



February 2025 Community Conversation Notes

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT

Red Cross

- Personalized support through the Red Cross for impacted families, help with support with recovery planning, challenging issues, assistance with insurance, and much more. recoveryopslead@redcross.ca email is monitored daily.
- TIP sheets are available on the website <https://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/current-emergency-responses/alberta-wildfires-2024>
- In-person services in Hinton located at 217 Pembina for residents living in Hinton. Jasper some days of the week support is located at JEEC.
- As of last week the Red Cross is supporting 1320 case files.
- Granting open – <https://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/current-emergency-responses/alberta-wildfires-2024/grants-for-community-organizations>

Trend: Residents seeking support due to housing issues, mental health needs, financial struggles, and food insecurity.

Fitness and Aquatic Centre

- Jasper Fitness and Aquatic Center reported on the center's programming and challenges. Struggling to hire adult staff, leading to limited programming. They have seen a significant increase in community outreach clients and locals coming to use the facilities, around 1000 people since the beginning of the year. Upcoming events include an aquafit program, a cardio boot camp, and lifeguard training courses.
- Aquafit classes are increasing participation and noticing the positive impact on mental health. The senior sweat society is still active, and seniors are enjoying interacting with younger community members. Adjustments are being made to accommodate changes in participants' situations, such as memory support for those with cognitive issues.
- The Fitness and Aquatic Centre reminds everyone about the free membership for individuals aged 75 and above at their facilities. The free membership includes access to various activities such as using the center, the gym, and playing squash.
- New young lifeguards are undergoing diversity training, and the bronze medallion class has 7 registrants, including a 29-year-old and several 14-year-olds.
- The centre is struggling to manage staffing, with some instructors teaching multiple days a week and others coaching.
- The grand opening of renovated facilities at the Activity Centre is scheduled for February 19.

Community Outreach Services / Community Development

- The Pathfinders program, an extension of community helpers, starts this month with internal sessions for community outreach and the Jasper recovery team. The program includes community support training, Mental Health First Aid, GPR, suicide prevention training, and non-violent crisis intervention.

- Upcoming events from COS: Ice climbing, fat biking, movies, for more details check Jasper Life on Facebook or contact Ian at jgoodge@jasper-alberta.ca. Tai Chi on Tuesdays and a new reading group at the library in March. Contact Janeen at jkeelan@jasper-alberta.ca
- The Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Coordinator talks about collaborating with organizations to make the town more inclusive for newcomers. To connect and collaborate with Monica contact her at mrodriguez@jasper-alberta.ca Speed friending event on February 12th, inviting newcomers and seniors to mingle and practice English.
- The LIP Coordinator offered to collaborate on tools to support newcomer volunteers and suggests ways to include newcomers in community activities.
- The last cooking circle was a success, providing 10 meals for two people for \$15. The next cooking circle is on February 26th at the Multipurpose Hall.
- The community dinners have been well-attended, with recent numbers around 350 people.
- The Canadian Mental Health Association will conduct a session on rethinking your thoughts, and the CRA will provide information on tax benefits for seniors.
- A volunteer visitor program is being developed to provide companionship and support for isolated individuals. If you are interested in joining, please contact Kacie at kwhyte@jasper-alberta.ca
- The Not Falling for You program, a falls prevention exercise program, is being considered for implementation in the community.
- Early childhood outreach worker highlights the increased demand for her services, with new families coming weekly, which is awesome!
- The indoor playgroup is busy, and they have booked a rock band, Will's Jam, for a community event in May.
- Increase of parents wanting to have rec passes since the children pass is free in the community
- Go girl meeting will take place in Hinton Saturday, May 4th.
- Many families are living in scattered households, affecting their routines and stability.
- The fire has exacerbated existing challenges, particularly for kids living in close quarters.
- Positive experiences from programming, including ice climbing and kayaking lessons.
- The rec room will be more scattered in April due to floor renovations happening at the Legion, but activities will continue.
- A trivia night with seniors is planned for April, with mixed teams to encourage intergenerational connections.
- The film "Screenagers" is coming soon, focusing on technology and screen management for kids. The film is highly reviewed and up-to-date, aiming to attract a good turnout and engage parents in the discussion.
- **Trend:** Housing insecurity and financial constraints are significant challenges for many families.
- **Trend:** The importance of parents being present to understand the post-fire situation, noting that pre-fire, it was a significant issue, but post-fire, it has become even more critical.

Recovery Alberta

- Walk-in services at the hospital are available Monday to Friday from 10 am to 2 pm.
- Two new therapists, Matt and Lindsay, starting at the end of February.
- Availability of virtual or telephone services for those hesitant to visit the clinic in person.
- Alberta healthcare covers all services, eliminating financial barriers for clients.

- Wellness course covers various topics, including cognitive behavioural therapy, dialect behavioural therapy, stress management, and communication skills. The course begins on March 3 and runs until April 21, with no pre-registration required.
- Team available to offer the program to other community groups, such as school support staff.
- Conducting sessions for teens and adults to address mental and emotional wellness.

Trend: There has been a higher-than-expected number of people accessing services after Christmas.

Trend: the need for better understanding and addressing the barriers to accessing mental health services.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Government of Alberta (GoA) and Income Support Program

- Nothing to report at the time. If people have specific questions, please reach out directly to Donna Christensen.

FIRE RELIEF

The Canadian Red Cross

- The Canadian Red Cross is offering personalized recovery support to help households impacted by the 2024 Alberta Wildfires. There is also support available to organizations and businesses. recoveryopslead@redcross.ca email is monitored daily.

Jasper Recovery Coordination Centre

- Pathfinders program to help foster connections with recovery-related options.
- The Pathfinders program is a collaborative effort to create community helpers for the recovery process, including training in mental health, crisis intervention, and insurance navigation.
- The program aims to have representatives from all cultural and minority groups, ensuring community representation.
- Community Needs Assessment is currently being developed.
- The JRCC is working on interim housing, prioritizing educators, healthcare workers, and government workers for housing units.

EDUCATION, LANGUAGE & EARLY LEARNING

Jasper Library

- Treasure hunt with school-age kids and it was great
- Saturday story time coming up.
- Tween stem every Tuesday afternoon, has to talk to a couple of parents and seems like the kids are not working well together when conflict arises and haven't seen that before the fire and I think it has become a thing after the fire
- Need for collaboration between different organizations to support students and address underlying conflicts.
- **Trend:** increased conflict among students and the need for better strategies to support them.

Jasper Employment and Education Centre

- Reports a slow influx of job seekers, and reminded the group that they don't only serve Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW's) they also serve Canadian citizens and Permanent Residents looking for employment support.
- More administrative and management roles coming in, please refer job seekers to their job board: <https://jobboard.jasperemployment.com/>
- The first job fair of the year was pretty successful with 12 employers and 62 job seekers coming along. Some of the job seekers were looking for a secondary job to supplement their income in the summer.
- Upcoming events include a board games afternoon on February 11th and job fairs on February 19th and March 17th, with CRA sessions in March. For more details reach out to: jobs@jasperemployment.com

Schools

- The High school noted the challenges of applying for funds for the school group and plans to organize a wellness conference for high schoolers in May. The conference will involve community members sharing wellness ideas and sessions where students can choose their activities. She emphasizes the importance of community support and collaboration in organizing the conference.
- The resubmission of the breakfast program idea to the student Youth Council. It is suggested a grab-and-go breakfast program with items like toast, bagels, and industrial toasters.
- The student census key program was successful, and the school continues to receive grants for different initiatives.
- École Desrochers appreciates the community outreach and support for mental health and wellness programs.
- Matricias Mondays are coming back to the school.
- Homework help on Wednesdays is slowly gaining momentum.
- A friendship group for kids struggling with social interactions is planned to start next week.
- Free skiing and snowboarding at Marmot Basin during teacher convention. Thanks you to the Red Cross for helping make it happen and thank you Carla and Tor for everything they do to support the kids in this community
- Fruit for youth available at TGP for free.
- Introduction of the SWAT team (Student Wellness Action Team), a group of grade five and six students trained to connect with other kids during lunch and recess. The SWAT team uses friendship flags to encourage socializing across grades and has significantly improved the schoolyard dynamic.
- **Trend:** the stress of final exams and the successful implementation of fidgets and other tools to help students.
- **Trend:** École Desrochers noticed an increase in families moving to Jasper
- **Trend:** The teachers identified that some kids are struggling to make friends, or keeping friends, or being able to navigate those intricacies that happen.
- **Opportunity:** Having a basket of fruit and vanilla bars on school buses is proposed to address food insecurity.
- **Opportunity:** Placing a basket with fruit and snack bars on the school bus for kids may be possible through funding from the Red Cross.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Jasper Rotary Club

- The club has a wildlife recovery fund with \$23,000 and additional funds for community projects.
- The club's main service priorities, include peace and conflict resolution, disease prevention, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education, and economic and community development.
- The club is reviewing applications from the municipality's request for proposals to identify projects that align with their priorities.

Seniors Society

- Announced a new healing through movement class for seniors starting this month at the seniors' lounge.
- Valentine's tea event on February 14th, inviting seniors and encouraging participation from Hinton.
- Discussion around the challenges of accessing the community calendar and the need for a more accessible format.
- Emphasis on the need for more activities that bring teens and seniors together, highlighting the benefits of intergenerational interaction.

Opportunity: Integrating the community calendar with social media to increase its reach and accessibility.

Opportunity: Using Engage Jasper to create a specific project for seniors' lifestyle updates.

Opportunity: The high school to involve seniors in school activities, fostering better connections between different age groups.

Jasper Food Bank

- The food bank is moving to a new location with better facilities, aiming to provide larger meals.
- Food insecurity is huge 150 people served on February 6th.
- Food is the biggest thing and a \$100 TGP card is not really getting you a lot these days.
- People are down for hours and it will take a while to recover from that

INDIVIDUALS

- Resident: In from Ontario – listening to what is happening in Jasper as she is displaced.
- Jasper Wellness – Somatic Affective Talk and Touch and Orthobionomy, Body-Mind Therapist noticing people are feeling sad, and unwell, wanting to offer workshops to connect people with healing. Plans to offer classes at the senior's lounge and open to suggestions for other viable locations.
- Resident: shares her passion for the community and her experience of being displaced. Shared idea for an early music program, inspired by a franchise program called Music Together and she's willing to teach the classes and seeks opportunities to implement the program.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

- Municipal team taking consultation sessions with residents who want to have conversations with the town planner and Parks Canada focusing their efforts on processing the development permits.
- Announcement from the province a 2 million grant for transportation to help people move from the new sites of interim housing
- The financial stabilization grant to cover the deficit caused by reduced tax payments and the impact of evacuation on utility costs.

- Recent visit of the new federal minister responsible for disaster recovery, Minister Eglin, and the positive impact it had on the community.
- Council discussed strategic priorities and the naming of a new street.
- **Opportunity:** Contact any member of the council to submit your ideas for the name of the new street where the interim housing will be located.