

The County of Stettler has been informed of the Province of Alberta's proposed changes to how oil and gas properties are assessed. Models proposed from their review suggest our County (and many others in Alberta) will see a significant revenue loss. Tax savings are being passed on to large (assets over \$500M) oil and gas companies, with no mechanism being put in place to ensure this money stays in Alberta.

Small to medium oil and gas companies, the ones struggling in our own community, may see raises in their assessment-having to pay more taxes.

Proposals suggest our County would be looking at a \$3-4 million loss of revenue in 2021, not taking into account the additional expected unpaid taxes we have already forecast (\$2.7M), or the abandonments that are currently taking place.

Our Province has given rural Alberta 4 weeks notice of their upcoming decision, right in the middle of busy farming season. We need the support of our entire region and community to urge our government to reconsider a decision that will see rural Alberta bailing out large oil and gas (they would see up to 109% savings), while small-medium sized companies, the ones that live, work and support our communities, may actually see increases causing further hardship in our region. The government's new assessment model will devastate rural Albertan's way of life.

What this revenue loss could mean to the County of Stettler: Drastic Tax Increases and Decreased Funding

To maintain current services - we would have to raise \$4 Million

- Double Residential Taxes
- Increase Farmland Taxes by 1.5 times the current amount
- Decreased funding for Senior's Housing
- Increase in Utility Rates

and/or consider another reduction of services to save dollars

Note: The Province will have to increase Education Taxes to recover the shortfall

What a reduction of services could look like: Loss of Services, Recreation and Community

- Road closures
- Closing Satellite Fire Departments in Big Valley and Byemore
- Cancelling Recreation Funding to the Town and rural communities: Rinks, ball diamonds, halls
- Cutting Library Funding
- Cutting Recycling
- Cutting Special Recreation Funding and Operational Assistance Grants
- Reducing gravel program - gravelling main roads only
- Cancelling laneway snowplowing
- Reducing rural snowplowing (main arteries only)
- Cutting Doctor Recruitment funding
- Cutting STARS funding
- Eliminating Committees like Rural Crime
- Eliminate rapid response clean up after weather events
- Cancelling weed spraying
- Cancelling roadside mowing

Ultimately, a loss of jobs

Our Goal: Save our Community and Rural Way of Life

The Province is proposing to download the rescue of Alberta's oil and gas industry, and appears to be setting up big oil and gas, on the backs of rural Albertans. There are other mechanisms for bailing out an industry. We understand the pressure the energy industry is under but too many cuts too quickly will threaten the viability of rural municipalities.

Every company, industry and person in our province has benefited from oil and gas - the burden of responsibility needs to be shared. We would suggest a fairer model which benefits all oil and gas not just large oil and gas, and a tiered approach, over time, with more stakeholders including the cities and towns, absorbing costs.

In 2019 the County was told to issue a 35% tax reduction to shallow gas well operators, (\$830,000). We wrote off \$4M in bad debts. Then the province issued a new invoice for Policing (\$145,321 for 2020 increasing to \$436,000 by 2024). We are at \$2.7M in bad debts to date for 2020.

If you live in rural Alberta, and the Towns and Villages who depend on rural Alberta, please help us be a bigger voice:

Contact Premier Jason Kenney: 307 Legislature Building, 10800-97 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6, email: premier@gov.ab.ca

Contact MLA, Nate Horner: Box 1929, Bay 400, 300 South Railway Avenue East, Drumheller, AB T0J 0Y0, email: Drumheller.Stettler@assembly.ab.ca,

Please CC the County of Stettler: Box 1270, Stettler, AB T0C 2L0, email: info@stettlercounty.ca

Need more information? Contact the County of Stettler 403-742-4441, or your area Councillor:

Reeve Larry Clarke: 403-740-5482, Deputy Reeve Les Stulberg: 403-740-5003, Councillors: Ernie Gendre: 587-282-1644, Dave Grover: 403-740-2973, Cheri Neitz: 403-740-3785, James Nibourg: 403-741-9493, and Wayne Nixon: 403-741-6129

