

MILESTONES

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2018



Photograph courtesy of Travel Alberta

Lesser Slave River
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LESSER SLAVE RIVER #0124

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 Instagram

@ExploreLSR

RUGGED AND REAL ADVENTURES.

#EXPLORELSR

FIND INSIDE

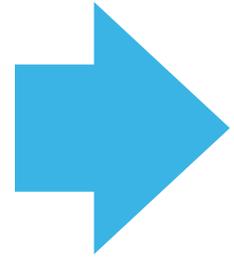
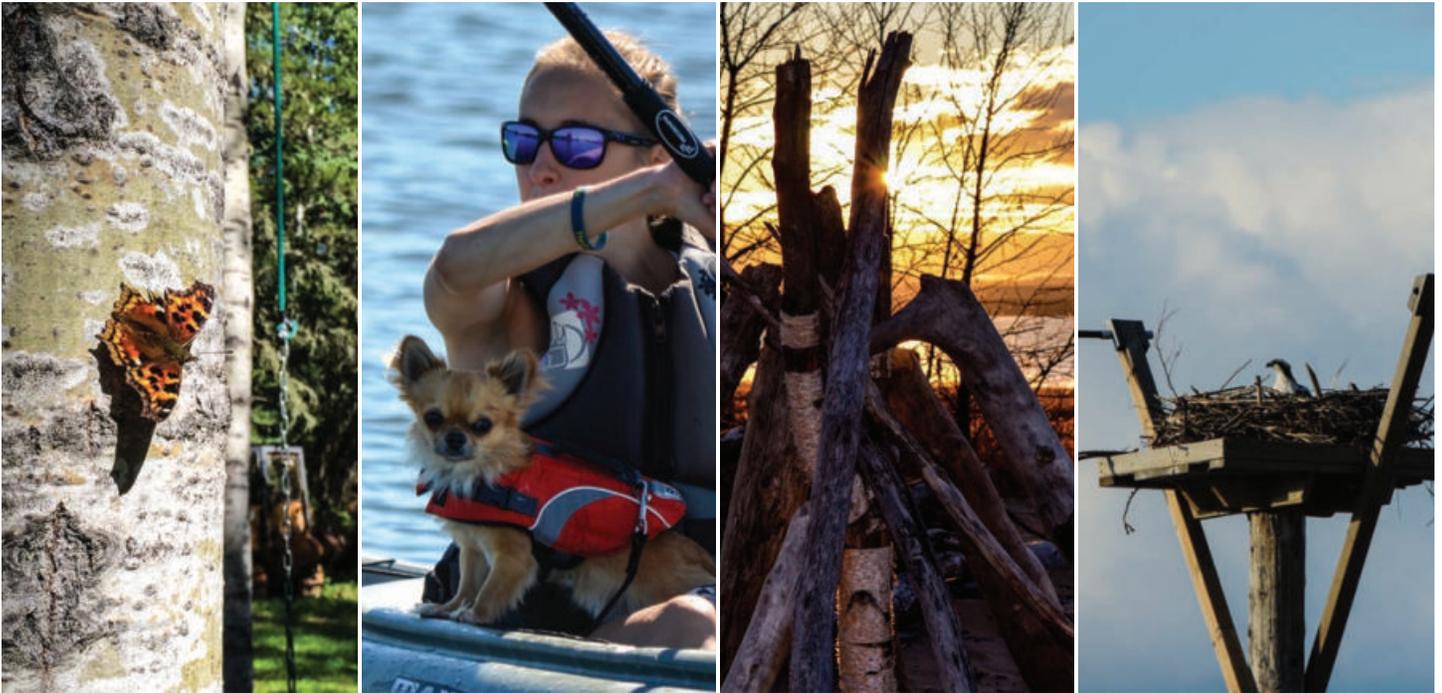


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MESSAGE FROM YOUR CAO

"It doesn't seem all that long ago that we published our first edition of Milestones in 2013. But here we are in 2018 with our fifth edition of providing the community with an annual report of key items. Welcome."



ALLAN WINARSKI
Chief Administrative Officer

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"Like most of Alberta, MD Council and administration have watched with great concern the influences that affect core industries in our region: tidal water access for hydrocarbons; trade agreements and tariffs with our neighbours; and the impacts of carbon-related initiatives. Fortunately, our MD has a thriving forest industry that includes pulp, OSB, veneer

and dimensional lumber mills — in addition to its other dominant source of taxation: oil and gas-related endeavours. While other rural municipalities have had significant losses in taxation revenue due to business failures in the energy sector, Lesser Slave River has so far been spared considerable losses against its assessment base. Assessment for municipal taxation purposes has remained consistent between 2017 and 2018 at approximately \$1.5 billion.

The financial statements embodied in this publication reflect a vibrant and strong municipal corporation.

Lesser Slave River continues to work away as a prudently-operated municipality where work focuses on incrementally enhancing and improving what we have — without excessively burdening those who pay the taxes. In this spirit, citizens will see new projects in various

It is with great pride that I serve the MD and its citizens.

states of progress across the MD. One such project is new sewage infrastructure in Smith to mitigate environmental contingencies. Other milestones (no pun intended) include structural and cosmetic renovations to the Canyon Creek Arena and Widewater Complex; energy-saving enhancements to the MD administration building; an augmentation of the MD gravel program of \$1.1 million over last year; new rural addresses that meet provincial criteria; completion of the raw water intake for the Regional Water System and drainage initiatives focused in the Flatbush area; and work on fixing the slide on the Old Smith Highway by the Lesser Slave River rapids. Our team has also worked diligently to finalize long-term agreements for fire services, and for shared services with the Town of Slave Lake.

Our MD has an enormous amount of potential. Much of this potential can be realized by just connecting the dots.

Along with reasonable taxation, favourable development levies, competitive user fees, and vast geography and resources, this municipality has the ability to shape its destiny by way of its land use planning — largely reflected in its Land Use Bylaw. Over the summer of 2018, MD Council is working with its administration to have a new draft bylaw for public engagement. We will do our best to propose solutions to some of the thornier issues that have evolved over the years (or that could be coming our way).

Further in the publication, you will discover how the MD uses its geographic information systems (GIS) to manage regional development and safeguard citizens.

Given that we all live in wilderness in the MD, floods and fires are part of the fabric of who we are. I encourage you to provide updated contact information to us that includes your cell phone numbers so our Emergency Notification System can alert you to emergency or critical information. If we are calling you with this system, please know that this information should be important to you.

In closing, it is with great pride that I serve the MD and its citizens. It has been rewarding to link up at community events and at the newly-established annual Council meetings that will be held — going forward — in Flatbush, Smith, and Widewater. At these meetings (or any other time), Councillors are happy to speak with you about your community, your concerns, or the ideas you may have for Lesser Slave River.

As I write this message, our staff complement (which remains consistent with the number of staff during our first edition of Milestones) continues to move ever forward on delivering the services of the MD. To these individuals, and to Council: thank you all for your service.”





MURRAY KERIK
Reeve

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INTERVIEW WITH YOUR REEVE

You've served as Reeve of Lesser Slave River since 2012. What types of changes have you seen since then?

I have seen the region pull together and persevere through adversity countless times — most recently during the extensive flooding this spring. I've also seen us rise to the occasion and help others in need, like our Fort McMurray neighbours in 2016. It's safe to say that we grasp their situation better than most. Since 2012, we have changed our region in many ways like better safeguarding our communities

against fire, or by carefully stewarding our infrastructure. But I am proud to say that, as considerate, hard-working people, we tend to remain the same.

Are there any new areas of focus for Council this term?

We want to better connect with the residents and business owners of Lesser Slave River. Whether reaching out to communities during our mobile Council sessions or conducting more focused stakeholder engagement sessions, we will continue



I feel I still have much to contribute to the MD. It's a real privilege to have the endorsement from the people of Lesser Slave River to continue to serve them.



to seek out opportunities to have meaningful two-way conversations with our constituents. The easier we can make it for residents to share their thoughts and concerns, the more relevant and informed Council's decision-making process will be.

Any closing words for your colleagues and constituents?

I still have much to contribute to the MD, so I'd like to express my gratitude at having been re-elected. It's a real privilege to have the endorsement from the people of Lesser Slave River to continue to serve them. I also want to commend the staff and managers at the MD for their exceptional work day in and day out. Many of the tasks of running a municipality as large as ours go unseen, but I can attest first hand to the skill, passion and hard-working nature of the people who make the MD tick.

MESSAGES FROM YOUR COUNCIL

Councillor Robert Esau, Division 1

"I was on Council when the Planning department moved into the Slave Lake office. My number one goal then, as now, is to help cultivate a department that is efficient, prompt, and free from red tape...a department that meets the needs and priorities of our region. I am also focused on the ongoing battle we wage with roads and ditches. For our communities to grow, we must have the infrastructure to support it. Maintaining this infrastructure while remaining prudent with budget monies is always an onerous task, but it is one I remain committed to. I believe that, with our team, the adage 'where there is a will there is a way' rings true."



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Councillor Sandra Melzer, Division 1

"As one of the newest members of Council, I have a mandate to help keep our northern Alberta communities viable and sustainable — both today and well into the future. Specifically, I am focused on the need for our schools to remain open. For this to happen, I believe we need greater access to dedicated funds. In this spirit, I am pushing for collaboration with different groups to use our schools and recreation centers more frequently, and in new ways, to maximize their use and keep them sustainable. I'm also a firm believer in attracting industry to our region — both to strengthen our local job market and to attract and retain young people in our communities."



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Councillor Becky Peiffer, Division 1

"As a first timer, it is with great pride that I embrace this opportunity to represent the hard-working residents and business owners of Lesser Slave River. Nearly one year into my civic career, I have helped Council complete the Regional Fire and Intermunicipal Agreements with the Town of Slave Lake; on our radar now is the Land Use Bylaw. Working as a team, this Council and great administrative staff will meet the challenges of these and many more issues as they arise. I am blessed to live the unique rural lifestyle that the MD offers. I encourage everyone to make the most of living, working and playing in our beautiful boreal backyard!"



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As a rule, Lesser Slave River administrators strive to communicate with the public as consistently and transparently as possible.



Councillor Jeff Commins, Division 2

"I put my name forward in this election for two reasons. First and foremost, I thoroughly enjoyed my first term. Secondly, I feel that I still have work to do. I'd like to see the completion of the affordable housing project we've been working so hard on. I'm also focused on developing a sensible Land Use Bylaw we can all live with, and on strengthening our infrastructure. I'm pleased to have been involved in the completion of the Inter Municipal and Fire Services Agreements for a five-year term. Being able to take our Council meetings on the road and into the communities to let people see what we do and — more importantly — listen to their questions, has also been highly rewarding."



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Councillor Brian Rosche, Division 2

"Much has evolved since 2004 when then-Reeve Denny Garratt coaxed me to run for office. However, my reasons for being a Councillor remain unchanged. I believe in keeping taxes as low as possible, but also in keeping roads and infrastructure in good condition. I believe in planning 25 years ahead — not planning to the next election. I believe it's impossible to make everyone happy, and therefore decisions must be made based on what will benefit the most people. Lastly, I believe in investing in recreational facilities for all to enjoy. My father (an avid fisherman) taught me to work hard. But he also taught me to make time for play."



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Councillor Brad Pearson, Division 2

"Well into my second term, I wish to continue the momentum of progress I have helped drive. One such example includes working to allocate available funding to ensure public lands (like road allowances, right-of-ways and open spaces that allow access to our lakes, rivers and beaches) remain in the public domain for future use. I also feel it's vital that we maintain our municipal autonomy and fend off any potential threats of amalgamation. This will involve mutual agreements where feasible in addition to the sharing of resources that strive for fiscal efficiencies. I remain focused on maintaining a delicate balance between service levels and taxation. Reasonable taxation levels will stimulate our local economy while attracting new business."



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New MD Council Seeks Stronger Connection with Constituents

New municipal initiatives encourage residents to make their voices heard.

As a rule, Lesser Slave River administrators strive to communicate with the public as consistently and transparently as possible. From the municipal website and social media channels to kiosk posters, radio announcements and direct mail pieces, there are many ways the MD deploys its messaging. Lately, however, Council has begun to seek even better efficiencies in its channels of communication — particularly as it applies to soliciting public feedback. “It’s not just Council that needs to weigh in on what’s

next for our communities,” stated Reeve Murray Kerik. “We want to hear from our ratepayers, because what they have to say informs our direction to a great degree.”

Beginning in April of this year, the MD began taking its regular Council sessions on the road. Meetings were hosted in Flatbush, Smith and Widewater, and held outside of typical business hours. Residents in these communities were encouraged to attend with their questions, concerns and insights. These Council

meeting initiatives were very well-attended, setting the stride for a Council that wishes to engage residents and business owners in an authentic two-way conversation.

“I encourage anyone with a question, concern or good idea to get involved,” continued Reeve Kerik. “Attend a Council meeting if you’re able, chat with the MD on Facebook, or just pick up the phone and call a Councillor. Lesser Slave River is a really great place to live, but together we can make it even better.”



Spot something not quite right? Submit the MD's online *Action Tracker Form*

Municipal employees work hard to keep the region running smoothly, but they can't be everywhere at once... and there's a lot of ground to cover in Lesser Slave River. Often, the eyes and ears of residents can be the MD's first sign that something's wrong. The Municipal Action Tracker system is designed as a quick, convenient and confidential way for the public to bring issues to the attention of different Lesser Slave River departments.

From potholes and road kill to property matters, simply submit the form available online at mdlsr.ca/Action-Tracker and your issue will be escalated in accordance to its severity and available resources. However, please remember, in the event of a fire, police, medical or other emergency requiring immediate assistance, dial 911.



MD Launches Bench Dedication Program

The MD is pleased to announce the launch of its new Bench Dedication Program. Under this program, an important date, a personal message, or the name of a loved one can now accompany park benches that will be placed in scenic locations across the municipality.

Each commemorative bench will be accompanied by a bronze plaque with a personal message. It can mark the memory of a friend or family member, celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or observe any other type of significant event. The program is open to individuals and groups alike.

Program fees

The Bench Dedication Program is intended to be operated on a full cost recovery basis. A donation fee of \$4,000 per dedication bench and plaque is required to cover the purchase, installation, long-term maintenance and administrative costs of approved benches in perpetuity. Maintenance funding is placed into a perpetual care reserve account for supporting the program. Please note that program fees are reviewed annually by Council and are subject to change. For details, please visit mdlsr.ca/Bench-Dedication.

Have you ever rented one of the excellent facilities managed by the MD?

Did you know that residents of the MD receive a 25% discount whenever they rent one of the exceptional facilities managed by the MD? Learn more about each location at mdlr.ca/Facilities-Venues.



Places that bring people together.

The MD recognizes that a dynamic, active and healthy community requires programs, services and amenities for all stages of life. This is achieved through a focus on recreational, social and cultural opportunities — all factors that help set Lesser Slave River's collective of communities well apart from the ordinary.

At the core of MD communities are its public halls, like Smith Community Complex (located on a beautifully-decorated, rustic main street), which is often host to a number of events, and offers a full kitchen and dance hall. Canyon Creek Arena houses an indoor hockey rink and is available for event booking during skating season. The Flatbush Complex (home to our Flatbush Library) is equipped with full kitchen amenities, and can accommodate up to 350 people. Its grounds include ball diamonds in addition to a well-appointed playground. And the Widewater Complex provides year-round rental facilities like an auditorium, kitchen, bar and ball diamonds.

Residents of the MD are encouraged to utilize the many local facilities (available at great discounted rates).

Other notable local facilities and venues

In addition to the MD's exceptional facilities, the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation provides year-round facilities for rent and a variety of interpretive and educational events and environmental education programs. And — for an ultimate comfort camping experience — The Nest is a peaceful, sun-washed timber-frame building located next to the Boreal Centre, with room for up to ten guests. The Visitor Information Centre is the first structure travelers see upon entering Slave Lake from the south. This facility offers a boardroom for rent that holds up to 15 people. The Flatbush Royal Canadian Legion #137 Hall can accommodate up to 65 people, and boasts full kitchen facilities, shuffleboard tables, a pool table and patio. The Legacy Centre — an awe-inspiring facility that boasts social gathering and banquet facilities, an interpretive wildfire exhibit, and enhanced performing arts infrastructure.

The Great Trail

Completed in time for Canada's 150th anniversary of confederation, The Great Trail lays claim to the world's longest uninterrupted network of recreational trails. This coast-to-coast marvel offers an abundance of activities through a variety of landscapes: wilderness, urban, rural, greenways, blueways (rivers) and roadways. Five distinct segments of The Great Trail run right through Lesser Slave River, providing breathtaking sights ranging from boreal wilderness and pristine meandering rivers to the vast Lesser Slave Lake itself.

To download a map of Lesser Slave River's section of The Great Trail, visit mdlsr.ca/Great-Trail.

OUR SPECIAL PART OF THE GREAT TRAIL

Lesser Slave River's contribution to Canada's recreational trail system provides a multitude of activities for all.





Lesser Slave River

DRIVING TIMES & DISTANCES



FROM FORT McMURRAY

436 km - 4.5 hrs S
Hwy 63 S, Hwy 2 W

FROM EDMONTON

257 km - 3 hrs N
Hwy 44 N

FROM JASPER

459 km - 5 hrs NE
Hwy 16 E, Hwy 32 N

FROM CALGARY

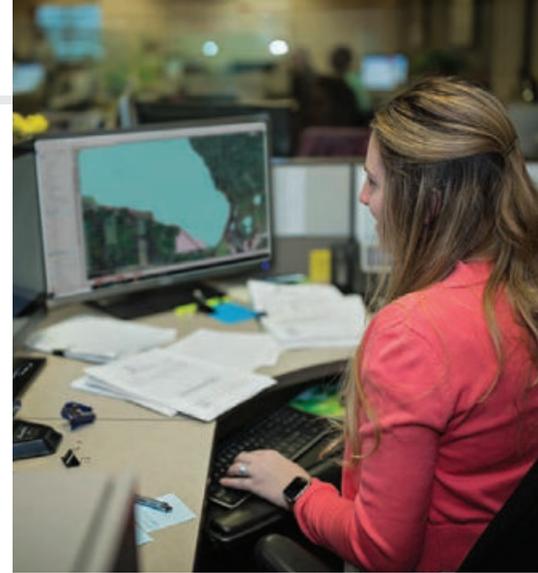
533 km - 5.5 hrs N
Hwy 2 N, Hwy 44 N

FROM VANCOUVER

1,255 km - 13.5 hrs NE
Hwy 5 N, Hwy 16 N, Hwy 32 N

Fulfilling your vision of an exceptional municipality

Leveraging MuniSight's GIS technologies to the net benefit of Municipal District stakeholders.



Planning & Development

To serve the growing needs of constituents, business owners and visitors alike across a land area of more than ten thousand square kilometers, the MD relies heavily on Geographical Information Systems (GIS). By leveraging the next-practices technologies and implementation services of GIS industry leader MuniSight, the MD's Geographics Program is more feature-rich, versatile and accessible than ever before.

The systems we have in place help us deliver real value to all segments of Lesser Slave River, from staff to public users like ratepayers, developers and business operators.

By using MuniSight's GIS technologies, the MD has made a number of time-consuming manual processes more efficient. A vast database of information is now accessible to staff in real time via a secure online portal. All geospatial

assets — from roads, property lines, water infrastructure and agricultural data — are visible in multiple digital layers overtop of highly detailed maps. With geospatial data, municipal planners are now able to access information to prepare zoning and bylaw changes faster and with far greater precision.

To access the public portion of the MD 's vast database of geospatial data, checkout the website at mdlsr.ca/GIS.



The MD maintains a boat launch on Lesser Slave River, on the outskirts of the Town of Slave Lake. There's no charge to launch your boat and there's ample parking for vehicles and trailers. Launches are also located at Cross, Fawcett, Lawrence Lakes, Canyon Creek Harbour, and at the Point Boat Launch near Slave Lake.



Working together to cultivate a healthy municipality

Agricultural Services

2017 was a productive year for Lesser Slave River's Agricultural Services department, during which the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Business Plan and Policy were both reviewed. The new ASB Business Plan can be viewed and downloaded from the website at mdlsr.ca/ASB. Earlier in the year, the department also organized and hosted a well-attended environmental Farm Plan Workshop to help local producers update their plans and qualify for new federal and provincial agricultural funding. In addition to these successful projects, the Agricultural Services team was characteristically busy controlling weeds, maintaining road allowances, and assisting the region's farmers and ranchers in a variety of capacities. For more information on the many services and resources this department provides, please visit mdlsr.ca/Agriculture.

With a growing archive of information, and a friendly, knowledgeable team of experts, we are equipped to help regional producers prosper.

A progressive workplace where opportunity abounds

We seek individuals with a solid work ethic and a genuine passion for customer service.

We offer a variety of employment opportunities to help you make a difference in your community and to help you grow professionally.

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Human Resources

At the MD, we truly value and respect our employees for the diversity of skill, experience and knowledge they bring to the organization. To cultivate a corporate culture that attracts and retains great people, we provide a work environment that acknowledges and rewards participation, teamwork and commitment to excellent customer service.

We've worked hard to develop a healthy and flexible workplace that encourages employees to think strategically, work collaboratively and champion new ideas. Lesser Slave River offers competitive wages and benefits, family-friendly policies

and an environment of respect. We strive to offer a progressive workplace with opportunities to grow and develop staff through ongoing training and development, while also supporting work-life balance for employees and their families.

To learn about the highlights of the MD's enviable corporate culture, great benefits and generous work/life balance, checkout mdlsr.ca/employment.

Local newspaper

Courtesy of the MD, residents are provided with a subscription to the local Lakeside Leader newspaper free of charge. MD segments from weekly editions can also be viewed online at mdlsr.ca/Publications.



Water conservation is everybody's business

In addition to saving money on your utility bill, water conservation helps prevent water pollution in nearby lakes, rivers and local watersheds.



EASE THE
**STRAIN ON
YOUR
DRAIN!**

FOG

Stands for **FATS, OILS, GREASE**

Namely the stuff that gets poured down your kitchen drain after cooking meals and washing dishes. Just like with clogged arteries, **FOG hardens and sticks** to the inside of sewer pipes, eventually forming a blockage that can cause a backup or sewer overflow.

Water & Utilities

The Water & Utilities department provides homes and businesses with reliable, quality water and wastewater systems, and responds to any emergencies or concerns that arise. 2017's projects planned for the MD have been completed, with just the Town of Slave Lake Raw Line Project still ongoing. The Smith Lift Station and Forcemain Replacement Projects are on target for completion this summer. The MD anticipates the arrival of the new \$176,000 Smith Water Plant Membrane Upgrade. Southshore Membranes will require a service visit by Suez (Zenon) with a potential of requiring replacement. Replacements, if required, will cost at least \$400,000 in addition to programming upgrades.

LESSER SLAVE LAKE REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES COMMISSION

Waste — and how we choose to handle it — affects our world's environment. That's YOUR environment...everything that surrounds you including the air, water, land, plants and man-made things.

Let's all do our part. Whether you take to the beach for some afternoon fun or hike deep into the bush, enjoying our region's unspoiled beauty means we all need to do our part to keep it that way. As a rule of thumb when camping or hiking, always take out what you bring in — and then recycle or dispose

of your waste accordingly. The MD also provides a variety of ways to help divert recyclable materials from the landfills. Stores like Staples and Shoppers Drug Mart accept regular and rechargeable batteries, used ink cartridges and compact fluorescent light bulbs. Each spring, the MD also helps encourage clean-up activities by providing special litter

and recycling bags, coordinating waste removal, and supplying t-shirts for the occasion! Let's all do our part by keeping Lesser Slave River litter-free, recycling what we can, and finding unique and resourceful ways to reduce the environmental impact on our region. To learn more, please visit mdlr.ca/Landfill.

Maintaining the momentum of Lesser Slave River's progress

Transportation & Infrastructure

Tasked with the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of the municipality's vast network of roads, bridges and infrastructure, Lesser Slave River's Transportation & Infrastructure department works tirelessly throughout all four seasons. 2017 was a typically productive year for road maintenance, with the completion of 4.5km of Poplar Lane Paving; 13km of Shoulder Pull; 1.6km of Slave Lake Walking Path overlay; and 600 new metres of the Smith Walking Path laid. A pilot project was also undertaken to incorporate microfibre into various paving projects throughout the MD.

In the first half of 2018, the department completed a number of projects, including Flatbush Complex Washroom Renovations; Eating Creek Erosion Repair;



Photograph by Dalique van der Nest

Annual Roadside Brushing; removal of accumulated drift at Athabasca Bridge; and re-gravelling of roughly 230km of MD roads to 150% of the Municipal Standard Rate. New equipment purchases assisted the department in their efforts. This new equipment includes a second All-Wheel Drive Grader; a new Loader; and 11 new MD vehicles to replace depreciated assets. The MD also purchased its first Lowboy for hauling municipal equipment. All of these vehicles were acquired in alignment with the MD's Capital Asset Policy. In addition, the MD replaced its End-of-Life Analog Two-Way Radio System with a Digital Two-Way System to ensure proper communication in the field.

SAFE, EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE SYSTEMS

Importance of road bans

From time to time, traffic on Lesser Slave River's roads must be restricted due to construction, maintenance or seasonal conditions such as the spring thaw. Road Bans are implemented for the purpose of restricting the weight of commercial vehicles and the goods they carry on municipal roadways. These restrictions are designed to help reduce wear and tear on some of our main thoroughfares and prolong the life span of MD roads. Please note that Road Ban Orders remain in effect until further notice.

What are axle weights?

Axle weights are the weight restrictions for vehicles that lower the maximum legal registered permitted weight placed on a road. This protects the infrastructure from damage. In accordance with the *Traffic Safety Act*, permits are required for all overweight and over-dimensional loads.

Obtaining road permits

In accordance with the *Traffic Safety Act*, Road Permits are required for all overweight and over-dimensional loads. They can be obtained online through RoaData at RoaData.com or by calling 1.888.444.9288. Road Permits are not available through the MD.

Get your Snowplow Flags

Each year, the MD provides residents an opt-in service that allows their driveways to be cleared following a snowfall. To participate in the program, residents must complete and submit the Liability Waiver. The waiver is available for download at mdlr.ca/Snowplow-Flag. Snowplow flags can be purchased at both the Slave Lake and Flatbush MD offices for \$42.50 each plus GST. Seniors will be granted a 50 per cent discount. Each snowplow flag is good for one instance of snow clearance.



Did you know that MD residents receive a **25% discount** when they rent the Flatbush Complex?

Preparing for the threat of wildfire is a shared responsibility

Alberta's five level colour-coded fire ban system

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has a five level colour-coded system for putting on fire bans in the Forest Protection Area (FPA). Planning to enjoy a campfire? Before you head out, visit wildfire.alberta.ca for the latest fire ban information. The Alberta Fire Bans website is a single portal to all active fire advisories, fire restrictions and fire bans across the province. This system increases efficiency in applying fire use restrictions during increasing fire hazard. It also provides more advanced warning about possible impacts on burning and campfires.

Be found when it matters most

In an effort to enhance the Lesser Slave River Emergency Communications System and ensure accurate and rapid community response, everyone who lives and works within the Lesser Slave River boundaries is encouraged to provide us with a primary home phone number as well as at least one backup number such as a mobile or work phone number. This information will then be added to the municipal callout database, ensuring you're contacted immediately and automatically in the event of a water line break, road closure or more critical emergency. Learn more by visiting mdlsr.ca/Emergency.



NO RESTRICTION

Fire permits are required during fire season for any type of burning in the FPA, except campfires. Safe campfires are allowed in campgrounds and backcountry or random camping areas.



FIRE ADVISORY

The fire hazard rating has increased. Fire permits may be restricted. Safe campfires are allowed in campgrounds and backcountry or random camping areas, but this level is a warning they may be restricted if the situation doesn't improve.



FIRE RESTRICTION

Safe campfires are allowed in fire rings in campgrounds only. No campfires (or other open fires) or charcoal briquettes are allowed in backcountry or random camping areas. Gas or propane stoves/barbecues and portable propane fire pits are allowed. Permits may be suspended or canceled and no new fire permits will be issued. If the situation continues to worsen, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry will put on a fire ban.



FIRE BAN

No campfires (or other open fires) are allowed in campgrounds or backcountry and random camping areas. This includes charcoal briquettes. Gas or propane stoves/bbqs and portable propane fire pits are allowed. All fire permits are suspended or cancelled and no new fire permits will be issued.



FOREST AREA CLOSURE

The fire danger has reached such extreme levels that portions of the forest are closed and no access is permitted for public safety concerns.

REPORT A WILDFIRE

toll free: **310-FIRE** (3473)

wildfire.alberta.ca



Marten Beach Community Cleanup in August 2017

FireSmart means living with and managing for wildfire. Learn how to live FireSmart at [LiveFireSmart.ca](https://www.livefiresmart.ca).

MD congratulates local WCPD award recipients of 2018

“By funding and recognizing these local efforts, we reinforce FireSmart strategies in the hearts and minds of all community members,” states Reeve Murray Kerik.

For three years running, FireSmart Canada has held its Wildfire Community Preparedness Day (WCPD) each spring. Under this program, Canadian communities contemplating home-grown activities aimed at reducing wildfire risks can apply for funding courtesy of FireSmart Canada, through Partners in Protection. This year’s event awarded funds to 94 community initiatives across Canada — six of which are right here in Lesser Slave River.

“Events like WCPD remind us all that there are many simple, grassroots things we can all do in our homes and communities to reduce wildfire risks and stay safe,” commented Reeve Kerik.

WCPD projects may include initiatives such as clearing leaves and other combustible debris from around homes and other structures, working with neighbours to hire a chipper service to remove slash, or creating and distributing wildfire safety information. Groups of all

sorts and individuals of all ages are welcome and encouraged to take part each year.

2018 award recipients include Slave Lake Outdoor Adventure Trade Show, Canyon Creek Recreation Association, Marten Beach Cottager’s Society, Summerwood Subdivision and Gilwood Golf Club (Hole 17), Bayer Road/Whitetail Way Subdivision, and Sawridge First Nation.

Financial Highlights



REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE FINANCIAL SUMMARY

March 28, 2018
Edmonton, Alberta

To the Reeve and Council of the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No.124:

The accompanying 2017 financial summary for the year then ended is derived from the audited financial statements of the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No.124 for the year ended December 31, 2017. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated March 28, 2018. Those financial statements, and the 2017 financial summary, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

The 2017 financial summary does not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian public sector accounting standards. Reading the 2017 financial summary, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No.124.

Management's Responsibility for the 2017 Financial Summary

Management is responsible for the preparation of the 2017 financial summary in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the 2017 financial summary based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard 810 — *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

Opinion

In our opinion, the 2017 financial summary, derived from the audited financial statements of the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No.124 for the year ended December 31, 2017 is a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

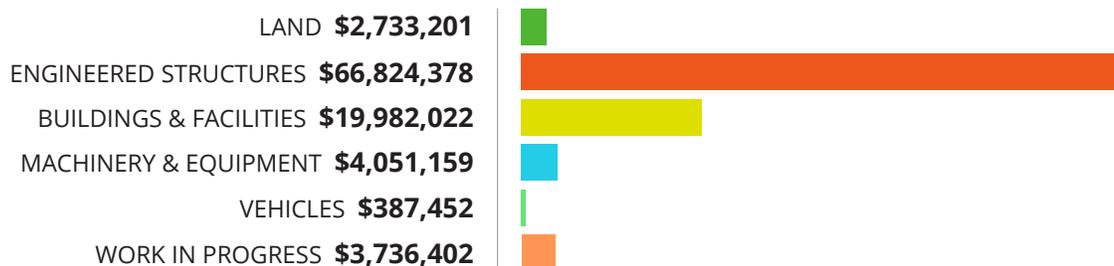
METRIX GROUP LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2017	2017 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash (Note 2)	\$134,873	\$4,996,117
Receivables		
Taxes and grants in lieu of taxes (Note 3)	\$365,628	\$385,433
Trade and other receivables (Note 4)	\$721,459	\$611,253
Other long-term receivables	\$1,099,107	\$1,313,177
Debt charges recoverable (Note 5)	\$2,484,783	-
Investments (Note 6)	\$40,580,887	\$38,899,730
	\$45,386,737	\$46,205,710
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$1,747,720	\$2,080,420
Deposit liabilities	\$344,275	\$327,740
Deferred revenue (Note 8)	\$16,167,629	\$18,622,899
Employee benefit obligations (Note 9)	\$239,661	\$208,574
Reclamation liabilities (Note 10)	-	\$73,400
Liability for contaminated sites (Note 11)	\$338,210	-
Long-term debt (Note 13)	\$5,325,368	\$3,123,149
	\$24,162,863	\$24,436,182
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	\$21,223,874	\$21,769,528
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets (Schedule 1)	\$97,714,615	\$97,869,140
Inventory of consumption (Note 12)	\$1,290,870	\$1,472,599
Prepaid expense	\$212,464	\$204,402
	\$99,217,949	\$99,546,141
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (Note 15)	\$120,441,823	\$121,315,669

Did you Know?

The MD's assets are property owned, controlled and/or used by local governments. These assets are managed directly or indirectly for the benefit of constituents to achieve local service delivery goals. The MD had assets valued at just under **\$98 MILLION** at the end of 2017:



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

DECEMBER 31, 2017	2017 BUDGET (Note 23)	2017 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL
REVENUE			
Net municipal property taxes <i>(Schedule 3)</i>	\$12,864,736	\$12,849,666	\$13,801,204
User fees and sales of goods	\$1,428,540	\$1,473,764	\$1,513,834
Government transfers <i>(Schedule 4)</i>	\$702,474	\$765,041	\$1,208,046
Investment income	\$385,000	\$670,107	\$614,383
Penalties and costs of taxes	\$103,000	\$110,317	\$123,012
Licenses and permits	\$42,000	\$29,064	\$23,795
Other	\$67,325	\$311,923	\$160,351
TOTAL REVENUE	\$15,593,075	\$16,209,882	\$17,444,623
EXPENSES			
Legislative	\$314,265	\$286,549	\$299,448
Administration	\$2,484,616	\$2,445,853	\$2,424,041
Protective services	\$1,542,421	\$1,345,103	\$1,824,110
Roads, streets, walks, lighting	\$9,492,197	\$8,839,735	\$7,422,218
Common services	\$1,650,752	\$1,591,318	\$1,122,795
Water supply and distribution	\$1,972,354	\$2,011,758	\$1,858,538
Wastewater treatment and disposal	\$1,506,259	\$1,496,730	\$1,390,352
Waste management	\$380,589	\$628,460	\$357,164
Family and community support	\$103,169	\$92,261	\$93,624
Agriculture, planning and development	\$1,108,126	\$858,627	\$777,269
Parks, recreation, culture	\$1,227,606	\$1,081,922	\$747,700
Inter-municipal cost sharing <i>(Note 20)</i>	\$350,000	\$415,057	\$390,657
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$22,132,354	\$21,093,373	\$18,707,916
ANNUAL SURPLUS (deficiency) BEFORE OTHER REVENUE	(\$6,539,279)	(\$4,883,491)	(\$1,263,293)
OTHER REVENUE			
Government transfers for capital <i>(Schedule 4)</i>	\$3,423,639	\$4,055,400	\$2,048,318
Gain (loss) on disposal of tangible capital assets	\$70,000	(\$45,755)	\$220,200
	\$3,493,639	\$4,009,645	\$2,268,518
ANNUAL SURPLUS	(\$3,045,640)	(\$873,846)	\$1,005,225
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$121,315,669	\$121,315,669	\$120,310,444
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS AT END OF YEAR <i>(Note 15)</i>	\$118,270,029	\$120,441,823	\$121,315,669

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

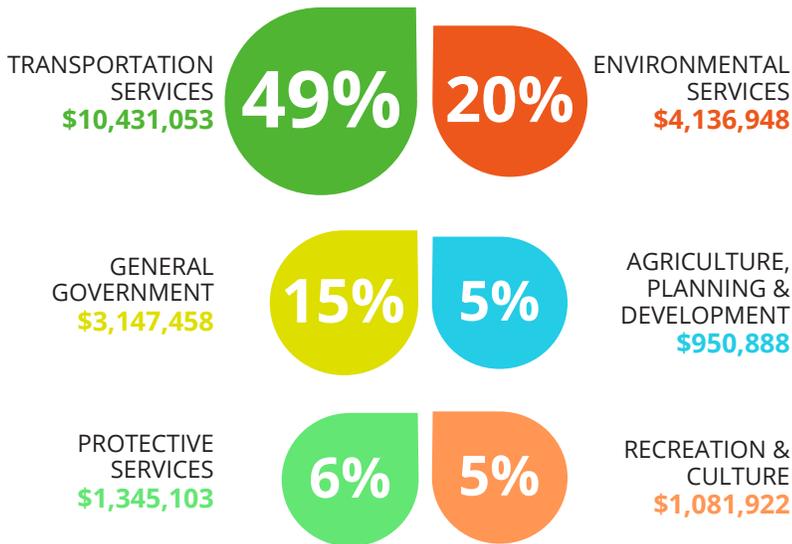
DECEMBER 31, 2017

Net cash inflow (outflow) related to following:

	2017 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Annual surplus	(\$873,846)	\$1,005,225
Non-cash items included in annual actual:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	\$6,756,404	\$6,337,029
(Gain) loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	\$45,755	(\$220,220)
Net change in non-cash operating working capital balances:		
Decrease (increase) in taxes and grants in place	\$19,805	(\$31,290)
Decrease (increase) in trade and other receivables	(\$110,206)	\$1,168,021
Decrease (increase) in long-term receivables	\$214,070	\$212,000
Decrease (increase) in debt changes recoverable	(\$2,434,783)	-
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses	(\$8,063)	\$11,765
Decrease (increase) in inventory for consumption	\$181,729	\$17,658
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(\$332,700)	(\$2,047,800)
Increase (decrease) in deposit liabilities	\$16,535	(\$252,351)
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	(\$2,455,270)	\$6,080,316
Increase (decrease) in employee benefit obligations	\$31,087	\$18,806
Increase (decrease) in reclamation liabilities	(\$73,400)	-
Increase in environmental liabilities	\$338,210	-
Cash provided by operating transactions:	\$1,265,327	\$12,299,179
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	(\$6,769,692)	(\$2,520,900)
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	\$122,059	\$220,200
Cash applied to capital transactions	(\$6,647,633)	(\$2,300,700)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Long-term debt issued	\$2,600,000	-
Long-term debt repaid	(\$397,782)	(\$300,984)
Cash provided by (applied to) financing transactions	\$2,202,219	(\$300,984)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of investments	(\$1,681,157)	(\$18,454,924)
Cash provided by (applied to) investing transactions	(\$1,681,157)	(\$18,454,924)
CHANGE IN CASH DURING THE YEAR	(\$4,861,244)	(\$8,757,430)
CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$4,996,117	\$13,753,547
CASH AT END OF YEAR	\$134,873	\$4,996,117

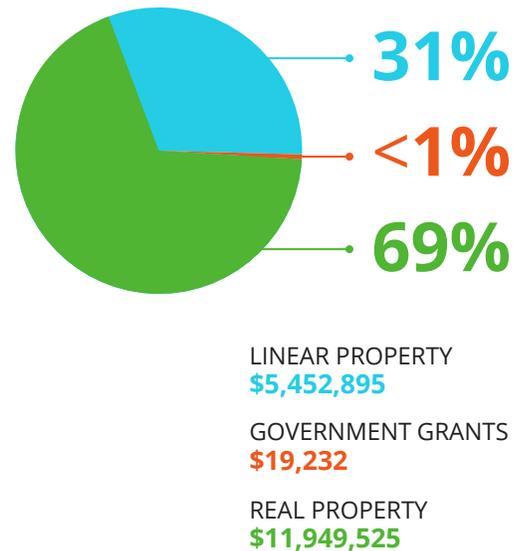
Municipal Expenditures

Almost everything the MD does has a cost associated with it. Councillors spend a lot of time on making financial decisions. Their role is to safeguard the taxpayer's money and make the best use of financial resources.



Sources of Tax Revenue

Each sector represents the taxes paid in 2017 by groups in the MD.



STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS

DECEMBER 31, 2017	2017 BUDGET (Note 23)	2017 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL
ANNUAL SURPLUS	(\$3,045,640)	(\$873,846)	\$1,005,225
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(\$9,671,446)	(\$6,769,692)	(\$2,520,900)
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	\$70,000	\$122,059	\$220,200
Amortization of tangible capital assets	\$6,690,109	\$6,756,404	\$6,337,029
(Gain) loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	(\$70,000)	\$45,755	(\$220,220)
	(\$6,026,977)	\$154,526	\$3,816,129
Change in inventory consumption	-	\$181,729	\$17,658
Change in prepaid expenses	-	(\$8,063)	\$11,765
		\$173,666	\$29,423
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	(\$6,026,977)	(\$545,654)	\$4,850,776
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$21,769,528	\$21,769,528	\$16,918,752
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$15,742,551	\$21,233,874	\$21,769,528

Salary and Benefits Disclosure

Disclosure of salaries and benefits for Municipal Officials, the Chief Administrative Officer and designated Officers as required by **Alberta Regulation 313/2000** are as follows: ⁽¹⁾ Salary includes regular base pay, bonuses, overtime, lump sum payments, gross honoraria and any other direct cash remuneration. ⁽²⁾ Employer's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, healthcare, dental coverage, vision coverage, group life insurance, accidental disability and disbursement insurance, long and short-term disability plans, professional memberships and tuition.

2016-17 SALARY & BENEFITS DISCLOSURE

COUNCILLORS	SALARY ⁽¹⁾	BENEFITS & ALLOWANCES ⁽²⁾	2017 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL
Reeve Murray Kerik	\$34,050	\$253	\$34,303	\$39,053
Division 2: Jeff Communs	\$7,150	-	\$7,150	-
Division 1: Robert Esau	\$28,650	\$253	\$28,903	\$31,153
Division 1: Darren Fulmore	\$25,500	\$253	\$25,753	\$30,903
Division 1: Garry Horton	\$16,750	\$165	\$16,915	\$26,065
Division 1: Sandra Melzer	\$9,550	-	\$9,550	-
Division 2: Brad Pearson	\$36,150	\$253	\$36,403	\$35,403
Division 1: Becky Peiffer	\$5,400	-	\$5,400	-
Division 2: Brian Rosche	\$23,100	\$253	\$23,353	\$27,353
Division 2: Mike Skrynyk	\$24,000	\$253	\$24,253	\$33,653
Chief Administrative Officer	\$188,387	\$31,407	\$219,794	\$218,060
TOTAL	\$398,687	\$33,090	\$431,777	\$441,643

Project Accomplishments

2017 A YEAR IN REVIEW

PROJECT/PURCHASE	BUDGET	PROJECT/PURCHASE	BUDGET
Poplar Road Paving	\$2,762,343	Main Administration Building Roof	\$172,205
West Mitsue Microfibre Overlay	\$535,051	MD Administration Record Storage Facility	\$49,580
Smith Walking Path	\$146,900	Water Truck (used)	\$58,509
Slave Lake to Devonshire Walking Path	\$77,938	Grader	\$430,500
Flatbush Hall Renovations	\$444,389	5 Ton Picker Truck (used)	\$43,000
Marten Beach Walkways	\$63,975	6 Pickup Trucks	\$216,702
Widewater Complex Siding	\$67,687		

SCHEDULE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

DECEMBER 31, 2017	LAND	ENGINEERED STRUCTURES	BUILDING & FACILITIES	MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT
COST				
BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$2,733,201	\$144,127,992	\$34,097,289	\$9,194,039
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	–	\$3,631,953	\$341,508	\$591,455
Transfer in (out) of WIP	–	\$2,492,400	\$208,240	\$508,871
Disposals	–	–	(\$268,697)	(\$483,448)
BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	\$2,733,201	\$150,249,345	\$34,378,340	\$9,810,917
ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION				
BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	–	\$78,595,992	13,483,276	\$5,472,087
Annual amortization	–	\$4,828,975	\$1,024,636	\$771,119
Disposals	–	–	(\$111,594)	(\$483,448)
BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	–	\$83,424,967	\$14,396,318	\$5,759,758
NET BOOK VALUE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	\$2,733,201	\$66,824,378	\$19,982,022	\$4,051,159
2015 NET BOOK VALUE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	\$2,733,201	\$65,529,000	\$20,614,013	\$3,721,952

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES BY OBJECT

DECEMBER 31, 2017	2017 BUDGET (Note 23)	2017 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL
CONSOLIDATED EXPENSES BY OBJECT			
Salaries, wages and benefits	\$5,726,568	\$5,408,161	\$5,207,401
Contracted and general services	\$4,862,655	\$3,956,145	\$2,933,295
Materials, goods and utilities	\$2,799,275	\$2,820,983	\$2,165,046
Provision for allowances	–	\$65,284	\$87,277
Transfers to local boards and agencies	\$1,909,778	\$1,918,772	\$1,826,648
Bank charges and short-term interest	\$2,600	\$917	\$1,087
Interest on long-term debt	\$141,370	\$166,707	\$150,132
Amortization	\$6,690,108	\$6,756,404	\$6,337,029
TOTAL	\$22,132,354	\$21,093,373	\$18,966,262

Full financial statements are available for viewing on the municipal government website, mdlsr.ca.

A hardcopy is available at the Municipal District Administration Office in Slave Lake.

VEHICLES	WORK IN PROGRESS	2017 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL
\$1,271,615	\$5,000,839	\$196,421,975	\$194,912,906
\$259,702	\$1,945,076	\$6,769,692	\$2,520,900
-	(\$3,209,511)	-	-
(\$170,566)	-	(\$922,711)	(\$1,011,832)
\$1,360,751	\$3,736,402	\$202,268,956	\$196,421,975
\$1,001,480	-	\$98,552,835	\$93,227,638
\$131,674	-	\$6,756,404	\$6,337,029
(\$159,855)	-	(\$754,897)	(\$1,011,832)
\$973,299	-	\$104,554,342	\$98,552,835
\$387,452	\$3,736,402	\$97,714,615	\$97,869,140
\$270,135	\$5,000,839	-	\$97,869,140

Visitor Information Centre

Slave Lake Region has recently published its 2018 Tourism & Recreation Guide. Download your copy at mdlr.ca/Publications.



Stop by and inquire about local activities and tourism opportunities. And be sure to check out the gift shop showcasing work from talented local artists and craftspeople. Learn more about the area at slavelakeregion.ca.

DID YOU KNOW THE MD HAS...

7 HAMLETS 	49 BRIDGES 	4 FIRE HALLS 
74KM OF WATER MAINS 	65KM OF WASTEWATER MAINS 	2 LOADERS 
10,074KM² SIZE OF THE MD 	1,168KM² SIZE OF THE LAKE 	2,803 RESIDENTS 
53 FULL-TIME POSITIONS 	697KM OF MUNICIPAL ROADS 	5 GRADERS 
119,067 ACRES OF LAND UNDER AGRICULTURAL USE 	10,258 CATTLE & CALVES 	131 FARMS 

Rural Addressing is a standardized system of *identifying* local rural properties

To learn about sign specifications, installation and other valuable information, mdlsr.ca/Rural-Address.

It's critical that emergency responders in Lesser Slave River are able to locate your home or business in times of emergencies.

Whether delivering a package or dealing with a critical situation, a key piece of the equation involves finding the right location in a timely manner. After considerable planning, the MD's Transportation and Infrastructure department has begun the ambitious task of overhauling its rural addressing system. This overhaul is essential to synchronizing all MD addresses with geolocation systems used by MD service providers, emergency dispatchers and other municipal entities. While many homeowners have likely grown familiar with their current rural addresses, almost all of these addresses (1,784 in total) must

be changed in order to pinpoint geographic locations faster and with greater accuracy.

In coming weeks, contractors will begin the process of traveling throughout the MD to install new, geo-referenced rural address signs at farms, businesses and residences. A small percentage of MD residents will keep their old rural address but will receive new signs for consistency. Installed at no expense to landowners, these new signs will meet provincial standards, will be recognized by Google Maps, and — most importantly — will allow emergency responders and other service

providers to instantly locate a given residence anywhere across the MD with pinpoint accuracy.

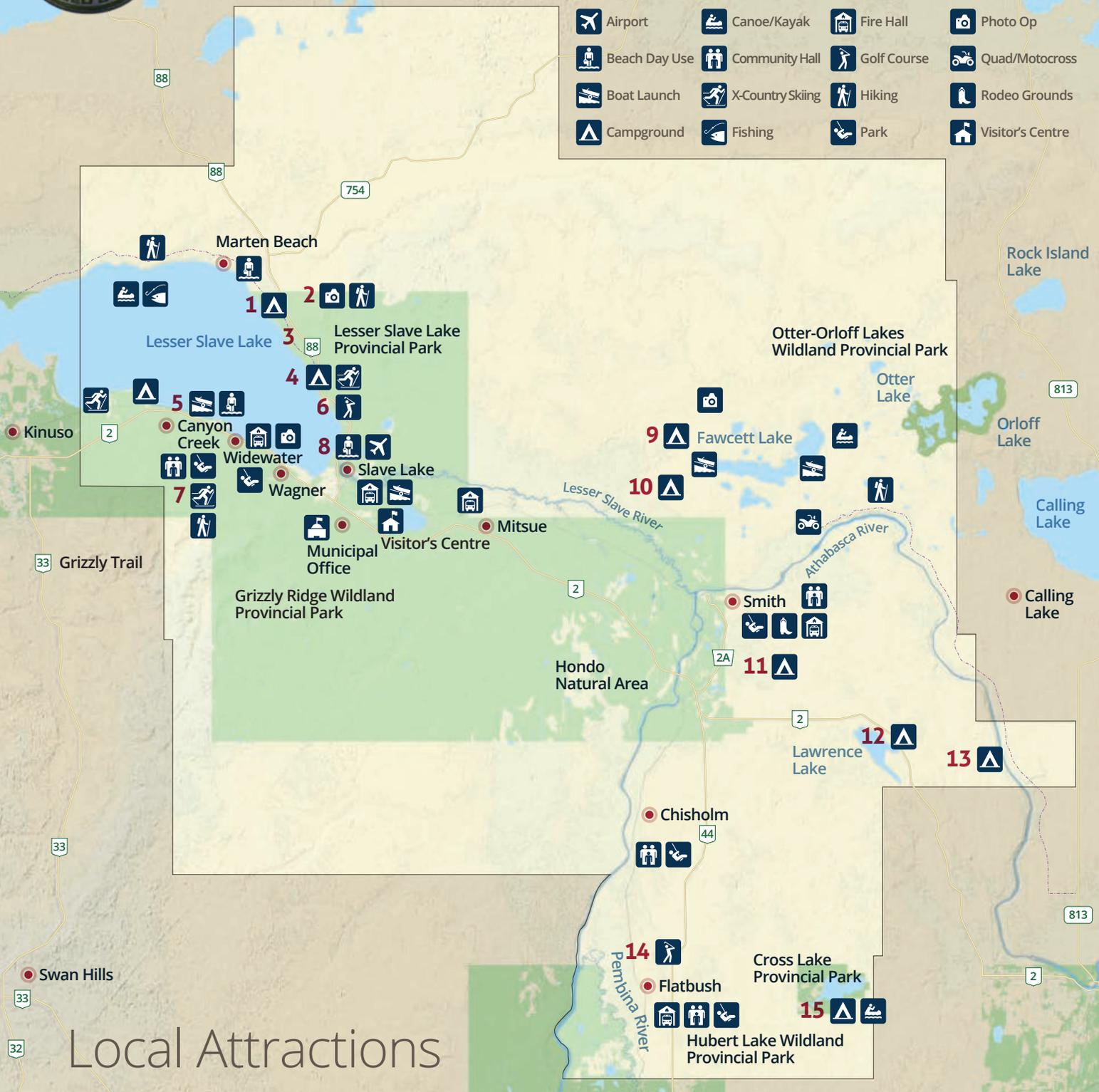
Once the new signage has been installed, each resident will receive a letter from the MD indicating their new rural address and providing related info regarding the new system. After the signage replacement program is complete, residents will be responsible for the cost to produce and install any future replacements. This update will result in numerous benefits to residents across the MD, from added convenience to shaving precious minutes off a critical response.



Lesser Slave River

Legend

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Airport | Canoe/Kayak | Fire Hall | Photo Op |
| Beach Day Use | Community Hall | Golf Course | Quad/Motocross |
| Boat Launch | X-Country Skiing | Hiking | Rodeo Grounds |
| Campground | Fishing | Park | Visitor's Centre |



Local Attractions

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park | 6 Gilwood Golf & Country Club | 11 Mosquito Lake Resort |
| 2 Marten Mountain Viewpoint | 7 Nine Mile Creek Recreation Area | 12 Lawrence Lake Provincial Rec Area |
| 3 Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory | 8 Devonshire Beach (Day Use Area) | 13 Chain Lakes Provincial Rec Area |
| 4 Lily Lake Campground | 9 Fawcett Lake Provincial Rec Area | 14 Flatbush River Valley Golf Course |
| 5 Canyon Creek Harbour & Campgrounds | 10 Anchor Inn Resort | 15 Cross Lake Provincial Park |



Photograph courtesy of Travel Alberta



Lesser Slave River
mdlsr.ca