

## PROVINCE OF ALBERTA PROPOSES CHANGES TO OIL AND GAS ASSESSMENT MODEL

The County of Two Hills has recently been informed of changes proposed by the Province of Alberta which will reduce revenue municipalities collect from assessments of oil and gas facilities, wells, pipelines, and equipment.

The proposed assessment model is intended to strengthen the oil and gas industry during these difficult times. In turn, benefiting large oil and gas companies, with no obligation to reinvest in Alberta, having the smaller companies receive minimal or no benefit.

The changes to the assessment model, for oil and gas regulated properties is without serious consideration to the impact of rural municipalities and tax-bearing Albertans. These proposed changes will directly affect residents in the County of Two Hills.

**Council and Administration are extremely concerned regarding the impact of this decision and the implications the County of Two Hills will have to administer by property tax increases, reduction of services or both to compensate for the loss of revenue.**


Four possible assessment model scenarios have been presented to rural municipalities, having the scenarios designed by a committee consisting of Government Advisors and Industry Representatives. Based on the information provided by the Province, impacts for the County of Two Hills indicate a loss of approximately **8% to 12% of tax revenue which equates to 1.4 to 2 million dollars** in the first year, and increasing yearly.

Should the proposed assessment model be approved, the County of Two Hills must adjust operations, levels of service and property taxes by:

- Increasing the residential mill rate between 78.3% to 110.1%; or,
- Increasing the non-residential mill rate between 40.6% and 68.3%; or,
- Work force cuts to cover losses between 30.5% and 42.8% (16 to 22 employees), losing corresponding level of services and municipal operations; or,
- Total expense reduction (including capital infrastructure investment) between 8.43% and 11.84%.

### IMPACT TO COUNTY RATEPAYERS

Total tax revenue may decrease by as much as **12%**



Financially, the largest impact will be through increased property taxes and decreased levels of services provided by the County. Further, the County will have to decrease or eliminate support programs offered to other municipalities (including the Town of Two Hills and Village of Myrnam) or community organizations, such as recreational grants.

**AS A COUNTY COUNCIL**, the County of Two Hills is lobbying the Province, contacting Premier Jason Kenney, Municipal Affairs Minister Kaycee Madu, Energy Minister Sonya Savage and MLA, Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk.

**AS A RATEPAYER**, please contact your government officials, listed right, to state your concerns. **It is imperative you voice your opinion regarding these changes.** This matter is time sensitive as a decision made by the Province is expected shortly, your support would be greatly appreciated.



### GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL CONTACT INFORMATION

**Premier Jason Kenney**

Phone: 780-427-2251

[premier@gov.ab.ca](mailto:premier@gov.ab.ca)

**Hon. Kaycee Madu**

Minister of Municipal Affairs

Phone: 780-427-3744

[minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca](mailto:minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca)

**Hon. Sonya Savage**

Minister of Energy

Phone: 780-427-3740

[minister.energy@gov.ab.ca](mailto:minister.energy@gov.ab.ca)

**MLA, Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk**

Phone: 780-632-6840

[FortSaskatchewan.Vegreville@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:FortSaskatchewan.Vegreville@assembly.ab.ca)

The residential mill rate may increase as much as **110.1%**



For Example: A ratepayer with a 2020 Residential Property Assessment of \$351,590 paid \$1,476.68 for their residential portion of County taxes.

In 2021 that could increase to \$3,099.00, assuming no changes in other revenues or services. This example does not include school or Eagle Hill Foundation requisitions.

### SERVICES THAT MAY BE IMPACTED ARE:

- Water and Wastewater Services (increases)
- Transportation Services (Roads, Bridges, Signs, Culverts, Gravel and Snowplowing Programs)
- Recreation Services (Parks & Campgrounds)
- Protection Services (Bylaw and Enforcement, Policing Costs begin 2021)
- Garbage and Solid Waste Services
- Essential Services (Fire)
- Agricultural Services (Weed & Pest)

## AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

### CLUBROOT FIELD INSPECTIONS

Pest Inspectors will be scouting for clubroot disease and infection in canola fields until freeze-up, accessing fields via approaches.

Designated as a pest under the *Agricultural Pests Act*, Clubroot is a soil-borne disease which reduces yields of canola and other cruciferous crops. Clubroot is spread primarily through movement of soil and infected plant materials. Producers are encouraged to clean debris and disinfect equipment prior to moving to new fields to reduce the spread of clubroot to new areas.

Inspectors will follow sanitation protocols to prevent the spread of clubroot. Landowners of fields that test positive for clubroot will be notified in writing. Questions or concerns may be directed to the ASB Department at 780-657-3358.

### CALENDAR CONTEST



The Agricultural Service Board is holding a photo contest for the County's 2021 calendar. All photos must be of the County and be agriculturally related (for ex. livestock, landscape, harvest, etc.). Submissions shall be accepted from September 1, 2020 to October, 15 2020. Please visit the County of Two Hills Facebook page for submission details.

## NATURAL GAS UTILITY

### DEADLINE FOR INFILLS

The deadline for natural gas infills, including grain dryers, is September 15, 2020. Any gas infill applications after September 15, 2020 will be on a first come, first serve basis and will be installed weather permitting. For information please contact the Natural Gas Utility Office at 780-657-2446.

### CLICK BEFORE YOU DIG

All line locate projects must be registered with Alberta One Call prior to lines being located. Please contact [Click Before You Dig](#) at 1-800-242-3447 or [www.albertaonecall.com](http://www.albertaonecall.com) to register.

## PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Department would like to advertise to qualifying County residents 2020 gravel sales, available until September 30, 2020. Please contact the Public Works Office at 780-657-2499.

## WASTE

### REGIONAL LANDFILL WINTER HOURS

Please be advised that the Two Hills Regional Landfill is transitioning to Winter Hours of Operation, effective:

September 1 to April 30:	Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed all statutory holidays
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## EXTENSIVE FLOODING

The County of Two Hills Council acknowledges extensive flooding that has taken place in certain areas of the County of Two Hills and has replaced culverts and has completed substantial maintenance to roads.

Due to adverse consequences these areas are facing, the County of Two Hills Council is constantly observing the hardship these landowners are facing and is monitoring the concerns of our ratepayers and will endorse any provincial funding that may become available.

## ROAD SAFETY



As harvest nears, the County of Two Hills reminds residents of increased agricultural machinery and heavy-haul traffic on County roads. Also, as September welcomes students back to school, buses will be back in route. Please remain vigilant while utilizing County roads in order to keep our community safe.

## PARKS

### CAMPGROUND SEASONAL CLOSURE

Please be advised that Municipally operated campgrounds shall close for the 2020 season, effective September 8, 2020. Thank you to all users for participating in COVID-19 Coronavirus safety modifications at municipal parks, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

The County Office will be Closed:  
**Monday, September 7, 2020 for Labour Day**



### CONTACT US:

Box 490, 4818-50 Avenue  
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[www.thcounty.ab.ca](http://www.thcounty.ab.ca)  
Visit our Facebook Page!

**ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**  
780-657-3358

**PUBLIC WORKS**  
780-657-2499

**NATURAL GAS UTILITY**  
780-657-2446