



**Community Conversation Notes:
October 2024**

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT

- 1. Jasper Fitness and Aquatic Centre:** The Fitness Centre is back open with limited hours. M-F from 6:30-1pm and 4-9:30pm. S/S from 9-9:30 pm. The pool is not yet open and there is no definitive date for re-opening to share. In touch with many Aquafit seniors who have found other programs to stay active. Jasper Physiotherapy and Massage will be offering a youth fitness training program at the gym soon. So far they are seeing lots of use of facilities by youth. 29 have come in to get their passes since the re-open.
- 2. Community Outreach Services – Adults:** Financial insecurity and instability continues to be very common. Lots of Jasperites did not have tenant's insurance. Some are having a hard time proving residency to access relief dollars. There are a lot of questions regarding housing and resumption of employment. It's not clear when businesses will re-open, if/how they will recover and if staff will be re-hired. **OPPORTUNITY:** There is the opportunity for a more coordinated economic recovery focus group to address the complexity of economic recovery.
- 3. Grande Yellowhead Public School Division – BEST Program, Wellness Navigator:** The Wellness Navigator is supporting Jasper Elementary School and Jasper Junior Senior High School in recovery. They are assessing the needs of children and youth in order to deliver programs and services that meet needs. They are doing some parent focused nights. They are also offering Simple Connections, Stronger Families. Teachers are under pressure to catch up curriculum-wise, so the BEST coach is trying to help with that social and mental health support. **OPPORTUNITY:** There is presenter-funding available to bring in facilitators to help with group presentations to promote recovery.
- 4. Recovery Alberta:** Alberta Health Services has re-branded. They have also expanded services to offer drop-in, one-on-one services for mental health and addictions from M-F. People just need to show up. The intake line remains active. In person services remain available T-Th each week as do phone services. They are doing a needs assessment now to ensure they can best position services to meet local needs. Psychological Education Sessions are also coming. They have done a presentation for teens on coping with crisis. A new local Mental Health Therapist added that he is seeing very positive and hopeful energy thus far. **OPPORTUNITY:** Anyone who wishes to invite Recovery Alberta in to do a group session on a topic related to the psychological impacts of the fire or recovery from the disaster can reach out.
- 5. Social Prescribing for Seniors – Community Outreach Services:** Social Prescribing is active again in Jasper. Missing Pine Grove clients who have all been displaced by the fire. Coffee Connections will resume next week as well. Referral source is from the healthcare system – doctors, nurses and homecare. Some seniors are struggling with transportation. **OPPORTUNITY:** The Seniors Bus is looking for bus drivers.
- 6. Community Outreach Services – Children and Youth:** Youth are feeling isolated. Many have lost their hanging out places. Extra-curricular activities are also not fully up and running yet and youth are looking for opportunities to gather. Teens want to help out and be involved in the recovery efforts. The Pumpkin Path is going ahead for October 30. The Gender Sexuality Alliance has resumed and sadly lost a few members post disaster. There is financial strain on families and kids are feeling the stress of their parents. Kids Adventures of the Schoolyear (KAOS) is starting again. **OPPORTUNITY:** There is the opportunity for drop-in style, low commitment, low or no cost recreation program opportunities for children and youth to bridge until extra curriculums resume.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

1. **Government of Alberta – Income Supports:** The evacuee payment from the Government of Alberta is now closed. However, folks can contact Alberta Supports if they are in need of income support. They also have an interpreter line available for clients whose first language is not English.
2. **Service Canada:** Seeing clients in person at Community Outreach Services. Helping with EI applications etc.
3. **Municipality of Jasper – Alberta Immigration Funded Project:** Researching ways we can support newcomers in wildfire recovery. Aiming to bolster emergency preparedness resources for newcomers and to include a newcomer guide to wildfire recovery into the employer handbook for newcomer support. Also working on revising the community guide to be accurate and useful post fire.

FIRE RELIEF

1. **The Canadian Red Cross:** The Canadian Red Cross is offering personalized recovery support to help households impacted by the 2024 Alberta Wildfires.
2. **Recovery Outreach:** Two Recovery Outreach Worker positions are being filled to work out of Community Outreach Services to work with individuals and families one-on-one in Jasper.

EDUCATION, LANGUAGE & EARLY LEARNING

1. **Jasper Employment and Education Centre:** JEEC has been open full time throughout the disaster. They are seeing the highest unemployment rates ever. They have helped 300 people apply for Open Work Permits. They have also hosted several info sessions on how to apply for an open work permit. They are working on some sessions for employers post-disaster. JEEC is working to support relocation of workers with employment. English classes will resume soon.
2. **Ecole Desrochers:** The school is back up and running – some parents are very stressed and overwhelmed. Teachers are seeing that tension trickle down into the mindsets of the students. They are wondering about psycho-social supports for students and teachers in recovery. **ACTION:** Ecole will connect with Recovery Alberta about this opportunity.
3. **L'Association Canadienne Française de Jasper (ACFA):** They are back in the building. The Annual General Meeting is next week and they are looking for French language resources on recovery and coping with wildfire.
4. **Wildflowers Childcare and the Out of School Care Program:** Daycare use levels are nearly back up to normal levels. While the program lost some families post-fire as they are displaced, other families started using the program. They are seeing a need for urgent or emergent childcare. They also shared the name of a great book to help kids understand a little pine cone's experience through a forest fire. It's called 'Pinecone'

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

1. **Jasper Seniors' Society:** The Municipality of Jasper has approached the society about relocating their lounge space. The JSS expressed concern regarding this move as seniors are already vulnerable, at risk of isolation and are already dealing with tremendous loss due to the wildfire. The accessible space is used for programming, gathering and events. The Jasper Seniors' Society will present to Council regarding this.



The JSS is also hosting a seniors dinner on October 24.

2. **Jasper Yellowhead Museum and Archives:** **OPPORTUNITY:** The museum does have a basement meeting room that could be used by seniors and other groups for gatherings etc. It is accessible and has a kitchen. Coffee Hours will resume again on Fridays.
3. **Friends of Jasper National Park:** The organization is back up and running – planning ahead for winter. The flat pack program will continue as will their site line certification course. They are looking at doing a needs assessment to better understand what kinds of programs would best suit residents' needs.
4. **Crisis Team Jasper Society:** The Crisis Team has seen an increase in calls for support after the town re-opened. The RCMP continues to be the main referral source. They are dealing with an increase in illegal camping in town. The Crisis Team is also working with OSICAN to offer Peer Support Group sessions for Emergency Services/Responders. They also have translation available.
5. **Evergreens Foundation – Alpine Summit Seniors Lodge:** Residents are back and very happy to be back in their homes. They are back to a full calendar of activities including concerts, a Halloween Parade and a Fall Dinner.
6. **Jasper Community Team Society:** Santas Anonymous is starting again – expecting a very busy year. Looking at funding options to off-set the higher needs they anticipate. The JCTS also continues to provide relief funding to individuals and families in Jasper through Community Outreach Services.
7. **Jasper Food Bank:** The Food Bank has hired a new General Manager. The service has had to relocate after the fire destroyed their equipment and space in the Anglican Church. They are now operating out of the Legion and they are offering a pick-up night on Thu from 5:30-6:30 PM.
8. **Jasper Municipal Library:** The Library is back up and running – resuming their Tween STEAM program for 9-12 year olds after school on Tuesdays.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. **Jasper Local Immigration Partnership and Newcomer Network:** The group is looking at doing a revised needs assessment for newcomers post-fire to see if there are situations that can be addressed that might not be on anyone's radar. There will be 2 x engagement opportunities through the Newcomer Network for newcomers later in October.
2. **Newcomer Supports, Employer Toolkit, Community Guide:** Project coordinator is working on an employers guide to supporting newcomers in the workplace – including a section on disaster recovery for newcomers. The coordinator is also doing a review of the Community Guide and preparing a newcomers guide to wildfire recovery.
3. **Commemoration Park Enhancement:** This project is near complete and features a Gazebo, toddler play area and several shade areas in Commemoration Park.
4. **Major Project Updates:** Updates on the Activity Centre Renovation, Skate Park and more can be [found on our website under Major Projects](#).
5. **Community Dinners** – There is a lot of interest in the Community Dinner Program and curiosity about getting them going sooner. Community Development is looking at grant funding opportunities to get this program going sooner than January.



Municipal Council

- ✓ [Highlights from each Council meeting are summarized on our website.](#)
- ✓ [You can also watch every Council meeting on YouTube.](#)

What do you think?

- ✓ [Engage Jasper – Jasper's brand-new online engagement portal. It's a place to share your ideas and provide feedback.](#)
- ✓ [Municipal public engagement opportunities](#)
- ✓ [Give feedback, contact council or report an issue.](#)
- ✓ [You can also contact council by emailing them.](#)

Promote your program or event:

- ✓ [Check the Community Calendar to find out what's going on in Jasper.](#)
- ✓ [Add your program or event to the calendar.](#)

Share your passion:

- ✓ [Fill out this form](#) and we will contact you to discuss your idea!

All things Community Conversations:

- ✓ [Community Conversations schedule and information](#)
- ✓ [Join Community Conversations](#)
- ✓ [Municipal Community Conversations policy.](#)

Do you have neighbours or colleagues who are new to Jasper?

- ✓ The [New to Jasper page of the website](#) has helpful information for them.

Contact:

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