

Moved by:

Acting Mayor Schmidt-Rempel

Councillor Crowson

Mayor Hyggen

Councillor Doria

OFFICIAL BUSINESS MOTION

Lethbridge Affirms its place as a vital part of Alberta and Canada

6.1

WHEREAS section 3 of Alberta's *Municipal Government Act* establishes that the purposes of a municipality include providing good government, fostering the economic development of the municipality, providing services and facilities considered necessary or desirable by Council for all or a part of the municipality, developing and maintaining safe and viable communities, and working collaboratively with neighbouring municipalities to plan, deliver and fund intermunicipal services; and

WHEREAS section 153 of the *Municipal Government Act* requires Councillors to consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and to bring forward matters that would promote those interests; and

WHEREAS the City of Lethbridge acknowledges that we are gathered on the lands of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains, and has longstanding relationships with the Blackfoot Confederacy, Kainai/Blood Tribe, Métis people and other Indigenous communities whose histories, economies and communities are closely connected with Lethbridge and Southern Alberta; and

WHEREAS Lethbridge is situated within Treaty 7 territory and recognizes that any significant constitutional change affecting Alberta would also engage existing Indigenous and treaty rights and relationships protected under the Constitution of Canada; and

WHEREAS Lethbridge City Council's 2026 – 2029 Strategic Plan identifies an economically prosperous city and a city that partners among Council's priorities, with a commitment to

supporting existing businesses, attracting investment and strengthening Lethbridge's role as a regional hub for agriculture, agri-food, advanced manufacturing, trade, logistics and emerging industries; and

WHEREAS Council's 2026 Economic Development Strategy similarly identifies agrifood, advanced manufacturing, transportation and logistics as priority sectors and recognizes the importance of investment, partnerships, workforce development and regional economic resilience to Lethbridge's future prosperity; and

WHEREAS the City of Lethbridge relies on partnerships with the Governments of Alberta and Canada to support municipal infrastructure and services, including transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, housing, community wellbeing and other municipal priorities, and the majority of funding available through the City's Capital Improvement Program has historically come from both provincial and federal grants; and

WHEREAS Lethbridge faces significant infrastructure requirements to support population and economic growth, including major investments in water and wastewater capacity, transportation infrastructure and existing municipal assets, making long-term funding certainty and predictable intergovernmental relationships material considerations for municipal planning and fiscal sustainability; and

WHEREAS a material change to Alberta's constitutional relationship with Canada could have implications for intergovernmental funding arrangements, infrastructure financing, trade and investment conditions, labour and business mobility, and the partnerships through which municipalities deliver programs and services; and

WHEREAS matters that may materially affect Lethbridge's economy, municipal finances, infrastructure investment, service delivery or ability to implement Council's adopted strategic priorities engage Council's responsibility to consider the welfare and long-term interests of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy identifies significant potential economic and fiscal consequences associated with Alberta separation,

including transition costs, weaker economic performance under modelled scenarios, investment uncertainty, and potential effects on provincial revenues, expenditures, and household incomes; and

WHEREAS Council recognizes that Albertans hold differing views about Alberta's relationship with Canada and that individual Albertans will make their own decision on the referendum question; and

WHEREAS Lethbridge City Council can continue to advocate strongly for the interests of Lethbridge and Southern Alberta and for improvements to federal-provincial-municipal relationships through constructive engagement, collaboration and meaningful reform:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Lethbridge City Council affirms Lethbridge's place as a vital part of Alberta and Canada;
2. Council affirms that its interest in this matter is grounded in its municipal responsibilities, including protecting Lethbridge's economic interests, encouraging investment, maintaining fiscal and infrastructure stability, supporting reliable service delivery and advancing the priorities established in Council's 2026–2029 Strategic Plan;
3. Council supports continued constructive engagement among municipal, provincial, federal and Indigenous governments to address issues affecting Alberta and to advance solutions that strengthen Lethbridge, Southern Alberta and Alberta as a whole; and
4. The Mayor, on behalf of Council, forward this resolution to the Premier of Alberta, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Lethbridge-area Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Member of Parliament for Lethbridge, Alberta Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, together with a request that the municipal fiscal, infrastructure, economic and intergovernmental implications of any proposed constitutional change be fully considered.