

COMMUNITY SERVICES

continued

DIVISION 5 RECREATION AND CULTURE BOARD 2016 BUDGET

Division 5 Recreation and Culture Board is primarily a funding board. Annually in December and January we advertise to let residents know that applications are due by end of January. We held a review and budget meeting on February 10, 2016.

We heard application presentations from 20 groups or organizations in both the recreational and cultural areas. Each group was given a 10 minute time frame to outline their request and to allow the board members to ask questions. As a result, we set a budget of \$33,540. (Our County grant is \$31,385.25.)

These funds will directly impact 1521 residents, mostly children and youth as well as the general population in some instances (groomed ski trails, theatrical presentations, reading programs, family activities at museums in our area, etc.) In addition, included in the total budget we have set aside funds to finance our Family Reimbursement Program (see our County website for more information on this) as well as a small contingency fund to assist those who apply later in the year. Although we are a volunteer board there are some administrative costs which are less than 5% of our budget.

If you have any questions about this you are encouraged to contact your community representative, or you may call Jean Kaiser (Secretary Treasurer) at 403.728.3930.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2,000 FEET OF PAVEMENT CONNECTS RED DEER TO THE WORLD

2,000 feet of runway may not sound like a lot, but it's enough pavement to connect Red Deer to the world. It's enough pavement to bring almost 25,000 visitors and athletes to the community for the Canada Winter Games in 2019. And it's enough pavement to keep millions of local dollars here in our community every year rather than watching them trickle away to Calgary and Edmonton. Best of all, that 2,000 feet of pavement will start to work its magic within the year.

RJ Steenstra, CEO of Red Deer Airport, says the runway expansion is right on schedule; the engineering and design work began immediately after the announcement came in October that the expansion had been approved, thanks to funding from the Province of Alberta, The City of Red Deer and Red Deer County.

"The runway expansion is part of the airport's 20 year master plan, and we're excited to move the project forward," Steenstra says. "The design work was completed in January and the project went to tender in February. We're scheduled to begin construction in May, depending on the weather, complete it in September, and be operational in October."


The current runway is 5,500 feet, and the additional 2,000 feet of extension will make it possible for single aisle jets to land in Red Deer. That's a vital service to have in place before Red Deer hosts the Canada Winter Games in 2019.

"Games organizers are expecting to welcome more than 3,600 participants and 20,000 visitors during the Canada Winter Games, and the runway expansion positions the community to make that welcome seamless," says Steenstra. "Once we have the capacity to accommodate single aisle jets, we can bring those visitors straight to Red Deer. Beyond the Games, the expansion ensures that we are positioned to continue expanding the economic possibilities of central Alberta."

Steenstra says that discussions with airlines interested in tapping into the Central Alberta market are always ongoing, but the runway length has been a critical factor. A study Red Deer Airport commissioned earlier this year showed that central Albertans purchased almost 247 million US dollars in airline tickets last year, and that only 4.6% of those tickets flew out of Red Deer Airport.

"We've always had that infrastructure limitation until now," he says. "With the runway expansion, we are capitalizing on an asset that will unlock our potential to fully serve the 1,000 central Albertans who fly out of the region every day, and keep those dollars in the community. It's an exciting time for Red Deer and for the airport."

There will be no disruption in service at Red Deer Airport during the runway expansion.





red deer airport

PUBLIC NOTICE
ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

DATE Thursday
TIME 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
MAY 5
2016

LOCATION
Sheraton Red Deer
Santano Room
(3310 - 50th Avenue, Red Deer)

www.FlyRedDeer.com

 Red Deer Airport
 @flyreddeer