



TOWN OF HINTON



2025[°]

YEAR IN REVIEW

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Mayor's Message

QQ *This Council feels we were elected to get things done. We look forward to the challenge and are excited about the work ahead.*

However, good government is cumulative and as we look back, I would like to thank the previous Council for their service and commitment to making Hinton the best it can be. 99

Mayor Brian LaBerge





Councillors

Hinton is governed by a Mayor and six Councillors who make decisions for the town. They work together to set policies and guide how the town operates. Each Councillor represents the whole community. The Mayor and Councillors are elected every four years. The current Council was elected in October 2026 and will serve until 2029.

Residents can attend council meetings and are encouraged to speak with Council members any time. Information is available here: <https://hinton.civicweb.net/Portal>



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How We Work



Vision

Respectful of our past while creating our future, with a safe, active outdoor lifestyle, culturally rich and diverse, Hinton is a community of opportunity.



Mission

Hinton Town Council serves the interests of citizens to enable our community to reach its full potential.

- Making decisions to meet the needs of the present without compromising the long- term viability of Hinton
- Fostering positive relationships
- Promoting Hinton's strengths and capturing sustainable opportunities
- Ensuring municipal service delivery supports the changing needs of Hinton



Land Acknowledgment

The Town of Hinton respectfully acknowledges that it is located on the First People's traditional lands. We recognize this traditional territory to show respect and understanding to those who walked this land since time immemorial.

Today, we uphold our ongoing responsibility to work together in the spirit of the intent of the Treaties with all the First Peoples and Nations that call this place home. The Town expresses gratitude for the opportunity to build a better community on these sacred lands for generations to come.



Chief Administrative Office



2025 was an exciting and productive year and I'm proud of our accomplishments.

Many of the year's achievements were built quietly, some over many years, through strong collaboration between Council, staff, community partners, government agencies, and dedicated advocates. Seeing these initiatives come together is a testament to the commitment of everyone involved.

We expect continued momentum in 2026 while welcoming new ideas and direction from the 2025-2029 Mayor and Council.



Jordan Panasiuk
Chief Administrative Officer

CAO Highlights

- Taking a big step toward modernizing the Recreation Centre.
- The highest level of housing starts in a decade.
- Enhancing beautification and maintenance of parks and sports fields.
- Replacing Alder Park playground.
- Undertaking the largest rehabilitation of the Beaver Boardwalk since its original construction, all funded by grants.
- Advancing the Town's long-term strategy to ensure sustainable water and wastewater networks.
- Strengthening emergency preparedness through expanded training and partnership with Hinton Search & Rescue.
- Significant Firesmart™ initiatives.
- Selected as a host community for the Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting Team.

Community & Protective Services



QQ I am proud of the professionalism and dedication shown by our staff throughout 2025 and am confident that Community & Protective Services is well positioned to meet the evolving needs of our community in 2026 and beyond. 99

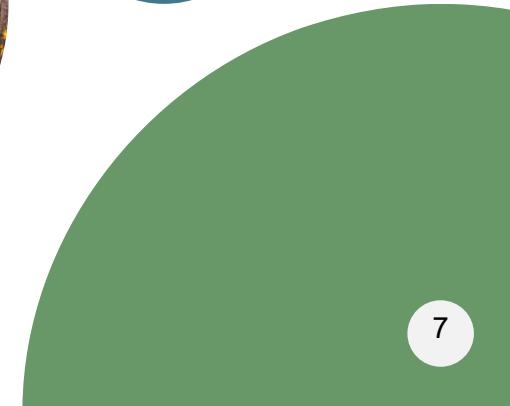
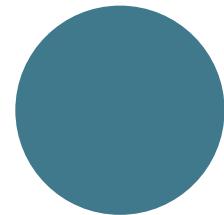
Chris Murphy
Director of Community &
Protective Services

The Community & Protective Services Department plays a central role in supporting the well-being, safety, and quality of life of residents.

In 2025, department teams demonstrated resilience, collaboration, and innovation while delivering essential services across the department's units.

- Family & Community Support Services
- Health & Safety
- Hinton Municipal Library
- Parks, Recreation & Culture
- Protective Services

The department's integrated structure continues to ensure that social well-being, recreation, culture, safety, and workplace health are addressed holistically.





Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and Transportation

Hinton FCSS promotes inclusion and equity by offering preventive programs, community development initiatives, and building social supports.

FCSS Coordinators provide programs for Individual Supports; Family Life; Community Connections; child, youth, and parenting programs; and home support services.

FCSS also oversees a municipally funded public transit service and the Freedom Express bus service.

Operating Highlights

- A new "55+ and Thriving" seniors' program was developed. About 20 seniors regularly attend.
- Discovery Camp had about 85 families and 130 children participate. Eight sponsors donated \$3,140.
- The 2025 Community Volunteer Income Tax program completed 492 tax returns.
- 33 seniors' events were held during Seniors Week in June.
- Hinton Family Centre had 405 families use the drop in space and outreach programs.
- Hinton Youth Centre partnered with both community high schools, garnering 45 more participants than in 2024.
- Full day care was offered at Hinton Kids for Success during the provincial teachers' strike. Hinton Family Centre and Hinton Youth Centre increased their hours during this time.
- Hinton Rural Renewal Stream provided 23 endorsement letters for potential employees.
- There were 25% more applications for Freedom Express bus service.
- A new Public Transit System route was created and hours altered. This increased ridership by 12%.

FCSS and Transportation - Projects



Regional Palliative Care Training

Hinton FCSS hosted the Alberta Hospice Palliative Care Association to provide 25 caregivers with Community Palliative Care Training. Event partners included Hinton Health Care Foundation, Alberta Health Services, and BRIDGES Society.



Hinton Men's Shed

Hinton's very first Men's Shed began on September 9, 2025. FCSS partnered with BRIDGES and 26 men attended the first meeting. A community volunteer led the group.



Low Income Transit Pass Program

The Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services provided \$17,645 for the third year of a Low-Income Transit Pass Program. Partners included BRIDGES, Hinton Employment and Learning Place, Hinton Food Bank, HIV West Yellowhead Society, and Yellowhead Emergency Shelter for Women.



Additional Home Support for 55+

Funding from Healthy Aging Alberta helped Home Support workers promote the well-being of 37 adults aged 55-plus.



Revitalizing Neighbour Connections Through Giving

The Canadian Mental Health Association provided funding to spark kindness, reduce loneliness, and create a sense of belonging—one neighbour at a time. Partners included the Hinton Rural Mental Health Action team, Hinton FCSS, Hinton Friendship Centre, Hinton Municipal Library, Hinton Employment and Learning Place and BRIDGES Society for Mental Wellness.





Health & Safety

Operating Highlights

- Created audit toolkits for Town departments.
- Provided hazard and field level hazard assessment training for Town workers.
- Initiated a Psychological Health and Safety program for Town staff.
- Collaborated with Occupational Health & Safety for inspections of Municipal Districts, Towns, and Villages.
- Added a certificate of recognition (COR) auditor to Town staff.
- The Town of Hinton scored 85% on its maintenance audit, confirming that the Town complies with regulations.
- Worked with the Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association and Alberta Occupational Health & Safety to brainstorm how best to communicate to Albertans about the care needed when digging underground.





Hinton Municipal Library

Operating Highlights

- Over 740 total participants for Storytimes.
- 70 participants for Book Clubs.
- 280 Hinton children under five years old are receiving a free book every month, thanks to the Rotary Club of Hinton's funding of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.
- Public computers were used for more than 3,000 hours in over 5,000 sessions.
- Study rooms were booked over 500 times.
- 70 exams were monitored in 2025, more than double those in 2024.
- Library patrons borrowed over \$500,000 worth of items.
- A book sale with the Friends of the Hinton Library funded the purchase of a new 3D printer.





- Participated in the Go Girl Conference, Wildfire Preparation Workshops, Hey Neighbour initiative, Coats for Kids, and Snow Much Fun.
- Hosted an author talk with local survivalist Scott Sunderwald and his book *Radically Wild*.
- Updated the borrowing collection with travel books, books in other languages (French and Tagalog), and the manga collection.
- Partnered with Friends of the Hinton Library on a Gifts from Santa program, giving out brand new books to the first 100 kids aged 12 and under who registered.
- Hosted the Alberta Community Art Club's Association Northern Zone Art Show, which included a showcase and adjudication.

Hinton Municipal Library - Projects



Fossil Display

Received the loan of an Edmontosaurus skull and fossil fragments from the Royal Tyrrell Museum and hosted an unveiling party that had over 240 participants.



Supported Emergency Preparedness & Response

Purchased a photo scanner as part of our support of the town's emergency preparedness efforts, available for patrons to use to easily digitize their photos and documents.



Alberta 2024 Wildfire Summer Recovery Grants Program from the Red Cross

Funded commemorative Heart-to-Art mural of community artwork; and Back-to-School supplies for borrowing (laptops, graphing calculators, headphones).



Parks, Recreation & Culture

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Service Branch supports cultural, sports, and recreation programs in Hinton. Services include maintaining and booking facilities at Dr. Duncan Murray Recreation Centre; maintaining parks, trails, the Woodlawn Cemetery, and playgrounds; and planning events.

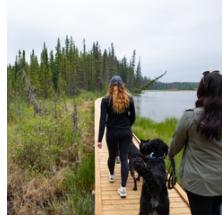
Operating Highlights

- Increased Level of Service for playgrounds and sports fields. Two staff were dedicated to playground maintenance, and one to sports field maintenance. The ball diamonds at Gordon Moore Park were in such great condition that provincial championships were moved to Hinton!
- The Pickleball courts at Father Gerard Redmond Catholic School received a new sound barrier, while the tri-sport court in the valley had sections repainted under warranty.
- A three-year weed spraying pilot project began. Weeds were sprayed in high traffic areas (Switzer Drive, Highway 16 East and West boulevards, Green Square, at the cemetery, and on sports fields.
- Five 'Dive in Movies' were held at the aquatic centre.
- Over 14,795 kg of waste was removed from illegal encampments on municipal lands. This clean-up required over 200 hours of contracted labour and 80 hours of in-house labour.





Parks, Recreation & Culture - Projects



Beaver Boardwalk Repairs

Repairs were completed on sections K, L, and M. Approximately 15 metres of Section L were completely replaced.



New Alder Park Playground

The Alder Park playground was fully replaced and enhanced with accessible features and composite woodchip ground cover. The design was chosen by the community!



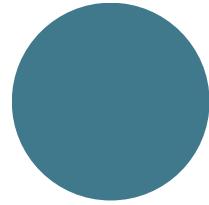
Pool Climbing Wall Replaced

A new see-through, angled climbing wall was purchased to replace the previous amenity, offering greater safety, more of a challenge, and even more fun!



Wayfinding Signage & Library Entrance

The Library entrance log structures were replaced along with 10 directional signs.



Protective Services

Hinton's Protective Services Unit - Community Peace Officers, Disaster Services, Hinton Fire Rescue, and the Hinton RCMP Detachment – work together to keep our community safe, prepared and resilient.

This year highlights the collaboration across agencies and dedication of staff who serve Hinton with professionalism and commitment.

Operating Highlights

- The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Team supported wildfires in Sturgeon County, Red Earth and Swan Hills. They also led FireSmart™ activities including 112 residential assessments in Hinton and the Willow Creek area.
- A new Manager of Protective Services/Fire Chief was hired.
- Two new pieces of equipment were purchased for Hinton Fire Rescue: one Bush 25A (one-ton truck used to tow a structural protection unit trailer) and a FireSmart™ trailer.
- Hinton Fire Rescue participated in Canada Day, a Hinton Fire Hall Open House, community fundraising events, Remembrance Day, and the snow-flake parade.
- Peace Officers addressed more than 2,016 calls.
- In December 2025, there were 2021 municipal enforcement files for the year. Files covered assisting other agencies/departments (560), animal control (356), traffic offences (236), nuisance (169), and animal licences (114).
- Over 177 kg (390 lbs) of food was collected for Hinton's Food Bank during the Stuff-The-Cruiser Event.
- Joint Force Operations were conducted with Hinton's RCMP.





Protective Services - Projects



Willow Creek FireSmartTM Activities

The Town of Hinton partnered with West Fraser and Mondi on FireSmartTM activities. About 18 hectares were treated by felling trees, mulching, and removing dead trees.



Junior Firefighter Program

The Junior Firefighter Program offers students ages 16 to 18 a hands-on, skill-building introduction to firefighting through real-world training, teamwork, and personal growth.



Emergency Service Technician Program Support

Hinton Fire Rescue supports Lakeland College by providing practicum experience to students to help solidify their firefighter skills.



Responded to 414 Fire Rescue Calls

Included 163 commercial / residential alarm calls, 74 motor vehicle collisions, 58 mutual aid / emergency management service calls, 43 outdoor fires, and 19 structure fires.



South Fireguard Mulching

Dense regrowth was removed and low-depth mulching conducted on 58.2 hectares of overgrown fireguard between Highway 40 South and Highway 16, to limit future wildfire intensity.

Corporate Services



I appreciate the Corporate Services team for creating a supportive and inclusive workplace. They adapted well to challenges and changing priorities, showing resilience and professionalism. Their behind-the-scenes efforts strengthened partnerships across departments.

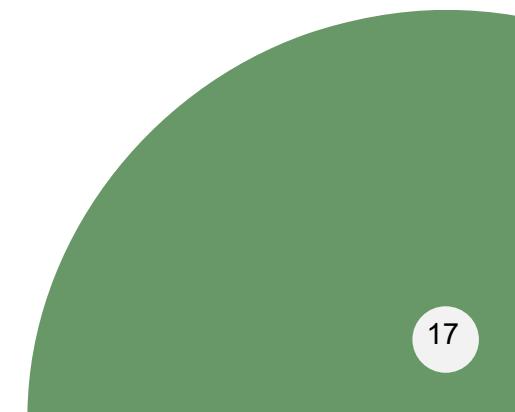
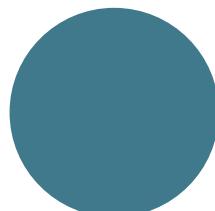


Alicia Bourbeau
Director of Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Department is an internal resource to other Town departments. It:

- Provides financial support
- Prepares and administers the budget
- Completes accounting
- Maintains Town information technology and provides IT support
- Develops bylaws and policies
- Creates and coordinates internal and external communications.

Service units include Accounting and Administrative Support, Communications, Information Technology, and Legislative Services.





Operating Highlights

- An online project hub was launched (www.hinton.ca/engage) to provide a single point of information about major projects.
- A municipal election was held to determine the new Mayor and Councillors for 2026 to 2029.
- A plebiscite was held to provide direction from residents to Council about recreation centre modernization options.
- Information Technology staff, contractors, and the legal team effectively assessed and recovered from a February 2025 cyber security incident.
- A photography contractor collected seasonal photos for communications.
- Town merchandise was updated, increasing the branded items available to support external organizations.
- Accounting and payroll software upgrades helped staff increase productivity.
- Almost two-thirds of the utility invoices sent to homeowners were electronic—double the 2024 rate.
- Seven Access to Information requests were completed.
- Five new bylaws were adopted and seven bylaws were amended.
- The hinton.ca website had over 146,000 active users and over 473,000 views.



Development & Infrastructure Services



The Development and Infrastructure team delivered an outstanding number of capital projects which strengthened and enhanced the Town's services to residents.

Major upgrades included Switzer/Kelley intersection paving, Switzer Drive Watermain Rehabilitation, pumphouse upgrades, and roofing repairs.

Proactive maintenance and infrastructure replacement reflected a strong drive for responsible asset management. The Town is pushing the boundaries of sustainability and technological innovation with water meter implementation and upgrades to water and sewer system controls. These achievements ensure reliability, safety, and long-term resilience for our Town.



Trent McLaughlin
Director of Development &
Infrastructure Services

The Development & Infrastructure Services Department maintains the Town's physical assets. It is responsible for:

- Building maintenance
- Business licences
- Community planning
- Engineering
- Fire hydrants
- Fleet vehicles
- Mapping
- Municipal capital projects and land management
- Roads and sidewalks
- Subdivision development
- Utilities: garbage, sewer, water
- Water Treatment Plant



Service units include Building Maintenance, Planning & Development, Public Works, and Utilities.



Building Maintenance and Capital Infrastructure

Operating Highlights

- Annual Arena Shutdown - Included annual repairs to the arenas and ammonia plant rooms plus preparations for the new ammonia plant in 2026.
- Annual Pool Shutdown - Included installing test sites for non-slip tile, upgrading emergency lights and steam room lights, tile repairs, and grouting.
- Hinton Centre – A new lease operator began August 2025 for a five-year term.

Projects



Roof Repairs

Over 700 m² of roofing was replaced on the Guild, Infrastructure Services Building, and the recreation centre. Minor repairs were also completed on the RCMP Detachment roof.



BTA Boiler Replacement

During the Arena Shutdown, two new high-efficient boilers and hot water tanks were installed.



Building Maintenance- Projects



Tube Heater Replacements at both Arenas

During the Arena Shutdown, contractors replaced 11 tube heaters and two unit heaters. These will be more efficient, reliable, and increase comfort for spectators.



Security Upgrades at the Infrastructure Services Building

Security cameras, access control, and alarm monitoring systems were upgraded to protect the facility from theft and property damage.



Security Camera Upgrades at the Recreation Centre

New security cameras and motion sensors were installed at the recreation centre to improve staff and customer safety, and mitigate property damage and vandalism incidents.



Golf Club HVAC replacement

Critical upgrades to the Golf Club Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning system began.

Capital Infrastructure - Projects



Switzer Drive Road Rehabilitation

The Switzer Drive–Kelley Road intersection was fully reconstructed. The Swanson to Swanson section was milled and overlaid by new asphalt.



Wooden Stave Pipe Replacement

the Town partnered with Mondi to replace the 1979 900-metre-long wooden water intake pipeline with a 1.2 metre diameter plastic pipe.



Residential Water Meter Installation

Residential water meter installation began in the fourth quarter of 2025 and the project was 50 percent complete by the end of the year.



Public Works

Operating Highlights

- Fire hydrants were painted according to NFPA standards which indicate available pressure and flow for the fire department.
- Extensive asphalt patching was completed to maintain road integrity and safety. Spray patching and sealing addressed large cracks in paved roads.
- Concrete catch basins, curbs, and sidewalks were repaired.
- Annual road line painting was completed.
- Calcium chloride brine was applied to gravel roads within town limits to harden the gravel surface and control dust.
- Snow and ice were actively managed through the winter. Roads were plowed, ice control measures applied, and snow removed.

Projects



Public Works Week Celebrations: May 18 - 24, 2025

Town staff and machinery went to elementary schools in Hinton to share what they do and answer questions from students. There was also a Meet & Greet with staff and a free BBQ for the public.



Fleet Replacements

The following fleet units were replaced: a sewer flusher; street sweeper; Toolcat which is used by the parks department year-round; building maintenance vehicle; and heavy duty pickup truck.



GPS Tracking Devices Added

Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking devices were upgraded in all Town owned fleet vehicles to ensure driver safety and help prevent theft.



Traffic Light Controllers Installed

Traffic light controllers along Switzer Drive were obsolete, and parts were no longer available so controller cabinets were upgraded.

Utility Services

Operating Highlights

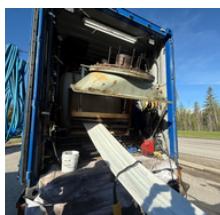
- Fire hydrants were flushed to maintain water quality; sewers were flushed to prevent blockages and maintain wastewater system efficiency; wastewater lift stations were cleaned to prevent blockages.
- All of Hinton's sewer lines that were installed before 1975 were assessed to identify issues and the need for future replacement.
- Fire hydrant repairs began.
- Computers that control Hinton's water distribution and wastewater collection system were upgraded to ensure water infrastructure reliability.

Projects



Hillcrest Reservoir and Pumphouse Upgrades

Pumps supplying potable water and pressure to the upper hill district were replaced, along with various electrical components.



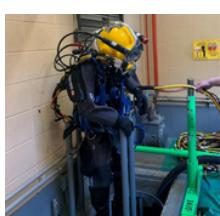
Switzer Watermain Lining Project

Watermains supplying water to the Hill were lined to reduce water loss through leaking old underground pipes



Bulk Water Station Improvements

Improvements increased the safety of potable water supply, reducing cross contamination risk, and aligning the bulk water station with current legislation.



Reservoir Cleaning

Water reservoirs were cleaned and inspected by a SCUBA diver. This routine maintenance is completed about every 10 years.



Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

This included replacing variable frequency drives, particulate membrane modules, chlorine analyser instruments, large particulate strainers, and UV Reactor Logic Controllers.



Planning & Development

Operating Highlights

- A development permit was issued for the Province of Alberta to develop 21 modular home units at 134 Boutin Avenue.
- Development permits worth a total of \$36 million were issued.
- Permits included: 134 building permits, 89 electrical permits, 19 plumbing permits, and 26 gas permits.
- A total of 47 housing units were approved.
- Received a three-year grant of \$147,000 from the Government of Canada for short-term rental enforcement.
- The Land Use Bylaw was amended to expand the short-term rental category.

Projects



Short Term Rental Enforcement

Properties that offer short term rental accommodations were analyzed to ensure that they have the correct licences and permits. Enforcement efforts were undertaken for those out of compliance.



Strategic Projects



The team continued to focus on projects that support current and future opportunities for the Town of Hinton.

By encouraging strong collaboration and open communication, we're undertaking initiatives that enhance the Town and keep up with changing market conditions.



Winston Rossouw
Director of Strategic Projects

The Strategic Projects Department is primarily responsible for responding to Council's strategic initiatives. The Department engages with regional leaders and external government departments to develop initiatives, respond to emerging opportunities, and collaborate on larger projects.

Continuing Projects

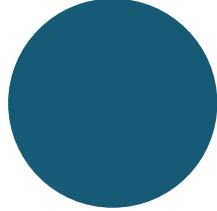
- Community Resilience Plan: A gap analysis was completed for a Community Resilience Plan. The plan will help Hinton prioritize actions that improve climate resilience and will be available in 2026.
- Infill Strategy: Options are being reviewed for developing Town-owned lands.
- Housing in Hinton: Options are being explored to develop a Seniors 'campus of care' on the Boutin Lands adjacent to the Pine Valley Lodge. Other housing needs are also being researched.

Completed Project



Energy Audit

Completed an energy audit of the Dr. Duncan Murray Recreation Center and Hinton Municipal Library utilizing \$7,500 from the Community Energy Conservation Grant.



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