



April 2, 2020

Support for Jasper Businesses

The Municipality of Jasper, the Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce (JPCC) and Community Futures West Yellowhead (CFWY) are committed to supporting local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. While each of our organizations is taking independent action, we recognize the imperative of working together to best position our community to emerge from this crisis with the strength and capacity to recover. We encourage all in our business community to also work together through this challenging time.

In an attempt to alleviate some financial strain on businesses, the Municipality of Jasper Council directed administration to waive penalties for municipal property taxes until September 1, 2020. Utility bill penalties are also waived for the same period, with no water services to be terminated due to payments in arrears.

Residents and business owners are encouraged to continue paying their municipal bills if they are able. In alignment with provincial directives to support renters, we are also encouraging landlords to pass on any deferrals to tenants where possible.

Council has also directed administration to find and implement measures to reduce municipal costs to lower the tax levy which falls disproportionately on commercial taxpayers.

“We recognize the hardship and uncertainty our community is facing as we work through the COVID-19 crisis and its devastating economic impacts. We know that our business sector, the core of our local economy and the foundation of so much of the quality of life our community enjoys, has been staggered,” said Mayor Richard Ireland. “These are the most challenging of times, but our community and its business owners are strong, committed and resilient; together we will get through this unprecedented crisis.”

Businesses with commercial garbage accounts that need to temporarily reduce the frequency of scheduled pickups can do so by contacting jschmidt@town.jasper.ab.ca or 780-852-6505.

The Municipality has also extended its business licence payment due date to April 30, 2020. This extension applies to businesses physically located in Jasper. If your circumstances are such that you require further extension, please contact Bylaw Enforcement Services at njones@town.jasper.ab.ca or 780-852-5518.

As other cost saving measures are identified, they will be brought to Council for further consideration.

While the JPCC’s physical office is closed, staff remain committed to supporting businesses through daily updates on relief response through federal and provincial programs and services. JPCC team members are also available to take calls and direct business owners to appropriate resources.

“Announcements and assistance plans are being developed daily by the Government and it is our intent to summarize these plans to you so you can be as best informed as possible in one succinct spot,” said Pattie Pavlov, JPCC General Manager. “With so much information and so much misinformation out there we want our valued membership to have access to clear facts about business programs through our email updates.”

To be added to the JPCC distribution list, email manager@jpcc.ca.

CFWY is also reminding small businesses that it's here to help – whether that's navigating government benefits and programs or assisting with present-day concerns.

“Community Futures West Yellowhead is available to answer any questions you have right now about your business – by email, by calling or texting,” said Nancy Robbins, CFWY General Manager. “CFWY is committed to assisting small businesses in Jasper through the COVID-19 crisis and to helping you reopen when the time is right.”

Through an email distribution list, CFWY will also share relevant businesses information as it becomes available. To be added to the list, email nrobbins@albertacf.com.

For the most up-to-date COVID-19 information for Jasper, please visit: www.jasper-alberta.com/covid.

For more information, contact:

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