

Background Notes from the Mayor's Desk - April 2017

The Town of Sundre has appointed a new Chief Administrative Officer. Ms. Linda Nelson will assume her new position on April 3, 2017.

This is a key leadership position within the Town administration as it is the only position that Town Council employs. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) has the task of supervising, hiring, and evaluating all staff who are employed by the Town of Sundre. Council directs the CAO to carry out all business, plans, projects and budgets, as set out by the Strategic Plan identified by Council.

Council made the decision to ask for assistance in hiring for this very important position. Mr. James Davies of Davies Consulting Group Ltd. was able to bring to us very strong candidates from Alberta and British Columbia to be interviewed for the position. There was interest from across Canada and from the United States, in the opportunity to work as CAO in our community.

Ms. Nelson brings over twenty years of direct municipal leadership experience, with a solid professional background in planning and development, as well as legal and legislative services. Community development has been a focus throughout her career and she has a passion for volunteering towards the betterment of the community in which she lives.

In addition to being involved in attracting and providing accommodations for rural physicians, she is always promoting the community in which she resides. This includes owning a summer home in Sundre. She has been active in promoting Sundre already, through tourism initiatives together with members of the community, businesses within the community, and the Provincial Government.

Most recently, she was the Deputy CAO for the Town of Strathmore and saw that community grow from 3,500 to nearly 13,500 residents during her eighteen years with the Town.

Council would like to thank Ms. Angie Lucas, who assumed additional responsibilities as Acting CAO for over 11 months. Under her leadership, administration and staff completed the first 5 year capital plan, in the history of Sundre and developed a two year budget that will take the next Council through the first year of their next term, after the October election. Council is very proud of the work that Ms. Lucas and all staff have been able to accomplish, while being "short staffed". Everyone has "stepped up" to ensure the business of Town operations gets done. Everyone seeks to continually improve and Council is grateful for that dedication.

We wish also to thank Mr. Al Harvey who has stepped in more recently to act as Interim CAO. His "fresh eyes", experience, questions and suggestions have helped all of us look at what we do with ideas to improve services to our businesses and ratepayers.

Ms. Nelson is looking forward to making Sundre her permanent home and begin working with Council, administration, staff, businesses, and the community at large, in order to move the Town of Sundre into the future. Please join us in welcoming Linda Nelson to our community.

As always, please call me at [403-559-7352](tel:403-559-7352) if you wish to chat about the information in this article, or any other issue.

Terry Leslie, Mayor
Town of Sundre