

BUSINESS LICENSING

Lac La Biche County's Business Licensing Program is officially in action, but there's no need to panic. There's a six-month grace period for businesses to join the program at no cost for the entire first year. There will be small fees for businesses that get their licences after July 1, 2023, and there will be annual renewal fees for all businesses, unless they qualify for an exemption or hold non-profit status.

Any business operating in the County requires a valid licence. Why? It's been years since the County had a complete list of all businesses that are active in the area and who's running them, and this is vital information for us to have. Up-to-date business statistics are useful not only for us, but also for investors who may want to open new businesses here or expand existing ones.

Licensed businesses can also opt to be included in an online directory on the County's website. We will use this to promote local businesses and communicate more effectively with our business community.

For more information about the program, and to apply for a business licence online, visit laclabichecounty.com and click on "Business License Application" in the menu under "Our Services." If you have more questions, please call Heather Stromquist, Acting Manager, Economic Development at (780) 520-7419.



Chef Tao's Restaurant is the latest local business to benefit from our Business Improvement Program, a new initiative to help business owners improve their premises. Successful program applicants can have up to 20 per cent of their eligible improvement costs covered, to a maximum of \$20,000. Visit the County's website for more information about the program.

Have your say about a new and improved Land Use Bylaw

The Land Use Bylaw affects every inch of Lac La Biche County. We mean that literally — the bylaw contains regulations for every single property, from vacant land to industrial plants.

Rewriting the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) is a big job but an important one, and we want your help. Any development that takes place in the County has to comply with the LUB, so if you have an opinion about local development, then now's the time to share it.

Stay tuned for upcoming public consultations. We want to hear from as many people as possible. At any time, you can contact Planning Technician Sheeja Vimalan at (780) 623-6755 or sheeja.vimalan@laclabichecounty.com to ask questions and give feedback.



You don't need to be a developer to give input. If there are certain developments you want to see (or not) in the County, then we want to hear your thoughts. If you want urban residents to be able to keep chickens in their backyards, then reach out and tell us. Again, we're being serious — a revamped LUB can address backyard poultry, which matters to a lot of people. 

Every municipality in Alberta has a LUB, so there's no getting around it, but it's important for us to have one that meets developers' needs and helps our community grow. As we work to attract new residents and businesses, we need to make sure our LUB gives everybody something to crow about... even if it's just chickens in the backyard.

Council approves Land Acknowledgement for Lac La Biche County

After consulting with Indigenous partners, Council has approved the following official Land Acknowledgement for the County:

ENGLISH

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional and ancestral lands of the First Nations peoples of Treaty 6, Treaty 8 and Treaty 10 territories and the Homeland of the Métis people. Lac La Biche County continues to be home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial, and we recognize the vital contributions of Indigenous culture, history and perspectives in our shared past, present and future.

FRENCH/FRANÇAIS

Nous reconnaissons respectueusement les terres traditionnelles et ancestrales des peuples des Premières Nations faisant partie des territoires visés par le Traité n° 6, le Traité n° 8 et le Traité n° 10 ainsi que la terre natale des Métis. Le comté de Lac La Biche abrite les peuples autochtones depuis des temps immémoriaux, et nous reconnaissons l'apport essentiel de la culture, de l'histoire et des perspectives autochtones à notre passé, notre présent et notre avenir collectifs.

We would like to thank all of our Indigenous partners who helped us take this step, and we are proud to make our Land Acknowledgement available in Indigenous languages. A Dene translation is coming soon.

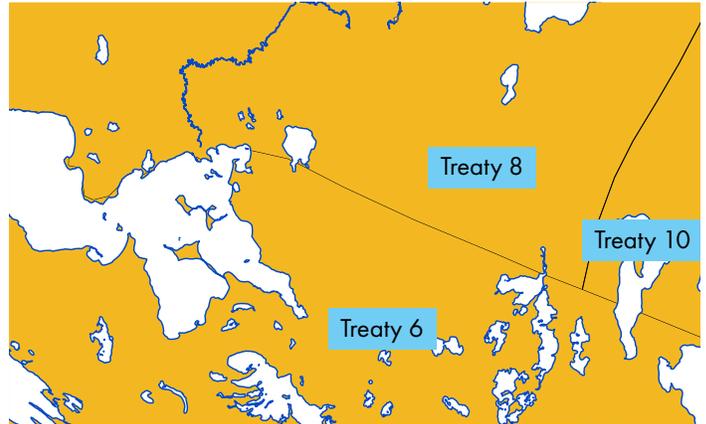
CREE

Nimanācitānān naskwēyasihtamōwin nēhīyaw ōtipamakan askiya ēkwa ōtipimiso askiy. Wāwāskēsiw sakahikanihk kiyāpic nēhīyaw isiyiniw ēwīkiw aspin ohci kakiskisihk ēkwa nisitawēyitfinan nēhīyaw kayas pimacihowin ēkwa ēwāpatamahk asonamātōwin pīci ōtahk, anohc mēkwac, ēkwa ōfīnikan.

 Plains Cree translation provided by Lac La Biche Canadian Native Friendship Centre. Northern Michif translation provided by Métis Knowledge Holder Sky Blue Morin.

There is more to be done, and we know it.

A Land Acknowledgement is a positive step forward, but we are happy to say it's not the only step we are taking. An Indigenous Collaboration Committee of County Councillors and Indigenous community leaders is now meeting regularly to build relationships and discuss items of mutual interest. Internally, the County has also started a group called Focus Indigenous, to help educate employees and promote reconciliation within our organization. The group's work is guided by the Seven Grandfather Teachings (at right), which are a basis for respectful living in multiple Indigenous cultures, and inspired by the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 57th call to action, which called on all levels of government to provide education and training for public servants.



Our County is unique because it's situated on the lands of three different Treaties and Region One of the Métis Nation of Alberta, and it directly neighbours three First Nations reserves and two Alberta Métis Settlements.

A Land Acknowledgement is a crucial step on the path towards true reconciliation. We also recognize the Treaty relationships that exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, and call on all of our residents to learn more about this in the spirit of reconciliation.

NORTHERN MICHIF

Neyanān meyo totumakew'iyahk nusk'wesihāmāyhk anihī kayās ochi kākē itotumihk mēna wāhkomākunak uskēa ochi First Nations āyisēniwāhk ochi Treaty 6, Treaty 8 mēna Treaty 10 ooma uskēkana mēna anima Neginān'uskē ochi li Metis āyisēniwak. Lac La Biche County āhkume'yihta neginān kichi Indigenous āyisēniwak isko kēsikāw tipahikun namoya wekāch pooni'payiw, mēna neyanān nistāwi'namahk anihī kēchi'towun pukitinih'towina ochi Indigenous kayās'pimātsowin, kayās'āchimowin mēna meskwēhtu'mowina oma keyanāw pāhkwe'numawewin kayās'ochi, āyāw mekwach mēna nekān ote.



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SIMPLIFIED



ONE-STOP SAFETY CODES SHOP

Starting in January, residents will have fewer steps to make on their Planning & Development journeys.

As part of managing local development, the County is also responsible for Safety Codes permits. For the past several years, The Inspections Group Inc. has issued these permits for us and completed necessary inspections. Now we're going to receive and process permit applications ourselves.

What does this mean for me? It means our Planning & Development team will work with you directly on Safety Codes permits. While the inspections will still be done by a third party, you'll only need to coordinate with us in most cases.

What even are Safety Codes permits? Safety Codes permits ensure that structures and all of their components like wiring and plumbing are built properly. The Government of Alberta makes the rules and sets standards, and it's our responsibility to make sure they're followed. The size and type of your project will determine the permits you need, and we can help you figure that all out.

For more information, please contact our Planning & Development team at (780) 623-1747 or planning.development@laclabichcounty.com.

Want your tax notice by email?

Council is considering a proposed bylaw that will allow property owners to sign up for electronic tax notices.

Right now, our normal way of doing things is to mail tax notices to all ratepayers. Alberta's *Municipal Government Act* was recently changed to allow email as another way to officially provide notice.

If Council passes Bylaw 22-014, the Electronic Tax and Assessment Communication Bylaw, receiving your tax notice by email will be an opt-in service. If you don't ask to sign up for electronic notices, you will continue to get printed notices mailed to you.

For more information about the proposed bylaw, please contact Finance Supervisor Sandra Charles at (780) 623-6771, or email taxes@laclabichcounty.com.



Teen Chill Zone

The winters in Lac La Biche County are long, but with good cheer, good company and good food, the weather outside can be a little less frightful.

Teen Chill Zone is a free program for local teenagers to try new experiences, make new friends and expand their horizons — and we bet it will take some of the chill out of winter, too.

Dungeons & Dragons & Deep-Dish Pizza

Friday, January 13 • 4-7 p.m. at McArthur Place
Learn how to play the classic fantasy role-playing game Dungeons & Dragons and make your very own deep-dish pizza.

Anything Goes Talent Show

Friday, January 27 • 4-7 p.m. at Festival Centre
Showcase your talent (any talent!) and remember that if all else fails, even off-key karaoke is a valid option. Supper is included. Meet the group at Festival Centre or catch the bus at the Bold Center if you need a ride to and from Plamondon.

For more information or to register, please call Community Outreach Worker Christine Martin at (780) 520-7183 or email christine.martin@laclabichcounty.com. You can also register at the Bold Center's front desk or by calling (780) 623-3829.

It Starts With Hope Parent Group

Parenting is hard. That's no secret, but a dash of hope can get you through all of life's ups and downs. It Starts With Hope Parent Group meets monthly, giving parents of children under 18 years of age a free opportunity to connect, learn together and remember they're never alone on their parenting journeys.

Like and follow Lac La Biche County Family & Community Support Services on Facebook for regular updates about upcoming sessions.



Dates to Remember

Check out our Fall 2022/Winter 2023 Community Activity Guide to find upcoming fitness classes, recreational programs and more. Read it online at boldcenter.ca or pick up a copy at the Bold Center's front desk.

February 20, 2022

Family Day. County offices will be closed, and recreational facilities will be running on holiday hours.

Family Day Festival in Alexander Hamilton Park.

For more County and community events, visit the Events Calendar on laclabichcounty.com. You can also submit your own events.



Your County in Touch is produced by Lac La Biche County and is available to every resident.

An electronic version of this newsletter is available. All you need to do is call (780) 623-1747 or provide your e-mail address to intouch@laclabichcounty.com.

Use the same contact information for any address changes, additional copies or to unsubscribe.



Learn-To-Swim Program Transition



The times, they are a-changin' at Portage Pool. The Canadian Red Cross has discontinued its Learn-to-Swim programs, so we are switching to the Lifesaving Society's Swim for Life programs this month. This transition will not affect lesson quality, and we look forward to moving through this new adventure with you.

WATER, FUN AND WORK

Do you enjoy being around water, helping people, gaining leadership skills and having fun at work? If yes, Aquatic Services is the place for you.

You can start taking lifeguarding courses as early as 13 years old, and achieve Canada-wide certification by the time you're 16. Aquatics can provide a rewarding experience as either a part-time job or a lifelong career in community recreation.

PLUS: The County plans to build a brand-new Aquatics Centre, so opportunity is knocking.



We offer:

- Competitive pay and a fantastic benefits package
- Flexible work hours
- Training and professional development opportunities

For more information, contact Portage Pool: (780) 623-6777 or poolstaff@laclabichcounty.com.