please visit:
mdtaber.ab.ca/p/small-business-subclass



A Reminder. 2021 Property taxes are due November 15, 2021.

Please submit payment on or before this due date. Payments received after the due date will be subject to a **5% penalty**.

If you did not receive a copy of your 2021 property tax notice, please contact Administration at **403-223-3541**.

Information on how you can make payments to your property taxes is available at:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/property-taxes



MAKE YOUR PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT SIMPLE

Sign up today for our monthly Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP)

Call 403-223-3541 or visit mdtaber.ab.ca

AAFC NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is looking for your help!

If you are a Canadian producer or someone who loves agriculture, we encourage you to take 5 minutes to fill out a short survey providing AAFC valuable information on how agroclimate impacts affects farm operations.

In the past, the MD of Taber has been identified as a region with low survey participation. This means that during these historic drought conditions, AAFC currently relies on other sources of data which may not adequately represent the conditions of our area. With your help, we can correct this by ensuring our region is properly represented.

The Agroclimate Impact Reporter (AIR) is an online application designed for the collection and reporting of weather and climate impacts on farm operations across Canada.

During the last week of every month (April to October) producers are invited to participate in a short online survey by visiting the Drought Watch website www.agr.gc.ca/air and by clicking on the 'Submit Impacts' button. The next survey will be available from the 24th to the end of the month.

Your participation provides the industry with valuable knowledge which is vitally important given the severity of the current drought and the significant impact it has already had on agricultural production this year. The information provided through AIR helps to ensure federal and provincial governments can assess conditions and target appropriate programs and policies such as AgriRecovery quickly and effectively.

If you are interested in learning more about the Agroclimate Impact Reporter and how you can participate, please contact: droughtwatch@agr.gc.ca or visit AAFC's Drought Watch website at: www.agr.gc.ca/drought



FARMER PESTICIDE COURSE:

MANDATORY FOR FARMERS WHO WISH TO USE RESTRICTED PESTICIDES SUCH AS THIMET FOR POTATO PRODUCTION OR PHOSTOXIN FOR GRAIN BIN FUMIGATION. USEFUL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLANNING, AND FOR HACCP, CANADA GAP COMPLIANCE.

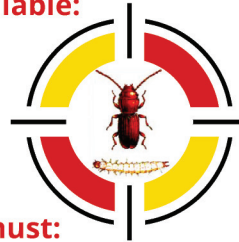


ONLINE COURSE
via ZOOM



Course dates available:

- January 19, 2022
- February 9, 2022
- March 9, 2022
- April 6, 2022



To register, you must:

1. Be 18 years of age or older.
2. Prepay a **\$40.00 registration fee** prior to course date. *Fee includes course manual.*

How to register:

Please send registration form complete with payment payable to:

MD of Taber
4900B - 50th St
Taber, AB T1G 1T2



Forms available online at mdtaber.ab.ca or call and register by phone at 403-223-3541.

For more information contact **Jason Bullock**, Director of Agricultural Services at **403-634-4429**.

Form 7 Notice of Election and Requirements for Voter Identification

(Sections 12, 35, 46, 53)
Alberta Senate Election Act (Sections 5, 37)
Referendum Act (Section 7)

LOCAL JURISDICTION: **Municipal District of Taber**, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA. Notice is hereby given that:

A. That an election will be held for the filling of the following offices:

| Office(s) | Number of Vacancies | Electoral Division Number |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Councillor | 1 | 3 |
| Councillor | 1 | 4 |
| Councillor | 1 | 5 |

B. That an election will be held for the election of a Senate nominee for the purposes of the Alberta Senate Election Act;

C. That a vote of the electors will be held on the following referendum question(s) under the Referendum Act:

Question 1: Equalization - Should section 36(2) of the Constitution Act, 1982 Parliament and the government of Canada's commitment to the principle of making equalization payments - be removed from the constitution?

Question 2: Daylight Saving Time - Do you want Alberta to adopt year-round Daylight Saving Time, which is summer hours, eliminating the need to change our clocks twice a year?

Voting will take place on the **18 day of October, 2021**, between the hours of **10:00 AM** and **8:00 PM**.

Voting stations will be located at:

Division #1 - Barnwell Senior's Centre, Division #2 - MD of Taber Public Works Office,

Division #3 - Grassy Lake Community Hall, Division #4 - MD of Taber Administration Office Council Chambers,

Division #5 - Hays Civic Centre, Division #6 - Enchant Community Hall, Division #7 - Vauxhall Community Hall.

In order to vote, you must produce identification for inspection. The identification must be one or more of Any government issued photo ID. For a complete list visit the following: www.mdtaber.ab.ca as required by section 53 of the Local Authorities Election Act.

Dated at the Town of Taber, in the Province of Alberta, this 20th day of September, 2021.

Sherry Cronberg
Returning Officer

Agroclimate Impact Reporter
Growing Season 2021

SURVEY

