



# TOWN OF HINTON Administrative Report

DIRECTION REQUEST    REQUEST FOR DECISION    INFORMATION ITEM

**DATE:** Regular Council Meeting of October 28, 2025  
**PRESENTED BY:** Alicia Bourbeau, Director of Corporate Services  
**SUBMITTED BY:** Jordan Panasiuk, Chief Administrative Officer  
**RE:** **RECREATION CENTRE MODERNIZATION VOTE: RESULTS**

## Recommended Action

*That Council accept the Recreation Centre Modernization Vote results for information.*

## Background

At the October 20, 2025 General Municipal Election, the Town of Hinton conducted a plebiscite vote (vote) regarding recreation centre modernization options, to gauge public support for each option.

The Recreation Centre Modernization Vote ballot (Attachment 1) included an overview of the vote and outlined three options for recreation centre modernization as described in the [Dr. Duncan Murray Recreation Centre Asset Management Plan](#) (AMP) by Associated Engineering (AE) Alberta Ltd.

Information about each modernization option (Maintain, Expand, Build New) was provided along with the estimated project cost (capital funding requirement identified in the AE AMP), estimated property tax impacts for an average Hinton property, and the estimated project timeline.

Estimated project costs reflected those listed in the AE AMP and were included for option comparisons. The estimated property tax impacts reflected the forecasted amount of increased taxes needed for the capital cost of each option to be fully funded through taxes and did not take into account potential user fees, cost sharing agreements, grants or sponsorships.

## Analysis

This report is before Council to review the results of the Recreation Centre Modernization Vote. A total of 2,335 valid ballots were received for the plebiscite. Voters could mark Yes, No, or abstain from each question. The results are as follows.

| Question                                  | Yes  | No  |
|-------------------------------------------|------|-----|
| Are you in favour of Option 1: Maintain?  | 698  | 753 |
| Are you in favour of Option 2: Expand?    | 793  | 698 |
| Are you in favour of Option 3: Build New? | 1001 | 664 |

The following percentages compare the Yes and No votes for each option, and do not include abstentions.

- 48% voted in favour of Option 1: Maintain
- 53% voted in favour of Option 2: Expand
- 60% voted in favour of Option 3: Build New

The results of this plebiscite are non-binding, meaning Council will determine next steps. Options for recreation centre modernization will be presented during the 2026 budget process for Council decision.

## Implications of Decision

### Financial Implications

None associated with accepting this report for information. Total cost of conducting the plebiscite vote in conjunction with the municipal election are being reconciled. Financial implications of recreation centre modernization options will be presented to Council during the 2026 Budget.

### Level of Service Implications

NA

### Communications/Public Engagement Implications

Results of the Recreation Centre Modernization Vote are published on the Town of Hinton website, and Project Hub, and were distributed via CivicSend and Facebook. Additional information and updates about Recreation Centre Modernization are available at [www.hinton.ca/engage](http://www.hinton.ca/engage).

### Risk/Liability Implications

The non-binding outcome of the plebiscite allows Council to select a different path than the vote results indicate. This would exacerbate public distrust in Council and Administration decisions and future public engagement activities.

| Legislative Implications     |                   |                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Conforms with:               | Yes/No/Partial/NA | Comments                                                                                                                                         |
| Council's Strategic Plan     | Yes               | Infrastructure: The Town continues the planning and feasibility for a Recreation Centre.                                                         |
| Municipal Policies or Bylaws | Yes               | Public Participation Policy AD-1209                                                                                                              |
| Provincial Laws or MGA       | Yes               | The Recreation Centre Modernization Vote was conducted in line with the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) |
| Other plans or policies      | NA                | Other policies, documents, Guidelines, etc.                                                                                                      |

## Options / Alternatives

1. That Council accept the Recreation Centre Modernization Vote results for information.

## Attachment(s)

1. Recreation Centre Modernization Vote ballot