

# City Council Update

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**Meeting Date: March 10, 2026**

**Submitted By: Deputy Mayor Jenn Schmidt-Rempel**

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CITY OF  
*Lethbridge*

*Covering the period of February 14, 2026 – February 27, 2026*

## **MEETINGS & PARTNER ENGAGEMENT**

**18/2/2026 – Economic Development Lethbridge – attended as a guest**

### **HIGHLIGHTS & DISCUSSION NOTES**

- 2026 budget was approved and new sector reps were appointed.
- EDL will no longer be eligible to extend the Rural Renewal Stream designation as we now exceed the maximum population of 100,000. In the process of gathering information and communicating with stakeholders prior to winding the program up. It will leave a significant void in the community from a workforce retention perspective.
- The Brighter Together Survey shows Most respondents report strong recent performance and steady optimism, with 60% saying they achieved growth in the past year and more than six in ten feeling positive about the year ahead. The biggest obstacles are insurance and labour costs, while Lethbridge's top locational strength is its post-secondary presence and its biggest business challenge is the municipal tax environment. The Brighter Together Survey is available at: <https://chooselethbridge.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2025-Brighter-Together-Survey-Summary-of-Results-v2.pdf>
- Received information on the Commercial & Industry Study. This was an analysis of the economic impact of the manufacturing sector and the food/beverage production subsector in Lethbridge Region. That report is available here: <https://chooselethbridge.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Manufacturing-Economic-Impact-Report-Dec-2025.pdf>
- Creative Industries feasibility study is underway.
- Discussed the future of Team Lethbridge.

**19/2/2026 – BILD Lethbridge**

### **HIGHLIGHTS & DISCUSSION NOTES**

- Discussed the state of the industry in Lethbridge – labour force is an issue with youth not always understanding the trades career pathway, also discussed offsite levies, and national building code.

- Spent time on the Unlocking Housing campaign by BILD Alberta and what municipalities can do: <https://www.unlockhousing.ca/>
- Additional materials provided:
  - <https://bildalberta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2025-Housing-Year-in-Review-FINAL.pdf>
  - [https://www.bildedmonton.com/wp-content/uploads/BILD\\_UrbanGrowthCaseStudy\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.bildedmonton.com/wp-content/uploads/BILD_UrbanGrowthCaseStudy_WEB.pdf)
  - Reassessing the Case for Development Charges in Canadian Municipalities by Andrew Sancton.

## **25/2/2026 – Lethbridge Police Commission**

### **HIGHLIGHTS & DISCUSSION NOTES**

- The Lethbridge Police Commission has hired a part-time Executive Director. We continue to meet at City Hall on the last Wednesday of the month and are now meeting in the Culver City Room.
- The Commission received the Professional Standards Annual Report and 2026 Annual Policing Plan.
- Two Community Peace Officer cadets were selected to begin their training in Lac La Biche in March, and the current police cadet class will graduate on March 5<sup>th</sup>
- Downtown Policing Unit members have seen an increase in issues including thefts, trespassing, and open drug use along 2A Ave. N. between Stafford and 13 St. that has flowed out of the downtown core south of Highway 3. The area of Galt Gardens and many of the surrounding businesses have required less attention as a result.
- The Traffic Response Unit started a new traffic safety initiative which focuses on one of the top collision intersections and/or school zones weekly to assist with traffic safety. Data will be collected to assist with guiding the initiative and reviewing the overall impact.
- The Domestic Crimes Unit investigated 13 files during the month of January and processed six Clare's Law applications. A new Sergeant was transferred to the unit.
- The Property Crimes Unit investigated over 45 files, concluding 37. Many resulted in charges including possession of stolen property (stolen vehicles and trailers), flight from police, and failing to comply with court orders.
- Lethbridge ALERT, in coordination with LPS Patrols, conducted targeted enforcement stemming from a 2025 investigation into three individuals suspected of drug trafficking. Police subsequently seized a handgun with ammunition, \$5,100 in cash proceeds of crime and drug paraphernalia indicating the subjects were involved in the sale and distribution of cocaine. Two Lethbridge males were charged.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CONFERENCES

Session / Event	Date	Key Takeaways	Application to Council Work
Council's Role in Budgeting & Finances (session 1 & 2)	18/2/2026 25/2/2026	Strategic planning Service levels	Information will be helpful in future strategic planning, service level, and budget discussions.
Annual Cybersecurity Training	24/2/2026	Staying vigilant and proactive in the approach to cybersecurity.	Required training for both Council (annually) and AB Munis (semi-annually).

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS & EVENTS

Meetings with local business representatives, community organizations, and residents. General discussions re.:

- property assessments and taxes
- workforce and apprenticeships
- LDE
- transit
- development in and around Lethbridge

### **18/2/26 – Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce Fireside Chat with Minister Neudorf**

- Topics covered included utilities, affordability, and long-term system planning
- Electricity costs particularly transmission, renewables, and storage systems
- Data centres
- Lethbridge's water and wastewater needs
- Strategies on advocating to levels of government

### **20/2/26 – Japanese Emperor's Birthday Celebration**

- Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden recognized as a gem in Lethbridge and Southern Alberta

### **21/2/26 – Opening of Grammie's Little Bakery** at 403, 5<sup>th</sup> St. South

### **21/2/26 – Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament** hosted by Inclusion Lethbridge

### **21/2/26 – The Year of the Horse Spring Festival** hosted by the Southern Alberta Chinese Association

### **26/2/26 – BILD Lethbridge AGM** hosted by BILD Lethbridge; guest speaker, Michael Kelly on the South Campus (U of L) Development

**26/2/26 – University of Lethbridge Research and Creative Activities Plan Launch/PUBLIC Professor (Dr. Don G. McIntyre)** hosted by the University of Lethbridge. More information on the plan is available at: <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/research/research-plan> and the PUBLIC Professor series schedule is available at: <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/research/public-professor>