



March 2, 2020

News Release

Changes to Community Outreach Services

Community Outreach Services (COS) is currently in a stage of transition, as its existing provincial contracts to provide child, youth and family support services are coming to a close on March 31. These contracts made up half of COS' annual staffing budget and have been in place for more than a decade.

The Municipality of Jasper received notice on Nov. 4 that the Government of Alberta was cancelling contracts across the province for Parent Link and other family support programs, including contracts with Jasper's Community and Family Services department. At that time, a new funding opportunity to develop regional Family Resource Networks was also announced.

In January, the Municipality of Jasper applied for this new provincial funding, proposing to offer social connection programs, parent education services, and family support services to families with children 0 to 18 years of age. Until the Municipality knows the results of its funding proposal, it is unknown what our services and supports for children, youth and families will look like in the future.

Parent Link's last day of programming is March 18.

We will share details on the status of our application, and future services and programming, as information becomes available.

Backgrounder:

Community Outreach Services (COS) is a made-in-Jasper solution to providing comprehensive human support services and complementary programming in a small, remote setting. Through the pooling of federal and provincial contracts, COS was created in 1998, offering a one-stop-shop for community programming, resources and confidential, non-judgmental support for all ages.

Parent Link is run by an Outreach Worker who facilitates programs and services that support parents and caregivers with children aged 0 to 5. Since 2006, Jasper's Parent Link playroom has offered parent education, information about early childhood development, as well as developmental screening and opportunities for parents to connect with their children and other families.

– 30 –

For more information, contact:

Kathleen Waxer, Director of Community & Family Services
780-852-8139, kwaxer@town.jasper.ab.ca