

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, September 10 at **7:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Welcome to the Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting
– April 9, 2026
 - 1.2 Call to Order
 - 1.3 Approval of Agenda
Any Additions or Deletions
Consensus Approval of Agenda for September 10, 2026
-

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the Town of Blackfalds acknowledges that we are on Treaty 6 territory, the ancestral lands of Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and non-status peoples whose footsteps have marked these lands since time immemorial.

We recognize the inherent relationships Indigenous communities have with this land and its creatures and commit to supporting reconciliation and healing. We honour the resilience, culture, and contributions of Indigenous peoples, past and present.

As we gather, we pledge to listen, learn, and take meaningful action toward a future based on mutual respect and understanding as we continue on our journey of truth and healing. We recognize that reconciliation is not a single act but a lifelong journey—one that requires accountability, humility, and the centering of Indigenous voices.

2. PRESENTATIONS

None

3. BUSINESS

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes from April 9, 2026
 - 4.2 FCSS Managers Report – Update
 - 4.3 Letter of Resignation Heather Johnson
 - 4.4 Resolution Submission - Verbal
 - 4.5 Volunteer Programmer Report – July & August
 - 4.6 Community Programmer Report – August
 - 4.7 Youth Programmer Report – July & August
 - 4.8 FCSS Client Statistics – August
-

4. CONFIDENTIAL

None

5. Adjournment

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Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ryan Brown	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Dena Thomas	Public at Large
Kimberly Burrell	Public at Large
Michelle Meadows	Public at Large
Glenda Brown	Public at Large
Jessalyn Parsons	Public at Large

ATTENDING

Sawyer Hick	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Manager
Sue Penner	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Admin Assistant

OTHERS ATTENDING

REGRETS

Cory Twerdoclib	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Heather Johnson	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm. Member Brown moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board approved the agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELETIONS TO AGENDA

N/A

TREATY SIX LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Land Acknowledgement was read to recognize that the Town of Blackfalds is on Treaty Six territory.

PRESENTATIONS

N/A

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BUSINESS

Approval of Amended Minutes of January 8, 2026

Member Meadows moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council adopt the amended minutes from January 8, 2026, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes from February 19, 2025

Member Parsons moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council adopt the amended minutes from February 19, 2026, as presented

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resignation of [REDACTED]

Councillor Brown moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council reviewed and formally acknowledged the resignation submitted by [REDACTED].

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FCSS 2025 Grant Requests

- Members discussed each of the 4 grant submissions.
 - **Iron Ridge Elementary Campus \$8,000** – to facilitate the Connection Club.
The Board feels that this program aligns well with the FCSS mandate.
 - **Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District \$16,825** in support of their program.
 - **BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds \$17,000** in support of their program.
 - **Association of Central Alberta Youth for Christ \$16,740**
Unable to accept this application as their programs do not fall under our mandate.

Member Brown moved that the Blackfalds & District Family and Community Support Services Board recommend to Council that grant funding in the amount of \$7,925 be allocated to Iron Ridge Elementary Campus, \$7,925 to Brothers Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District and \$7,925 to BGC of Wolf Creek Blackfalds.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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FCSS MANAGERS VERBAL UPDATE

An FCSS Housing Needs Assessment has been approved for \$30,000 and the next step is for Administration to advertise for Request for Proposals.

A FCSS Temporary .5fte Seniors Programmer position has been approved for a one-year contract based on 5 hrs per day and a 4-day work week.

Manager Sawyer advised the FCSS Board that she has given notice and her last day will be April 23, 2026.

ACTION ITEMS

N/A

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMER REPORT

January 2026

Volunteer Recognition Planning

- **National Volunteer Week:** April 19–25, 2026.
 - **Colouring Contest:** Residents will be invited to submit their masterpieces to the FCSS Office
 - **JustServe** Promote ways nonprofits can promote themselves and how you can look for ways to volunteer on the JustServe website
 - **Staff Volunteer Spotlights** Showcase staff who volunteer in their personal time and why it matters to them.
 - **Earth Day & Clean Up Blackfalds** Promote Earth Day and Clean Up Blackfalds
 - **Snow Angel Milestone Recognition** Acknowledge 4 longtime Snow Angel volunteers
 - **Local Volunteer Opportunities:** Promote ways to volunteer and get involved
 - **Appreciation for Volunteer Award Nominees** Build excitement for the May recognition event by spotlighting nominees.
- **Blackfalds Volunteer Gala:** May 7, 2026, at the Eagle Builders Centre during Youth Week. FCSS Board members were asked to RSVP as soon as possible if they plan to attend this event.
- **Snow Angel Program:** We ended this year with 27 Snow Angels including individuals and family members, paired with one of the 21 residents and 2 residents on the waitlist to be paired with a Snow Angel. Resident support and volunteer engagement remained steady.
 - *Feedback from participants: I am pleased to report that 92% (11 participants) in the Snow Angel Program who responded indicated that the program significantly contributed to their ability to remain in their homes. This positive feedback highlights the program's effectiveness in providing essential support and assistance to our community members.*

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- **Town of Blackfalds volunteers were utilized at the following programs and events:**
 - Easter Egg-Stravaganza: 10 volunteers
 - Leaders in Training volunteers
 - Cooking Club: 3 volunteers

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

1. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
 - a. Bike Rodeo ~ June 6
 - b. Blackfalds Days ~ June 19-21
2. The monthly FCSS **Volunteer Newsletter**
 - a. In March, the newsletter was emailed to 295 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 59%

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMER REPORT

January 2026

Social Media Reach

- **Facebook:** 1,686 followers
- **Instagram:** 277 followers

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

- 50 tax returns have been filed in March!
- We have three highly skilled and dedicated volunteers who continue to support this program
- Community members call the office and are pre-screened for CRA eligibility by the wonderful front-desk admin. Eligible clients are then booked for a tax intake appointment. This process works great! I am very thankful for the strong admin support – it is deeply appreciated.
- I meet one-on-one with each client to complete the CRA and FCSS intake forms, ensuring all sensitive information is handled with respect and confidentiality
- A trained CRA volunteer comes in every week and E-files the tax returns
- Once filed, I contact the client/community member to let them know their return has been successfully E-filed and is ready for pick-up.
- Admin completes a satisfaction and outcome survey question with the community member at the point of pick up.

Interagency Meeting – January 7

- Held at the Eagle Builders Centre.

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- **20 attendees** representing **13 organizations**.

“Hot Seat” spotlight: **Lacombe & District Chamber of Commerce**, showcasing their upcoming trade show and a few of the free opportunities available to Blackfalds Chamber members! The Lacombe and Blackfalds Chambers have joined together to create a stronger Chamber.

50+ Walk & Talk Club

- **Average weekly walkers:** 30
- **Unique walkers in January:** 51 (13 walkers had perfect attendance)
- **Age representation:** 6 regular walkers are 75+
- **Where participants live:**
 - 59% Town of Blackfalds
 - 22% City of Lacombe
 - 19% Lacombe County
- This program continues to create an opportunity for older adults to build social connections.

More Than a Movie

- **19 attendees** watched *Captain Phillips*
- Attendance breakdown:
 - 19 from Blackfalds
 - 2 from Lacombe
 - 2 from Lacombe County
- This movie sparked lively and “spirited” discussions! The intense themes of piracy, US rescue ships, and global conflicts felt very relevant given the current US-Israeli war with Iran. The post-movie discussion time is a safe and respectful space for older adults to express their thoughts and feelings. This connection strengthens the social connection among participants and increases their sense of belonging.
- Before the movie begins, I highlight community events and ensure the most current Community Guide is available. In March, I promoted upcoming programs such as the Blackfalds Community Clean-Up, the Community Income Tax Program, the De-Cluttering Workshop, and the Family Easter Event. I love seeing guests jotting down pen & paper notes and tucking them into their purses or pockets. People like to stay informed and connected.

Clean-Up Blackfalds

- Coordinated with TOB parks to learn the areas that need the most cleaning attention.
- Created a “pick-up map” for community members to choose their preferred location.
- Updated waiver

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- Updated poster
- Promote on social media, Blackfalds Community Guide, Volunteer and Vibrant living newsletter, also hand out posters at 50+ Walk & Talk, 50+ More than a Movie and a poster is displayed on the Community Center Bulletin board.

Abbey Center Membership Assistance Program:

- **3 applications were received and screened**
 - All three applications were approved.
 - Total: 3 adults have gained access to the Abbey Center amenities for two months.

Camp Curios Champion

- Two applications received and screened

In-Office Support

- Assisted one local senior with creating sign-in sheets, prize table materials, and game rules (typing and document support).

YOUTH PROGRAMMER REPORT

Blackfalds Youth Crew (BYC)

BYC continues to support youth in building friendships, leadership, and confidence through safe, engaging activities. Each session accommodates up to 15 participants.

Program Attendance

Activity	Gr. 4–6	Gr. 7–12	Homeschool	Total
Glow Up	15	4	13	32
Forts & Fries	15	0	10	25
Fries & Friends	0	4	13	4
St. Patty's Shenanigans	16		11	27
Tye Dye T-shirts		5		5
March 24 & 26 No BYC due to school break				
Desserts & Duct Tape Art		5		5

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Child Safe Canada – Home Alone Safety Course

- **Instructor:** Annette
- **Date:** March 16, 5:00–7:00 PM
- **Participants:** 14
- Monthly safety training for youth in Grades 4–6 continues to be in high demand.

Teen Test Cooking Club

- **Grades:** 8-10
- **Dates:** Wednesday, April 1, 8 and 15
- **Time:** 5:00–7:15 PM
- **Registered:** 5

Youth Cooking Club

- **Grades:** 5-7
- **Dates:** January 21-March 18
- **Registered:** 10

Life Literacy Series: More than a Resume

- **Grades:** 8-10
- **Dates:** February 23, March 2 & 9
- **Registered:** 6

Youth Programmer Initiatives

Positive Ticketing Program	Constable Hewitt continues to distribute Positive Tickets to youth in the community and local schools for demonstrating positive or improved behaviour. The program remains popular, especially because the tickets can be redeemed for a Slurpee for the youth and a friend at the Blackfalds Convenience Store, adding a fun and motivating incentive.
Youth Week May 2-8	I'm putting the final touches on our Youth Week activities, including developing agendas, planning each event, organizing to-do lists, purchasing supplies, and coordinating all the details to make the week run smoothly.
Blackfalds Days Youth Night Out	Currently, I am working toward facilitating the Blackfalds Youth Night Out event, focusing on planning activities, organizing logistics, and coordinating the details needed to make the night a fun and successful experience for local youth.

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Working with Carolyn from FRN	I'm currently working with Carolyn from FRN Lacombe to explore future preventative programs, workshops, and/or resources that we can offer to support youth and families in our community.
Youth Cooking Club Waitlist	I spoke with Sawyer about the high demand for Cooking Club and the ongoing waitlist. With Grade 7+ programming shifting to once a month, I'll have more capacity to run the program more often. This fall, Cooking Club will run from September 23 to November 11, and in 2027 it will be offered twice a week from January 18 to March 8. These changes will help ensure all interested youth can participate in this popular free program.
Continued program planning is underway for both the upcoming summer season, fall and into 2027	Admin time to explore what types of programming will genuinely interest Blackfalds youth. Life Literacy was a great concept, but attendance showed a clear pattern—youth often registered but chose other activities instead. And honestly, if it's a choice between learning sessions in the summer or swimming at the Abbey Centre, I can't blame them for picking the Abbey. I'm reviewing trends and feedback to help shape programs that youth are excited to show up for.
After School Program Times	Blackfalds is a unique community where many youths are bused to schools outside of town. To remove barriers and ensure all local youth can participate, most out-of-school programs have been adjusted to start at 5:00 p.m. This timing helps make FCSS's free youth programs fully accessible to every young person in the community, regardless of where they attend school.

Monthly Newsletters in April

Vibrant Living 50+ 290 sends with an open rate of 70%
Interagency 143 sends and an open rate of 52%
Beyond Lunchbox Program 294 sends with an open rate of 47%
Volunteer Newsletter 295 sends with an open rate of 59%
In-person visits & calls to FCSS 159



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The Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting ended at 8:14 p.m.

Dena Thomas, Chair

Erin Dahl, Admin Staff

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4.2 BUSINESS

MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD

**FROM: WENDY GRIFFIN
FCSS MANAGER**

ISSUE: FCSS Managers Report

BACKGROUND:

July:

The first month of coming into the position of FCSS Manager, I wanted to take the time to get to know the staff, understanding what their programs are, personalities and how our FCSS office works. In conjunction to that, there was the completion of the onboarding training, meeting the TOB Staff, Managers, Directors, CAO, Council and Mayor. I was introduced to Council. We also had our Community Support Programmer leave her position the day after I started, so there was a gap in the role until we transitioned Erin to fulfill the position. This was a bit of chaos, as we were waiting to advertise the positions for the Community Support Programmer and the Seniors Programmer.

After some investigation on our programs and structure and with the transition of not having someone in the role of Community Support Programmer (it was Back to School time) I discovered that there were some outdated ways of storing and collecting information for clients. I did some research and information gathering on some software that would be beneficial to our agency and ease some barriers to our staff.

I worked together with Rick on the Housing Needs Assessment that is being developed. I reached out to community stakeholders and businesses to gather insight on the HNA. We had 1 meeting with HelpSeekers.

We toured the Lacombe Family Resource Center open house. They are a great partnering agency that serves a huge demographic of Blackfalds. So it was imperative that we support them and work together to support the community.

I was introduced to the Seniors Club.

August:

Continued supporting the HNA – meetings, introducing Helpseekers to Council

We submitted our Lacombe County grant application for the Walk and Talk, Seniors Movie, and Volunteers.

I had meetings with various other agencies – BGC, Beyond Food. HUB, Employment Placement & Support Services

We worked tirelessly to understand the Back to School program, gathering gift cards, donations, building connections across the community, and then inviting the families to come in to collect. It

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was a huge success.

Continued supporting the Winter Warmth – as a team we are all working together to plan and coordinate this fundraiser. This is new for 2 of us, so we are working to get a grasp on the event. It is coming along.

I completed a new Business Case to increase the hours of the Community Support Programmer. With big dreams on the horizon, we would like to see more time dedicated to the growth of our community programs.

Completed a Formal Hazard Assessment for the FCSS Office.

Spent time in the community building relationships with businesses.

Assisted with the support of clients at the admin desk.

Mangers Meeting

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4.3 BUSINESS

MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD

**FROM: WENDY GRIFFIN
FCSS MANAGER**

ISSUE: Resignation of Heather Johnson

BACKGROUND:

The FCSS Board will review and formally acknowledge the resignation submitted by Heather Johnson. The resignation letter is available at your request, and the Board will discuss any immediate implications for governance, continuity, and committee assignments.

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4.4 BUSINESS

MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD

**FROM: WENDY GRIFFIN
FCSS MANAGER**

ISSUE: Resolution Submission – Verbal

FCSS VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMER UPDATE

Month of July:

- **Blackfalds Culture Month:** The Volunteer Programmer has been working collaboratively with the Sports & Events Coordinator to finalize plans for Blackfalds Culture Month, taking place throughout September. FCSS will support and participate in a variety of community-focused events and activities, including **Get Comfy in the Kitchen** (in partnership with Beyond Food Community Hub), **Bead and Ribbon Skirt Classes**, the **Community Information Expo**, **50+ More Than a Movie**, **Blackfalds Youth Crew**, the **Winter Warmth Fundraiser**, and the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Community Walk and Performance**. These initiatives are designed to celebrate cultural diversity, strengthen community connections, and promote inclusion and engagement for residents of all ages.
- **Town of Blackfalds Blood Donor Drive (July 15–August 31)** The Town of Blackfalds launched its **Blood Donor Drive on July 15** in partnership with Canadian Blood Services. Since the campaign began, the Town team has grown by **10 new members** and has recorded **15 additional donations**. The donor drive will continue until **August 31**, with a goal of reaching **100 donations**.
 - Community awareness and participation have been further inspired by the story of a local youth, Cam, who was recently diagnosed with cancer and required multiple blood transfusions within a matter of days. As he begins a lengthy treatment journey, additional transfusions are expected in the months ahead. Cam's experience serves as a powerful reminder of the critical need for blood donors and the life-saving impact donations have on individuals facing cancer, surgery, trauma, and other serious health challenges.
 - The Volunteer Programmer continues to support the initiative through community engagement and promotion, encouraging residents to consider donating blood or plasma and helping to build a culture of caring and giving within the community.



- **Community Info Expo (September 14)** The Volunteer Programmer has been leading the coordination, promotion, and logistics for the **Community Information Expo**, engaging local non-profit organizations, community groups, and resource agencies to participate in the event. As part of **Blackfalds Culture Month**, the Expo will provide residents with a one-stop opportunity to learn about programs, services, supports, and volunteer opportunities available within the community.
- **ESS Reception Volunteers:** Town staff will be conducting an on-site pressure test on **August 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** As a precautionary measure, residents within the identified evacuation area will be temporarily evacuated. This exercise provides an

excellent opportunity to test Blackfalds' **Emergency Social Services (ESS)** response by welcoming evacuees to the Reception Centre, providing meals throughout the day, and offering support including Abbey Centre day passes and lunch through **Mobile Meals & Munchies**.

- Although the Volunteer Programmer will be on vacation during the exercise, significant preparation has been completed to support a successful response. All Reception Centre Team job descriptions have been reviewed and updated, and supporting documentation has been developed for the following ESS roles: **ESS Manager, Volunteer Management, Documentation, First Aid, Emotional Support, Meet & Greet, Registration, Food/Meals, Lodging, Baby/Child Minding, Pet Care, and Donations**.
- This preparatory work has positioned the FCSS Manager and FCSS staff to confidently receive and support evacuees during the August 5 exercise and for future ESS activations.
- In addition, the Volunteer Programmer is currently developing annual training for early November for staff and Reception Centre volunteers to strengthen ongoing ESS readiness and response capacity.
- **Seniors:**
 - **Blackfalds Seniors Club Engagement:** The Volunteer Programmer continues to serve as the primary liaison between the Town and the Blackfalds Seniors Club, supporting communication, collaboration, and coordination to strengthen the partnership and address the needs of senior residents.
 - **Seniors Programmer:** The Volunteer Programmer is working on key documentation, position mapping, reporting processes, and program planning materials to support a smooth transition for the incoming Seniors Programmer, who is anticipated to begin in September. This work will help ensure continuity of services and minimize disruption during the onboarding process.
- **Town of Blackfalds volunteers were utilized at the following programs and events:**
 - **Summer Culture Series** (July 9): Event was held at the Blackfalds Community Centre with a total of 5 volunteers attending and volunteered a total of 10 hours

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

1. The monthly FCSS **Volunteer Newsletter**
 - a. In July, the newsletter was emailed to 301 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 54%
2. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
 - a. Alberta Culture Days – August 29
 - b. Blackfalds Culture Month – September

FCSS VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMER UPDATE

Month of August:

- **Revision of Volunteer Programmer Roles:** Following the departure of the Community Support Programmer and the addition of a Seniors Programmer, FCSS has reviewed and realigned staff responsibilities to ensure continued service delivery, operational efficiency, and support for evolving community needs.
 - The Volunteer Programmer's primary focus will remain on volunteer recruitment, placement, retention, recognition, and providing volunteer support to community groups and organizations.
 - The Volunteer Programmer has taken over creating and scheduling the FCSS social media newsfeed to promote programs, services, events, and volunteer opportunities. Responsibility for responding to inquiries and engaging with external organizations and community groups through social media will transition to the FCSS Manager.
 - Within the Emergency Social Services (ESS) program, the Volunteer Programmer will focus on volunteer recruitment and training for the ESS Reception Centre. As part of this realignment, attendance at the monthly Central Region Emergency Social Services (CRESS) meetings will no longer be required.
 - Once the Seniors Programmer is settled in her new role, liaison responsibilities between the Blackfalds Seniors Club and the municipality will transition from Volunteer Programmer to the Seniors Programmer.
 - These adjustments will provide increased capacity to strengthen volunteer engagement initiatives, expand community volunteer opportunities, and support the continued growth of the Snow Angel Program.
- **Blackfalds Culture Month:** The Volunteer Programmer continues to work with the Sports & Events Coordinator and community partners to support the delivery and promotion of Blackfalds Culture Month programming throughout September.
 - FCSS is supporting several key initiatives, and Volunteer Programmer will support the following events Bead and Ribbon Skirt Classes, the Community Information Expo, and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Community Walk and Performance.
 - Through community engagement, partnership development, and event promotion, these initiatives create opportunities for residents to celebrate cultural diversity, strengthen community connections, increase understanding of Indigenous cultures and perspectives, and create a sense of belonging and inclusion for individuals and families within Blackfalds.
- **Town of Blackfalds Blood Donor Drive (Extended to end of 2026)** Thanks to the incredible support and participation of community members, the Town of Blackfalds has extended its Blood Donor Drive challenge to **December 31, 2026**. The extension reflects the community's commitment to helping save lives and supporting patients who rely on blood products across Canada.
 - The Volunteer Programmer continues to promote the initiative through community outreach and engagement, encouraging residents to become blood or plasma donors and highlighting the meaningful impact each donation has on individuals and families facing illness, injury, and medical treatment.

- **Community Info Expo (September 14)** The Volunteer Programmer continues to lead recruitment, engagement, and event coordination efforts for the Community Information Expo, scheduled for Sep 14 as part of **Blackfalds Culture Month**.
 - To date, 35 external organizations have committed to participating in the Expo, representing a 16.7% increase over last year. In addition, representatives from FCSS, Town Council, Town Budget Survey representatives, the Fire Department, and Abbey Centre staff will be in attendance.
 - Ongoing outreach, relationship building and event coordination have helped strengthen community involvement and create an event that will connect residents with a wide range of local programs, services, supports and volunteer opportunities. The Expo continues to serve as a valuable platform for creating community connections and increasing awareness of available resources.
 - FCSS will also be conducting 3 interactive community surveys during the event to gather feedback to help identify barriers to participation, assess community needs and interests, and support evidence informed planning for future FCSS programs and services.
 1. **What prevents you from participating in FCSS programs?** Options include scheduling conflicts, lack of awareness of programs, transportation barriers, childcare needs, cost, accessibility concerns, programs not matching interests, and other barriers.
 2. **Which types of programs would you like to see more of?** Options include youth programs, seniors' programs, cultural events, mental wellness workshops, financial literacy, community-building events, parenting programs, and volunteer opportunities.
 3. **What FCSS programs or services have you or someone in your family participated in during the past 12 months?** Options include the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, Winter Wear Program, Back to School Program, Christmas Bureau, Blackfalds Youth Crew, Leaders in Training Program, Snow Angel Program, and volunteering with the municipality.

- **Snow Angel:** The Volunteer Programmer contacted residents who previously accessed the Snow Angel Program to assess interest and identify ongoing support needs for the upcoming winter season. To date, **21 households** have requested Snow Angel assistance.
 - The Volunteer Programmer has also reached out to individuals who volunteered as a Snow Angel last year to support early recruitment and volunteer retention efforts. Through this outreach, **12 resident locations have already been successfully matched with Snow Angel volunteers.**
 - The Snow Angel Program supports older adults and individuals experiencing physical, health, or mobility challenges by connecting them with volunteers who assist with snow removal.
 - By helping residents remain safely in their homes and maintain access to their community during winter months, the program promotes independence, reduces social isolation, and strengthens neighbour-to-neighbour connections.

- **Administrative Support:** With the FCSS Administrative Assistant position transitioning to a three day work week, FCSS team members will provide front desk and phone coverage on Mondays and Tuesdays to ensure residents continue to receive timely assistance and access to information about FCSS programs and services.

- **FCSS Volunteer Recruitment and Awareness Materials:** The Volunteer Programmer assisted the FCSS Manager in developing content for a new **Blackfalds FCSS informational brochure**, as well as a dedicated **Volunteer Brochure** designed to increase awareness of volunteerism within the community.
 - Content development included a volunteer focused "Did You Know?" section, information on municipal volunteer opportunities, details about the Snow Angel Program including volunteer duties, benefits, and qualifications, guidance on how to become a volunteer, and promotion of upcoming volunteer recognition events.
 - These materials will support volunteer recruitment efforts, increase awareness of FCSS programs and services, and provide residents with clear pathways to community involvement and volunteer engagement.
- **Town of Blackfalds volunteers were utilized at the following programs and events:**
 - **Alberta Day** (August 29): The Town partnered with the Optimist Club of Blackfalds to support Celebrate Alberta Day activities at the Abbey Centre Amphitheatre.

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

1. The monthly FCSS **Volunteer Newsletter**
 - a. In August, the newsletter was emailed to 297 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 53%
2. **Social Media:**
 - a. Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page: August 1,787 followers | 1,183 visits
 - b. Blackfalds Instagram Page: August 258 followers | 33 visits
3. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
 - a. Blackfalds Blood Drive – until end of 2026
 - b. Community Info Expo – September 14
 - c. Winter Warmth Fundraiser – September 24
 - d. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – September 30
 - e. Jim Hurley Free Skate – Sunday's September – March
 - f. Youth Cooking Club – Wednesday's September 16 – November 4
 - g. Teen Night – Sep 22, Oct 27, Nov 17, Dec 5
 - h. Monster Bash – October 31
 - i. Snow Angel Program – winter months

FCSS Board Update: August 2026

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. Many of you may already know me from my time as the FCSS Administrative Assistant, where I had the opportunity to support the department while covering Sue's leave. I am pleased to share that I have now stepped into the role of FCSS Community Support Programmer. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue growing with FCSS and look forward to getting to know the board members better, working alongside the FCSS team, and supporting the valuable programs and services that benefit our community. I am excited for this next chapter and look forward to collaborating with all of you.

Sincerely, Erin 😊

Interagency: Upcoming meeting September 2

- 141 invites have been sent

CVITP:

- We completed 1 readjustment for a CVIPT client
- It is important to have this program available year-round - otherwise, these individuals would have lost their AISH payment and simply do not have the money to pay someone to file on their behalf. This is preventive social services - having this service prevents a crisis from occurring.

Abey Center Membership Assistance Program

- 1 application received, screened in August
 - 1 application approved

Back to School:

This year, **65 families** attended our **Back-to-School Program** they received gift cards and essential supplies to help prepare for the new school year. To create a fun and welcoming experience, we transformed our boardroom into a "shopping" space filled with school supplies, allowing families to select items that best met their children's needs. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we received an abundance of school supply donations as well as cash contributions, and both local grocery stores donated juice boxes and granola bars for the families.

Winter Warmth Fundraiser:

We are in full swing planning for the **2026 Winter Warmth Fundraiser**, as we prepare for another meaningful community event. We have been busy organizing donations, coordinating with local businesses and artisans, securing auction items, and putting the finishing touches.

Although I haven't yet had the privilege of attending this event, I've heard wonderful things and am looking forward to experiencing it firsthand. From the stories I've heard, the community's generosity is incredible, the artisans go above and beyond with their donations, and attendees enthusiastically support the cause.

I have also been warned to expect some spirited bidding on Cara's gluten-free cookies, Cindy's cakes, Carols cookies, and Sue's beautiful handmade runner to name a few of our past artisan's high bidder items.

If you have your own artisan talents and would like to contribute an item to the auction, we would love to hear from you. Donations of handmade goods, baking, artwork, woodworking, crafts, and other unique items are always appreciated and help make this event such a success.

The evening will include a catered meal, a lively auctioneer, and plenty of opportunities to support local children and families.

Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased at the FCSS office.

We hope you'll join us for an evening of fun, community spirit, and fundraising for a great cause.

Outer duties:

- Updated relevant program and event details for the Fall Guide.
- In the planning stages with the FCSS Manager to coordinate upcoming community information sessions.
- Partnered with our friends at Beyond Food Community Hub and the TOB Culture team to offer a cooking class, "**Take Your Taste Buds to Korea**", on Tuesday, September 8. We are experimenting with offering two smaller classes where each participant will make their own items rather than using the community kitchen model we have used in the past.

BLACKFALDS FCSS

FAMILY & COMMUNITY
SUPPORT SERVICES

403.600.9066

edahl@blackfalds.ca

Erin Dahl, Community Support Programmer

A few of our happy Back-To-School recipients



July 2026 Blackfalds FCSS Youth Programmer Report

Youth Programming Programs

Skateboarding

Instructor Spencer Rennie

This summer program helps youth gain confidence on their skateboards, regardless of skill level. Open to students in Grades 4–10. Participants can have fun, make new friends, and enjoy the great outdoors together.

Date, Time, and Details	Registration (Max 10)
Wednesday July 8-August 19 5:30-7:30	15 youth registered in total, with 5 cancellations
Total Attendees for	

Youth Programmer Initiatives

Positive Ticketing	Blackfalds FCSS has expanded its Positive Ticketing Program through partnerships with local law enforcement and three community businesses: • A&W Blackfalds • A1Max/Chevron Convenience Store • 7-Eleven Blackfalds The program recognizes youth who demonstrate positive behaviour, make responsible choices, show kindness, and contribute positively to the community. Local law enforcement officers distribute positive tickets to youth they observe engaging in these behaviours, which can then be redeemed for rewards generously provided by participating businesses. The expanded program is designed to: • Encourage positive behaviour among youth through immediate recognition and rewards. • Foster positive interactions between youth and law enforcement officers. • Build trust and strengthen relationships among youth, law enforcement, local businesses, and the broader community. • Promote a safe, welcoming, and supportive community environment. • Celebrate and highlight the many positive contributions made by young people in Blackfalds.

July 2026 Blackfalds FCSS Youth Programmer Report

 Blackfalds FCSS Youth Instagram Page	We're on Instagram! As one of the preferred sources of information for both youth and community members according to the Social Needs Assessment 2024, Instagram is a great way to stay connected. Search "Blackfalds FCSS Youth" and give us a follow!
Increase Communication Channels and Program Awareness	To address a barrier identified by local youth in the Social Needs Assessment 2024, I am using multiple communication channels to increase awareness of FCSS Youth programs, services, and events. Youth identified access to information as a key factor in program participation. We have multiple ways to stay connected, but one goal: keeping our community informed and engaged with Blackfalds FCSS Youth programs, events, and opportunities. Community members can: • Visit our Youth Services webpage: https://blackfalds.ca/youth • Follow us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/blackfaldsfcssyouth • Sign up for text and/or email updates through Blackfalds Connect By selecting FCSS Youth Programs: www.blackfalds.ca/register-today • Follow us on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/blackfaldsfcssyouth/ Additional outreach efforts include: • Attending local school open houses to connect directly with youth and families. • Providing program information to local schools for inclusion in school newsletters. • Sharing promotional materials with community partners to further expand program awareness.

July 2026 Blackfalds FCSS Youth Programmer Report

Parent/Caregiver Workshop	I am working with Carolyn from the Family Resource Network in Lacombe to coordinate parent-focused workshops for the fall. These workshops align with the FCSS prevention mandate by providing parents and caregivers with tools, knowledge, and resources to support healthy youth development. Research shows that parent involvement is a key factor in achieving positive long-term outcomes for youth. A key benefit of this partnership is that, while the workshops are prevention-focused and delivered in a group setting using generalized strategies, families who require additional support can be connected to more individualized services through the Family Resource Network. This creates a seamless pathway from prevention to intervention, ensuring families can access the level of support they need. Additionally, this partnership helps strengthen connections with local families, as the Family Resource Network has seen a growing trend of serving more clients from Blackfalds than from other communities in the region. Website: https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-youth-parent-resources/parent-engagement/index.html Source: Division of Adolescent and School Health; National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Fall Event Prep	• Planning Youth Night Out in November
Fall Program Prep	• Building programs in Perfect Mind for fall sessions • Ordering materials and games • Revamping Leaders in Training program • Organizing BCC storage rooms

August 2026 Blackfalds FCSS Youth Programmer Report

Annette was away for a total of three weeks due to scheduled vacation leave followed by a medical procedure. Despite this absence, planning and preparations continued in anticipation of fall program registration opening on September 1.

Key programs being prepared for registration include:

- Home Alone
- Internet Safety
- Cooking Club
- Teen Night at the Hall
- Youth Night Out

Efforts were focused on ensuring program details, promotional materials, and registration systems were ready to support a successful registration launch.

Blackfalds Youth Crew will begin September 17 for grades 4-6 and homeschool.

Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety

Instructor: *Annette*

For Youth in Grades 4–6

Home Alone is an interactive safety training program designed for youth. It covers essential safety strategies, basic first aid, and comfort skills, making it a beneficial resource for any child who may be staying home alone.

Date, Time, and Details	Registered / Attended (max 15)
Home Alone August 20 1:00-3:00 PM	8

August 2026 Blackfalds FCSS Youth Programmer Report

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Youth Communications Through Social Media and Blackfalds Connect	• Create posts to ensure the community knows about our fall programs. Each program session has an introductory post and a reminder for registered families.

August 2026 Blackfalds FCSS Youth Programmer Report

Keeping Busy with:	• Building youth programs in Perfect Mind • Assisting with front desk coverage/phone calls • Budget requests • Working with Wendy on Youth 2027 budget and program expectations • Connecting with Leaders in Training Youth • Planning for all fall programs and events
Attending Iron Ridge Junior Campus Open House	• Promote our New Monthly Teen Night at the hall for grades 7-9

Client Statistics for FCSS Blackfalds 2026

FCSS Referrals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Manager Wendy	1	1	0	21	0	0	8	6				
FCSS Cara	4	5	1	9	25	2	8	5				
Snow Angel Program	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	4				
FCSS Erin	8	4	2	26	21	5	5	5				
FCSS Annette	3	5	1	2	17	3	3	2				
Income Tax Return Inquiries	0	11	13	87	81	10	10	2				
Employment Support	1	0	0	1	4	4	2	0				
FCSS Event Movie/WW	5	2	0	3	6	22	1	16				
FCSS Subsidized Programs	2	2	0	2	1	3	9	4				
Back to School	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	80				
Winter Wear	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4				
Christmas Bureau	0		0	0	0	0	0	1				
Abbey Assistance Program	3	4	1	5	7	3	10	2				
Food Bank	2	0	1	5	25	3	0	1				
Low Income Inquiries	4	2	1	0	9	2	3	5				
Housing	1	1	0	1	6	7	1	0				
Fax	17	11	0	8	26	16	7	17				
Printing/Photocopying	17	16	19	36	27	18	10	6				
Seniors Assistance Programs	6	6	1	5	10	6	14	4				
Telephone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
BOLT	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0				
Golden Circle	2	0	4	8	11	7	5	8				
General Inquiries	69	87	95	70	75	85	55	71				
Number of Clients	148	128	139	290	352	197	156	243				

Beyond Food Lunchbox Program emails sent weekly 384 sends with an open rate of 41%

Vibrant Living 50+ Monthly Newsletter

Sept - 297 sends with an open rate of 65%

Volunteer Newsletter

Sept– 294 sends with an open rate of 53%

Interagency Meeting

Sept - sends with an open rate of 42%