



# Community Services Department Update

May 2026





# Spring Forum

## Overview of Forum

Approximately 76 participants including community volunteers, not for profits, and partners.



## Focus Areas:

- Rural Volunteerism
- Parkland County  
Communication Tools
- Emergency Response  
Preparedness

## Key Themes:

- Growing pressure on  
volunteer
- Resource Access



# Volunteer Recognition & Engagement



**National Volunteer Week-  
Kudos & Conversations held  
April 20-22 in multiple  
locations and time formats to  
maximize accessibility**

**Volunteer of the Year  
Recognition Night- April 24  
at Jubilee Hall to formally  
recognize exceptional  
community contributions**

**These events aim to support  
volunteer retention and  
highlight community service  
value**



# Community Engagement, Learning & Support

County Chats  
launched April 30<sup>th</sup> in  
Tomahawk to provide  
informal, place-based  
engagement  
opportunities

Linking & Learning  
not for profit  
workshop being  
delivered May 7<sup>th</sup> with  
Tri-Municipal Region  
Partners, focused on  
practical AI tools

Community League  
Garage Sale  
Weekends April 25<sup>th</sup>  
and May 9<sup>th</sup> as  
fundraising and  
engagement tools

Coordinating Alberta  
Health Services **food  
safety training** (Certified  
Food Safety and Food  
Safety Basics for Special  
Events).

Dates TBD

Community Development  
Team attending **board  
meetings** to build  
relationships and share  
governance and funding  
resources.



# Funding Programs- 2027

2027 Not-for-Profit Grants intake opens May 20

- Pre-workshop attendance required to improve application readiness.

Community League Major Sustainability Grants:

- 2 applications received.

Key deadlines:

- Operating (May 1)
- Minor Sustainability / Programs & Events / Community League Day (May 15).



# Family Community Support Services

Currently FCSS supports the following non-profit organizations:

- Tri-Community Adult Learning and Literacy Association (TriCALA)
- Brightwood Ranch
- Alberta Parenting for the Future Association (APFA)
- Parkland Turning Points Society (PTPS)
- WestView Health Centre Foundation

These organizations contribute to positive outcomes related to mental wellness, family stability, social inclusion, and community safety.

## FCSS Grant Program

The annual FCSS grant intake opens May 27, 2026.

Eligible non-profit and community organizations will be invited to apply for funding aligned with FCSS preventative outcomes.



# Family Community Support Services

## *Snow Removal Subsidy Program (SRSP)*

The SRSP continues to support eligible residents in maintaining safe access to their homes during winter months.

48 SRSP payments have been issued so far this season, and 15 new applications have been received. The program is approaching the end of its seasonal term, and staff are preparing for program wind-down and participant communication.

## *Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)*

CVITP is available to eligible Parkland County residents, until April 30

Residents can access services in:

- Drayton Valley
- Yellowhead County
- Spruce Grove



# Family Community Support Services

## Outreach, Navigation, and Access to Services

### *Bridging Connections Outreach*

- Wabamun: 3 Wednesdays each month
- Entwistle: 1 Wednesday each month
- These visits support resident access to information, resources, and social connection.

### *Community Navigator (New Role)*

A new Community Navigator role has been established through a contract with the City of Spruce Grove and serves Parkland County residents as needed. The Navigator is currently learning about available programs and services and building community connections.

### *Information and Referral Supports*

FCSS continues to provide ongoing information and referral services to residents as needs arise, including collaboration with Neighbourlink Parkland and support for their help closet housed at the Wabamun Community Centre.



## Research and Reporting Updates

### *Alberta Provincial Housing and Service Needs Estimation Project*

- A report from this project, conducted in October 2025, is expected to be released soon.
- The findings will help inform future housing and service planning.

### *Tri-Region Gender-Based Violence Steering Committee*

- A report has been recently released, reflecting 18 months of regional collaborative work on gender-based violence prevention and response.

# Supports, Safety, & Capacity Concerns

## *FREE AED*

### *Community*

### *Defibrillator*

*Program* available to Community Leagues through Red Cross & Giant Tiger partnership.

## Community

Development Team provides *one free community mailout* per year per league.

## Increasing *volunteer*

*shortages* reported, Community Services is actively involved in supporting various Community Leagues navigating these challenges.



# Programs, Notices & Upcoming Events

From Plate to Posture: nutrition strategies for older adults delivered April 28 and May 6 with Change Health.

Summer camps now open for registration with new partner Alberta Parenting For the Future Association.

## *Upcoming Awareness and Community Events*

- May 3 Hike for Hospice- *Light Up Your Life Society*
- May 30 Steida Classic- *Juventus Cycling*
- July 11 Parkland Dragonboat Boat Race Day

FCSS will support or participate in the following upcoming events and awareness initiatives:

- Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Awareness
- West End Seniors Conference
- Métis Week
- Moose Hide Campaign
- Men's Mental Health initiatives
- National Indigenous Peoples Day