

Town of Bon Accord
AGENDA
Committee of the Whole Meeting
January 27, 2026 4:15 p.m. in Council Chambers
Live streamed on Bon Accord YouTube Channel

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
- 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- 3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - 3.1. School Bus Safety Concerns Update (enclosure)**
 - 3.2. Anti-Bullying Bylaw Discussion (enclosure)**
 - 3.3. STARS Support Request Letter Discussion (enclosure)**
- 4. ADJOURNMENT**

TOWN OF BON ACCORD
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Meeting:	Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2026
Presented by:	Jessica Spaidal, Legislative Services & Communications Supervisor
Title:	School Bus Safety Concerns Update
Agenda Item No.	3.1

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL

Resolution History:

April 1, 2025 RMC:

COUNCILLOR LAING MOVED THAT Council directs administration to bring this topic back to the next Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion. ***Carried resolution #25-141***

May 20, 2025 RMC:

DEPUTY MAYOR LARSON MOVED THAT Council direct administration to forward the school bus concern letter to S.Sgt. Darcy McGunigal and that Mayor Holden arrange a meeting with Dale Nally. ***Carried resolution #25-236***

June 3, 2025 RMC:

DEPUTY MAYOR LARSON MOVED THAT Council directs administration to bring this topic back to the June 17, 2025 meeting. MOTION TO AMEND: Councillor May MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR to have Mayor Holden bring back information from his meeting with Minister Nally at the June 17 2025 meeting. ***Carried resolution #25-247***

COUNCILLOR LAING MOVED THAT Council postpones this notice of motion until the next meeting after the update with Minister Nally. ***Carried resolution #25-257***

June 17, 2025 RMC:

COUNCILLOR MAY MOVED THAT Council addresses the School Bus Safety Concerns as information. ***Carried resolution #25-266***

COUNCILLOR LAING MOVED THAT Council directs administration to draft a letter to local contractors in the area encouraging them to give feedback on the town bus stops.

2 opposed Carried resolution #25-267

Administration reached out to the Sturgeon Public School Division to pass a letter along to their contractors on our behalf, requesting the contractors' feedback. The response to that letter is attached.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

Administration inquired further as to the number of reported incidents in the letter, noting the number seemed to be low. The Sturgeon Public School Division staff agree that although they ask bus operators to report the incidents, the reported incidents are low. A potential reason is that "the bus operators are focused on keeping their students safe during pickup and drop off and sometimes may not report the incident. We [School Division] continue to reiterate the importance of reporting, especially for advocacy! When the bus operator is able to obtain the required information for reporting incidents to the RCMP, such as the license plate information, they are asked to report it directly to the RCMP. We are unable to assist them with this, as it has to be reported directly from the bus operator who was involved in the incident. We do not have any stats on how often these are reported, or result in any prosecution."

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Priority #2: Community

- The residents of Bon Accord live in a safe, connected, and attractive community.

COSTS/SOURCES OF FUNDING

N/A

Re: Feedback on School Bus Safety Concerns

Dear Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Town of Bon Accord,

We appreciate the opportunity to share feedback and observations from our transportation department and school bus operators regarding student transportation safety within the Town of Bon Accord.

One ongoing challenge identified by our drivers is public understanding of school bus stopping requirements, particularly the difference between urban and rural settings. While red lights are not used in most urban areas, motorists must still stop for school bus red lights in rural areas, including within the Town of Bon Accord. Our drivers continue to observe inconsistent compliance from motorists who may assume the same rules apply everywhere, creating safety concerns for students during loading and unloading.

To help address these concerns, we ask bus operators to report any fly-by incidents to our office. These reports are then shared with the Student Transportation Association of Alberta (STAA), which compiles the information and provides updates to the provincial government. This data supports advocacy efforts for funding related to safety equipment on school buses, helping to ensure students remain safe while boarding and exiting the bus.

For your information, below is a summary of reported fly-by incidents within the Town of Bon Accord:

School Year	Incidents Reported
2024-2025	4 Reports
2025-2026	7 Reports



In addition, bus operators have expressed ongoing concerns regarding traffic conditions on 54 Avenue. At Lilian Schick School, operators rely on cooperative traffic behaviour to safely maneuver the narrow roadway when entering and exiting the bus lane. During winter conditions, snow accumulation further restricts the roadway, making two-way traffic particularly challenging. Buses are often required to stop and wait for oncoming vehicles due to limited clearance, and navigating the road edge while accommodating other large vehicles increases safety risks for both students and drivers.

We believe that increased public education, along with consistent enforcement of school bus safety regulations, would be beneficial in improving compliance and enhancing safety for all road users. We appreciate your consideration of these concerns and welcome any opportunity to collaborate on initiatives that support student transportation safety within the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Sean Nicholson".

Sean Nicholson

Associate Superintendent, Corporate Services

TOWN OF BON ACCORD
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Meeting:	Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2026
Presented by:	Jessica Spaidal, Legislative Services & Communications Supervisor
Title:	Anti-Bullying Bylaw Discussion
Agenda Item No.	3.2

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL

At the November 4, 2025 regular meeting, the following resolution was passed:

*DEPUTY MAYOR BIDNEY MOVED THAT Council direct administration to look into the anti-bullying discussion and bring back an information report. **Carried resolution #25-439***

Administration has researched the history of Bon Accord's 2013-08 Anti-Bullying Bylaw, relevant legislation, and consulted with the Sturgeon Public School Division as well as the Town's bylaw enforcement and local RCMP for their feedback.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

Town Bylaw History:

- **July 2, 2013** - 1st reading of bylaw 2013-08 Anti-Bullying Bylaw Resolution 13.179 – Council directed administration to investigate and report back to Council regarding federal and/or provincial legislation regarding anti-bullying.
- **August 20, 2013** – 2nd reading of bylaw 2013-08 Anti-Bullying Bylaw Resolution 13.196 – Report from former CAO Zinyk noted that the bylaw “reinforces the Town’s position on prevention of bullying in addition to levying fines associate with those who commit the offence.” No further anti-bullying report noted.
- **September 3, 2013** – 3rd and final reading of bylaw 2013-08 Anti-Bullying Bylaw. Resolution #13.216 No further anti-bullying report.

Legislation

A few provinces introduced provincial anti-bullying legislation in the early 2010s.

<https://prowsebarrette.com/anti-bullying-laws-in-canada/>

The federal *Criminal Code of Canada* - <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-46/page-35.html#h-120223> has provisions concerning uttering threats, assault, and

harassment.

The *Education Act* – <https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/E00P3.pdf> supports anti-bullying in the following ways:

- Section 31 outlines student responsibilities, including refraining from bullying
- Section 33(2) requires school boards to establish a code of conduct that addresses bullying (see the next section for details)
- Division 2 is a dedicated section for “Bullying Awareness and Non-discrimination”, which supports anti-bullying week and student-led volunteer organizations such as anti-bullying clubs

School Board Codes of Conduct (COC) Required

- 2025-2026 Lilian Schick School COC directly addresses bullying <https://www.lilianschickschool.ca/download/516276>. It appears that Levels 2 and 3 both state consequences for bullying behaviors, including calling RCMP if applicable
- The Bon Accord Community School (BACS) COC consequences appear to be along the same lines with mention of police involvement if applicable <https://www.bonaccordschool.ca/download/351183>

Administration reached out to the Sturgeon Public School Division for feedback on the Anti-Bullying Bylaw and were advised that “the staff at the school feel they have a good handle on things and already have the policies/regulations in place that allow them to support these issues” in the absence of an Anti-Bullying Bylaw. Further, we were advised that the school COCs would also apply to bullying off school grounds, like cyber bullying, “if it pertains to students in the school and especially if it involves the safety of students.”

Questions & Answers with Bylaw

Q: How many tickets have been issued for violations in accordance with this bylaw?

A: None for Town bylaw enforcement, internal complaints, or RCMP since the bylaw's inception in 2013.

Q: Is the bylaw useful to have?

A: Town bylaw believes yes, it is useful for the RCMP. “The RCMP could absolutely use this bylaw to issue a ticket or address a bullying issue within town vs using the Criminal Code which is a much more serious offence. The RCMP are listed within the bylaw definitions as being able to conduct enforcement of the bylaw...it could be an effective tool for them to use especially if they feel that maybe a criminal charge is not warranted or is too ‘heavy handed’ based on the circumstances.”

Q: What course of action is available right now for residents to take if they or their child are being bullied?

A: Adults can call the RCMP; Children and/or parents may speak to a schoolteacher or principal.

RCMP Feedback:

- The bylaw is very well written and they did not see any procedural or constitutional issues with it.
- One of the biggest reasons RCMP believe that the bylaw has not been used is because “the Youth Criminal Justice Act of 2003 actually requires police to consider extra-judicial measures prior to laying criminal charges against any youth. That means that more often than not, these types of crimes amongst youths will be dealt with informally. While the YCJA only applies to those under 18, police also have the same option to apply those principals to adult situations where appropriate.”
- Althought the bylaw “doesn’t cause any harm...it is hard to see many scenarios where police would apply it.”

Considerations/Takeaways:

- Research of other anti-bullying bylaws indicate their primary purpose is to give officers the power to ticket/fine offenders. Is this an effective deterrent for bullying in our community?
- School boards must implement and enforce school COC for students. Feedback suggests that the Anti-Bullying Bylaw is not used by schools for student matters; COC and supporting policies/regulations are used instead.
- The Town has 7 hours allotted each week for bylaw enforcement which covers things like animal control, community standards (sidewalk clearing, grass cutting, noise complaints, etc.), and other bylaw infractions.
- RCMP often use informal methods to address bullying in youth and adults alike.
- The Anti-Bullying Bylaw uses a complaint-based system. It has not been utilized since it was passed in 2013.

Proactive Town Initiatives:

- Pink Shirt Day is encouraged and is a Council proclamation to raise awareness for anti-bullying.
- Coffee with a Cop & Pop with a Cop through Economic Development and Safe Communities Coordinator, Jay Nagra, in collaboration with the RCMP at pre-determined intervals throughout the year. Pop with a Cop was introduced in 2025 with no attendance due to the time of the event, however, for 2026, the Town

plans to collaborate with the school and local RCMP to select a new time that has the promise of better attendance.

Questions for Council Discussion:

- What is the expected outcome in having the Anti-Bullying bylaw? Is the Anti-Bullying Bylaw effective for this purpose?
- Would the absence of the Anti-Bullying Bylaw be detrimental to the community?

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Priority #2: Community

- The residents of Bon Accord live in a safe, connected, and attractive community.

COSTS/SOURCES OF FUNDING

The cost of bylaw enforcement is included in the 2026 interim budget.

**TOWN OF BON ACCORD
2013 ANTI-BULLYING BYLAW
BYLAW 2013-08**

A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF BON ACCORD, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO CONTROL AND REGULATE HARASSMENT AND BULLYING OF MINORS AND/OR PERSONS IN THE TOWN OF BON ACCORD.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7 of the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26, as amended, a Council may pass Bylaws respecting the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property and respecting people, activities and things in or near public places.

NOW THEREFORE, under the authority of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Town of Bon Accord, in the Province of Alberta, **ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

PART I BYLAW TITLE

1. This bylaw shall be known as the "Anti-Bullying" bylaw.

PART II DEFINITIONS

1. "Bullied" means the harassment of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical violence and attacks, racially or ethnically-based verbal abuse and gender-based put-downs, verbal taunts, name calling and put-downs, written or electronically transmitted, or emotional abuse, extortion or stealing of money and possessions and social out-casting.
2. "Minor" means an individual less than 18 years of age.
3. "Peace Officer" means a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or a Special Constable appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Police Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000, Chapter P-17, and all amendments or successors thereto.
4. "Public Place" means any place, including privately owned or leased property, to which the public reasonably has or is permitted to have access, whether on payment or otherwise, within the corporate limits of the Town of Bon Accord, including schools, recreational facilities, and public parks and sports grounds.
5. "Violation Ticket" means a violation ticket as defined in the Provincial Offences Procedure Act.

PART III ENFORCEMENT

1. No person shall, in any public place:
 - a. Communicate either directly or indirectly, with any person in a way that causes the person, reasonably in all the circumstances, to feel bullied.

**TOWN OF BON ACCORD
2013 ANTI-BULLYING BYLAW
BYLAW 2013-08**

- b. While not taking part in any action described in Part 3, Section 1 (a) encourage or cheer on, any person described in Part 3, Section 1 (a).
2. Any person who contravenes Part 3, Section 1 (a) of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction and is liable
 - a. For a first offence, to a minimum specified penalty of \$250.00; and
 - b. For second, or subsequent offences, to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00; and in default of payment of the fine and costs, to imprisonment for six months.
3. Any person who contravenes Part 3, Section 1 (b) of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction and is liable
 - a. For a first offence, to a minimum specified penalty of \$100.00; and
 - b. For second, or subsequent offences, to a fine not exceeding \$250.00; and in default of payment of the fine and costs, to imprisonment for six months.
4. If a Violation Ticket is issued in respect of an offence, the Violation Ticket may:
 - a. Specify the fine amount established by this Bylaw for the offence; or
 - b. Require a person to appear in Court without the alternative of making a voluntary payment.
5. A person who commits an offence may:
 - a. If a Violation Ticket is issued in respect of the offence; and
 - b. If the Violation Ticket specifies the fine amount established by the Bylaw for the offence

Make a voluntary payment equal to the specified fine by delivering the Violation Ticket and the specified fine to the Provincial Court Office specified on the Violation Ticket.

PART IV ENACTMENT

1. This Bylaw shall come into effect on the date of final reading.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 2nd DAY OF **July, 2013**.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Mayor Randolph Boyd

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Chief Administrative Officer Vicki Zinky

**TOWN OF BON ACCORD
2013 ANTI-BULLYING BYLAW
BYLAW 2013-08**

READ A SECOND TIME THIS **20th DAY OF August, 2013.**

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Mayor Randolph Boyd

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Chief Administrative Officer Vicki Zinky

READ A THIRD TIME THIS **3rd DAY OF September, 2013.**

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Mayor Randolph Boyd

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Chief Administrative Officer Vicki Zinky

If any portion of this bylaw is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the invalid portion must be severed and the remainder of the bylaw is deemed valid.



December 3, 2025

Mayor Brian Holden and Council
Town of Bon Accord
Attn: Jodi Brown
Sent via email: CAO@bonaccord.ca

Dear Mayor Brian Holden and Council,

Every second counts. The first moments in a time-critical situation can be the difference between life and death, permanent damage or full recovery.

STARS is a registered not-for-profit organization dedicated to saving lives. We celebrate 40 years of serving Albertans, more than 65,000 missions flown and maintain a charitable model with no cost to the patient. Your residents have access to STARS wherever they may travel, work and play across Western Canada. Today, STARS operates six bases located in Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Saskatoon, Regina and Winnipeg, and averages 10 missions per day. Last fiscal year, STARS flew a total of 3,694 missions.

In Alberta, it costs \$12.2 million per base, with three bases, totalling \$36.6 million in direct operating costs annually. We are grateful to the Alberta provincial government that provides \$15M of these operational costs annually, while we rely on donations and our Alberta Lottery to cover the remaining 59% of costs through fundraising.

STARS is a respected innovative leader as the first civilian organization in Canada (2003) to fly at night, with 50% of call volumes occurring at night. STARS was the first in North America (2013) to carry life-saving universal blood onboard. Our new Massive Hemorrhage Protocol is another Canadian first, to enhance critical care for patients that are at high-risk of bleeding out. STARS continues to strive for leading-edge advancement in our delivery of providing critical care, anywhere.

We are here today because of the unwavering generosity of longstanding partners. Municipalities are a significant part of STARS history with 95% of Alberta's rural sector providing annual support for STARS through a fixed rate or per capita amount included in annual budgets. These municipalities view STARS as an essential service for rural residents. Over 75% of rural and urban municipalities are **Regional Leaders**, contributing a minimum \$2 per capita per year. Many municipalities, round up to a fixed rate of support annually, to provide ease of process for administration and ensure sustainability for STARS.

OUR REQUEST

- Voluntary annual contribution (based on \$1-\$2 per capita) OR
- Fixed rate of support (based on minimum \$2 per capita annually) and recognized as a Regional Leader
- 4-Year Pledge of support - 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029 (in conjunction with present council term)

Thank you for your kind consideration to join Alberta's leaders. Together, we safeguard rural healthcare for all.

Sincerely,

Mackenzie Wood
Development Coordinator
(403) 516 4823
STARS Foundation

Glenda Farnden
Sr. Municipal Relations Liaison,
Alberta and British Columbia



403-295-1811



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