

A close-up of a silver microphone with a mesh grille, positioned in the foreground. The background is a blurred indoor setting with warm lighting and people, suggesting a public meeting or event.

# 2024 RATEPAYER MEETINGS

Update from Jordon Christianson, Chair  
Special Areas Board

# Chair's Update

2024 Ratepayer Meetings

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- Special Areas Board Member Changes
- Municipal Partnerships
- Regional Medical Projects & Programs
- MD of Acadia & Special Areas Irrigation Project
- Tax Recovery Land Sale Policy

# Chair's Update

## Special Areas Board Governance

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- Board members are appointed by Order in Council
  - Jordon Christianson, Chair (*Expires September 14, 2025*)
  - Brad Slorstad, Board member (*Expires April 30, 2026*)
  - Kevin Wilson, Board member (*Expires April 30, 2026*)
  - Douglas Noble, Board member (*Expires April 30, 2026*)
- Daryl Swenson moved off the Board April 2024 as he had served for ten years (as per APAGA)
  - Daryl continues to represent Special Area 2 – Subdivision 7 on the Advisory Council
- Kevin Wilson (SA3-SD6) was selected by Advisory Council to represent Special Area No. 3 on the Board

# Chair's Update

## Municipal Partnerships

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- Special Areas continues to enjoy strong partnerships with regional neighbors
  - These relationships include rural and urban municipalities
- A key ongoing initiative is working with urban neighbors located within Special Areas to identify opportunities for strengthening these relationships
  - Potential partnership projects
  - Industrial Tax Transfer funding (doubled in 2023)
  - Regional approach to emergency management
  - Inter Municipal Collaboration Frameworks

# Chair's Update

Acadia Foundation - Oyen Lodge Expansion

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- Concept of developing an Assisted Living/Dementia Care facility in Oyen has been in development for many years
  - Current concept involves a 14-unit single story facility connected directly to the Oyen Lodge
  - DSL4/4D spaces support assisted living & dementia care
- The Government of Alberta is funding the project through a capital grant to the Acadia Foundation
  - Estimated cost - \$11.7M
  - Acadia Foundation is leading project
  - Special Areas is assisting with funding the project
- Construction started early 2024
  - The project is expected to take 18 months to complete

# Chair's Update

## Nurse Practitioner Pilot Project - Consort

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- Consort & District Medical Centre Board is piloting a Nurse Practitioner program to help enhance medical services available in the community
  - Identified through engagement with the local community
- Special Areas is supporting the pilot program for two years
  - Special Areas is engaging with the Province to help secure sustainable long-term funding for this innovative program
- The Consort & District Medical Centre Board has recruited a Rural Primary Healthcare Nurse Practitioner who will be starting to practice in Consort this summer

# Chair's Update

## MD of Acadia & Special Areas Irrigation Project

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- Joint project with Government of Alberta, Canada Infrastructure Bank, MD of Acadia and Special Areas
- Phase 1 work – finished with report in 2022 (pre-feasibility)
  - Concluded 'green-field' (new) development of irrigation for 108,000 acres is feasible
- Phase 2 work underway
  - Phase 2 work includes preliminary engineering design, environmental and regulatory considerations and potential financing options
  - Goal of Phase 2 work is to identify if the project is feasible for development and construction
  - Expected to be completed in early 2025

# Chair's Update

## Tax Recovery Land Sale Policy

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- In 2021, Advisory Council and the Special Areas Board developed a **DRAFT** Tax Recovery Land Sale (TRLS) policy based on prior TRLS in the Special Areas
- Advisory Council and the Board recommended the 2023 TRLS policy to the Minister of Municipal Affairs in 2022 to seek a *Ministerial Order* for approval
- Minister approved the 2023 TRLS policy in July 2023
- **Policy expires on July 16, 2026**





# Questions

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