

APRIL 2020

## MEDIA RELEASE

### RE: TOWN SERVICES

The Town of Vermilion will continue to provide all essential services during the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic in addition to following all Alberta government recommendations. As such, Recreation facilities continue to be closed, including all playgrounds and the Skateboard Park. The Town Office continues to be closed to the public, but payments will continue to be processed either on-line or through the drop-box found at the front of the office.

Please continue to call the office at 780-853-5358 or access our website for any needs or concerns, and every effort will be made to get a quick resolution.

For health concerns and updates, please consult Alberta Health Services at: <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx#p22780s6> or call 811. Everyone can do their part to prevent the spread with frequent hand-washing and maintaining 6 feet social distancing when in contact with others. These methods continue to be the best ways to stay ahead of this very dangerous virus.

In this very stressful time, mental health supports for our Central Zone, can be accessed at: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/amh/Page14063.aspx#details-panel14067>

### Media Information:

George Rogers, CAO  
Town of Vermilion

Caroline McAuley, Mayor  
Town of Vermilion

## COVID-19 SUPPORTS

ARE YOU:

### Laid off due to work closures?

Apply for regular EI Benefits. You will need 700 work hours in the last year, ROE, & there is a one week wait period. Apply online: [www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html) 1-800-206-7218

### Laid off and ineligible for EI?

Apply for the Emergency Support Benefit, applications available in April via CRA My Account

### Unable to work due to self-quarantine?

Apply for EI Sickness Benefits. You will need 600 work hours in the past year. Do not need ROE or sick note. Apply online [www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html) 1-800-381-2725. You may also be able to apply for a 1-time payment through provincial government of \$1146, watch [www.alberta.ca/covid-19-supports-for-albertans.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-supports-for-albertans.aspx) for details on how to apply.

### Self-quarantined & ineligible for EI?

Apply for Emergency Care Benefit for up to 15 weeks, up to \$900 biweekly. Applications available in April via CRA My Account.

### Unable to work due to school closures?

Apply for Emergency Care Benefit for up to 15 weeks, up to \$900 biweekly. Applications available in April via CRA My Account.

### In an emergency and cannot access other funds?

Apply for emergency financial assistance. You will need proof it is essential and an emergency. 1-877-644-9922 (24hr) 1-866-644-5135

### Sick through work-related exposure?

Apply for Worksafe Benefits, 1-888-967-5377

### OTHER SUPPORTS:

**Income Tax filing** date deferred until June 1, 2020

**Income Tax payments** deferred until August 31, 2020

6 month interest free moratorium on repayment of Canadian & Alberta Student Loans.

## SPRING CLEAN UP PROGRAM

In order to reduce the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19, the Town of Vermilion will be **cancelling** the annual curbside-spring cleanup program. In previous years residents could place their unwanted household material and yard waste on the curb to be picked up. This year we are asking residents to take the household waste items directly to the transfer station, e.g. broken toasters, toys, or books. We will be placing the green yard waste dumpsters throughout town for residents to use once weather permits. At this time the fall cleanup program will remain on schedule, please follow the Talk of the Town for changes to the fall program as well as updates on other programs.

## FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING AND MAINTENANCE

Starting May 4th and continuing until completed, the Infrastructure & Planning Services Department will be carrying out the Spring Hydrant Maintenance Program. You may notice a drop in water pressure or some discoloration. This should clear up by letting the water run for a short time.

For more information call 780-581-2415.

## BLUE BAG RECYCLING PROGRAM

In response to the growing concerns about the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Town of Vermilion and Quik Pick Waste Disposal will be pausing the blue bag recycling service until further notice. This **does not** apply to the commercial cardboard collection service.

As you may be aware, curbside blue bag material is sorted by hand at the Quik Pick facility in Lloydminster. A recently published study, found the coronavirus can survive up to 72 hours on plastic surfaces and up to 24 hours on cardboard surfaces. In addition, employees are finding used tissues, hygiene products, and medical waste in the blue bags.

To avoid risk to our employees and reduce community spread of the virus, only automated waste collection will take place in our community. No bags will be collected by hand. Some may choose to store their recyclables until it is safe to collect recyclables again; others may choose to place their recyclables in with their household waste. Either choice is okay. Please withhold placing any waste or recycle bags on the curb and ensure your bagged waste fits within your black bin.

Excess household waste can be taken directly to the transfer station or placed in the black waste dumpster that will be located on the north side of the Fire Hall. The extra black dumpster is a temporary service for those that cannot drive to the transfer station, please be mindful of your community.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**The Vermilion Senior Centre is closed until further notice. All functions previously scheduled are cancelled.**



Taxi voucher tickets are still available at the Town Office to assist our seniors and others in need within the community. If you need to pick up a book of voucher tickets, please make arrangement to do so by calling the Town Office at 780-853-5358.



On March 30, 2020, it was confirmed that Alberta Community Peace Officers will be enforcing the Public Health Act. Our Town of Vermilion Peace Officer, Chris Fithen, will be working with the community to ensure compliance with the Public Health Act and orders made by the Alberta Chief Medical Officer.

Examples include but aren't limited to gatherings of more than 15 people in an outdoor location, nonessential businesses operating at a location accessible to the public, and violations of self-isolation orders. Specifics will change as the situation evolves, so we recommend residents keep up to date with changing Public Health orders.

Complaints for violations can be reported online by visiting [www.alberta.ca/restrictions-on-gatherings-and-businesses.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/restrictions-on-gatherings-and-businesses.aspx) a Peace Officer or a Public Health Officer will be dispatched to the call.

In lieu of that, complaints may also be submitted at [www.vermilion.ca/local-government/bylaws](http://www.vermilion.ca/local-government/bylaws) and clicking the "Make a Complaint" box, or by phone at 780-853-5358. The Town of Vermilion continues to do everything possible to ensure the safety of our residents and visitors in our community. Throughout this process, we will continue to educate and perform essential law enforcement for the Town of Vermilion. Together we can minimize the potential effects of COVID-19.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

## SELF-ISOLATED DOESN'T MEAN ALONE



Call 911 if in immediate danger



Family Violence Info Line



Online supports

[alberta.ca/covid19](http://alberta.ca/covid19)

Alberta

## Calling all KIDS!

Write me a letter to tell me how you and your family are keeping busy and staying healthy!

**YOU** can help our town and community by sending me your ideas! I can't wait to share them so we can all get through this together!

Please send your letters to:  
Mayor Caroline McAuley  
5021 49 Ave  
Vermilion, AB T9X 1X1

OR you can email me a picture of the letter!

Send it to:  
[cmcauley@vermilion.ca](mailto:cmcauley@vermilion.ca)

**Don't forget to include your return address so I can write back!**



Sincerely,  
Caroline McAuley  
Mayor  
Town of Vermilion

## Municipal By-Election

The By-Election previously scheduled for April 27, 2020 has been postponed, by order of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, until October 2021. This in effect cancels the By-Election and authorizes Council to operate with 6 members until the general election in October 2021.

**George Rogers, CAO, Returning Officer**