



County of Northern Lights

May 2026 Ward Two Report

Councillor Kayln Schug

May 1, 2026

Peace River Tradeshow

4:00 pm – 9:00 pm

I really want to take a moment to thank Pearl for staying in the booth all weekend. It was fantastic to see her make so many connections with our residents, relatives, and many others. A few complaints about road washouts and general road maintenance, as well as the cancellation of the snow plowing of the private driveway program.

May 2, 2026

Peace River Tradeshow

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Was able to sit in the CNL booth from 12-2, then spent 2-4 at the North Peace Housing Foundation booth. Many of the same comments relate to public works concerns and the cancellation of the snowplowing of private driveways program.

May 4-6, 2026

ACCPA Convention in Calgary

Day One – May 4th – 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

I took a workshop called "The Realities, Challenges, and Promises of Gang Prevention and Exit Programming in Alberta." It was facilitated by TJ Sheehan, CEO of Pivot Society, and Jessica Hutton, CEO of Natawihowin Consulting. I was able to get in touch with a group of service providers to assist with both mental health and gang activity in our community. I look forward to bringing the idea back to our Mental Health Task Force Committee for action.

Day Two – May 5th - 7:30 am – 4:30 pm

The morning kicked off with a keynote speech by Janet Campbell, the CEO of the Joy Smith Foundation – a registered Canadian charity dedicated to ending human trafficking. Essentially, the foundation works to shift public awareness from "this doesn't happen here" to "we know how to stop it," focusing heavily on the fact that the majority of trafficking victims in Canada are Canadian-born youth. I then took part in 3 educational sessions that focused on human trafficking. There really are no words, and I have put together a proposal to take to the next Peace Regional RCMP Advisory Committee in June to discuss hosting a "Parent and Caregiver" education session to teach parents these critical, life-saving skills to protect our kids.

Day Three – May 6th – 7:30 am – 3:30 pm

The third day began with a keynote speech by Julie Nobert-DeMarchi of the Timmins and Area Women in Crisis group, who shared their presentation on "Why Staying Isn't Choosing". It was a very hard presentation to listen to as it addressed the challenges surrounding gender-based violence. The afternoon focused on a few different education workshops and I took part in: "Justice, Treatment, and Community Working Together" - it was focused on drug courts and rehabilitation, "Breaking Cycles: How Partnerships Create Safer Pathways For At Risk Youth" which was impactful on why youth get involved in drugs, gangs, and crime, and "Made in Alberta: Preventing Gender Based Violence Where We Live" - A research project looking at human trafficking and gender based crime in Alberta – unfortunately only on adults and not youth too.

May 6, 2026

North Peace Housing Foundation Meeting (Virtual)

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

The meeting was moved to a virtual format due to board members' attendance and availability; the Del-Air visit will be rescheduled. Many of the updates are shared in the monthly synopsis from Tammy at NPHF, so I will not repeat them. Some highlights include the Manning Community Van request for a transfer of ownership, the adoption of our 2026-2031 Strategic Plan, a review of the Handling External Complaints Policy, and a discussion of the potential impacts of Bill 28 on HMBs. We also discussed and approved the response to West Fraser Mill on the housing request letter. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 3rd at Homesteader Lodge in Hines Creek.

- May 7, 2026** **Peace Regional Mental Health Task Force Committee** **5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**
 Due to unforeseen circumstances, we moved the meeting online. The group heard from the Peace River Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, the next meeting is being moved to June 18th to accommodate all councillors attending FCM. We are actively working on various projects, and I look forward to bringing some support requests to the council in the coming months. The remainder of the information will be shared in the meeting minutes, which will be attached to the upcoming council information packages.
- May 11, 2026** **RhPAP North Summit Final Planning Meeting (Zoom)** **3:30 pm - 4:30 pm**
 Met virtually with the planning group to finalize the agenda and plan for the upcoming summit in Sexsmith on June 2nd. I also received my questions, so I can prepare, as I will be a panel presenter speaking about the bursary program that the GHRARC offers each year to successful applicants.
- May 12, 2026** **Council Meeting in Chambers** **9:00 am – 1:45 pm**
 Items were discussed as per the agenda and can be viewed on the county's YouTube channel at: <http://www.youtube.com/@countyofnl>.
- Battle River Museum Tour** **2:30 pm – 3:45 pm**
 What a fantastic museum! I cannot wait to go back and spend more time browsing. I look forward to working with them on future advocacy and on ways we can collaborate to ensure the museum remains an important historical part of our area.
- Town of Manning and CNL ICF Meeting** **4:00 pm - 5:45 pm**
 Nothing to report as the meeting is held in closed session until the agreement is approved.
- May 14, 2026** **Detachment Commander Gavin Ool – Manning** **10:00 am – 11:45 am**
 I had the opportunity to meet with Gavin to discuss how the Peace River RCMP Advisory Committee works and what would work best for the Manning detachment area. He is putting together a proposal for our next joint meeting with the Town of Manning to discuss it further. I think it would be a great opportunity to gather local input and share information back and forth.
- May 15, 2026** **Peace Regional Alliance Committee Special Meeting Zoom** **8:30 am – 10:20 am**
 The group met to discuss the final draft of the Position Paper, which will be brought forward to all membership municipalities for each council to endorse.
- May 20, 2026** **Peace River Mercer Mill Tour** **9:30 am – 1:15 pm**
 It was a great opportunity to receive a presentation on the carbon capture project that Mercer and Savante have been working on for the mill. We received a tour and had the opportunity to share the room with representatives from other mills in our area, ministry representatives, Mercer employees and management, and other municipal officials. The scale of the proposed project is massive and will be critical to our area. I think we are so fortunate to have this in our backyard and that they have been so inclusive in the project, and grateful for the relationship and support they are receiving from the County.
- Peace Regional RCMP Advisory Committee Meeting** **5:00 pm – 7:30 pm**
 We held our final meeting before summer break at the Peace River Seniors Center. It is always a great evening and an opportunity to get together with that group and host our meeting there. Because it was the last meeting before summer break, there were few updates; instead, it was a checklist of tasks to complete or assign for the summer. We also approved a subcommittee that I will champion to organize a parent-and-caregiver information night on youth safety and protection in the fall. Some of the RCMP highlights included: a person has been charged in connection with the school shooting threats in Peace River earlier this month, call volume has remained steady, a new position has been created for a public service employee that will be based out of Peace River and will work with the Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) out of K-division, the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) has been busy looking after bike safety rodeos for the kids, and other parades and community events that have been underway. Daniel Cress, who is the Director of

Emergency Management in Peace River, shared that the Town of Peace River just approved the position for an admin support for the Community Police Officers (CPO) and that they have just over 600 files so far this year and have 3 members and are working their way to a full complement of officers, which they hope will be 6 or so.

- May 21, 2026** **Peace River Arboretum Event** **9:30 am - 11:30 am**
It was a beautiful celebration of Norm Boucher's contributions and all he has done over the years. There were so many people in attendance, and it was a wonderful way to recognize not only Norm but the significance of the forestry industry as a whole in our region.
- GRHARC – BBQ at Grimshaw Hospital to Thank Workers** **11:50 am – 1:45 pm**
It was a great afternoon for a BBQ, and our staff and workers at the Grimshaw hospital sure appreciated the recognition and some yummy lunch. A big shout-out to Co-Op and the Grimshaw Hospital Foundation group for partnering with GRHARC to put on this event ahead of Rural Healthcare Week.
- May 22, 2026** **Economic Development Training in Peace River** **8:30 am – 3:00 pm**
The training session was facilitated by Mark Morrissey. I found the session very informative and appreciated the conversations with fellow elected officials and the neighbouring administration about how we all view economic development differently and carry it out. I look forward to working through the documents they provided us with and how they can be applied to CNL to benefit our municipality and region.
- May 26, 2026** **Council Meeting in Chambers** **9:00 am – 2:45 pm**
Items were discussed as per the agenda and can be viewed on the county's YouTube channel at: <http://www.youtube.com/@countyofnl>. Due to a schedule conflict, I was unable to attend the ordinance meeting that followed our council meeting.
- May 27, 2026** **PRAMP Meeting** **1:00 pm – 3:45 pm**
Some of the highlights and topics covered included updates on the downtime in the hydrocarbon monitoring program due to extensive maintenance, so Mike and Lilly are working on implementing new strategies to address those concerns. Unfortunately, some of the monitors need replacing, and PRAMP has been notified that the GoA is doing budget cuts and likely will not reimburse the charges accrued for replacement of the monitors; therefore, the board had to make a motion to pay for the sensors and new monitors out of a contingency fund as they are essential for PRAMP meeting not only their strategic plan but the mandate of an airshed as well. We were given a virtual tour of the new website redesign, which will launch next month if all goes to plan. This will enable better real-time reporting on both air monitoring and the Purple Air sensors, as well as more interaction and education. The AGM and next meeting will be held in Peace River on September 17th. The subcommittees will continue to work, and we have agreed not to conduct a thorough review of our strategic plan until we are certain we will receive government dollars for operations in the spring of 2027. Administration will look at ways we can advocate to the government to ensure these important programs continue in our communities.
- May 29, 2026** **Bill 28 Webinar – Alberta Public Libraries** **12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**
The webinar was presented by the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries. Pilar Martinez, CEO of Edmonton Public Library, spoke and presented it on behalf of the Coalition. Four speakers included: Ron Sheppard, Sarah Meilleur, Matt Solberg, and Keith Gardner. The three new powers being introduced include: inspection authority, regulation-making power, and guidelines on materials. Ron Sheppard spoke on what the Bill means for libraries, both operational and financial impacts. What is terrifying is that "some rural libraries indicate they would consider closure rather than attempting compliance." Sarah spoke about the financial impacts, with costs falling under capital (physical separation), operating (staff time and training), and systems (technology and vendors). With Bill 28 coming without additional funding, this will be another download on municipalities. Matt spoke about how this Bill will affect municipal councils – essentially a provincial decision that is now a municipal expense. These changes are nonpartisan. The three calls to action are: pass a motion asking the province to meaningfully consult on regulations, meet with your MLA,

and speak publicly when asked. In the regulatory phase, the libraries are requesting priorities that include: a narrow and specific list of titles, a workable timeline, funding implementation, and procedural safeguards.

It was a great, informative session, and I look forward to the resources they will share next week with all who registered for the webinar.

I was able to have my question answered live: "Have you spoken with any librarians who co-locate and are now integrated in schools? I understand they operate differently, but some operate as both, and that makes things complicated. Any specific advocacy on those even more complex libraries, as some are in our rural municipalities and are the only libraries available to many, both students and the public." The answer was – it's very complicated with all the stakeholders involved, conversations have been ongoing, and the point is now moot because Bill 28 is going to hurt them all.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- June 2nd – RhPAP Regional Summit in Sexsmith, 10 am – 2 pm & Rural Crime Watch AGM – Nampa – 6:30 pm
- June 3rd – RMA Mental Health Webinar – 9:30 am & North Peace Housing Foundation – Hines Creek @ 4 pm
- June 5th – Northern Lakes College Convocation in Slave Lake
- June 8th – Grimshaw Regional Attraction and Retention Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- June 9th – Council Meeting Day & Alberta Pond Hockey AGM – Grimshaw @ 7 pm
- July 14th – Peace River Outreach Grad Ceremony in Peace River @ 6:15 pm
- June 15th – ASCHA/RMA Housing 101 Webinar @ 2:00 pm & Ward 1,2,3 Ratepayer Meeting in Dixonville @ 7 pm
- June 17th – Ward 4,5,6 Ratepayer Meeting in Manning @ 7 pm
- June 18th – ~~Peace Regional Energy Alliance Meeting @ CNL @ 9:00 am~~ & 5:00 pm Peace Regional Mental Health Task Force Meeting in Peace River
- June 23rd – Council Meeting and Town of Manning Joint Meeting Day



Deputy Reeve Kayln Schug – Ward Two



COUNCILLOR WARD REPORT

WARD # 3 May 2026

DATE MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

May 1	PR Trade Show	4:00pm-6:00pm
May 2	PR Trade Show	10:00am-12:00pm

The trade show was well attended this year, and we had much more engagement with ratepayers and booth visitors. I also liked the setup this year—it was a nice change to focus on a simple draw.

May 12	Council Meeting/Battle River Museum Tour	9:00am-4:00pm
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Council meeting as per agenda. The Battle River Museum tour was a pleasant surprise. It was my first visit, and I was impressed by the extensive collection of historical items on display. It was especially impressive to see that most of the vintage tractors still run.

May 19	PRAIC	9:30am-11:40am
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Co-Chair Wendy Goulet has presented on behalf of PRAIC to the NSC Council, the Town of Peace River presentation is scheduled for June. Financial updates included donations received to date for the Pow Wow, which will need to be scaled down due to limited funding. The next major Indigenous cultural event is the Vision Quest at Camp Artaban from June 5 to 11, and everyone is welcome to attend or observe. The Indigenous Art Show at the Peace River Municipal Library runs until June 17. Energy Alberta recently hosted a Kairos Blanket Exercise in Calgary, facilitated by Wendy Goulet and her team.

May 20	The Future of Mercer PR Tour	9:30am-1:00pm
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Led by Cal Dakin and a Svante representative, the presentation was very informative and covered the current and future state of the pulp market. Mercer, in partnership with Svante, is developing a Bioenergy Carbon Capture project aimed at creating new markets for the Peace River mill. During the tour of part of the mill, we also viewed a prototype of the carbon capture technology.

May 26	Council Meeting/Ordinance Meeting	9:00am-4:20pm
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Council meeting as per agenda. Council went over the new Safety, Procurement, and bank account policies.

May 27	Airport Meeting	4:00pm-5:15pm
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Terms of reference was accepted with a few minor tweaks.

May 30	PRAIC PR Pow Wow	1:00pm-2:00pm
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I was honoured to offer greetings on behalf of Council this year. Although this year's Pow Wow was smaller than in recent years when it was held outdoors, the dancers and drummers were outstanding as always. It was a wonderful event made possible by dedicated volunteers.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONVENTIONS/WORKSHOPS/EVENTS, ETC:

June 9	Council meeting	9:00am
June 12	Tri-Council BBQ	3:30pm
June 15	Ward 1,2,3 Rate Payer Meeting	7:00pm
June 16	PRAIC	9:30am
June 17	Ward 4,5,6 Rate Payer Meeting	7:00pm
June 18-26	Away	
June 22	MPTA Executive Meeting	6:00pm
June 29	MPTA Board Meeting	6:30pm

Brenda Yasinski, County of Northern Lights, Ward 3 Councillor

07-A

leaders to provide a practical overview of economic development and the role municipalities play in supporting sustainable community growth.

Topics covered included:

- The role of Council in economic development
- Strategic planning and data-driven decision making
- Business attraction and retention strategies
- Community collaboration and partnerships
- Funding opportunities and incentive structures
- Measuring success through Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- Building community economic resilience and long-term sustainability

Economic development is a shared responsibility between Council, administration, local businesses, and community organizations and surrounding municipalities. Participants discussed the importance of aligning municipal priorities, infrastructure investments, and policies with local economic realities and opportunities. It is important to support existing businesses as well as focusing on attraction efforts, developing clear community value propositions, encouraging regional cooperation and understanding how local decisions impact investment confidence and population retention.

Overall, the course provided useful tools and best practices to help elected officials make informed decisions that support economic growth, resiliency, and long-term community success.

May 26, 2026 *Attended Regular Council Meeting as per agenda*

9:00 am-4:30 pm

May 26, 2026 *Attended Ordinance Standing Committee Meeting*

Reviewed: ATIA & POPA Policy & Bylaw

Safety Policies (procedures) under revised Safety Program Policy

Bank Account Policy & Procurement of Goods & Services Policy

Proposed Road Use Agreement Policy

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONVENTIONS/WORKSHOPS/EVENTS, ETC: START TIME

June 3, 2026	Manning & Community Enhancement Meeting	10:30 am
June 9, 2026	Regular Council Meeting	9:00 am
June 9, 2026	Manning Municipal Library Meeting	6:00 pm
June 13, 2026	Town of Manning Lemonade Day- Judging Committee	1:30 pm
June 15, 2026	Wards I, 2 & 3 Ratepayers Meeting in Dixonville	7:00 pm
June 17, 2026	Wards 4, 5 & 6 Ratepayers Meeting in Council Chambers	7:00 pm
June 23, 2026	Regular Council Meeting	9:00 am
June 23, 2026	Jt. Council Meeting with Town of Manning	4:00 pm



Gloria Dechant, County of Northern Lights Ward 5 Councillor



COUNCILLOR WARD REPORT

WARD #6 May 2026

May 1st

NAEL meeting

1000/1400

Virtually attend Northern Alberta Elected Leaders meeting. Mayor of Sexsmith is now chair of NAEL and Mayor of Falher is vice-chair.

Members gave introductions and brief roundtable updates of happenings in their municipalities. I touched on Mercer's proposed capital project, Dixonville Charter School, changes coming for fire services, passed budget with no mill rate increases, expecting big spring runoff, CRAA continues advocacy for rail service, GoA nuclear engagement report has been released.

Nicole Nelles with GoA Economic Development gave a presentation. Talked about Invest Alberta, she is available to help coach applicants and navigate through GoA process for funding.

Minister Todd Loewen gave updates from GoA, mainly around preparedness for upcoming wildfire season.

President of RMA gave update; Bill 28 and how it is giving the Province more authority and could limit municipal decision making. Also touched on new police funding model that came into effect on April 1st...higher costs now with no increased service.

President of Alberta Munis gave brief update from their organization.

Wrapped up meeting with discussion on the future of having hybrid meetings, internet service is poor in many locations, AV quality is not great, should there be in-person meetings only...will keep the current hybrid format for now.

Minutes in info package.

Council received an invitation to attend the grand opening of the Home Hardware downtown location in Manning. They had several senior people from Home Hardware in attendance and a good turnout of area residents to enjoy a BBQ. I gave a brief congratulations on behalf of council.

May 12 Regular council meeting 0830/1700

Regular council meeting as per agenda. Invitation from Battle River Museum to visit their museum, was very interesting especially for those who saw it for the first time. ICF task force meeting with Town of Manning following council meeting. No big changes are proposed, library funding was brought up, should be more equitable between County and Town was the suggestion.

May 15 Meeting with MLA Ron Wiebe 1300/1330

As MAARC chair, I had a brief virtual meeting with Parliamentary Secretary for Northern Health, MLA Ron Wiebe. Outline the concerns that rural health care facilities are still experiencing after the restructuring of AHS. MLA Wiebe is very aware of the issues and understands that there is still a need for more local decision making.

May 19 PREA meeting with MLA's 1600/1700

PREA chair and vice-chair meet virtually with Minister Neudorf, Minister Williams and MLA de Jonge to have them weigh in on the draft position paper from PREA. They had no concerns with any of it, just a cautionary note that Indigenous consultations are complicated and not necessarily municipalities duty. We acknowledge that and the paper doesn't indicate that is a municipal role.

May 20 Mercer Peace River 0730/1600

Travel to Mercer Peace River mill. Mercer and Svante gave an update to municipal representatives, GoA, AFPA, industry reps, on the proposed carbon capture project. They loaded us on a bus and took us through the mill to see the pilot carbon capture apparatus at work. We went back to the board room for lunch then further presentation on the project.

May 22 Economic Development training 0700/1700

consultant went through his proposed communication plan once the position paper is approved by all member councils. The paper will be held in confidence until a public release date which will tentatively be in mid-June. The primary objective of the paper is to be a regional voice for energy security and economic growth. Roundtable discussions included briefing from those that attended the CANHC agm and CNA conference in Ottawa. All agreed that the CANHC meeting was great and good to hear how other regions of Canada are preparing for more nuclear projects; new builds, restarts, refurbishment. Communication consultant will put together a response to a concerned citizens letter to PREA regarding bringing in speakers. PREA will approve his draft before replying. Terms of Reference had a few edits, mainly the name change. Administrative support will be handled by Northern Sunrise during the interim as current administrator will be retiring in mid June.

May 27 Regional Airport Committee meeting 1600/1900

Representatives from 5 regional municipalities met to get an update on the recent meeting that 2 regional councilors and Peace River mayor had with Peace River Airport Association regarding the future of the airport. These conversations are confidential at this time but they will be meeting again to discuss whether some funding options will be required to make sure the airport continues to operate. Travel home.

Upcoming events: (note that I will be out of country from June 1st to 16th)

June 1st: CRAA executive meeting

June 9th: Regular council meeting

June 11th: Retirement party for executive assistant

June 13th: National Indigenous Peoples Day in Manning

June 15th: Ratepayer meeting at Dixonville

June 17th: Ratepayer meeting at Manning

June 23rd: Regular council meeting followed by joint mtg with ToM council

June 26th: Graduation ceremonies at Manning

07.A

WARD 7 REPORT

THE MONTH OF MAY

May 12 CNL Regular Meeting – was great to see everyone instead of Zoom

May 22 EDA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELECTED OFFICIALS COURSE
Held in Peace River.

We went through lots of information which I think our members of public should have this information, especially in regards to what we as councilors have to make sure we follow the protocol of what happens when a Business comes and tells us what they are planning – which is confidential and cannot be shared until they have followed all the rules and regulations. I found it frustrating when I applied to purchase a 1.5-acre piece of land from our neighbor, all the paperwork etc. No one fault as I had never done something like that before. Just saying that rules and regulations are there for a reason.

May 23 Peace Library System Board Meeting in Grande Prairie- I drove there from Peace River as I stayed overnight following our course.

We had Auditors go through the financial audit and as they have done in the past let us know what needs to be looked at, just like our office.

Went through policies as some of them are outdated regarding AI etc.

May 26 Regular Council Meeting

May 28 Drove to Grande Prairie in the afternoon for PLS Symposium Conference on Friday

May 29 NEW FRONTIERS – PLS SYMPOSIUM 2026

Schedule was as follows:

1. 8:30 Breakfast, after that Opening Remarks, Blessing for Elder Marlene Letendre
2. Keynote Speaker: Nick Tanzi – regarding Technology – I think our Josh could do that for us dummies that screw up when trying to get their phone set up. It would be great to do a course on that.
3. Breakout Session: Library Boards and Friends Group:

Very good information, regarding the role of the Library Board in relation to Friend Group who help raise funds for their Library. Library Boards has the

Library Act to follow, and the Friend Group are Non-Profit Society – and the twain shall meet.

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LUNCH

Breakout Session: WITH A LITTLE HELP: FRIENDS GROUPS

We had 3 presenters – giving ideas on how to raise funds for the library and how to apply for casino funding etc. Great learning for all librarians, library boards and anyone who is interested in keeping our libraries working and functioning for all Rural or Urban etc.

^{3rd} Breakout Session:

MONTH OF JUNE DATES

- 2 Announcement of PPMS New School
- 9 Regular Meeting – I will need to leave at least by 2 as going to Edmonton for our Grandson Graduation from the U of A
- 12 Tri-Council
- 15 Rate Payers Meeting
- 20 PLS Executive Meeting – Grande Prairie
- 23 Regular Council Meeting

*Cheers
Linda*