

# Lesser Slave River



## Notice of NOMINATION DAY

(Local Authorities Election Act, Section 26)

**NOMINATION DAY: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025**

Nominations will be received for the following offices: Reeve (1), Councillors for Division 1 (3), and Councillors for Division 2 (3)

### Nominations must be submitted

to the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No.124  
3000 15 Ave SE, Slave Lake, AB, during regular business hours  
until **12:00 NOON ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2025**

Nomination forms are available at the MD office.  
[mdlsr.ca/elections](http://mdlsr.ca/elections)

## Council Declares Local State of Agricultural Disaster

Severe drought conditions across the region have severely impacted cereal and oilseed crops and livestock feed.

Council has declared a **Local State of Agricultural Disaster** in response to prolonged drought conditions that have resulted in significant reductions to crop yields and quality and scarce sources of livestock feed throughout the region.

Producers require seasonal rainfall to keep crops, pastures and hay land healthy. However, **the 2025 growing season was hindered by a prolonged lack of precipitation throughout the spring and summer months.** The resultant drought has led to widespread grasshopper infestations, which have consumed much of the remaining pasturage.

In addition, field crops have not received the moisture necessary during critical growth stages, further limiting feed grain availability. It is also important to note that **most area producers operate in the southern portion of the MD,** where drought conditions are most pronounced.

Due to drought conditions, **there is little to no hay, silage, green feed or pasture for the cow/calf sector.** Remaining feed supplies grow increasingly scarce and costly, forcing

many producers to consider herd dispersals during what is typically considered the height of grazing season. These are especially difficult decisions for smaller farms that already operate with limited herd numbers.

*"The dire conditions before us don't just impact our producers for the season," shared MD Reeve Murray Kerik. "They pose ever-increasing challenges to the sustainability of local farm operations, period."*

The MD joins a growing list of rural municipalities across Western Canada in declaring a State of Agricultural Disaster to heighten public awareness of the critical conditions of fields, pastures, and livestock feed; and to lobby different levels of government for tax incentives, payment deferrals, and related supports.

*"We look forward to working with our provincial and federal colleagues to get our struggling producers the help they need," continued Reeve Kerik. "I am hopeful that Council's efforts will result in the critical government backing we need to substantively address this issue."*

One of the key supports eyed by Council is the **Livestock Tax Deferral provision.** Under this federal program, producers who are forced to sell a portion of their breeding herd due to specific weather-related events can defer a portion of the income from those sales to the next tax year. The provision is activated when a region is designated as a **"prescribed area"** due to events like drought, excess moisture, or flooding that cause a shortage of forage.

*"We know that declaring an agricultural disaster does not in itself guarantee direct financial relief for residents, shared Reeve Kerik. "Council is pushing strongly for federal and provincial supports to keep our ag industry viable during these extremely challenging times. In saying this, I must also underscore the importance of producers accessing their individual farm insurance programs."*

Further updates on this evolving matter, including information and resources for managing farming operations during the Local State of Agricultural Disaster, will be shared via the MD website and social media channels.

## MD Publishes Milestones 2021-2025

The wait is over. We're thrilled to announce the launch of a special four-year retrospective edition of **Milestones!**

This digital report to the community offers a **detailed look at the ground we've covered from 2021 to present.** Explore the progress on Council's strategic priorities, read about key departmental activities, and get a glimpse of our goals for the municipality we share.

Diving into this special edition of **Milestones** is a great opportunity to see the hard work and dedication that goes into building a better Lesser Slave River. Download the edition of **Milestones 2021-25—Four Years of Leadership: Council Retrospective** from the MD website or browse it in flipbook format at [mdlsr.ca/milestones](http://mdlsr.ca/milestones).

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