

COALDALE

CONNECTION

Your source of all things Coaldale!

Connecting you to what matters most in our community.

Coaldale Town Council Launches New Strategic Plan

Plan adopted and launched following an extensive public engagement process.

Coaldale Town Council is pleased to announce the launch of its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. This plan outlines Council's priorities for the upcoming term, which include six focus areas for the Town over the coming years: public safety, recreation, service excellence, community growth and economic prosperity, relationships, and community experience.

"I am excited to announce the launch of Council's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, 'Inspiration to Action', which is based on responses from our residents and Council's willingness to listen," said Coaldale Mayor Jack Van Rijn. "I would like to thank our community, staff, and each member of Council for their contributions in designing a plan that takes engaging with the public seriously, and that will help shape the future of our community."

The 2021-2025 Strategic Plan came together after an extensive public consultation process that included gathering feedback from approximately 500 residents on the Town's online public engagement platform, <https://www.letsconnectcoaldale.ca>. Demographically, the feedback received was quite representative of the Town's population. Respondents of many different ages from many different areas of the Town provided valuable feedback that helped guide Council in its efforts to design a plan that truly reflects the priorities of Town residents.

Now that the plan has been launched, Council and Administration will immediately put the plan into action by striving to advance a number of top projects and advocacy priorities during the 2021-2025 term. These include, among others:

- completing Coaldale's first-class recreation centre;
- expediting improvements in Coaldale's roads, sidewalks, alleys, water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities;
- consulting the community on new recreation projects and moving forward with those projects that residents support;
- working with the Province and federal RCMP to secure a fair cost-sharing model for Coaldale; and
- advocating for appropriate response times for medical emergencies.

"As a Council we're very excited about the implementation of this plan," said Mayor Van Rijn. "Having a significant amount of input from our residents to help us craft it was vitally important for us as a group, and now we're looking forward to getting to work to make this community vision a reality for the people of Coaldale." To view the Town of Coaldale's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, please visit <http://www.coaldale.ca/CouncilStrategicPlan>.

Town of Coaldale Receives National Award for Financial Transparency

Town presented with the Canadian Award for Financial Report for third consecutive year.

The Town of Coaldale is once again proud to be the recipient of the Canadian Award for Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada - this time in recognition of its 2020 Annual Financial Report.

"This is the third consecutive year the Town has received this

award, which marks a significant achievement in its ongoing financial transparency and quality of reporting," said Kyle Beauchamp, Chief Financial Officer & Deputy CAO for the Town of Coaldale. "The award reflects the Town's efforts to clearly communicate its financial picture and to motivate residents to read the report."

Community Reminders - May

The 2022 Property Tax Notices will be mailed out by June 1, 2022.
If you have any questions about your Property Tax Notice please call the Town Office at 403-345-1300.

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The Canadian Award for Financial Reporting Program was established to encourage municipal governments throughout Canada to publish high-quality financial reports and to provide peer recognition and technical guidance for those preparing these reports. The

Town's 2020 Annual Financial Report has been judged by the impartial Canadian Review Committee members to meet the highest standards of the program. To view the Town's 2020 Annual Financial Report, please visit <https://www.coaldale.ca/annual-report>.

Coaldale Town Council Waives Development Permit and Operational Fees for the Town's Very First "Little Free Pantry"

With support from the Town, the FCSS Youth DO Crew will oversee the project.

During its April 25 Regular Council Meeting, Coaldale Town Council voted unanimously to waive all development permit and operational fees associated with the installation and maintenance of Coaldale's very first "little free pantry".

First piloted in Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 2016, "little free pantries" are little wooden boxes that resemble "little free libraries" but that contain food, personal care, and paper items instead of books. More specifically, they are give-and-take boxes intended to encourage community members to give what they can and take what they need in order to strengthen food security in a given community.

Since 2016, little free pantries have been built in a long list of communities across North America and now Coaldale will join that list. At the Town's April 25 Regular Council Meeting, representatives from the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)' Youth DO Crew came before Council to give a presentation on installing and maintaining a little free pantry in the public-right-of-way adjacent to The HUB. Impressed by the presentation, Council then voted unanimously to waive all development permit and operational fees associated with the pantry's installation and maintenance.

With the development permit and operational fees now waived, volunteers from the Youth DO Crew are excited to get started on the project. "Thank you to the Mayor and to Council for unanimously voting to approve the structure and waive operational fees for installation", said Shannon Rawluk, Youth Do Crew Coordinator and FCSS Staff. "We are SO excited to have the opportunity to bring a new give-and-take resource to our community later this year!"

Council is also excited to see the project come to fruition and confident that the DO Crew, along with FCSS staff, will do an excellent job overseeing the project. "On behalf of Council, I would like to thank the FCSS Youth DO Crew for bringing this idea to our attention and for taking a lead role in building and overseeing Coaldale's first little free pantry", said Town of Coaldale Mayor Jack Van Rijn. "I have no doubt that the construction of this pantry will have a positive impact on our community and help keep Coaldale a place where neighbours help neighbours in times of need."

What's Happening in the Community?

Swimming Lessons

This summer, the Coaldale Outdoor Pool will once again be offering swimming lessons. An in-person registration day for these lessons will be held on Friday, May 13, from 10am-7pm at the Coaldale Outdoor Pool. Beginning on Monday, May 16, and continuing throughout the summer, Town residents can register their children over the phone by calling (403) 345-1346.

Coaldale Summer Fest

This summer, Coaldale will be celebrating its very first "Summer Fest." This year's Fest is themed "Thank-You Front Line Workers" and will kick-off on the evening of Friday, August 5, with a movie in the park. Festivities will continue on Saturday, August 6, and will include a pancake breakfast fundraiser followed by the return of the Candy Parade! For more information, including on how to submit a parade application, please visit <http://www.coaldale.ca/summer-fest-2022>.