

Delegations

Delegations are individuals or groups who request permission to appear before Council to speak on a particular issue, or with whom Council has requested a meeting.

MP David Yurdiga—Fort McMurray/Athabasca Constituency—Meet and Greet

- MP David Yurdiga met with County Council to discuss opportunities and priorities for Lac La Biche County.
- Council discussed the federal funding available to Canadian municipalities for infrastructure development and upgrades, including the Federal Gas Tax program. This program is legislated as a permanent source of federal infrastructure funding, worth \$2 billion annually.
- Council also discussed the impact recent changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker program have had on business—especially the service industry—in Alberta. Council suggested that more leniency be allowed in the west, where there are more jobs than available employees. MP Yurdiga indicated that the program had been abused in the past, particularly in the east where unemployment is high, and that the federal government is committed to the new restrictions. MP Yurdiga mentioned a fast-track immigration process for skilled workers, and suggested that perhaps this could be expanded to include service industry employment as well.
- MP Yurdiga encouraged Council and Administration to compile a list of the County's funding priorities for 2015, which he will bring forward in Ottawa.

New Business

Land Use Bylaw

- Council reviewed the County's new draft Land Use Bylaw (LUB) for the third time with Administration. Final questions from Council were addressed. The LUB is an important zoning document that ensures development in the County occurs strategically, efficiently and safely. It governs what kinds of land use activities can happen in a particular area.
- Council discussed the topic of work camps in the County at length. In the end, Council made a motion to incorporate the following regulation into the draft Land Use Bylaw: Work camps will not be allowed within a 30 km radius from the hamlet boundaries of Lac La Biche and Plamondon, and a 10 km radius from all remaining hamlets and multi-lot residential subdivisions (exceeding six lots). The majority of Council members supported this guideline; however it was included in the draft bylaw as a starting point for discussions with residents.

Regular Council Meeting

January 13, 2015

- The draft LUB will be available for public review and input on January 16, 2015. It will be available online, along with a survey to record feedback. There will also be two open houses for residents to provide feedback—one in Plamondon at the Festival Centre on January 27, 2015 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and one in Lac La Biche at McArthur Place on January 28, 2015 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Lac La Biche County 2015-2018 Communications Plan

- Council approved a new three-year County Communications Plan. The plan outlines a number of goals, priorities and tactics to improve and enhance communications between County staff, Council, residents and other levels of government.
- The plan was developed by the Strategic Communications Planning Team comprised of two members of Council and four members of Administration. The team will monitor the success of the plan and update it annually.
- The plan will be introduced to County management and staff and made available to the public on the County's website.