



November 12, 2021

News Release

Director of Community & Family Services Retires and Joins Municipal Council

On Friday, October 22, 2021, Mrs. Kathleen Waxer took her Oath of Office as councillor for the Municipality of Jasper, effectively capping off a 36-year career in the social services field with the organization. As prescribed in provincial legislation, Mrs. Waxer took a leave of absence between nomination day (September 13) and election day (October 18) and has now resigned from her position as Director of Community and Family Services.

In the early 90s, recognizing that human services offered in Jasper were fragmented, itinerant and difficult to access for residents, Mrs. Waxer designed a model which rallied representatives from other agencies to join her in implementing a revolutionary approach to human service delivery. Since 1997, human service providers in Jasper have met regularly and routinely to discuss emerging issues, challenges, and opportunities for working together.

Under Mrs. Waxer's leadership and guidance, team members developed an outreach program to assist in filling gaps between mandated services, and ensuring that they are integrated, locally provided, accessible, and responsive to changing community needs. This creative solution has proven itself countless times over the years to be cost-effective for funders, a lifesaver for clients, and provided residents with opportunities only dreamt of by other rural communities.

Mrs. Waxer is famously known for encouraging people to "leap and the net will appear." It was her signature metaphor for having the courage to do things differently. Over the years, we have watched Mrs. Waxer leap courageously into a new way of doing things or a new approach to services.

"We congratulate Mrs. Waxer on her most recent leap and thank her for her 36 years of service," says Jasper Mayor Richard Ireland. "Each year has been another important 'drop in the bucket' she designed and perfected. The community of Jasper has been enriched by her vision, leadership, perseverance, commitment to capacity building, and above all, by her dedication and passion. I am excited to continue to engage with Mrs. Waxer in her new role as councillor, and am confident that her open mind, and her collaborative and creative approach to leadership will benefit Council and the community over the next four years."

Following the retirement of two long-serving directors in the Culture and Recreation and Community and Family Services areas, the Municipality of Jasper is now recruiting to fill a leadership position under a revised and updated organizational structure.

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