

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Welcome to the Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting – November 20, 2025
- 1.2 Call to Order
- 1.3 Introduction of new FCSS Board members
- 1.4 Approval of Agenda

2. **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.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

None

4. **BUSINESS**

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes from June 12th, 2025
- 4.2 Ag Society Information- Verbal Update
- 4.3 FCSS Managers Report – Verbal Update
- 4.4 FCSSAA Conference – November 26 – 28, 2025
- 4.5 Volunteer Programmer Report – September & October
- 4.6 Community Support Programmer Report – September & October
- 4.7 Youth Programmer Report - September & October
- 4.8 FCSS Client Statistics – September & October
- 4.9 Invitation Let's Get Ugly Volunteer Christmas Open House

5. **CONFIDENTIAL**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Sands	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Brenda Dennis	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Dena Thomas	Public at Large
Glenda Brown	Public at Large
Jessalyn Parsons	Public at Large
Gloricel Cayago	Public at Large
Heather Johnson	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large
Kimberly Burrell	Public at Large

ATTENDING

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

OTHERS ATTENDING

REGRETS

Aaron Hoyte	Public at Large
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WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thomas welcomed all attending and called the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Councillor Dennis moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board approve the agenda with the addition of Item 4.11 Seniors Housing.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TREATY SIX LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

PRESENTATIONS

N/A

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes of April 10th, 2025

Member Brown moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council adopt the minutes from April 10th, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FCSS Board Terms of Reference Review

- Council approved the FCSS Terms of Reference at their May 20th Standing Committee Meeting.

FCSS 20205 Grant Requests

- Council approved FCSS Grant funding to organizations at their May 13th Regular Council Meeting based on the FCSS Board recommendations:
 - o The amount of \$5,775 to Iron Ridge Elementary Campus
 - o The amount of \$9,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters
 - o The amount of \$9,000 to BGC of Wolf Creek Blackfalds

Combining Volunteer Appreciation Events

- Historically the Best of Blackfalds Event and Youth Recognition Night have taken place on separate nights to honor the unique contributions that each demographic of volunteers bring to our community. This year both events had a combined cost of \$12,500 supported by generous contributions of \$3,000 from MEGlobal and \$1,200 from a Volunteer AB Grant. These big events occurring within two weeks of one another put a lot of pressure on staff.
- Next year, FCSS is proposing combining both events into a single, large gathering which will streamline costs while continuing to celebrate our dedicated volunteers.
- The Board is in support of combining these events on a trial basis for a year. The only concern is that the event may be too long.

West Central Spring Meeting May 21st Verbal Update

- Member Brown attended and updated the Board with the following comments:
 - o It was a good event that provided the opportunity to learn about what is going on in other communities. Attendees played Information Bingo as a way to meet other FCSS representatives. They also had a tour of the Lacombe FCSS Office which included seeing where volunteers were preparing a community meal for 300-400 people, a very popular event.

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

FCSS Managers Verbal Update

- Manager Hick reported on the following:
 - Looking at the FCSS agendas for the September and October meetings in 2024 they did not include any major items so it is proposed that the September and October 2025 meetings will be cancelled unless something comes up that requires a meeting. Members requested that the information reports be sent out at the end of each month to keep the Board informed.
 - Our regular programs will break through the summer, except for the Life Literacy Program that will run during July and August.
 - Manager Hick is part of a Service Level Inventory Review which is done to ensure our services are aligned with community needs and that there is not any duplication of services.
 - Manager Hick and the Volunteer Programmer participated in ESS Reception Centre training this week.
 - The Planet Youth proposal is being presented to Council for direction. This is a very expensive program: \$56,000 USD for the first year and \$58,000 for each subsequent year and the Town would be locked in for 5 years.

Volunteer Programmer Report

- Transitioned to regular event season so assigned volunteer shifts for the Blackfalds Bike Rodeo and Blackfalds Days.
- Volunteer Recognition – the final report for the National Volunteer Work Grant with Volunteer Alberta has been successfully completed. Additionally, an extensive event report, including recommendations for 2026 has been finalized.
- Volunteer Programmers reached out to award recipients regarding nominating them for the Stars of Alberta Awards, deadline to submit is June 30th, 2025.
- Participated in ESS training for June 20th and 11th. During the summer the recruitment process will start to find Reception Centre volunteers who have expressed interest in being on the call list.

Seniors Information Session:

- May 6th Tenant Rights & Responsibilities – the Community Legal Clinic were able to help attendees gain a clearer understanding of their rights as a tenant, including lease agreements. **Attendees 11**
- **May 7, 14, & 21 Eat Well, Live Well: Nutritional Sessions** – Alberta Health Services offered 3 weekly sessions where participants worked with a dietitian to explore easy and effective strategies for boosting their health, energy and well-being all while making delicious food. **Attendees 12**

Town of Blackfalds volunteers were utilized at the following programs and events:

- CVITP (3 volunteers totaling 35 hours)
- Clean Up Blackfalds (156 volunteers totaling approximately 14 hours)
- Youth Week (3 volunteers totaling 8 hours)

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

1. Monthly FCSS **Volunteer Newsletter**
 - a. In February, the newsletter was emailed to 292 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 54%
2. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
 - a. Youth Bike Rodeo on May 26th
 - b. Blackfalds Days – June 12-15

Community Engagement Programmer Report

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

- Completed end-of-session summary for CRA and the VRACVIPT coordinator summary.
- Applied for funding for next year.

More than a Movie:

- A lively bunch of community members had a blast watching “Twisters”.
20 guests attended
 - 15 from the Town of Blackfalds
 - 5 City of Lacombe
 - 0 County of Lacombe

50+ Walking Club:

- This program remains very popular!
- Average number of 20 walkers per Tuesday.
 - 69% of the walkers are from the Town of Blackfalds
 - 6% are from the City of Lacombe
 - 25% are from the County of Lacombe

Seniors Week:

- MLA Jennifer Johnson attended Seniors Club Open House.
- Promoted Seniors Week using social media.

Outer duties:

- Participated in the Community Animator Network Engagement Survey and Intergenerational Workplace Training.
- Worked with Cosmos Bottle Depot to be the “charity” of the month for May.
- Supported Blackfalds Youth Recognition night.

Youth Programmer

- BYC had a total of 60 participants.
- Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety had 11 registrants.
- Child Sage Canada Internet Safety had 4 registrants.
- 5024 Skateboarding has 9 registrants.

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
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MINUTES

Continuing Initiatives

- Positive Ticketing Program
- Youth Interagency Meetings
- Blackfalds Days Youth Night Out on June 13 carnival themed
- Creating Life Literacy Camp programs for July and August
- Surveying community members for feedback regarding BYC program in the fall
- Working on fall youth programs

Vibrant Living 50+ Monthly Newsletter for May

- 254 emails sent with an open rate of 65% and 56 were mailed for a total of 310.

Seniors Housing

Chair Thomas recently met with people from the Lacombe Foundation regarding seniors housing needs in Blackfalds. In 2019 a housing survey was conducted but the results from the survey were for an Expression of Interest based on a 55+ housing project and not specifically seniors' low-income housing. The Town of Blackfalds has committed a parcel of land for the project which is still available.

At this recent meeting Member Thomas was advised that the starting point for a low-income housing project is to complete a Housing Needs Assessment. The information gathered from this survey is then entered into a government portal which will show any funding that is available.

Member Brown moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends that Council asks Administration to being the process for the Seniors Housing Needs Assessment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair Thomas adjourned the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Dena Thomas, Chair

Sue Penner, Admin Staff



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MORE DETAILS AT WWW.ALBERTAAGSOCIETIES.CA

780-427-2174

INTRODUCING “THE LIGHT HOUSE PROJECT” EMPOWERING MINDS INITIATIVE

FOUNDING
PARTNER



- **A PROVINCE-WIDE RURAL MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE** EMPOWERING MINDS IS A BOLD NEW INITIATIVE SUPPORTING ALBERTA’S RURAL COMMUNITIES TO TACKLE MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES WITH COURAGE, CARE, AND LOCAL LEADERSHIP.



- **INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED** SOCIAL INNOVATOR AND MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE, IAN HILL, ALONG WITH AAAS BRINGS EMPOWERING MINDS: THE FIRST IDENTIFIERS INITIATIVE ACROSS 60 RURAL ALBERTA COMMUNITIES.

- **THIS ISN'T JUST A PROGRAM**—IT’S A PROVINCE-WIDE MOVEMENT BUILT ON UPSTREAM SOLUTIONS THAT EQUIP EVERYDAY PEOPLE TO PROTECT THEIR NEIGHBOURS AND PRESERVE THE SPIRIT OF THEIR COMMUNITIES.



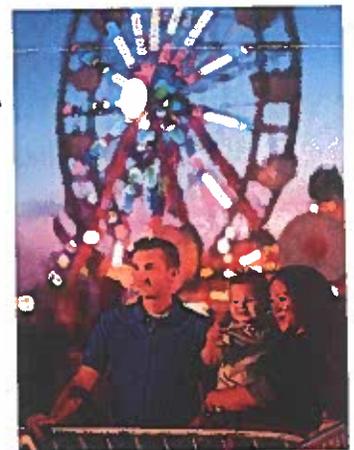
- **CONTACT AAAS TO GET MORE INFORMATION** TO BRING THIS LIFE SAVING PROGRAM TO YOUR COMMUNITY

“YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE” PROGRAM

AAAS HAS BEEN AWARDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING THIS INCREDIBLE FREE OPPORTUNITY TO ALBERTA!

- **THE YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE NATIONAL INITIATIVE** IS YOUR PROVINCE’S OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN FAIR BOARDS, AG SOCIETIES, EMPOWER VOLUNTEERS, AND BUILD RESILIENT RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH A FULLY-FUNDED, HIGH-IMPACT TRAINING PROGRAM.

- **A PROVINCE-WIDE, IN-PERSON TRAINING TOUR** TAILORED TO THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF EVERY FAIR BOARD AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN YOUR REGION.
- **LIFETIME ONLINE RESOURCE HUB**
- **THE YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE MOBILE APP**
- **IN-PERSON CONVENTION EXPERIENCE**
- **ALL COSTS COVERED**
- **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**



WATCH FOR MORE DEATILS ON THE AAAS WEBSITE!



MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF FAIRS.COM

SEPTEMBER 2025



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MORE DETAILS AT WWW.ALBERTAAGSOCIETIES.CA

780-427-2174

ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES DAY!

SEPTEMBER 21st

 **CALL TO ACTION for Agricultural Societies:**
This is your day to shine! Use this special occasion:



- **HOST A COMMUNITY DINNER OR LOCAL EVENT:** CELEBRATE YOUR VOLUNTEERS WITH A SPECIAL DINNER OR GATHERING, AND SHOW APPRECIATION FOR THEIR DEDICATION.
- **DRIVE RECRUITMENT:** USE THE EVENT TO ENCOURAGE NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN AND LEARN ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF BEING PART OF YOUR AG SOCIETY.
- **SHOWCASE WHAT YOU DO:** ORGANIZE AN EVENT OR PRESENTATION THAT HIGHLIGHTS THE PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND EVENTS YOUR AG SOCIETY OFFERS TO THE COMMUNITY.

- **TAG US IN YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA** AND WE WILL HELP SPREAD THE WORD!



AAAS REGIONAL MEETINGS

YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY MEETING! HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE FEEDBACK, ENGAGE WITH OTHER AG SOCIETIES, FIND OUT RELEVANT INFORMATION AND AAAS OPPORTUNITIES

- **OCT. 06: FORT MACLEOD AG SOCIETY**
- **OCT. 15: BOW VALLEY AG SOCIETY**
- **OCT. 16: BERRY CREEK AG SOCIETY**
- **OCT. 20: HAY LAKES AG SOCIETY**
- **OCT. 21: ELNORA AG SOCIETY**
- **OCT. 28: VILNA AG SOCIETY**
- **OCT. 29: HARDISTY AG SOCIETY**
- **NOV. 03: LAKEDELL AG SOCIETY**
- **NOV. 04: WHITECOURT AG SOCIETY**
- **NOV. 07: WEMBLEY AG SOCIETY**
- **NOV. 08: PEACE RIVER AG SOCIETY**



FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER, VISIT
ALBERTAAGSOCIETIES.CA



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Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

4.4 Presentation

MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD

**FROM: SAWYER HICK
FCSS MANAGER**

ISSUE: FCSSAA Conference Information

BACKGROUND: Annually the FCSSAA Conference brings FCSS staff, board members, and community partners from across Alberta together to share knowledge, explore innovative practices, and strengthen our collective impact. The conference will feature keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and networking opportunities focused on enhancing community well-being and resilience.

DISCUSSION: Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSSAA) Conference, taking place November 26–28, 2025, at the Double Tree by Hilton West Edmonton with the theme Make an IMPACT.

FCSS is able to provide funding for a limited number of board members to attend based on available funding. We will cover the cost of registration and hotel accommodations but please note, accommodations at the Double Tree are sold out. Tickets for the conference do sell out also, so please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to attend.

FCSS VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMER UPDATE

Month of September:

- **Community Info Expo:** On September 8, FCSS welcomed residents to a free Info Expo held at the Blackfalds Community Centre. The event served as a hub for community connection, where attendees could meet local organizations, explore available services and learn how to sign up for programs offered throughout town. Town Council was on hand to engage directly with residents and gather input on the 2026 budget, while municipal staff shared details about current programs, volunteer opportunities and upcoming events.

Feedback from participants: *When attendees were asked if attending the event made them feel more aware of what was happening in the community, 97% reported yes with an additional 3% saying somewhat. In addition, when participants were asked if attending the event helped to better them to access the community resources they need, 95% reported yes with an additional 5% saying somewhat.*

Organizations and groups in attendance included:

- 211 Alberta
- Abbey Centre & FCSS staff,
- ANAM
- Beyond Food Community Hub,
- Big Brothers Big Sisters,
- Blackfalds Bulldogs,
- Blackfalds Fire Department,
- Blackfalds Miniature Painting Club,
- Blackfalds Servus Credit Union Public Library,
- Blackfalds Skating Club,
- Blackfalds Seniors Club,
- Boys & Girls Club,
- Business Works Central Alberta
- CARE for Newcomers,
- CAWES
- Community Legal Clinic,
- Dancer Edge Studio,
- Golden Circle,
- Heart of Blackfalds Society,
- John Howard Society,
- KidSport Lacombe County,
- Lionheart Martial Arts,
- McMann Central - Lacombe Family Resource Network,
- Mt Leinster Consulting,
- Optimist Club of Blackfalds,
- Red Deer Fencing Club,
- Soroptimist International of Central Alberta,
- Town of Blackfalds Town Council,
- UBAKA, and
- Unlimited Potential Community Services

- **ESS Reception Volunteers:** To ensure volunteers are fully prepared to support the Reception Centre in the event of an emergency, a comprehensive training plan was implemented. This multi-phase approach will equip everyone with the essential knowledge and practical skills needed to respond effectively during a crisis.
 - A total of 9 volunteers has committed to supporting the Reception Centre
 - Most volunteers have completed or are actively working through:
 - Basic Emergency Management
 - ICS-100: Introduction to Incident Command System
 - Safe Food Handling Courses.
 - Live online training was provided:
 - Intro to ESS (Sep 24) with attendance including 2 FCSS staff & 7 volunteers
 - Behaviours & Disaster (Sep 29) with attendance including 1 FCSS staff, 1 Abbey Centre staff & 8 volunteers
 - A full day, in person training is scheduled for October 22, *where staff and volunteers will engage in practical exercises and simulations to experience how to set up a Reception Centre and going over roles.*
- **Seniors**
 - **Seniors Programming:** FCSS has submitted a request to Lacombe County for their FCSS grant funding to continue to support seniors programming into 2026.
 - **Blackfalds Seniors Club Engagement:** The Volunteer Programmer continues to serve as a link between the Blackfalds Seniors Club and the Town, offering ongoing support to the club's executive by assisting with facility bookings and helping to navigate any issues or concerns that may come up.
 - **Seniors Information Sessions:** Thanks to the strong support from local businesses and partnerships with agencies, we're excited to continue offering these engaging activities.
 - **(September 5) Watercolor Wonders:** The Volunteer Programmer organized 2 watercolor painting sessions aimed at inspiring seniors to tap into their creativity and enjoy the experience of painting. Held in a welcoming setting, the sessions encouraged artistic expression while fostering relaxation and connection. **Attendees: 9**
Feedback from participants: *When participants were asked if attending the session gave them the chance to learn new things, 100% reported yes. Participants were also asked if the session gave them a chance to show how capable they are, 100% reported yes.*
 - The Volunteer Programmer is actively planning a dynamic lineup of sessions for 2026, featuring new offerings like Music Therapy and Alzheimer's education, alongside the return of popular favorites from 2025. Stay tuned...exciting details are on the way!



- **Town of Blackfalds volunteers were utilized at the following programs and events:**
 - The Volunteer Programmer has been actively filling volunteer shifts for several upcoming events, including the Winter Warmth Fall Fundraiser, Frightful Family Movie, Monster Bash and the Snow Angel Program. These initiatives rely heavily on the support of our dedicated Town of Blackfalds volunteers.
 - Blackfalds Youth Crew 2 September dates (3 volunteers totaling 8 hours)
 - ESS Reception Volunteers (ongoing).

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

1. **The monthly FCSS Volunteer Newsletter**
 - a. In September, the newsletter was emailed to 299 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 55%
2. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
 - a. Frightful Family Movie – Oct 24
 - b. Monster Bash – Oct 25
 - c. Jim Hurley Free Skate Monitors – Sunday's Sep-Mar
 - d. Snow Angel Program – winter months

FCSS VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMER UPDATE

Month of October:

- **Business Xmas Challenge:** Advertising has gone out to local businesses, asking them to join our #BlackfaldsXmas Challenge! They'll be competing within their category, and we've encouraged them to invite others to sign up as well! Their mission is to gather as many donations as possible by December 2. The team that collects the most will win a prize. There are 5 categories: 1-2 staff, 3-9 staff, 10-25 staff, 25+ staff & non-profit organizations.
- **Volunteer Shifts:** The Volunteer Programmer has been actively filling volunteer shifts for several upcoming events, including the Youth Night Out, Light Up Blackfalds, Breakfast and Brunch with Santa and the Snow Angel Program. These initiatives rely heavily on the support of our dedicated Town of Blackfalds volunteers.
- **Snow Angel Program:** As of this report, **13 residents have been successfully paired with a Snow Angel volunteer**, while **8 additional residents remain on the waitlist**. Despite targeted outreach efforts via social media, community engagement in volunteer recruitment has been limited. To ensure continued support for those awaiting a match, we are expanding participation through the **Neighbourhood Snow Angel Program**.
 - Residents on the waitlist will receive a Snow Angel sign to display in their front window or door, signaling their involvement in the program and welcoming assistance from neighbours.
 - This initiative is designed to foster a stronger sense of community and encourage informal acts of kindness among residents. Here's how community members can get involved:
 - **Look for the Sign** – Watch for homes displaying the Snow Angel sign, indicating a neighbour who may need help.
 - **Spread the Kindness** – Volunteer to shovel the front sidewalk and driveway of those homes, lending a hand where it's needed most.
- **ESS Reception Emergency Preparedness Training:** To ensure volunteers are fully prepared to support the Reception Centre in the event of an emergency, a comprehensive multi-phase training plan was implemented. This initiative is designed to provide both foundational knowledge and hands-on experience, ensuring staff and volunteers can respond confidently and effectively during a crisis.
- On October 22, a full day, in person training session was held. Participants engaged in practical exercises and simulations focused on Reception Centre setup, role assignments, and operational procedures. This experience helped reinforce key responsibilities and fostered teamwork in a realistic emergency response environment.



- **Town of Blackfalds volunteers were utilized at the following programs and events:**
 - **Winter Warmth Fall Fundraiser** (Oct 2) 8 volunteers, 13 volunteer hours
 - **Frightful Family Movie Night** (Oct 24) 7 volunteers, 18 volunteer hours
 - **Monster Bash** (Oct 25) 13 volunteers, 44.5 volunteer hours
 - **ESS Reception Volunteers** (ongoing) 9 volunteers, 154.5 volunteer hours contributed to date

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

1. **The monthly FCSS Volunteer Newsletter**
 - a. In October, the newsletter was emailed to 299 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 57%
2. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
 - a. Jim Hurley Free Skate Monitors – Sunday's Sep-Mar
 - b. Youth Night Out – Nov 14
 - c. Light Up Blackfalds – Nov 21
 - d. Breakfast & Brunch with Santa – Nov 29
 - e. Snow Angel Program – winter months

- **Seniors:**
 - Volunteer Programmer's active involvement with senior programming is coming to an end. They will conclude facilitation of the senior sessions in November and continue tracking related activities through the end of the calendar year. While their direct engagement with programming will end, they will remain available in a transitional capacity as the liaison between the Blackfalds Seniors Club and the municipality. This arrangement will continue until a new appointee is identified to assume the liaison role.
 - **Seniors Information Sessions:** Thanks to the strong support from local businesses and partnerships with agencies, we're excited to continue offering these engaging activities.
 - **(October 7) Aging in Place:** The Volunteer Programmer led an informative session focused on "aging in place", offering practical strategies and resources to help older adults maintain independence while continuing to enjoy the comfort of their own homes. Participants were introduced to a range of local supports including transportation services and grocery delivery; Golden Circle spoke about meal delivery options and Lacombe FCSS spoke about home care options
Attendees: 20
Feedback from participants: *When asked whether the session increased their belief that they could be ok on their own, 90% responded yes and 10% said somewhat. Regarding confidence in their ability to remain in their own homes, 80% reported yes and 20% said somewhat.*



FCSS Board Update: September 2025

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page:

- 1,540 followers at the close of September

Blackfalds Instagram Page:

- 186 followers at the close of September

Abey Center Membership Assistance Program

- 2 applications received, screened in September
 - 2 applications approved
 - A total of two adults and 6 children have access to recreation at the Abbey Centre.

Interagency Meeting:

- September 3, 2025
- Hosted in the Eagle Builders Centre Banquet Room
- 28 people in attendance
- 19 unique organizations present

Drop in 50+ Walking Club

- 20 unique participants in September
- An average of 20 daily walkers.
- 15% from Lacombe County & 0% from the City of Lacombe and 85% from the Town of Blackfalds

It's More than a Movie

- **Watched: Sahara**
- So much fun was had, many of the guests had not seen each other all summer!
- **24 residents attended.**
- 23 from the town of Blackfalds, 1 City of Lacombe, 0 County of Lacombe

Get Comfy in the Kitchen Series – Take your taste buds to Thailand

- September 16
- 2 sessions 10- 11: & 1-2:30 pm @ Beyond Food Community Kitchen
- 15 participants, 1 BYFCH staff, 1 FCSS staff
- **The “cooking class” model worked well:** instead of the “community kitchen” approach that we have used in the past, we introduced a “cooking class” type experience. It was very well received by participants
- The “Take your taste buds to Thailand class” was EXCELLENT! Community members meet new people, learned new skills, experience new flavours and most of all, add to their sense of belonging and community connection!

Digital Danger

In partnership with Constable Stephaine Bosch of the Northern Alberta Internet Child Exploitation Unit.

- Very low turn out- 2 community members attended
- EXCELLENT INFORMATION SHARED, but very low turnout.

Winter Warmth Fundraiser

- Contacting all businesses and arranging pick up
- Creating descriptions for each item
- Creating centrepieces and décor
- Connecting with Diamond Liquor
- Connecting with Montgomery Auctions
- Working on ticket sales
- Submitted AGLC license
- Invite previous year attendees
- Creating bid paddle items

Contact families about coats/snowpants/boots

Outer duties:

- Attended Community Expo
- Attended Truth and Reconciliation Walk/ participated in Orange Shirt Day.
- Assist with student CRA review.

FCSS Board Update: October 2025

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page:

- 1,578 followers at the close of October

Blackfalds Instagram Page:

- 199 followers at the close of October
-

50+ Walking Club:

- Average of 19 walkers per Tuesday.
- We had 30 unique walkers during the month of October
- 70% of the Walkers are from the Town of Blackfalds
- 7% are from the City of Lacombe
- 23% are from the County of Lacombe
- We continue to focus on the “playful brain”

More than a Movie:

- 20 movie guests
- Enjoyed the movie: Jumanji- The Next Level
- 16 guests from the Town of Blackfalds
- 2 guests from the City of Lacombe
- 2 guests from the County of Lacombe
- This is such a time of fellowship for the community members- even if they don't like the film that was chosen, they enjoy chatting about it afterwards.

Abey Center Membership Assistance Program

- 2 applications received, screened in October
 - **2 applications approved**
 - A total of 3 adults and 7 children have access to recreation at the Abbey Centre.

Back to School Gift Card Program

- **Thrilled to say that The Winter Warmth Fundraiser raised \$4,075.00 for next year's Tools for School Program. This gives us a \$5,511.00 buffer for next year's program.** This is something that we have worked on very hard as a team, because offering support programs with no "carry over" is VERY STRESSFUL on the organizer. The pressure of "supporting" community children with back-to-school items with no money to work from and an unknown number of kids who may apply will give programmers sleepless nights. 😊

Community Winter Wear Fundraiser

- **Great Success total funds raised: \$22,222.00**
 - Live Auction raised: \$14,900
 - Grade six student raised: \$4,075
 - 91 tickets sold: \$2,730.00
 - Bar: \$502.00
 - Expenses: \$3280.85 (catering, music, bar, decorations, liquor license)
 - **Total profit of: \$18,941.15**
- Finalizing in-kind & charitable tax receipts and thank you letters to buyers.
- It is incredible that this fundraiser is so successful! It speaks to the generosity of our community and the level of integrity and trust that the community at large has in our ability to ensure that local dollars support local children.

Ask a Lawyer Session

In partnership with The Community Legal Clinic

8 community members RSVP to receive 30 mins of free legal advice

On the Day of the event, the Community Legal Clinic Coordinator called, stating that the Lawyer who was arranged to attend our event was ill and unable to attend.

- The Communications Coordinator and I worked VERY well together to offer an alternative opportunity to our community members who signed up for this free service.
- I touched base with each community member and completed an "intake" form with them and submitted it to the Legal Clinic on their behalf. We then arranged "phone" consultations for EACH client on a designated date, for 30 free minutes of legal advice.
- Highlights the ability of FCSS to "problem solve" issues as they arrive. Ensuring that community members received support.

BLACKFALDS FCSS

FAMILY & COMMUNITY
SUPPORT SERVICES

403.600.9066

jpocock@blackfalds.ca

Jan Pocock, Community Engagement Programmer

Coats for Kids

- In partnership with Mountain Wearhouse
- **135 coats** were chosen & proudly wore out!
- Cost of coats is unknown at this point- just waiting on an invoice.
- Three days of pick-up with multiple pick-up times available.
- Volunteer hours: 2 volunteers gave 6 hours
- This year, we offered the options of receiving EITHER a coat, a pair of snowpants, or a pair of winter boots. This was a VERY nice addition and was very well received by parents. It did add additional work to the coordinator, originally correct sizes for snowpants and boots and for volunteers having children "trying on" boots and snowpants, which takes much longer for some reason 😊... BUT it was GOOD and we will be offering these options again next year.
- **93 Coats, 25 pairs of Snow pants, 17 pairs of Boots**

Outer duties:

- Attended ESS training Oct 22
- Submit Winter Guide activities
- Supported community member with Bingo Application (Seniors Club)
- Donor thank you completed for the Tools for School Program.
- *** A senior who came to "More than a Movie" this month **was "socially prescribed" by her doctor to contact FCSS and join our activities.** The community resident presented to the doctor with what she called "blue-ness" (isolation, loneliness, loss of connection) and the doctor gave her our phone number and told her to reach out! THIS IS COMMUNITY! This is preventive social services- this is supporting mental health and mental wellness! This is SUCCESS!



FCSS Youth Programmer September Report

Date & Time	
<i>September 29 & 30</i>	Orange Shirt Day & Truth and Reconciliation Day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOB recognizes September 29 (Some staff also work on September 30 and will also recognize it), Orange Shirt Day & Truth and Reconciliation Day • I have placed an order for orange T-shirts from a verified Orange Shirt Society vendor for the TOB new staff, and FCSS will fund these orange shirts for the new staff. 	

Blackfalds Youth Crew (BYC)

Instructor: *Annette*

BYC supports youth in building friendships, leadership skills, and self-confidence through fun, safe, and engaging activities. Each session welcomes up to 15 participants.

In September, we teamed up with Blackfalds Cultural Days to celebrate community and creativity together!

BYC Detail	Grades 4-6 Thursdays 5:00-7:00 PM	Grades 7-12 Tuesdays 5:00-7:00 PM	Homeschool Thursdays 1:00-3:00 PM	Total Youth
Celebrate Canada with Us! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada wear contest • Northern Lights Art • Posters of famous Canadians • Themed Pictionary and trivia • Homemade poutine 	15	9	9	33
All Things Alberta! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta wear contest • Line Dancing • Cornhole • Trivia • Perogy • Ice cream with saskatoon berries and honey drizzled on top 	13	7	10	30
Total Youth Registered September				63

Expressive Arts-Inspirational T-Shirts

Instructor Lorelei Reader

This Expressive Arts experience empowers youth to explore their imagination, have fun, and express themselves creatively in a safe, inclusive space—designing a personalized T-shirt that celebrates what truly inspires them.

Date & Time	
<i>September 23</i>	4:00-5:30 PM
This Expressive Arts experience empowers youth to explore their imagination, have fun, and express themselves creatively in a safe, inclusive space—designing a personalized T-shirt that celebrates what truly inspires them.	
Youth Registered	12/12

Youth Programmer Initiatives

Positive Ticketing Program	Constable Hewitt continues to hand out positive tickets to youth in the community/school who are demonstrating positive and/or improved behaviour.
Continuing Initiatives	<p>Website & Social Media Enhancements</p> <p>Changes to the Town of Blackfalds ‘Youth Programs and Services page of the website have been updated and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ways that the public can stay informed with access to the Blackfalds FCSS Youth Facebook page and a registration tab for Blackfalds Connect. • Drop-down menus that provide a snapshot of the various programs that Blackfalds FCSS provides for youth in the community. • Youth Emergency Supports (Contact information and online supports) • Youth community event and program information • A monthly calendar of events <p>Upcoming Events & Initiatives</p> <p>Planning is underway for Youth Night Out on November 14—a fun-filled evening designed to bring together youth in a safe and engaging environment.</p> <p>Community Collaboration</p> <p>On September 3, we hosted our very first ‘Youth Program Providers: Blackfalds Meet-Up’—bringing together local organizations that offer youth programming in our community. This gathering created a valuable space for</p>

connection, information sharing, and collaboration, with the shared goal of supporting youth in Blackfalds.

New Program Launch: Leaders in Training (LiT)

Introducing our LiT program for youth in grades 9–12. Students in grades 10–12 can earn work experience credits by completing 75 or more volunteer hours.

School Engagement

Participated in Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus on September 4-Engage youth and their families with a jeopardy game, introducing our programs

ESS Basic Training

Completed ESS Basic Training September 24



Culture Days

All Things Alberta



PHOTOCARDS.AI

Culture Days



*Celebrate
Canada with
Us!*



PHOTOCARDS.AI

FCSS Youth Programmer October Report

Programs:

Blackfalds Youth Crew (BYC)

Instructor: *Annette*

BYC supports youth in building friendships, leadership skills, and self-confidence through fun, safe, and engaging activities. Each session welcomes up to 15 participants.

BYC Detail	Grades 4-6 Thursdays 5:00-7:00 PM	Grades 7-12 Tuesdays 5:00-7:00 PM	Homeschool Thursdays 1:00-3:00 PM	Total Youth
Tacos & Trivia (Tag) <i>October 7 and 9</i>	15	6	11	32
Fear Factor <i>October 21 and 23</i>	13	6	10	29
Everything Halloween <i>October 28 and 30</i>	15	6	9	30
	Wait List 4			
Total Youth Registered in October				91

Expressive Arts-The Superhero In Us.

Instructor *Lorelei Reader*

Date & Time	
<i>Monday October 27</i>	4:00-5:30 PM
<i>Unfortunately, we had to cancel this workshop as the instructor had a family emergency. We will reschedule when we can.</i>	
Youth Registered	8/8
Wait List 4	

Child Safe Canada Internet Safety

Instructor: *Annette*

The Internet Safety explores topics such as social media dynamics, cyberbullying, online safety strategies, and sharing personal information.

Date, Time, and Details	Registered / Attended (max 15)
Wednesday October 22	5:00-7:00 PM
Youth Registered	15
Wait List 4	

Youth Cooking Club**Instructor:** *Annette*

The Youth Cooking Club provides information to youth about healthy eating, cooking skills, and kitchen safety. Participants work independently and in teams, build social connections, and showcase their talents at a final celebration with family and friends.

Date, Time, and Details	Registered/Attended (max 10)	Waitlist (max 10)
Grade 5-7 October 29 5:00-7:15 PM	11	8

New Program Launch:**Leaders in Training (LiT)**

We introduced our LiT (Leaders in Training) program for youth in grades 9–12! This opportunity allows volunteers to work alongside me in supporting BYC programs and our popular Cooking Club. Students in grades 10–12 can also earn work experience credits by completing 75+ volunteer hours.

While our launch faced a few unexpected hurdles—I was ill on the original presentation date, and the rescheduled visit on October 6 coincided with the start of the teacher strike—we pivoted with a media release on October 24 via the FCSS Blackfalds Youth Facebook page. Since then, we've seen a fantastic response with many inquiries and several applications already submitted!

Youth Programmer Initiatives:

<p>Positive Ticketing Program</p>	<p>Constable Hewitt continues to hand out positive tickets to youth in the community/school who are demonstrating positive and/or improved behaviour.</p>
<p>Continuing Initiatives</p>	<p>Community Helpers Program (CPH):</p> <p>Met with Trish Pfeifer, social worker from Iron Ridge Secondary, to discuss the Community Helpers Program—a Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention Training initiative funded by Alberta Health Services and coordinated by Dawne Alkins from the Outreach Centre in Red Deer. Trish recommends offering CPH as a community-based program to better align with the 2022 Social Assessment goals, which emphasize the need for preventative resources and mental health support for youth. Further planning is underway to explore logistics for launching the program in Blackfalds for youth ages 14–17 in the New Year.</p> <p>Upcoming Events & Initiatives</p> <p>Planning and finalizing is underway for Youth Night Out on November 14—a fun-filled evening designed to bring together youth in a safe and engaging environment. Bring back the 80's!</p>



Client Statistics for October

Referrals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
FCSS Sawyer	2	0	8	1	2	2	1	0	1	1
FCSS Cara	5	13	13	9	2	6	7	4	7	10
Snow Angel Program	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
FCSS Jan	9	10	13	7	10	2	5	19	15	14
FCSS Annette	2	5	3	5	2	3	2	1	10	5
Income Tax Return Inquiries	0	10	166	97	15	9	2	1	0	0
Employment Support	1	0	0	0	1	4	1	1	0	1
FCSS Event Movie/WW	5	0	1	3	10	14	0	11	31	33
FCSS Subsidized Programs	1	1	0	1	1	0	11	2	5	8
Back to School	0	0	0	1	0	1	9	102	1	0
Winter Wear	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	72
Christmas Bureau	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Abbey Assistance Program	2	5	6	7	0	3	4	1	0	2
Food Bank	5	3	4	5	0	3	6	1	2	5
Low Income Inquiries	3	6	7	1	4	1	5	5	3	3
Housing	1	5	0	2	2	0	1	2	2	3
Fax	21	9	22	20	22	19	19	23	22	31
Printing/Photocopying	23	18	14	17	21	22	29	32	37	18
Seniors Assistance Programs	5	15	13	5	3	5	5	10	10	4
Telephone	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	0
BOLT	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	3	0	0
Golden Circle	16	2	3	11	6	6	3	9	10	5
General Inquiries	36	46	58	68	80	44	41	46	85	48
Number of Clients	142	152	332	264	182	145	153	275	246	265

Job posting updated weekly. Beyond Food Lunchbox Program emails sent weekly.

Vibrant Living 50+ Monthly Newsletter for:

October - 261 sends with an open rate of 70%

LET'S
GET UGLY

Volunteer Christmas Open House

Join Blackfalds FCSS as we celebrate the Christmas season with our town volunteers and local community groups!

Mon, Dec 1 | 5:00 - 7:00pm
Blackfalds Community Centre
Multi-Purpose Room | 4810 Womacks Rd

**RSVP is required to attend | Volunteer@blackfalds.ca*

'Tis the season!! Swing by for pizza, hot chocolate, door prizes galore...and be sure to wear your ugliest Christmas sweater!

RSVP is required, please let me know if you'll be in attendance.