

THE MD CONNECTION

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER
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COUNCIL CONTEMPLATION

TAMARA MIYANAGA, REEVE

Thank you for your feedback and participation! Public input on the Transportation Master Plan (TMP), Land Use Bylaw (LUB) review, and Land Management Plan (LMP) is essential in shaping Council's policies and bylaws. Your involvement continued with the TMP Open Houses held on September 10 and 11. The LUB revisions will soon be presented to Council, followed by a Public Hearing after the first reading—the date will be announced. The "What We Heard" report on the LMP is available on our website and social media. Council will seek further input as we review the 82,000 acres of municipal lease agreements and proposals.

We celebrated our Municipality's 70th Anniversary! Thank you to our residents, partners, former Council members, MLA Hunter, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and neighbouring municipalities for joining us. Special thanks to Reeves

Merrill Harris, Hank Van Beers, and Brian Brewin for their assistance with the celebration video. If you missed it, the video is available on our YouTube Channel. It highlights the vision and hard work of our residents and the blessings of living in our municipality. We have enjoyed celebrating our Anniversary at the Vauxhall, Barnwell, and Taber parades, and we are excited to launch an online store where you can purchase MDT apparel. A portion of the proceeds will support a charity.

In July, Premier Smith and MLA Hunter visited Council. Together with the Town of Taber, we discussed concerns about unpaid oil and gas taxes, challenges with Alberta Energy Regulator legislation, the Highway 3 Twinning Project, and the Agri-Food Corridor. We emphasized the importance of food production, which relies on water stability through irrigation, off-stream storage, and

COUNCIL CONTEMPLATION *Continued*

drainage. Premier Smith was impressed during the tour of the completed Phase 1 of the Horsefly Regional Emergency Spillway Project. This Project ensures food and water security during overland flooding, thanks to the collaboration of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, the Government of Alberta, municipal partners, and the St. Mary River Irrigation District. We also highlighted the need for rural municipalities to receive equal benefits as urban counterparts in senior and social housing, and for long-term sustainable funding for HALO with consistent dispatching.

Our Council and Administration remain dedicated to serving residents. Public Works is focused on grading, gravelling, and infrastructure improvements, while staff continue to receive training to enhance our 2,400 kilometers of roads. Agricultural Services is diligently managing ditches and weed issues, and we appreciate residents reporting problem areas. The Agricultural Service Board will see changes this fall as we seek three ag-minded individuals from the community to join the board alongside four Councillors. Our Hamlets look great, thanks to staff and volunteers who keep our communities beautiful. Our volunteers for Regional Fire Services continue to train and respond to emergencies. If you're interested in joining this important department, please contact Chief Coté.

We are grateful for the return of AHS Ambulance Services to the Vauxhall area and the partnership that the Councils of the Town of Vauxhall and the MD of Taber have been able to nurture for the betterment of our communities. This service enhances the safety of our residents. Thank you to the volunteers who sustained the service until the new model became operational.

Council receives several financial requests. The "Donations to Community Organizations, Programs, Events, and Activities" policy and application guide our decisions. Special requests outside the policy can sustain organisations and support growth, often as matching funds for specialized grants. Council carefully considers the value to residents before approving funding.

We welcome our new Director of Corporate Services, Mr. Mike Passey. He immediately assisted KPMG auditors in completing the 2023 Financial Statements, now available on our website, and prepared the 2025 budget discussion documents. Council will undergo comprehensive deliberations on capital and operational budgets.

How To Stay Connected:

- **Councillors:** Contact information is available on our website.
- **Website:** Find detailed event information, departmental updates, and application forms.
- **Newsletter:** View it on our website or call to receive it by mail.
- **SCAR Notify:** Sign up on the website for weekly updates, important alerts, and emergency notifications.
- **Meetings:** Council, Committee of the Whole, Subdivision & Development Authority, and Agricultural Service Board meetings are open to the public. Council meetings are recorded and available on the MDT YouTube channel, with an opportunity for public engagement at the beginning of each meeting.
- **Service Requests:** Submit concerns or complaints through the website or the MDT App. Bylaw concerns can be submitted anonymously.
- **Online:** Facebook, X (Twitter), LinkedIn, and our new WhatsApp channel.

Health is vital to our well-being. If you're struggling, seek medical help. For mental health support, contact FCSS at **587-370-3728**, the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network at **agknow.ca**, or the Do More Agriculture Foundation at **domore.ag**. For emergencies, call 9-1-1.

Council looks forward to engaging with residents at our next Coffee with Council on October 2 at 7 PM at the Main Operations and Maintenance Facility in Taber.

Have a safe and productive harvest, and please travel safely on the roads, with special consideration for school buses and farm equipment.

HORSEFLY EMERGENCY SPILLWAY UPDATE

The Municipal District of Taber is pleased to announce the successful completion of Phase 1 of the Horsefly Regional Emergency Spillway Project, a key initiative aimed at enhancing our region's flood resilience and irrigation management.



This milestone includes significant infrastructure improvements:

- Construction of 5 new drop structures
- Installation of 4 new box culvert crossings
- Implementation of 3 electronically controlled floodgates to precisely manage irrigation and flood control flows
- Placement of 29,000 tonnes of mountain rock from the Crowsnest Pass to reinforce the coulee hills leading to the Oldman River

These advancements represent a collaborative effort, and we extend our sincere gratitude to Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, the Government of Alberta, the municipal partners within the Southern Regional Stormwater Drainage Committee, and the St. Mary River Irrigation District. Their support has been instrumental in bringing this critical project to life.

We also wish to thank our residents and motorists for their patience and cooperation throughout the construction period. Your understanding and support have been vital to our success.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to further strengthening our community's infrastructure. Stay tuned for updates on Phases 2 and 3 of the Horsefly Regional Emergency Spillway Project as we continue working towards a more resilient future for the MD of Taber.

DID YOU KNOW?

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

1

That the next Coffee with Council will be in Taber at 7pm on October 2nd?



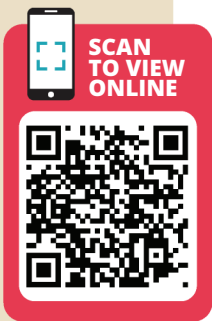
Residents now have a chance to meet their elected officials in a relaxed and informal atmosphere to bring forward any concerns, ideas and suggestions regarding municipal programs and services. To learn more about upcoming Coffee with Council events visit:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/coffee-council

2

That the MD of Taber has a new WhatsApp Channel to follow?

Through the new WhatsApp Channel residents will receive important updates, news, and information directly from Council, including service alerts and community announcements. Scan to subscribe to the MD of Taber WhatsApp Channel.



3

That 2024 property taxes are due September 30th?

A reminder that the MD of Taber property tax collection due date has advanced to September 30th. Penalties applied after the due date have also changed. For more information visit:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/property-taxes

4

That it's your responsibility to keep your mailing address current with the Alberta Land Titles Office?

Do not rely solely on Canada Post's forwarding service! It's a temporary solution that only lasts for up to 6 months. For more information visit:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/change-address

Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Update

Al-Terra Engineering, in collaboration with the MD of Taber, is advancing the development of a comprehensive Transportation Master Plan (TMP) for the entire MD of Taber Transportation Network. After a series of Open Houses and Online Surveys in January 2024, a draft TMP has been created, incorporating valuable community feedback.

On September 10th and 11th, the project team, consisting of consultants and MD staff members, held two in-person Open Houses at the MD of Taber Main Operations & Maintenance Facility and the Vauxhall & District Seniors Centre. During these sessions, they discussed the results of public engagement and presented the draft TMP, along with the draft recommendations. The primary goals were to share the insights gathered and outline the proposed plan.

For those unable to attend in person, an online Digital Engagement Session was hosted on Tuesday, September 17, ensuring broad access to the information and further input opportunities.

We appreciate the ongoing participation and input from our community as we work together to shape the future of our transportation network.

Lands Management Plan (LMP) Update

In February 2024, the MD of Taber partnered with Catalyst Communications to gather resident input and feedback as part of the ongoing review of our LMP. This initiative was driven by both Council and Administration's commitment to ensuring thorough public consultation on the management of MD Tax Recovery Lands, MD Grazing Lands, and MD Cultivation Lands, recognizing the unique terms associated with each type of lease.

To capture a wide range of perspectives, public consultation was carried out through two primary avenues:

In-Person Town Hall Sessions: Held in Hays on June 11, Vauxhall on June 12, and Taber on June 13, 2024. These

sessions featured a 20-minute presentation followed by open-floor discussions, where MD project team members listened to resident feedback and addressed questions.

Surveys: Residents also provided feedback through surveys, with 94 submissions received, primarily online, along with some in hard copy format. These surveys focused on current lease terms for each land type.

The four Town Hall sessions drew approximately 120-125 participants in total, reflecting strong community engagement. Key trends and insights from these sessions, along with the survey results, are detailed in the 'What We Heard' Report, compiled in June 2024. This report represents an objective summary of resident feedback, which will be considered along with other land management components, playing a crucial role in guiding the next steps of the LMP project.

We appreciate the valuable input from our residents and look forward to continuing to develop and refine the Land Management Plan for the MD of Taber. View the full 'What We Heard' report by visiting: mdtaber.ab.ca/p/lmp

Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Update

The Oldman River Regional Services Commission, in collaboration with the MD of Taber, introduced the first draft of the new Land Use Bylaw at our Annual General Meeting in April 2024. In June, we hosted two Open Houses to gather resident feedback, which has been essential in shaping the final drafting and adoption process.

We appreciate the community's participation and look forward to continuing the process with your valuable insights guiding the way. The Land Use Bylaw revisions will soon go before Council, with a Public Hearing to follow the first reading—date to be announced.

For the latest updates and to learn more about the Land Use Bylaw Rewrite, visit: mdtaber.ab.ca/p/lub

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM 2023

› Grassy Lake Landfill Reclamation

East Butte Contractors have been awarded the contract for the Grassy Lake Landfill Reclamation project. The initiative aims to clear historic landfill waste from the north side of Grassy Lake, creating space for an upcoming residential subdivision. The project has been completed.

› Township Road 9-4 Asphalt Overlay

A 4-kilometre asphalt overlay is now complete and open to regular traffic. This effort aims to rectify the deficient shape of the crown and extend the longevity of the hard surface.

› Transportation Master Plan

Al-Terra Engineering consultants have been engaged to conduct a comprehensive study for the Transportation Master Plan. The study includes various public engagement events held in person and online earlier this year. In the coming months the final report will be presented. This report will serve as a guiding document for the MD's transportation network investments in the future.

› Grassy Lake North Subdivision

Phase 1 of the Grassy Lake North Subdivision is currently in the construction stage and is anticipated to be completed sometime in late 2025. This development will provide over 40 new residential lots for purchase in the near future.

› Bridge Replacements

A funding application has been submitted for approval. Of the three proposed replacements, one received funding to proceed this coming winter season. The project is in the design phase and will be tendered later this year.

› 2024 Shoulder Pull & Gravel Recovery Program

This year's plan includes the construction of approximately 34 kilometres of shoulder pull and the recovery of 133.5 kilometres of gravel. Crews are working hard to get as many miles completed as possible following the late start due to a wet spring.

TOWNSHIP ROAD 9-4: 4-KILOMETRE ASPHALT OVERLAY PROJECT

The Municipal District of Taber is pleased to announce the completion of a significant infrastructure improvement with the resurfacing of a 4-kilometer stretch of roadway.

The primary objective of this project was to address the previously deficient crown shape, which is critical to the road's drainage efficiency and overall structural integrity. By rectifying this issue, we have not only improved the immediate safety and comfort for

motorists but also extended the longevity of the road's hard surface, ensuring its durability for years to come.

This improvement reflects our ongoing commitment to maintaining and enhancing the infrastructure that supports our community. We appreciate the patience of our residents and commuters during the construction period and look forward to continuing our efforts to provide safe, reliable, and long-lasting roads throughout the MD of Taber.

REPORTING MISSING TRAFFIC SIGNS

As community members, we share a collective responsibility to ensure that our roads remain safe and secure for everyone. One of the most critical aspects of road safety is the presence of traffic signs, which silently guide us through intersections, alert us to potential hazards, and help us reach our destinations safely.



Recently, we've noticed a concerning trend: some of these essential signs—stop signs, yield signs, speed limit signs, and others—have gone missing. While it may seem like a minor issue, the absence of these signs can lead to confusion, increased risk of accidents, and, in the worst cases, endanger lives.

Imagine approaching an intersection on a rural road without the usual stop sign to guide you. The absence of that simple but crucial marker could turn a routine drive into a dangerous situation. That is why we are reaching out to you, our vigilant community, to help us address this issue.

How you can help:

- › **Stay Observant:** As you go about your daily routine, keep an eye out for missing or damaged traffic signs.
- › **Report Promptly:** If you notice a sign is missing or has been vandalized, don't hesitate to report it. By acting quickly, you contribute to the safety of everyone in our district.

Reporting a missing sign is easy:

- › **Submit a Service Request:** Using our online Service Tracker at mdtaber.ab.ca/p/service-tracker
- › **Download the MD of Taber App:** Available on Apple and Google Play, the app allows you to report any issues directly from your smartphone.
- › **Call Us:** You can also report by calling 403-223-3142, Ext 4.

By working together and staying proactive, we can maintain the safety and orderliness of our roads.



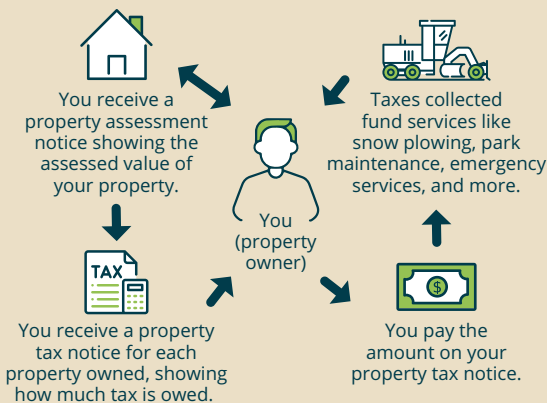
PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 30



PENALTY DUE DATES:

Oct 1, 2024 3% on current
Dec 1, 2024 3% on current
Feb 1, 2025 12% on all outstanding

How do property taxes work?

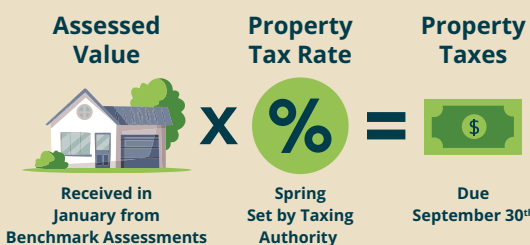


Where do my taxes go?

When you look at your tax bill, you will notice that you are paying for:

- Municipal taxes (collected by the MD of Taber)
- Provincial requisitions (collected on behalf of the Province): education tax and Taber & District Housing Foundation
- Provincial policing costs (passed down from the Province)
- Recreation funding to other municipalities (passed down from the Province)

How are my property taxes calculated?



SUBSCRIBE TO MD OF TABER'S WHATSAPP CHANNEL



SCAN TO VIEW



THE MD OF TABER'S APPROVED

2023 Financial Statements are available online by visiting:

mdtaber.ab.ca/p/budgeting

A Reminder.

2024 Property taxes are due September 30th, 2024.

Please submit payment on or before this due date. Payments received after the due date will be subject to a **3% penalty**.

If you did not receive a copy of your 2023 property tax notice, please contact Administration at **403-223-3541** or at **tax@mdtaber.ab.ca**.

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 Instalment Payment Plan (TIPP)

Visit mdtaber.ab.ca/p/tipp

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

SHELTERBELT ESTABLISHMENT PROGRAM

Is your Mailing Address up to date with the Alberta Land Titles Office?

It's time to take charge and ensure your property information is current.

Here's why this is important:

- 1) Stay Informed:** Keeping your Mailing Address and Name changes updated is crucial for receiving essential property documents, like property assessments and tax notices.
- 2) Property Ownership Responsibility:** Remember, it's YOUR responsibility to keep your Land Title information accurate. By doing so, you maintain a clear record of ownership and protect your property rights.
- 3) Long-Term Benefits:** Ensuring your records are current saves you potential headaches down the road. Prevent any misunderstandings or complications by having your information aligned and correct.

Don't rely solely on Canada Post's forwarding service!

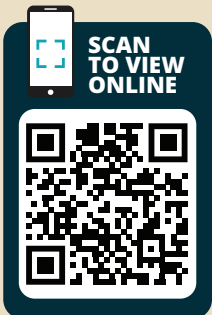
It's a temporary solution that only lasts for up to 6 months. Keep your records up to date with the Land Titles Office for a lasting solution that guarantees you stay connected with important property updates.

Take action today!

Visit the official Alberta Land Titles Office website and scroll down to "**Change of address and name**" for easy instructions on updating your information:
alberta.ca/land-titles-overview

Have questions?

Reach out to us at **403-223-3541** or visit **mdtaber.ab.ca/p/change-address**



The Municipal District of Taber is entering its *sixth year* of offering the Shelterbelt Establishment Program to residents. This program is designed to help those with a minimum five-acre property establish tree lines around their yards and fields. These trees serve multiple purposes: they act as windbreaks for fields and farmyards, provide habitats for wildlife, and enhance the scenic beauty of the countryside.

The Shelterbelt Establishment Program operates on a cost-sharing basis, with the landowners and the MD of Taber equally splitting the cost of the trees. Additionally, the MD will provide equipment and labour to assist with the

planting process. The program offers a diverse selection of tree species, including pine, spruce, poplar, elm, ash, willow, caragana, buckthorn, lilac, Saskatoon, chokecherry, and more.

Recent years, marked by blustery winters and springs, have highlighted the importance of shelterbelts and trees. The challenges posed by soil erosion could have been mitigated by well-designed and properly established shelterbelts, which effectively disrupt the wind and lessen its impact on the land.

Applications for Spring 2025 planting are now open until January 31, 2025. To learn more, visit **mdtaber.ab.ca/p/shelterbelt**

BUILDING A LEGACY

Honouring the hard work and sacrifice of our Century Farm Families.

As we enter the second year of our program, we take a moment to reflect on the relentless determination and sacrifices that have shaped the Municipal District of Taber. Our ancestors, driven by unwavering faith, laid the foundation of this land through hard work. Their legacy, the family farms and ranches they established, remains the cornerstone of our community.

Sustaining a farm or ranch across generations is a remarkable feat, a testament to the enduring spirit of families. In this journey, the Municipal District of Taber stands with these

extraordinary families, pioneers who pioneered prairie agriculture and ranching. Their lasting impact on our agricultural sector is beyond measure. By prioritizing family, agriculture, and rural ties, they have fostered a thriving and sustainable agriculture industry in southern Alberta.

Embodying a tradition dating back to 1923 and earlier, the Century Farm Family Recognition Award applauds those farms and ranches that have stood the test of time. Recipients of this prestigious award will be granted a personalized plaque, symbolizing their profound journey.

To learn more about the program and the application process, we invite you to explore or scan: **mdtaber.ab.ca/p/century-farm-award**

