



For Immediate Release

News Release

COVID-19 UPDATE – Business Supports (March 30th, 2020)

Edson, Alberta, March 30th, 2020 – The Town of Edson is working in partnership with the Edson and District Chamber of Commerce and Community Futures West Yellowhead to support local businesses during the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

Edson Mayor Kevin Zahara says keeping our local businesses informed about what’s going on and offering as much support as possible is extremely important to our community. “Local businesses employ our residents and are an economic driver for Alberta. We need to ensure they’re in the best position possible as we move through this pandemic and into the recovery stage for our municipality.”

Edson Council is reviewing a number of supports to help individuals and businesses. The following measures are being considered, but still require official Council approval.

Utility Penalty Deferral - In these extraordinary times, the Town of Edson recognizes that steps need to be taken to help residents and businesses stay on their feet. If approved, this measure would mean no penalties will occur for non-payment on utility bills for the months of March through July. While those payments will still need to be made, customers will have until the end of 2020 to catch up on those balances. Penalties will be reinstated in August, but for new balances only. This will allow customers to spread out those payments over a number of months if necessary.

Please note that automatic payments for utility and tax accounts will continue unless the account holder contacts the finance department with further instructions.

Tax Due Date Adjustment - Council is also looking at pushing back the property tax payment due date. Tax notices will still go out as normal, however, the payment deadline will now be September 30th, 2020.

The COVID-19 situation does have a profound impact on the Town’s budget. As such, Council is also taking a very close look at finances to ensure proper steps are taken to maintain an acceptable level of service while being fiscally responsible to our taxpayers in this difficult time. More details will be forthcoming as Council reviews the budget at an upcoming meeting.

To find out more details on the supports being offered at a local level, as well as Provincially and Federally, visit www.edson.ca/covid. You can also find business specific information at <https://www.edson.ca/business/covid-19-business-supports>

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Community Futures West Yellowhead is available to answer any questions you have right now about your business, by email at nrobbins@albertacf.com or by calling or texting 780-740-3409 to speak to Nancy. They are able to assist you in understanding government benefits and programs that are available for you as a small business owner and help assist you with any concerns that you may have. CFWY is committed to assisting small businesses in Edson through the COVID-19 crisis and to helping you reopen when the time is right. Nancy is keeping an email list to share information with you as it becomes available and can also assist you with any of your present-day business concerns.

The Edson and District Chamber of Commerce is available to answer questions and connect local businesses to supports. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has also created a Pandemic Preparedness Guide to help businesses create a business continuity plan. This can be found at <http://www.chamber.ca/resources/pandemic-preparedness/BusinessPrepGuidePanPrep2020>

For more information on Provincial supports visit <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-support-for-employers.aspx>

Federal supports can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

Through this cooperation it's hoped that all businesses are aware of, and able to access, the programs available to them. The Town of Edson, Edson and District Chamber of Commerce, and Community Futures West Yellowhead are standing together with our local businesses through this difficult time.

For more information, please contact:

Town of Edson

Martino Verhaeghe, General Manager of Infrastructure and Planning
martinov@edson.ca - 780-723-4402
www.edson.ca

Edson & District Chamber of Commerce

Kathy Arndt, Edson and District Chamber Manager
edsonchamber@gmail.com - 780-723-4918
<https://edsonchamber.com>

Community Futures West Yellowhead

Nancy Robbins, General Manager
nrobbins@albertacf.com - 780-740-3409
<http://westyellowhead.albertacf.com>



Media Contact:

Steve Bethge
Communications Coordinator
Town of Edson
780-723-4401
steveb@edson.ca
www.edson.ca