

PUBLIC & PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

September 2, 2025 9:00 AM Council Chambers, City Hall

ATTENDEES

C. Thiessen, G. Blackmore, G. Berg, J. Clayton

All City of Grande Prairie public meetings of Council are accessible to the public as a live stream broadcast through our website at: <u>Meeting Webcast | City of Grande Prairie (cityofgp.com)</u>

Anyone wishing to attend to speak as a delegate must contact Legislative Services at <u>AgendaAdmin@cityofgp.com</u> to submit their presentations in advance. Delegation requests must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on August 29.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
- 3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- 4. DELEGATIONS
- 5. REPORTS
 - 5.1 Service Area Update Dan Lemieux
 - 5.2 Grande Prairie Police Commission and Grande Prairie Police Service Updates
 - 5.3 Grande Prairie Policing Committee and Grande Prairie RCMP Updates
 - 5.4 Feral Rabbit Update

Dan Lemieux

5.5 Housing & Homelessness System Update - July 2025

Dan Lemieux

- 6. CORRESPONDENCE
- 7. OTHER BUSINESS
- 8. BYLAW & POLICY REVIEW
- 9. OUTSTANDING ITEMS LIST
- 10. ADJOURN



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Public & Protective Services Committee

DATE: September 2, 2025

FROM: Dan Wong, Chair Grande Prairie Police Commission

MEETING: Public & Protective Services Committee

REPORT WRITER: Wendy Hunt, Executive Director, Grande Prairie Police Commission

SUBJECT: Grande Prairie Policing Committee and Grande Prairie Police Service Updates

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee receive this report for information.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL / COMMITTEE DIRECTIONS

On March 20, 2023, Council passed three readings of Bylaw C-1455 which formally established both the Grande Prairie Police Commission ("Commission") and the Grande Prairie Police Service ("Police Service").

BACKGROUND

March 21, 2024, the Commission approved their 2024-2026 Strategic Plan with a priority of advocacy. The Commission understands that there are no stronger advocates for the police service than the City Council. To ensure the Commission executes on their priority of advocacy, they will continue to provide City Council with information on the Grande Prairie Police Service (GPPS) through regular updates to the Public and Protective Services Committee.

ANALYSIS

The transition from the RCMP to the Grande Prairie Police Service (GPPS) is advancing at a steady and efficient pace. GPPS continues to work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services to identify and address the necessary requirements to assume responsibility as the police service of jurisdiction.

Records Management System (RMS)

The GPPS IT team continues to work closely with the Edmonton Police Service, who will host the RMS. The Initial development costs have been provided and after the conclusion of negotiations, a contract has been finalized and forwarded to the City Solicitor for review. A detailed roadmap has been established and supports the target date for Police of Jurisdiction.

Capital Costs Page 3 of 38

As part of ongoing efforts to reduce dependency on the RCMP following the transition to a municipal police service of jurisdiction, the 2026 budget allocates \$107,000 toward equipping the Tactical Team. This funding will support the acquisition of Night Vision Goggles to enhance operational capability during low-light conditions, as well as a Night Vision Attachment for the sniper rifle to improve accuracy and effectiveness during nighttime deployments.

The Grande Prairie Police Service (GPPS) has continued to develop its comprehensive Drone Program to enhance both public and officer safety across a range of operational areas. This program encompasses the Drone as a First Responder (DFR) initiative, as well as tactical, forensic, and patrol applications. The 2026 budget includes a request of \$103,078 to support the procurement of larger drones and related equipment, which will expand operational capabilities and improve response efficiency in various policing contexts.

The 2026 budget includes several key IT investments to support the operational effectiveness and digital security of the Grande Prairie Police Service (GPPS). A major component is the development and implementation of a comprehensive cybersecurity program and framework, aimed at establishing a secure and resilient digital environment. This initiative has been allocated \$350,000.

Additionally, the current detachment requires a new Livescan fingerprinting machine to replace the existing provincially owned unit. The new machine, essential for maintaining uninterrupted service and meeting operational demands, is budgeted at \$50,000.

A further \$27,000 has been designated for scheduling software specifically tailored to the needs of a police service. This platform will support the management of overtime, leave requests, court scheduling, call-outs, and overall workforce coordination for both sworn officers and civilian staff.

As part of the transition from the RCMP to the Grande Prairie Police Service (GPPS), updated building signage will be required at the current police detachment. This is a necessary step to reflect the change in policing jurisdiction and ensure clear public identification of the municipal police service. The cost for the design, production, and installation of the new signage has been estimated at \$25,000.

Relationship to City Council's Areas of Focus / Strategic Priorities

Quality of Life Engagement Relationships Inclusive & Caring Community

Environmental Impact

There are no notable environmental impacts related to this administrative item.

Economic Impact

There are no notable economic impacts related to this administrative item.

Social Impact

There are no notable social impacts related to this administrative item.

SUBJECT: Grande Prairie Police Commission DATE: September 2, 2025

MEETING: Public & Protective Services Committee REPORT WRITER: Wendy Hunt

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Relevant Statutes / Master Plans / City Documents

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Police Act (Alberta)
Alberta Policing Oversight Standards for Policing Committees
Municipal Police Service Agreement
City of Grande Prairie Bylaw C-1455

Risk

There are no perceived risks related to this administrative item.

Alternatives (Optional)

There are no alternatives needed for this administrative item.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

No stakeholder engagement implications.

BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2026 budget for the Grande Prairie Police Service has noted an increase in funds for Capital projects for specialized equipment, technology and building signage. The total cost for the projects is \$662,078.

SUMMARY / CONCLUSION

The Commission is pleased to report on the progress of the transition and policing services financials. The Commission is in the process of finalizing the 2026-2029 with GPPS and is confident that the operational costs for the policing services will remain appropriate.

ATTACHMENTS

Grande Prairie Police Commission Quarterly Update

SUBJECT: Grande Prairie Police Commission DATE: September 2, 2025

MEETING: Public & Protective Services Committee REPORT WRITER: Wendy Hunt

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QUARTERLY TRANSITION UPDATE

April 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025



Organizational Updates

- On May 28 and 29, the Grande Prairie Police Service (GPPS) hosted the Alberta Centre to End Trafficking in Persons, along with partner agencies from across the province and region, for a collaborative gathering in Grande Prairie. The focus of this event was to assess community needs, identify existing service gaps, and explore strategies for more effective inter-agency coordination. The shared aim of the participants was to develop a consistent, community-based standard for the prevention, disruption, and response to human trafficking. Human trafficking is a complex and serious crime that demands a coordinated, community-wide approach. Effectively addressing it requires sustained collaboration, increased awareness, and proactive action among all stakeholders.
- Members of the Grande Prairie Police Service (GPPS) were actively engaged in community outreach during various Stompede events. Notably, officers participated in the Stompede breakfast and lunch, where they had the opportunity to interact with both visitors and residents. These engagements have contributed to enhancing the visibility and approachability of the GPPS, while reinforcing its evolving role as a trusted and accessible presence within the community.
- > GPPS continues to work on building the Tactical and K9 programs.
 - O Recertification was completed on May 30th and the addition of a tactically trained and certified officer in EPO #4, marks a significant step forward and will serve as the foundation for the development of the GPPS Tactical Team. Staff Sergeant Hughes completed a 10-week training program with Thunder Bay Police Service and is now a certified tactical instructor. He continues to lead the development of the team model, which will reduce reliance on RCMP.
 - Work is ongoing with partner police agencies to coordinate K9 training schedules, secure appropriate training locations, and identify qualified individuals within GPPS to fill the designated roles in the K9 Unit.
- ➤ Grande Prairie Enforcement Services (GPES) was required to adjust its approach to traffic control in response to restrictions on Automated Traffic Enforcement implemented by the Government of Alberta. These limitations have reduced available enforcement opportunities. The contract with Global Traffic Limited has been extended through the end of 2025, at which point it will be reevaluated.
- ➤ On May 13, a meeting was held with Jim Peebles, Director of Training at the Government of Alberta Training Academy, to discuss the development of a Community Peace Officer Induction Program (CPOIP) in Grande Prairie. The discussion focused on the framework for local delivery, including certification and licensing requirements. Mr. Peebles expressed support for the initiative and estimated that a fully licensed CPOIP could be established in Grande Prairie by the end of 2025.

Recruitment Updates

- ➤ GPPS received 309 applications for the 14 positions open in Recruit Training Class (RTC) #3.
- ➤ GPPS continues to hold APCAT and APREP testing. Both tests must be passed before a candidate can be considered for recruit training.
- Applications are being accepted for Experience Officer Program (EOP) #5.

QUARTERLY TRANSITION UPDATE

April 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025



Training Updates

- Four officers commenced training through EOP #4 on May 26th. All four members come with considerable policing experience from across Canada.
- ➤ The EOP #4 members graduated June 27th and have been deployed to designated positions, with two assigned to frontline patrol duty.
- The six members of the RTC #1 assigned to the Community Standards Unit joined the RCMP detachment to complete their field training which will be abbreviated based on their work in CSU.
- ➤ The 14 members of RTC #2 commenced training on March 31. Graduation for this class is set for September 12.

Coming Up in 2025 Q3

- Recruit Training Class #3 will commence training in late September
- Experienced Officer Program #5 will commence training in September.
- ➤ Key deliverables will continue to be developed with PSES to evaluate what is needed for GPPS to be declared Police of Jurisdiction.



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Public & Protective Services Committee

DATE: September 2, 2025

FROM: Dan Wong, Chair Grande Prairie Policing Committee

MEETING: Public & Protective Services Committee

REPORT WRITER: Wendy Hunt, Executive Director, Grande Prairie Police Commission

SUBJECT: Grande Prairie Policing Committee and Grande Prairie RCMP Updates

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee receive this report for information.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL / COMMITTEE DIRECTIONS

On March 20, 2023, Council passed three readings of Bylaw C-1455 which formally established both the Grande Prairie Police Commission ("Commission") and the Grande Prairie Police Service ("Police Service"). On June 26, 2023, Council amended Bylaw C-1455 to establish a municipal policing committee.

BACKGROUND

Regular Committee meetings are held to conduct the business of the Committee.

Police Act, Alberta Policing Oversight Standards for Policing Committees, and Municipal Police Service Agreement

The Committee is subject to the requirements set forth in the *Police Act ("Act")*, the *Alberta Policing Oversight Standards for Policing Committees ("Oversight Standards")*, and the *Municipal Police Service Agreement ("MPSA")*.

ANALYSIS

According to Section 23(14) of the *Act*, the Committee is responsible for representing the interests of Council to the officer in charge ("OIC"), developing a yearly plan of priorities and strategies for municipal policing in collaboration with the officer in charge, and overseeing the administration of the *MPSA*.

The Committee has worked with the OIC in developing the 2025/2026 Annual Performance Plan priorities and is pleased to present them to Council for their review.

Relationship to City Council's Areas of Focus / Strategic Priorities

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Quality of Life

Engagement Relationships

Inclusive & Caring Community

Environmental Impact

There are no notable environmental impacts related to this administrative item.

Economic Impact

There are no notable economic impacts related to this administrative item.

Social Impact

There are no notable social impacts related to this administrative item.

Relevant Statutes / Master Plans / City Documents

Police Act (Alberta)
Alberta Policing Oversight Standards for Policing Committees
Municipal Police Service Agreement
City of Grande Prairie Bylaw C-1455

Risk

There are no perceived risks related to this administrative item.

Alternatives (Optional)

There are no alternatives needed for this administrative item.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

No stakeholder engagement implications.

BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No budget or financial implications.

SUMMARY / CONCLUSION

The Committee is pleased to present an update on the policing priorities and crime trends. It is the intention of the Committee to keep Council up to date regularly.

ATTACHMENTS

May-July 2025 Crime Statistics Summary and Crime Gauge

SUBJECT: Grande Prairie Policing Committee DATE: September 2, 2025

MEETING: Public & Protective Services Committee REPORT WRITER: Wendy Hunt



Grande Prairie (Municipal) Crime Statistic Summary - January to July

2025/08/06

Grande Prairie (Municipal) - Highlights

- Break & Enters are showing a 33.3% decrease when compared to the same period in 2024 (January to July). There were 63 fewer actual occurrences (from 189 in 2024 to 126 in 2025).
- Theft of Motor Vehicles decreased by 14.2% when compared to the same period in 2024 (January to July). There were 30 fewer actual occurrences (from 211 in 2024 to 181 in 2025).
- Theft Under \$5,000 decreased by 7.7% when compared to the same period in 2024 (January to July). There were 78 fewer actual occurrences (from 1,017 in 2024 to 939 in 2025).

Grande Prairie (Municipal) - Criminal Code Offences Summary

Crime Category	% Change 2024 – 2025 (January to July)
Total Persons Crime	0.5% Increase
Total Property Crime	1.4% Decrease
Total Criminal Code	4.9% Decrease

From January to July 2025, when compared to the same period in 2024, there have been:

- 7 more **Persons Crime** offences;
- 45 fewer **Property Crime** offences; and
- 319 fewer Total Criminal Code offences;

Grande Prairie (Municipal) - July, 2025

- There were 40 Thefts of Motor Vehicles in July: 3 cars, 15 trucks, 2 minivans, 3 SUVs, 2 motorcycles, 12 other types of vehicles, and 3 vehicles taken without consent.
- There were 18 Break and Enters in July: 9 businesses, 6 residences, 0 cottages/seasonal residences, 2 in some other type of location, and 1 unlawfully being in a dwelling house.
- There were a total of 15 Provincial Roadside Suspensions in July (12 alcohol related and 3 drug related). This brings the year-to-date total to 88 (77 alcohol related and 11 drug related).
- There were a total of 121 files with the **Spousal Abuse** survey code in July (July 2024: 155). This brings the year-to-date total to 897 (2024: 964).
- There were 1,886 files with Victim Service Unit referall scoring in Grande Prairie Municipal: 36 accepted, 269 declined, 30 proactive, 6 requested but not available, and 1,545 files with no victim.



Grande Prairie Municipal Crime Gauge

2025 vs. 2024 January to July

Criminal Code Offences



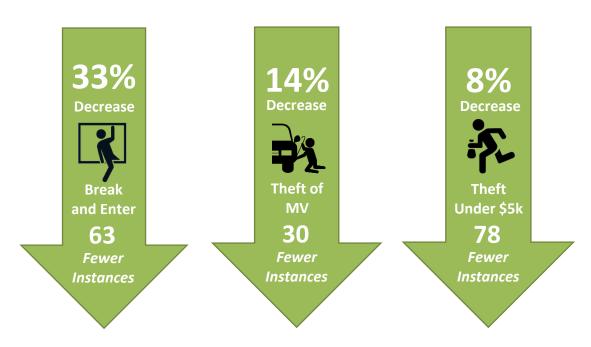
Total
Criminal Code
Offences:

5%

Decrease

When compared to January to July, 2024

Select Property Crime





ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Shane Bourke, City Manager	DATE:	September 2, 2025			
FROM: Dan Lemieux, Chief Public & Protective Services Officer	MEETING:	Public & Protective Services Committee			
REPORT WRITER: Michelle Coleman, Senior Strategic Advisor, Public and Protective Services					
SUBJECT: Feral Rabbit Update					

RECOMMENDATIONS

Administration recommends the Public and Protective Services Committee receive this report for information.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL / COMMITTEE DIRECTIONS

At the June 2, 2025, City Council Meeting, the following motion was passed: "Council direct Administration to bring a report back to the appropriate Standing Committee regarding options on how to deal with the feral rabbit issue within the City."

BACKGROUND

On June 2, 2025, delegates from the Swanavon neighbourhood presented to Council with concerns regarding the increasing rabbit population in Swanavon. On June 30th, a second delegation appeared before Council to present their perspective on the matter and submitted a petition. Following review, Council received the Declaration of Insufficiency of Petition for information.

Residents in the Swanavon area have observed the presence of feral rabbits in various areas of their community over recent years. Although Bylaw C-1103, being the *Noise, Nuisance and Public Disturbances Bylaw,* prohibits the feeding of wildlife, including feral rabbits, ongoing concerns were raised regarding their impact on public spaces, private property, and local ecosystems.

ANALYSIS

Rabbits are known to cause damage by burrowing, which can undermine sidewalks and other infrastructure. Their feeding habits can also lead to the damage of landscaped areas, gardens, and park vegetation, impacting the aesthetics and usability of public spaces.

In addition to physical damage, an increased rabbit population can contribute to ecologidalge 12 of 38 imbalance by competing with native wildlife for food and habitat. High concentrations of feral rabbits may also attract predators such as coyotes or birds of prey into residential areas, creating potential safety concerns for pets and residents.

To address these concerns, Enforcement Services have implemented public education initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the risks associated with feeding feral rabbits and encouraging responsible community behavior. These campaigns have focused on the importance of not providing food sources that support rabbit populations, as well as the potential consequences such as overpopulation, property damage, and attracting predators.

While enforcement remains an available tool, the City continues to emphasize education as an initiative-taking approach to managing the issue. Community mailouts and social media messaging were used in the past to promote compliance with the bylaw and support long-term mitigation strategies.

As part of the public education campaign, 150 informational sheets were hand-delivered to residences in the Swanavon neighborhood to raise awareness about the feral rabbit issue and available options. In addition, 313 letters and updated information sheets were printed and mailed to all Swanavon residents.

Communication strategies also included updates to the Wildlife: Native & Non-Native Species | City of Grande Prairie page and social media posts to highlight the importance to not feed wildlife animals or leave food outside that attract them and encouraging residents to help protect community spaces. The mailout and community outreach marks the conclusion of the planned public education and engagement activities related to the feral rabbits in the Swanavon neighbourhood at this time.

To date, Enforcement Services has received only two rabbit-related calls for service in 2025—one involving the capture of a live rabbit and one concerning a deceased rabbit. Both incidents occurred prior to the distribution of the public education mailout.

Relationship to City Council's Areas of Focus / Strategic Priorities

Quality of Life – Safety – Developing a community in which residents are safe and feel safe. Engaging relationships – Marketing & Communication – remaining clear on what we stand for as a community in proactive and deliberative two-way communication with partners and stakeholders.

Environmental Impact

Feral rabbit overpopulation can negatively impact the local environment by contributing to vegetation loss, soil erosion from excessive burrowing, and competition with native wildlife for food and habitat, disrupting the natural ecological balance in affected areas.

Economic Impact

Cost of replacing damaged landscaping, repairing infrastructure such as irrigation systems, or fencing.

Social Impact

Community frustration and division, particularly when differing opinions arise between those who view the rabbits as a nuisance and those who support their presence.

SUBJECT: Feral Rabbits in the City

DATE: September 2, 2025

MEETING: Public & Protective Services Committees

REPORT WRITER: Michelle Coleman

Noise, Nuisance and Public Disturbances Bylaw (C-1103)

Risk

If left unmanaged, the presence of feral rabbits can lead to increased maintenance costs for both the City and property owners, as well as further public complaints regarding nuisance behavior and safety.

Alternatives

Option 1: Amend Municipal Bylaw to Prohibit the Release of Domesticated Animals, Including Rabbits, into Public Spaces

Amending the existing bylaw to explicitly prohibit the release of domesticated animals into public areas would provide clearer enforcement authority. This would serve as a deterrent for individuals releasing unwanted pets and help address one of the root causes of the feral rabbit population. A communication strategy would be required to educate the public on the changes and their implications.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Administration met with the June 2 delegation to better understand community concerns. Enforcement Services and Communications collaborated to develop and implement a targeted engagement and public education strategy. Members of the City Leadership Team met with both delegates to follow up on the discussions.

BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no funds currently identified in the existing budget for further wildlife management initiatives. Should Council wish to pursue any of the options outlined, Administration recommends referring the matter to the fall budget deliberations for further consideration.

SUMMARY / CONCLUSION

This report outlines the ongoing concerns related to the presence of feral rabbits within the community, including identified environmental, social, and economic impacts. Administration has completed stakeholder engagement and public education activities.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Feral Rabbit Communications

SUBJECT: Feral Rabbits in the City DATE: September 2, 2025

MEETING: Public & Protective Services Committees REPORT WRITER: Michelle Coleman



P 780-538-0300 or 311
 A P.O. Bag 4000
 10205 - 98 Street
 Grande Prairie, AB T8V 6V3

Thursday, June 25, 2025

Dear Resident,

The City of Grande Prairie is committed to the safety, vibrancy and long-term health of our community. A growing concern across many neighbourhoods is the increasing presence of feral rabbits. These non-native animals may seem harmless, but they can cause serious damage to property, attract predators and disrupt our local environment.

Most feral rabbits in the city are descended from abandoned domestic pets. Domestic rabbits should never be released outdoors. Abandoning pets is not only inhumane, but it also shortens their lifespan and contributes directly to the growing feral rabbit population.

Feral rabbits reproduce quickly and are not part of Alberta's natural ecosystem. When left unchecked, they pose risks to gardens, green spaces and native species.

Enclosed is a flyer with helpful information on how you can reduce the impact of feral rabbits in your area. It includes practical tips and outlines your responsibilities under local bylaws, including the prohibition on feeding wild or feral animals.

We all play a role in protecting our community. By taking simple steps at home, residents can help prevent further spread of feral rabbits and support the health of our neighbourhoods.

If you have questions or concerns, contact AccessGP by dialling 311 or emailing info@cityofgp.com. You can also visit cityofgp.com/wildlifeguide for more information.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued care for our city.

Sincerely,

Municipal Enforcement Services

City of Grande Prairie





FERAL RABBITS IN GRANDE PRAIRIE

What you need to know

Feral rabbits have become a growing concern in Grande Prairie. While they may appear harmless, these non native animals can cause significant damage to gardens, public spaces and the local ecosystem. We've compiled this information to help residents understand the issue, take preventative steps and stay informed about local bylaws and responsibilities.

Fast Facts

- Feral rabbits are not native to Alberta. Most feral rabbits in Grande Prairie are descended from abandoned domestic pets.
- They reproduce quickly, with up to three litters of six young per year.
- Feral rabbits prefer areas with thick vegetation and soft soil to hide and dig shallow burrows.
- They consume up to 1 kilogram of vegetation per day, feeding on gardens, shrubs and trees.

Community Impacts

- Burrows create tripping hazards in yards, parks and pathways.
- Property damage to lawns, flowerbeds and landscaping.
- Attraction of predators, including coyotes and birds of prey, into neighbourhoods.
- Disruption of native species and local ecosystems.

How You Can Help

Do not feed wild or feral animals

Feeding feral rabbits is prohibited under **Bylaw C 1103**. It is illegal to:

- Intentionally feed wild animals or place food attractants such as fruit, grain, vegetables or pellets.
- Place or allow any device or material outdoors that attracts or feeds wild animals.

Residents must remove or modify feeding devices within 24 hours of City notice. Bird feeders (seed only) are allowed if inaccessible to other wildlife.

Remove hiding spots

- Seal access under sheds, decks and outbuildings with wire mesh buried at least 15 cm deep.
- Clear brush, wood piles and tall weeds that could provide cover or nesting space.

Protect gardens and trees

- Consider using fencing around trees, shrubs, flowerbeds and vegetable gardens to prevent damage.
- Install fencing using mesh smaller than 3.8 cm, at least
 1 m high and buried 15 cm below ground.

Never release pet rabbits

Abandoning domestic rabbits is inhumane and contributes to the feral population. These animals are not equipped to survive outdoors.

Bylaw Enforcement & Additional Information

The City may issue enforcement notices for bylaw violations, including feeding or harbouring wild animals. Residents must comply within 24 hours of notice or may be subject to fines.

Feral rabbits are considered a nuisance and invasive species in Alberta. Learn more about the broader impacts, control strategies and wildlife regulations in the City of Grande Prairie Wildlife Guide at cityofgp.com/wildlifeguide or visit abinvasives.ca.

By working together, we can protect our neighbourhoods, reduce feral rabbit populations and support the health of our local environment













Help keep our parks safe and preserve habitats by not feeding the wildlife in this Area.

Feeding or providing food attractants for wild animals within City limits on private or public property is prohibited by the City's Noise and Nuisance Bylaw C-1103.

Report concerns to Access GP via 311 or info@cityofgp.com

FERAL RABBITS IN GRANDE PRAIRIE

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By working together, we can protect our neighbourhoods, reduce feral rabbit populations and support the health of our local environment.







ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Shane Bourke, City Manager	DATE:	September 2, 2025
FROM: Dan Lemieux, Chief Public & Protective Services Officer	MEETING:	Public & Protective Services Committee

REPORT WRITER: Tammy Wentzell, Director, Housing & Community Development

SUBJECT: Housing & Homelessness System Update - July 2025

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee receive this report for information.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL / COMMITTEE DIRECTIONS

No previous Council or Committee directions.

BACKGROUND

The City of Grande Prairie serves as the backbone organization for a coordinated Housing & Homelessness System that includes emergency shelter, transitional, supportive, and independent affordable housing. The system operates under a Coordinated Access model, led by the Housing Hub Table, with performance tracked in real time through the enhanced Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS).

As the designated Community Entity (CE) for federal homelessness funding, the City administers federal investments and provides system-level coordination and oversight. It also plays a key role in planning and alignment with provincial partners. Since March 2025, some provincial funding has flowed directly to service providers; however, the City continues to support integrated service delivery and system cohesion. Starting October 2025, provincial funding for Cedar Point Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) will return to City administration.

For 2025/26, the system is supported by approximately \$4.2 million in provincial and \$890,000 in federal funding.

ANALYSIS

The table below summarizes occupancy and service utilization across the City's Housing & Homelessness Continuum for July 2025. It includes housing, shelter, and case management

programs, with occupancy rates based on actual usage. Where relevant, acuity-adjusted Pags alloads reflect support intensity.

Facility / Program	Program Type	Capacity	Occupied / Active	Occupancy Rate (%)	Notes	
Cedar Point	Supportive Housing	63 units	57 occupied	90%	6 units held for contingency. Caseload acuity = 115%.	
	Affordable Housing	42 units	33 occupied	79%	1 pending, 2 temporarily unavailable, 6 available.	
Fletcher House	Supportive + Affordable Housing	42 units	39 occupied	93%	1 supportive and 2 affordable units vacant.	
Oasis	Supportive + Affordable Housing	20 units	20 occupied	100%	Fully utilized.	
Wapiti House (Prov. Funded)	Emergency Shelter (Beds + Mats)	105 spaces	92 utilized	88%	Includes beds, overnight mats, and seasonal mats.	
	Transitional Suites (Shared)	52 beds (34 rooms)	49 housed	94%	Wraparound supports in place.	
Saint Lawrence Centre (SLC)	Day Shelter / Overflow Mats	N/A	167 visitors	N/A	Avg. 34 visitors/day; peak day = 52.	
Centerpoint	Adaptive Case Management					
	Housing Loss Prevention	Open intake	32 active	N/A	Jan–July 2025 caseload to prevent evictions.	

The following real-life profiles demonstrate the continuum's effectiveness in addressing complex needs and promoting long-term stability:

Profile	Housing Pathway	Current Status	
		Employed, in recovery, volunteers as peer support worker	
		Stable, medication-compliant, in counselling and positive social activities	
Middle-aged FemaleShelter → Supportive Housing → Market Housing with Family		Sober, culturally reconnected, volunteers teaching ribbon skirt making	

Relationship to City Council's Areas of Focus / Strategic Priorities

Quality of Life Inclusive & Caring Community

Environmental Impact

There are no environmental impacts associated with this report.

Economic Impact

There are no economic impacts associated with this report.

Social Impact

These outcomes demonstrate how stable housing, coordinated supports, and cultural connection lead to recovery, independence, and community contribution—reducing long-term social service dependency.

HART Community Housing Report
The City of Grande Prairie Affordable Housing Strategy
Point in Time Count Report 2024

Risk

There are no risks associated with this report.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The following organizations are key stakeholders in Grande Prairie's Housing & Homelessness Continuum and Coordinated Access Hub Table:

Organization	Role / Contribution		
The Mustard Seed	Operates Cedar Point, including supportive and affordable housing units.		
Wapiti Support Resource Association (WSRA)	Operates Fletcher House, Oasis, and Saint Lawrence Centre (supportive housing and day shelter) and Sober Shelter.		
Centerpoint Facilitation Inc.	Leads Coordinated Access and holds the contract for Adaptive Case Management.		
Mobile Outreach Program	Provides mobile crisis response, navigation, and outreach for unsheltered individuals.		
Odyssey House	Offers emergency shelter and transitional housing for women and children fleeing violence.		
Sunrise House	Provides emergency shelter and outreach for youth		
Grande Prairie Friendship Centre	Supports Indigenous clients through cultural programming, referrals, Eviction Prevention and food security.		

BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget/financial implications associated with this report.

SUMMARY / CONCLUSION

This report provides a snapshot of system performance as of July 2025, highlighting high occupancy rates, coordinated service delivery, and positive individual outcomes across the housing continuum. Grande Prairie's Housing & Homelessness continuum continues to operate effectively, supported by strong partnerships and real-time data.

As the system approaches capacity, the Housing Needs Assessment update is a timely opportunity to identify emerging gaps and guide future investment. The implementation of the enhanced HIFIS data system further strengthens the City's ability to monitor performance and respond proactively.

In addition, the City's Expression of Interest for an Alternative Relationship Plan (ARP) at Cedar Point represents a critical step in integrating health care access into the housing system. When people are well, the system functions differently preventing crisis, reducing strain, and enabling better long-term outcomes.

This report is submitted for information.

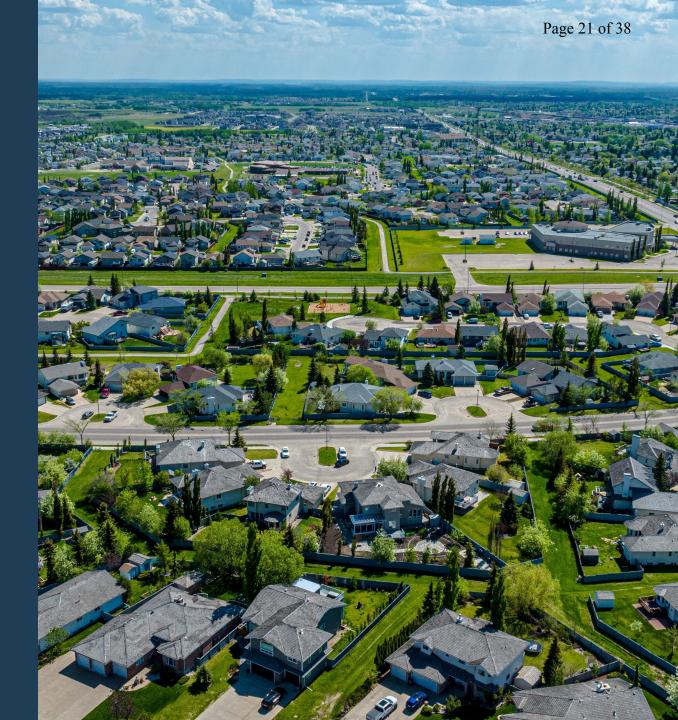
ATTACHMENTS

SUBJECT: Housing & Homelessness System Update July 2025 DATE: September 2, 2025

Housing & Homelessness Update

July 2025 data





Housing Continuum Flow

Homelessness Emergency Shelter Transitional Housing Supportive Housing Low Income Housing Housing

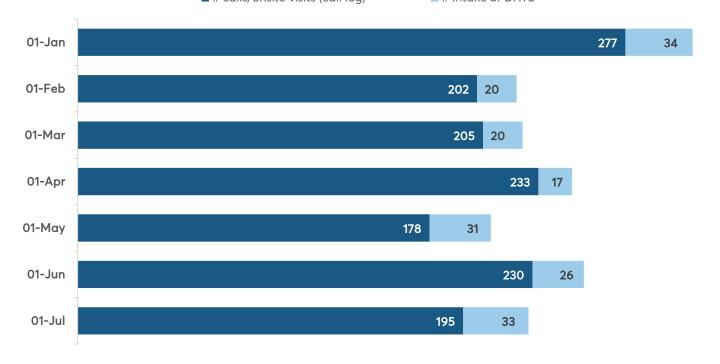
Coordinated Access & Referral





HOUSING HUB TABLE











HOUSING HUB WAITLIST July 2025

Housing Type	Waitlist Count
Cedar Point (Supportive Housing)	19
Fletcher House (Supportive Housing)	6
Scattered Site (Adaptive CM)	11
Complex Cases (Undecided)	2
Total	38



CEDAR POINT

63 Permanent Supportive Housing units, and42 independent affordable units.

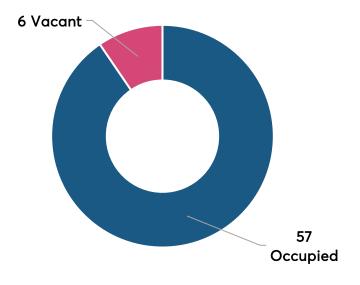




CEDAR POINT

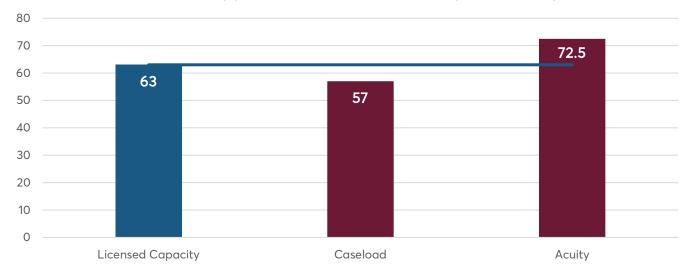
Permanent Supportive Housing

July 2025 Building Occupancy



Reason for vacant units: above operating capacity rate. Remaining rooms for contingency/emergency units



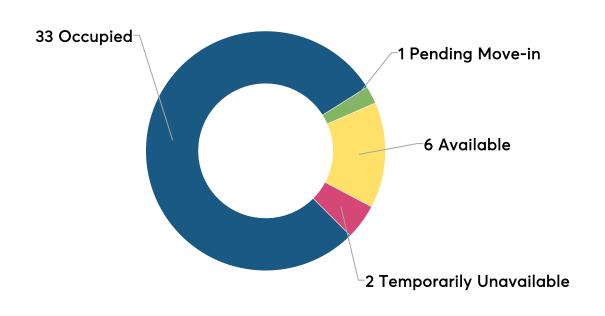




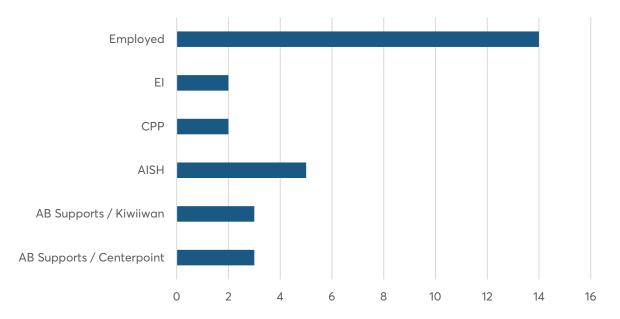
CEDAR POINT

Affordable Housing

July 2025 Occupancy



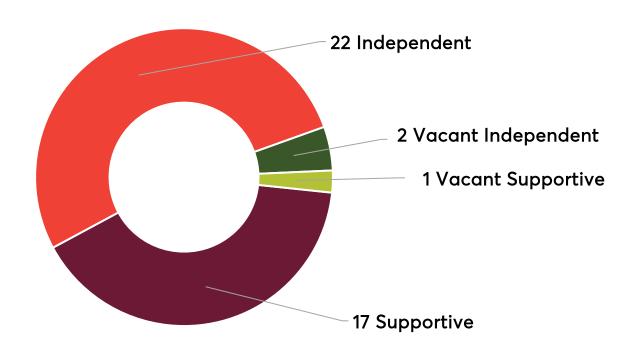
Resident Income Source/Support





FLETCHER HOUSE

July 2025 Occupancy

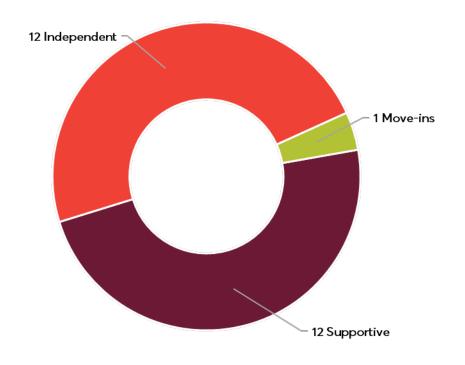


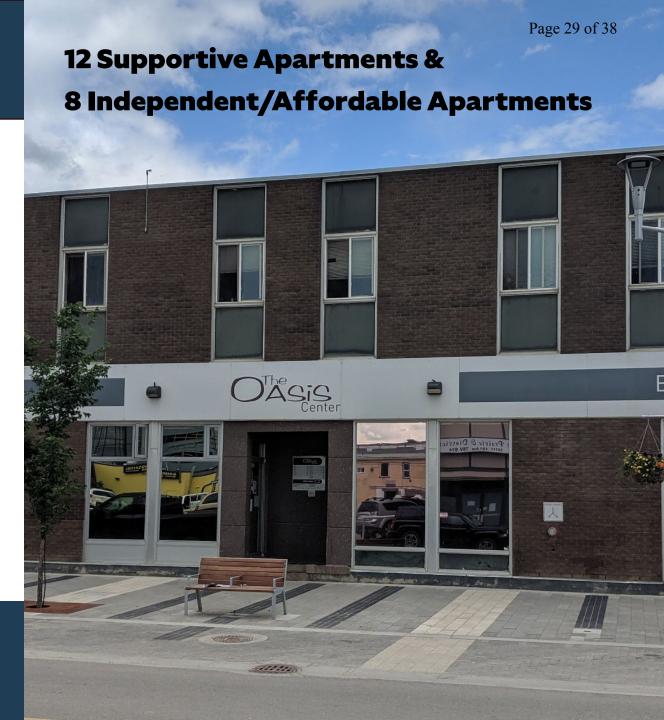




OASIS

July 2025 Occupancy





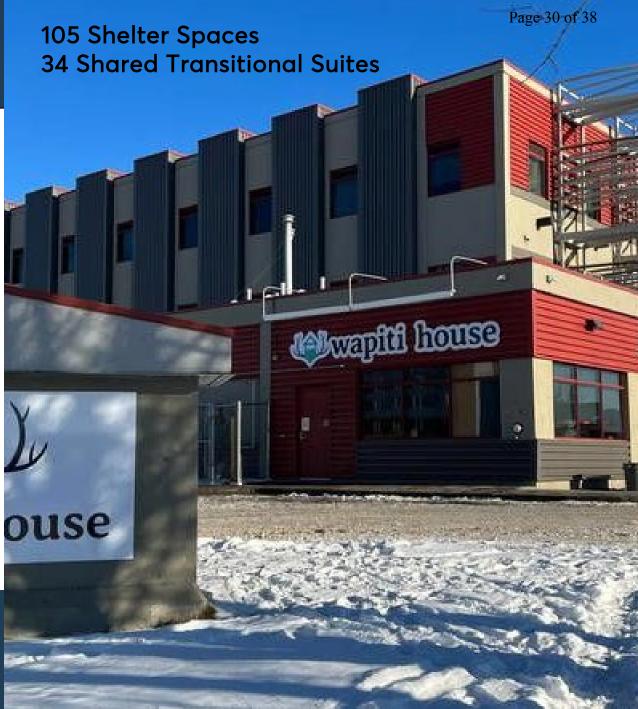
WAPITI HOUSE

Shelter Usage, July 2025 (55 beds, 40 overnight mats, 10 seasonal mats)



Transitional Suites Occupancy, July 2025 (34 shared rooms)





SAINT LAWRENCE CENTRE

Daytime shelter and overflow mat programs (Yearly)

In July, SLC served 167 visitors

- Average of 34 individuals per day
- Busiest day served 52 individuals





Centerpoint Facilitation

Adaptive Case Management (July 2025)

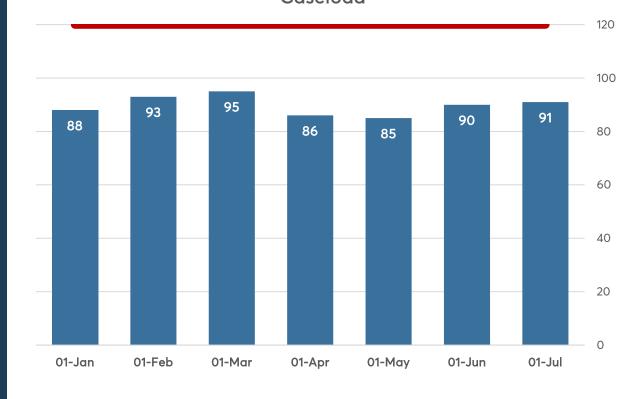
- 85 individuals (calculated as 91 due to acuity) out of 120
 - 57 individuals housed

Housing Loss Prevention (Jan-July 2025)

- 32 individuals on caseload

GRANDE prairie

Adaptive Case Management Jan - July 2025 Caseload



Housing Continuum Success Stories

Demonstrating the Effectiveness of Grande Prairie's Housing Continuum



Middle-aged Male

- Overcame meth addiction, homelessness, and unemployment
- Progressed through MAT, outreach, transitional and supportive housing to market housing
- Now re-employed, in long-term recovery, and volunteers as a peer support worker.

Male Youth (19)

- Exited provincial care, faced aggression and substance use challenges
- Moved from emergency shelter to supportive housing, completed residential treatment
- Now stable on medication, engaged in counselling, and active in positive social activities.

Middle-aged Female

- Residential school survivor facing addiction and housing instability
- Transitioned from shelters to supportive housing, then market housing with family
- Achieved sobriety, reconnected with culture, and volunteers teaching ribbon skirt making.

Improved Data Management System Dashboard HIFIS





Sample of Data Available

Housing Continuum	Best For	Sample Individuals
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	Chronic/episodic homelessness, high acuity (mental health, substance use), legal needs	1, 4, 6
Transitional Housing	Young adults, moderate needs, life skills development	3, 5
Scattered Site (w/ Case Management)	Families or individuals with moderate support needs	2, 5
Market Housing (w/ Subsidy)	Stable income, low support needs	Not ideal for any current individuals
High-Structure/Behavioral PSH	Legal issues, behavioral management (e.g., aggression, site bans)	6

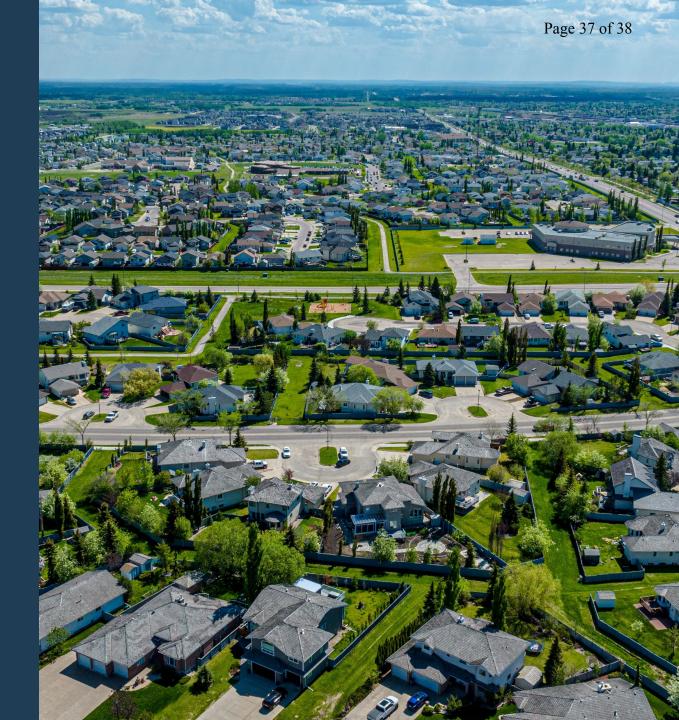


Updates

- Update Housing Needs Assessment (2026 to 2027)
- Expression Of Interest -Clinical Alternative Relationship Plan ARP for Cedar Point Medical Clinic (Application submitted)
- The Provincial Funding for Cedar Point has been reverted back to the City to fund The Mustard starting October 1, 2025



THANK YOU





PUBLIC & PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE - OUTSTANDING ITEMS LIST - SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

ID	Title	Requested on	People Responsible	Item Notes	Expected Report Date
1368	Feral Rabbits in the City	6/2/2025	Michelle Coleman	Council direct Administration to bring a report back to the appropriate Standing Committee regarding options on how to deal with the feral rabbit issue within the City.	Q3 2025
1377	Security at Montrose Cultural Centre	7/8/2025	Dan Lemieux	Committee direct Administration to bring back a report regarding security at the Montrose Cultural Centre.	Q4 2025
2					