



September 17, 2021

News Release

## **Director of Culture and Recreation Retiring After 25 Years**

After 25 years of service with the Jasper Improvement District and the Municipality of Jasper, Director of Culture and Recreation Yvonne McNabb will be retiring at the end of the month. Mrs. McNabb's knowledge of municipal facilities, connections with provincial recreation associations, and relentless dedication to community service and community members will be greatly missed. In addition to leading the Culture and Recreation department, Mrs. McNabb initiated the municipal Occupational Health and Safety program, and served as an Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association auditor for the duration of her municipal career.

Mrs. McNabb joined the organization as Aquatics Manager in 1996 with a strong background in the recreation field, and became the Municipality's Director of Culture and Recreation in 2001. Over the years, Mrs. McNabb was instrumental in securing several grant funding opportunities to support improvements to municipal recreation facilities and enable community groups to pursue recreation initiatives which are still in place today, including the current skate park and playground in Centennial Park. Mrs. McNabb also organized many recreation events held in Jasper, including the Alberta Winter Games, the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games, and hosting the ladies Olympic gold medal hockey team at the Jasper Arena. A highlight of her career was also to participate in a Federation of Canadian Municipalities program to support women leaders in Mbeya, Africa.

In recent years, Mrs. McNabb dedicated her time to developing proposals and seeking external funding for necessary facility upgrades to Jasper's recreation facilities, notably the replacement of the arena and curling ice slabs in 2020 and 2021. Mrs. McNabb's legacy will continue with upcoming projects for which external funding has already been secured, including the replacement and relocation of the arena ice plant, and key upgrades to the Jasper Aquatic Centre. The last year and a half has also been marked by several challenges associated with operating recreation facilities through the COVID-19 pandemic. Mrs. McNabb's dedication to the health and safety of staff and patrons through these trying times has been second to none.

"Yvonne's contributions to our municipal organization are far too numerous to list," says Jasper Mayor Richard Ireland. "She has been such a pillar of our organization, it is difficult to imagine what the future of the Department of Culture and Recreation may look like in the absence of her passion and dedication for staff, municipal facilities and the broader community. Yvonne's continued engagement in assisting with the transition to a new Director is a fitting testament to the depth of her commitment. A sincere and heartfelt 'thank you' from all of us who have benefited from her hard work, devotion and enthusiastic approach for the last 25 years is certainly in order."



“Every day as Director of Culture and Recreation brought something new, different and challenging to the table, and I have enjoyed being ready to pivot and change directions at the drop of a hat,” says Director McNabb. “The most rewarding aspect of my career has been to have had the chance to coach and lead staff and students as well as to mentor lifesaving, work and life skills. I have watched with pride as each grew and prospered within and outside of the Municipality. Another highlight has been watching local families grow, and children learn to skate, swim, dance and create. The past eighteen months have been difficult of course, and I have recognized that I must now make spending time with family and friends a greater priority. I look forward to spending more time volunteering in the community, traveling our lovely country and other parts of the world – pending COVID restrictions of course. I am so grateful to have been a part of the Municipality of Jasper senior leadership team, and a member of the work family we have developed over the last 25 years.”

Yvonne’s last day in the role will be October 1, 2021. In order to support a smooth transition, she has agreed to continue to support the completion of a number of ongoing projects until the end of the year.

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For more information, contact:

Bill Given, Chief Administrative Officer  
[bgiven@town.jasper.ab.ca](mailto:bgiven@town.jasper.ab.ca)

For media inquiries, contact:

Amanda Stevens, Communications Officer  
[astevens@town.jasper.ab.ca](mailto:astevens@town.jasper.ab.ca)