Residents learn the mystery of recyclables

by Grant Cree

More than 50 residents gathered in Morinville Council Chambers on the evening of Jan. 29 to learn more about recent changes to the town’s Blue Bag Recycling program. Claude Valcourt, Director of Public Works, welcomed everybody and introduced Lorenzo Donini, the Director of Government Affairs and Municipal Affairs with GFL.

Donini referred to PowerPoint slides during his presentation that included an overview of why the changes were made. He also explained the significance for local residents.

“For those who were unable to attend this information session tonight, I would say try to review the new changes,” Donini told the Free Press after the session. “There was a utility bill mailed out, so try to do your best to keep with those changes. It does require a little bit of patience and understanding and some understanding at this moment in time.”

During his detailed presentation, Donini showed facts and stats of the global recycling industry, and how Canada’s efforts compares to places like China and Europe. Using photos and props, he spoke about how plastics are organized into seven different categories (known as ‘grades’) and emphasized how global decisions affect local practices.

“I think there’s a big learning curve for people,” said Bergman. “It’s something that we need to start making ourselves aware of, so we know what we need to do for the environment and the future.” She added that residents are always welcome to contact the town office by phone or email if they have questions.

“We’re going to continue to educate people about what the changes are, what’s accepted and what’s not,” said Bergman. “So keep an eye out for that.”

Lorenzo Donini, the Director of Government Affairs and Municipal Affairs with GFL, holds plastic containers to make a point as he speaks to residents.

The changes that came into effect Jan. 1. “We tried the best we could to educate and pass on information to residents.” He encouraged residents to participate in the changes to the recycling program to help make it work better.

“It’s going to take time,” said Valcourt. “Feel free to connect with us, and feel free to connect with your councillor of choice, and the conversation will take place. That’s what we need to do.”

Felicity Bergman, the Town of Morinville Corporate Communications Coordinator, spoke with the Free Press after the Q&A. She indicated all the information is available online at the Town’s website on the Waste Management page.

“I think there’s a big learning curve for people,” said Bergman. “It’s something that we need to start making ourselves aware of, so we know what we need to do for the environment and the future.” She added that residents are always welcome to contact the town office by phone or email if they have questions.

“We’re going to continue to educate people about what the changes are, what’s accepted and what’s not,” said Bergman. “So keep an eye out for that.”

Lorenzo Donini, the Director of Government Affairs and Municipal Affairs with GFL, holds plastic containers to make a point as he speaks to residents about the Town’s recent changes to the Blue Bag Recycling program. Donini also did a PowerPoint presentation during an information session on Jan. 29 in Council Chambers. –photo by Grant Cree
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2093 sq ft - 3+1 bedroom, open concept 2 storey with double oversized garage which backs to the lake. $499,900. Call Kayla Giesman 780.218.9395.
On Jan. 28, the respective negotiating teams from Sturgeon County and the Town of Morinville held their second meeting to discuss better ways of delivering services through an Inter-municipal Collaborative Framework (ICF) mandated through the Modernized Municipal Government Act. The negotiating teams reviewed the Alberta Government’s Collaborative Framework Workbook that was developed to facilitate cooperation between neighbouring municipalities in order to ensure municipal services are provided to residents efficiently. They also discussed related governance agreements along with a list of existing agreements between the two municipalities.

The parties agreed that additional work needed to be done separately to review all the programs and services offered by both municipalities to identify both their respective priorities and impact to each municipality in preparation for the next meeting. The next meeting will be on Feb. 20th. “Time well spent comparing services offered by each municipality. This continuing process will assist us in determining the best use of resources for our residents,” said Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatiw.

Morinville Mayor Barry Turner, states, “We are pleased to see this work progressing in an open and collaborative manner. Looking at the programs and services we deliver to our residents on a daily basis is an important step in our journey of finding efficiencies.”

Sturgeon County is represented by Mayor Alanna Hnatiw, Councillor Karen Shaw and Deputy Mayor Patrick Tighe. The Town of Morinville is represented by Mayor Barry Turner and Councillors Nicole Boutestein and Stephen Dafoe.

Under the Modernized Municipal Government Act, municipalities with common boundaries, must, within two years create a framework that:
- Provides for the integrated and strategic planning, delivery and funding of intermunicipal services, such as water and waste water, solid waste, transportation, recreation and emergency services.
- Stewards scarce resources efficiently in providing local services, and
- Ensures municipalities contribute funding to services that benefit their residents.

Premier Rachel Notley issued the following statement as Albertans celebrate the contributions of people of African descent during Black History Month.

“Today, we recognize and celebrate the many ways people of African, African American and Caribbean descent have contributed to life in Alberta. “Black settlers arrived on the Prairies decades before Alberta became a province. They quickly became an important yet often-forgotten part of our collective story, which is still unfolding today. "Black History Month recognizes the resilience, determination and vision of those first settlers and the many who followed them. Some have hoped to find freedom from persecution. Others have faced new obstacles here. But all have sought new opportunities, the joy of community and a better future for their children. “Each February, Albertans of every heritage have an opportunity to honestly acknowledge these experiences. As we face that past together, we seek a better understanding of what it means to be Albertan today. “I invite all Albertans to learn how to be better neighbours and build even stronger, more resilient communities.”—Premier Rachel Notley

When living alone is no longer an option

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**Sturgeon County, Morinville comparing services as a start to finding efficiencies**

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**CAMILLA SCHOOL**
- February 28, 6:30pm

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- KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM minimum age: 4 years, 6 months
One-stop building supplier in Morinville

by Grant Cree

“We’re open for anyone that comes in the store, whether you want to fix a door in your house or are finishing your basement,” said John Besler, Manager of the local Wolf Creek Building Supplies. “Or if you are building a house or shop, we can supply everything from the rebar up. We do windows, doors, flooring; pretty much everything.”

Wolf Creek Building Supplies is in the Morinville industrial park at 8804 95 Street. Located east of the Big City Car Wash, the store has about 8,000 square feet of retail space and a warehouse in the back plus over 2 acres of lumber product. The family owned business is based in Lacombe, where it opened its first store in 1999, and is a member of Castle Building Centre Group.

“We are your one-stop building supply centre,” according to the company’s website. The building supply company provides lumber, trusses, floors, materials and supplies that a shopper would expect to buy in a hardware store and lumber yard.

“Where we are isn’t the best location but well worth the drive,” admitted Besler. “But when people hear about us and know that we are here, they come in because a neighbour or friend told them about us.” His knowledgeable and dedicated staff pride themselves on personalized customer service.

“Customer service isn’t something we just talk about,” Besler emphasized. “When you come in here and say you need this or that, our focus is to find out how we can get that for you.”

Another appeal is buying local. People don’t need to leave Morinville to shop for building supplies. “We’ve certainly eliminated to the largest degree the need for local customers to drive into St. Albert or the city,” said Rollie Wanagas, a Sales Consultant with the Morinville store.

“Customers are coming in here looking for specific products,” said Wanagas. “I would say that 25 or 30 per cent of what we do here is special order. We want to make sure that if people give us the opportunity, we want to give them a reason to buy the product here.”

Speaking of product mix, Wolf Creek Building Supplies carries a variety of supplies that help customers get their job done quickly. “If you have a shopping list, you can come in here and we can start at the top of the list and work our way down,” said Wanagas. “There’s a pretty good chance we’ll be able to provide the vast majority of it.”
A Morinville town councillor has indicated the town has hundreds of contracts with suppliers, but the Mayor dismissed a suggestion that contract specs should be posted on the town website to allow all local businesses and residents to compete for the town business.

During the discussion of the awarding of a contract to coun. Stephen Dafoe on Jan. 22, coun. Sarah Hall noted the town has hundreds of contracts and the only reason the Dafoe contract comes to council is because it involves a sitting member of council.

Her statement appears to accurately reflect that council has turned over all control (after the budget) to administration. The town of Morinville’s Fiscal Principles and Practices policy states: “The Town Manager and Directors may award any tender regardless of value, providing: 1. the bid meeting the Town’s specifications is being accepted and 2. there are sufficient funds available in an approved budget (margin: 10%).”

Mayor Barry Turner appears to be satisfied with this situation. “The process is outlined in our existing procurement policy(ies).” There is no procurement policy on the Town of Morinville website, however, just the Morinville Fiscal Principles policy outlined the process.

Information sought on break in at Legal church

On the morning of Jan. 31 Morinville RCMP were dispatched to a break and enter that occurred at the St. Emile Church in Legal at 5050 46 street. A suspect pried the west side main door open and gained entry to the Church looking throughout for items to steal. This break and enter occurred between the hours of 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 30th and the daylight hours of Jan. 31st.

The Morinville RCMP are requesting the public’s assistance if they witnessed or have any information in regards to this break and enter.

If you have any information about these occurrences, contact the Morinville RCMP Detachment at 780-939-4520. To remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers by phone at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), by internet at www.tipsubmit.com, or by SMS.

The Mayor had been asked by media. “Will you review the process with the intent of developing a policy that will create transparency to give all local businesses and residents the opportunity to compete for town contracts?”

Transparency may also resolve a strange situation in which the CAO’s office indicated it had three suppliers supply written competitive quotes but the quotes were on different specs for the contract awarded to Dafoe. Posting the specs for upcoming contracts would give everyone in town an equal opportunity to provide a written quote — and would assure those preparing a quote that their specs are the same as others competing for the town business.

Besides the extra business some residents may receive by being given an opportunity to quote on any contracts they are qualified for in the hundreds the town signs, taxpayers would also benefit as transparency in the competitive quote process produced the best pricing in the market.

Going into a year when the town plans to increase residential taxes by 4% and commercial taxes by 14.4% a competitive quote system may result in savings to the town — the awarding of the contract to the Dafoe business saw a hike of 11% over the 2018 contract approved by council.

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**Enrichment Program**

- Designed for children who are assessed as being “cognitively advanced”
- To be eligible for the 2019/2020 school year, children must be a minimum age of:
  - 3 years, 8 months, by September 1, 2019.
- Screenings are being offered at:
  - MCCC
    - March 7, 8, 12, 15, 19, 18

**Headstart Program**

- Designed for children who require support for speech - language, and/or fine motor skills and/or social skills.
- To be eligible for the 2019/2020 school year, children must be a minimum age of:
  - 2 years, 8 months, with significant needs, by September 1, 2019.
  - 3 years, 8 months with mild to moderate needs, by September 1, 2019.
- Screenings are being offered at:
  - Fabie Garden Hall
    - March 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 19, 20
  - Bon Accord School
    - March 11
  - MFRC
    - March 11
  - Camilla School
    - March 13
  - Landing Trail
    - March 18
  - Namao School
    - March 19
  - Ochre Park School
    - March 20

MCCC (Morinville Community Cultural Centre), 9502 -100 Ave, Morinville - screenings serving all school locations
Fabie Garden Hall, 10010 - 101 Ave, Morinville - screenings serving all school locations
MFRC (Military Family Resource Center), Edmonton Garrison - screening serving Guthrie and Namao communities
Bon Accord Community School - screening serving Bon Accord, Gibbons and Legal communities

Remember, your child’s birth certificate will be required at the screening session.
Premier Rachel Notley’s Made-in-Alberta energy strategy is taking a major step forward in diversifying the economy, creating new jobs and adding more value to our energy resources, states the province.

Calgary-based Value Creation Inc. (VCI) and its wholly owned subsidiary Value Chain Solutions Inc. are on track to invest $2 billion in upping an upgrading facility in the Alberta Industrial Heartland, just east of Edmonton, which will cut 620,000 tonnes of oil sands bitumen during construction jobs and another 200 full-time positions once the facility is up and running.

“This is just the first of several new projects made possible through the Made-in-Alberta strategy to do more upgrading and refining of the province’s oil and gas resources here at home, according to the government announcement.

“We’re taking the bull by the horns and fighting to get full value for our oil. Albertans have been talking about this for decades, and we’re not going to sit on the sidelines and let good jobs and investment pass Alberta by for places like Louisiana. That has happened for too long and it has got to stop. We’re making sure the next generation of Albertans have the opportunities they deserve in a stronger, more resilient, more diversified province,” states premier Rachel Notley.

VCI’s leading-edge facility will upgrade diluted oil sands bitumen into a higher-value crude blend that can flow easier through pipelines. This provides significant cost savings to industry because it would reduce the need for diluent, which is the most diluent, a thinning agent. Benefits include: higher prices for our resources, more access to international markets, cost savings on diluents for industry, fewer emissions by removing high carbon content.

Partial upgrading is cheaper to do than full upgrading because it requires less processing. In 2016, oil sands companies in Alberta purchased $13.3 billion worth of diluents, much of it imported. Bitumen that goes to market without upgrading or refining has historically been sold at lower prices compared to other crude oils.

Partial upgrading could help reduce this discount by improving the quality of the product and increasing the number of refiners capable of processing it. Petrochemical upgrading total support will now reach $2.1 billion to unlock about $20 billion in private sector investment. This would help create as many as 20,000 jobs during construction of multiple petrochemical facilities across the province.

Petrochemical upgrading is under way in eastern Alberta at Inter Pipeline’s Heartland Petrochemical Complex, which is already under construction as a result of this program: $3.5 billion private investment, over 180 operational jobs.

The complex processes propane into plastic pellets called polypropylene, which is used around the world making everything from toys, electronics and automotive parts. $1 billion in grants and loan guarantees to encourage companies to build bitumen upgrading facilities to: increase the value of our energy resources before shipping, allow more volume to be shipped through pipelines.

Partial upgrading reduces the thickness of oilsands bitumen so it can flow through pipelines more easily, without having to be blended with diluent, or as much diluent as a three ring cocktail. Benefits include: higher prices for our resources, more access to international markets, cost savings on diluents for industry, fewer emissions by removing high carbon content.

Partial upgrading is cheaper to do than full upgrading because it requires less processing. In 2016, oil sands companies in Alberta purchased $13.3 billion worth of diluents, much of it imported.

This government’s Made-in-Alberta upgrading program is a crucial element to ensuring these value-added systems start to happen in Alberta. Alberta’s Industrial Heartland is a key economic driver of the province’s economy, with potential for $30 billion in private sector investment. This would help create as many as 15,500 jobs during construction of multiple petrochemical facilities across the province.

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Full upgrading is required to diversify our energy sector and make sure the next generation of Albertans have the opportunities they deserve in a stronger, more resilient, more diversified province. Made-in-Alberta strategy is taking a major step forward in diversifying the economy, creating new jobs and adding more value to our energy resources, states the province.

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The complex processes propane into plastic pellets called polypropylene, which is used around the world making everything from toys, electronics and automotive parts.
Cows learn to find swathes under snow to winter graze

During the past two and a half months Andre Patriquin of A-J Cattle Co. fed his cows and fertilized a field without starting a tractor. He had 75 head of cows swath grazing on 70 acres of greenfeed oats west of Thorhild.

“They’re happy,” he said. “There’s not a whole lot left when they’re done.”

He seeded the field late, timing it so he could cut it with the kernels at the milk stage shortly before autumn frosts. That way the swathes did not lie on the ground for a lengthy time and were better preserved.

The cattle, mostly Red and Black Angus cows with some yearling heifers, went onto the field in early November. Patriquin used an electric fence to restrict the area they grazed.

At first, when there was not much snow, the cattle would spread out to begin grazing. They were familiar with the fence and did not challenge it. The deer and moose were harder on the fence, and often left tracks and evidence of grazing in areas the cows had not yet accessed.

Patriquin moved the wire every six days. Although the snow became fairly deep, it did not form a crust until the last weekend in January. The fluffy snow made it easy for the cattle to dig up the swathes, but they managed alright even after a couple of warm days made a layer of ice on top of the snow.

“When I move them to a new piece, they find the swathes with their feet,” said Patriquin. “They walk until they hear the sound change under their feet, then stick their noses in and pull it up. Then they just follow the windrow.”

He said he couldn’t start a herd swath grazing with the present layer of snow because they wouldn’t know where or how to look for the swathes. Even his experienced cattle tended to bunch up a bit for the first day in a new section, until they uncovered several swathes.

Patriquin’s herd has now been moved back home. The swath-grazed field is mostly covered in snow. In spring, it’ll be pretty brown. Patriquin said when the snow melts there will be a cow pie every 10 inches.

Patriquin, his wife, Jenny, and their children, Ryley and Evan, have operated A-J Cattle Co. west of Thorhild for 19 years.
RCMP call Gibbons a pretty safe town after presenting stats for 2018

Crime statistics are generally down in Gibbons, but Morinville RCMP detachment commander Sgt. Chris Palfy stressed it is very important for everyone to report criminal activity, even when it seems insignificant and officers will not attend the scene. The data enable police to map hot-spots of crime and patrol those areas more frequently.

Palfy presented the 2018 crime stats to Gibbons council Jan. 23. "For the most part, everybody's numbers are down," he said. "Theft under $5,000; I suspect a lot is unreported. It's important for us these get reported. It gives us a better idea of what's going on." He explained that someone who had their vehicle opened and a couple of dollars taken may not report it because they know an officer will not attend the crime scene, but if police are advised of 20 such incidents in a particular location, they know it is significant.

There were 20 reported thefts of under $5,000 in Gibbons during 2018. During 2017 that number was more than double at 41 (there were 52 in 2016).

"That concerns me," Palfy said, reiterating that he believes thefts are not being reported.

Coun. Amber Harris said she knows the number of incidents has not gone down because people talk. "They're ticked off," she said. She asked if officers stop if they see a group of 16 year olds out on the street at 2:00 a.m.

Palfy said he knows people are frustrated with long response times, and yes, patrollers stop if they see kids out at 2:00 a.m. They may not be doing anything wrong, but if the officer takes down their names and police later learn of an incident that occurred near the area and around the same time, they have names of persons of whom to begin investigating.

In 2018 Gibbons had one theft over $5,000; there were four in 2017.

In a trend Palfy said is seen across the province, thefts of motor vehicles more than doubled from six in 2017 to 13 in 2018.

"What brand is the most stolen?" asked CAO Farrell O'Malley. Palfy replied that instead building a new detachment, Palfy said these events tend to be family-related.

He reported one robbery in Gibbons during 2018, down from four in 2017. There were no homicides, offences related to death or extortions in either 2017 or 2018.

Incidents of disturbing the peace increased from five in 2017 to nine in 2018. Offensive weapons decreased from three in 2017 to one in 2018 while other criminal code violations jumped from 13 in 2017 to 31 in 2018 (was also 31 in 2016). Illegal possession of drugs increased from three in 2017 to four in 2018 while occurrences of trafficking increased from two to three.

One Liquor Act offence was reported in each of 2017 and 2018; other provincial statute offences decreased from 38 to 24.

Motor vehicle collisions (MVC) resulting in more than $2,000 in damage decreased from 15 in 2017 to 14 in 2018 while non-reportable MVCs (damage under $2,000) increased from three to four.

There were no fatal MVCs in either year. Two injury MVCs occurred in 2017 and zero in 2018.

Nine persons were reported missing in Gibbons in 2017 and 10 in 2018. Palfy said all were found.

There were 24 reports of suspicious persons, vehicles or property in 2017 and 26 in 2018. "We want to see these reported," said Palfy.

Other common police activities include false alarms (5) in 2017, 36 in 2018), false or abandoned 911 calls (11 in 2017, 25 in 2018).

Coun. Norm Sandahl suggested that instead building a new detachment office in Morinville, the RCMP could open a sub-detachment in Gibbons. Palfy said the office is a complicated situation between the town and the federal government that is impacted by which owns the building and which rents space in it and the town's requirement to pay for policing because its population is greater than 5,000. He did not think a suboffice in Gibbons is required.

"You have a pretty safe town," he said.

Total property offences for 2018 were 100; down nearly 20 percent from 124 in 2017.

Persons crimes went the opposite way, increasing from 37 in 2017 to 41 in 2018. Assaults accounted for just over half of the reported crimes against persons. Incidences of sexual assault decreased from 27 in 2017 to 17 in 2018 while sexual assaults increased from zero in 2017 to four in 2018. Other sexual offences were listed at one in each year.

UTtering threats increased from three in 2017 to eight in 2018. Criminal harassment increased from five to seven. Palfy said he is not sure if the number of incidents is increasing or if more people are reporting these occurrences. These numbers have risen in all communities his detachment serves, and he believes at least some of the statistics relate to kids and use of social media.

In 2018 there were three occurrences of kidnapping/abduction, up from one in 2017. Palfy said these events tend to be family-related.

Palfy said the statistics relate to kids and he believes at least some of the numbers have risen in all communities his detachment serves, and he believes at least some of the statistics relate to kids and use of social media.

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Province eases oil production limits

As storage levels draw down and the value of Alberta’s oil increases, the province is increasing the limit on oil production.

According to the province, Premier Rachel Notley’s decision to protect the value of Alberta’s oil has been instrumental in helping reduce the amount of oil in storage, which had been nearly twice the normal level and resulted in the resources owned by all Albertans being given away for pennies on the dollar.

In response to new storage data, Alberta is increasing production in February and March to 3.63 million barrels per day, which is a 75,000-barrel per day increase from the January limit of 3.56 million barrels per day.

“We’re not out of the woods yet, but this temporary measure is working. While it hasn’t been easy, companies big and small have stepped up to help us work through this short-term crisis while we work on longer-term solutions, like our investment in rail and our continued fight for pipelines. I want to thank Alberta producers for working with us to protect the jobs and livelihoods of thousands of Albertans families and businesses, and your cooperation has been key to easing these limits ahead of schedule,” states Notley.

Alberta’s goal has always been to match production levels to what can be shipped using existing pipeline and rail capacity, while encouraging a reduction in storage levels. The decision to temporarily limit oil production was applied fairly and equitably, and has been instrumental in saving jobs across the energy sector.

Since the production limit was announced in December 2018, storage levels in Alberta have dropped ahead of schedule, declining by five million barrels to a total of 30 million barrels in storage. Analysis based on independent data suggests storage levels have been decreasing roughly one million barrels per week since the start of 2019 and are on track to continue clearing the storage glut that led to unprecedented discounts for Alberta oil in late 2018. I will never stop fighting for Albertans and Canadians to get top dollar for the resources that belong to them. We will adjust these production levels as necessary going forward and we will not waver in our fight for a Made-in-Alberta strategy to build new pipelines, access new markets and add value that creates jobs by upgrading more of our oil and gas here at home,” states Notley.

Based on the Q1 2019 forecast of production, government announced on Dec. 2, 2018 a reduction in production of 325,000 barrels a day of raw crude oil and new bitumen. That 325,000 bpd was established as the difference between pipeline and take away capacity of 3.56 million barrels a day and the Q1 2019 publicly stated industry-wide forecast production of 3.89 million barrels a day.

The first 10,000 barrels per day a company produces remains exempt from the production limits.
Still much to do to ensure amputees have the artificial limbs they need

Letter to the editor,

Still much to do!

On behalf of The War Amps, I would like to thank reporter Amy Hibbard-Hiscock (January 29), for featuring Avery MacAdam, a local member of The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program.

As The War Amps enters its second century, stories like this help bring important awareness to the many vital programs we offer for all Canadian amputees. Although the Association has developed many innovative and unique programs over the past 100 years, there is still much to do to ensure amputees have the artificial limbs they need to lead full and active lives. With the public’s continued support of the Key Tag and Address Label Service, our commitment remains to improve the lives of amputees, like Avery, long into the future.

Sincerely,

Danaia Chisholm, Executive Director, CHAMP Program, The War Amps
Province supports efforts to preserve Indigenous languages

A new program at Calgary’s Central Library will make Indigenous resources more accessible and help preserve history, culture and language.

The Alberta government is investing $1 million into Calgary’s first ever Indigenous Languages Resource Centre. The funding will support the acquisition of language resources, as well as programming that pres-erves Indigenous culture and heritage.

“The future well-being of Indigenous cul-
ture rests in the sharing of Indigenous voices and stories both within communities and with people across Alberta and the rest of Canada. We are committed to supporting Indigenous language and taking steps towards reconciliation,” states Rachel Not-
ley, Premier of Alberta.

Elder guidance, storytelling, language learning and reclamation will all take place at the new centre and be supported by the government grant. The space will become a hub of Indigenous learning in Calgary, but many of the materials will be available to anyone who has a library card – regardless of where they live.

“The Calgary Public Library is thrilled to support this important Indigenous languages initiative. This is such a fit with what we’re all about at the Library. This project will build connections, support lifelong learning, and deepen understanding of community,” states Bill Ptacek, CEO, Calgary Public Library.

The provincial investment reflects the government’s continued commitment towards renewed relationships with Indigenous peoples and aligns with the United Nations declaration of 2019 as the Year of Indigenous Languages.

“The Calgary Public Library is thrilled to acknowledge and support the United Nation’s 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages theme. Language nurtures identity, enhances spirit, and most importantly improves communication amongst families and communities,” states Aalanya Many Guns, Indigenous service design lead for the Calgary Public Library.

This is the most recent funding the government has made to support Indigenous language and culture in libraries across Alberta. Other commitments have included investing in online content; cultural sensitiv-
ity and awareness training for staff; Indigenous-focused services in libraries, on reserves and settlements, and in schools; building Indigenous-focused collections; and establishing culturally sensitive library spaces.

In 2016-17, the Alberta government created a $700,000 grant program to eliminate non-resident fees for people living on-reserve and on-settlement to access resources and services offered by the Public Library Network. The grant program has since continued and is budgeted for 2019-
20.

Almost 4,400 library cards have been handed out to reserve and settlement resi-
dents across Alberta since the program began. Examples of funding that has been used elsewhere in the province to support Indige-
nous culture and language include:

- Parkland Regional Library operates a pop-up library once a week on-reserve at Maskwacis Howard Buffalo Cultural Centre, offering internet service, access to the provincial catalogues of resources like ebooks and specialized programs.
- Kainai Public Library on the Blackfoot Blood Reserve, which receives provincial funding through the Chinook Arch Regional Library System, has a job seeker program where library staff help people write resumes, apply for jobs and prepare for interviews.
- Cold Lake Public Library offers a “Books for Babies” program where Dene language books are given out. They have also hosted writing workshops with Indigenous authors and have supported local Indigenous communities to self-publish materials on history and traditional medi-
cine.