

Lesser Slave River

Upcoming Council Meetings

REGULAR: OCTOBER 8 AND 22 AT 10:00AM

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: OCTOBER 22 AT 9:00AM

Municipal General Election

Nomination Day for the 2025 Municipal General Election closed at noon on September 22. For the 2025–2029 term, *all Councillor positions were acclaimed*, meaning the number of candidates matched the available seats. Therefore, no election will be held for Councillor positions.

An election for Reeve will be held on Saturday, **OCTOBER 4** (Advance Poll) and Monday, **OCTOBER 20** (Election Day). Polling stations will be open from **8:00am to 8:00pm**. Voters must cast their ballots at the polling station within their registered division. Learn more at mdlsr.ca/election.

MD Garners Federal and Provincial Support Following Agricultural Disaster Declaration

Correspondence from Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation outlines present and emerging supports for affected producers.

MD Council has gained traction in its lobbying efforts with the provincial and federal governments following the declaration of a **Local State of Agricultural Disaster** on Tuesday, September 2, 2025.

Since early September, Council has been in communication with provincial and federal decision-makers, detailing the severe conditions affecting fields, pastures, and livestock feed. Throughout these efforts, Council has pushed for key supports, including tax incentives and payment deferrals.

In a letter to MD Reeve Murray Kerik, Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation RJ Sigurdson outlined the proactive steps his ministry has taken to support area producers and alleviate financial pressures.

"We continue to monitor moisture and crop conditions for the 2025 growing season," Minister Sigurdson shared. *"We are maintaining regular communication with producers, agricultural organizations, and commodity groups to stay informed of the latest concerns."*

Key Supports for Producers

Livestock Tax Deferral Program: Minister Sigurdson successfully advocated for the expedited release of the

federal government's preliminary list of prescribed regions for the 2025 Livestock Tax Deferral Program. Released on August 18, 2025, this list designates a number of Alberta localities as prescribed regions, helping producers *reduce their tax obligations*. The MD is not included on the preliminary list of prescribed regions; however the final list is anticipated for release this December. *Council is working to ensure all relevant agencies and ministries are aware of the critical state of agricultural conditions in the region.*

Low Yield Allowance Adjustment: In a collaborative effort with the federal government and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has *adjusted the low yield allowance* for the 2025 program year. This change enables farmers to salvage crops for livestock feed, which helps reduce feed-related costs. Producers can find detailed information at afsc.ca.

"I commend Minister Sigurdson for giving this critical matter the attention it deserves," stated Reeve Murray Kerik. *"We are encouraged by the early, substantive results his ministry has garnered from the federal government and regional agricultural organizations."*

Enhanced AgriStability Compensation: To further assist producers, federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) Ministers of Agriculture approved *temporary enhancements* to the AgriStability program for the 2025 program year. These enhancements, in response to trade uncertainty and production losses, include an increase in the compensation rate from 80 to 90 per cent and an increase in the maximum payment limit from \$3 million to \$6 million.

Advance Payments Program (APP): As a result of Minister Sigurdson's advocacy, the federal government *has kept the interest-free limit* at \$250,000 under the APP for the 2025 program year. Furthermore, on September 5, 2025, the federal government *temporarily doubled the interest-free portion* for canola advances, raising the limit to \$500,000 for the remainder of the 2025 and 2026 program years. These changes are in response to trade uncertainty affecting canola producers, who represent 41 per cent of APP users.

"I know this season may bring significant challenges," added Minister Sigurdson. *"My ministry will continue to monitor the situation, with the focus on supporting producers as needed."*

Please read the full press release at mdlsr.ca/news.

Seeking Members-at-Large

Each October, Council conducts an Organizational Meeting to appoint Council members and Members-At-Large to represent the MD on various regional organizations. This process ensures that our community remains well-represented and actively engaged in key regional matters.

Openings for *new* Members-At-Large include positions on Lesser Slave Lake Regional Housing Authority, Agricultural Act Appeal Panel, Agricultural Service Board, Municipal Planning Commission, Slave Lake Regional Library Board, and the Subdivision & Development Appeal Board. The application deadline is Wednesday, **OCTOBER 15**. Download the application at mdlsr.ca/boards-committees.