

## Background Notes from the Mayor's Desk - April 2018

### How has the “carbon levy,” or “carbon tax,” affected you?

On my recent Town of Sundre utility bill there was a “Carbon Tax Levy” line that read \$19.77. Many people get a rebate for the carbon tax paid as an attempt to “balance” the impact of the carbon tax.

You may have heard that executive committee members from our Seniors Centre have raised the issue of carbon tax and how it has affected the running of their facility by adding about \$1300 per year to the operation expenses of their building. The Aquaplex now pays about \$800 per month (\$9600 per year) in carbon tax, I’ve been told. Church groups, the Legion, the Elks, the new Mountain View Housing Seniors Housing Facility, the Historical Society, and volunteer groups and organizations, are now faced with the realization that they will somehow have to find ways to pay the carbon tax, often by fundraising.

The executive members of the Seniors Centre have called the Premier’s Office to raise their concerns. I have also called the Premier’s Office to express serious concerns about the unintended consequences of the carbon tax on church groups, benevolent organizations like the Legion and the Elks, seniors housing “not for profit” organizations like Mountain View Seniors Housing, our Historical Society, and volunteer groups and organizations that own buildings in communities throughout Alberta. These volunteer groups are the heart and soul of all our communities. They provide support services, activities, and they donate to dozens of programs for people of all ages in rural Alberta, where “government services” are unavailable. My concern is that all these groups are going to try and manage to pay increases in carbon tax bills by fundraising – and taxing fundraising was never mentioned as part of the Provincial carbon tax rollout plan.

To give credit where credit is due, the Premier’s Office would like to understand the issues further. This is an Alberta Environment and Parks issue and I received a call from Environment Minister Phillips’s Chief of Staff to discuss community concerns further. There are many Provincial Government Programs available to help volunteer groups and organizations, and municipalities, make their buildings more efficient, and reduce carbon tax paid. The Environment Minister’s Office has arranged for representatives from Energy Efficiency Alberta to come to Sundre in late April or early May to host a “Mini Trade Show” to promote their organization and programs available to businesses, individuals, churches, non profit groups and organizations. Please watch the Sundre Round Up and our Town website for details as to when and where this event will be occurring.

The representatives coming to provide information on efficiency programs are not the people who set carbon tax policy. I have assured them they will receive a warm welcome in our community as they come to do their jobs – provide all of us with efficiency program details. If you are concerned about how the carbon tax is affecting you, your group or organization, please call me, or our MLA Jason Nixon. We want to hear your stories and the effects of carbon tax legislation in our community.

As always, if you want to talk further about the information above, or any other issue, please call me at 403-559-7352.

Terry Leslie, Mayor