

Alberta SouthWest Bulletin March 2026

Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA) Update

❖ Lettuce celebrate! So mush room for growth! 😊

The previous cannabis production facility in Claresholm has been repurposed into a gourmet mushroom and produce farm, including a store that's selling fresh produce to the community. Such an asset to our region and another of the amazing things happening along the Highway 2 corridor!

Congratulations to Council and Administration who worked so effectively to make this happen.

Here is a link to CBC news clip! <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7119047>

❖ Meet you at the corner!

- AlbertaSW is at the intersection of Highways 2 and 3, with unique advantages to support economic connectivity and develop opportunities along both the north-south and east-west corridors.
- Highway 3 Twinning Development Association (H3TDA) keeps transportation corridors at the forefront.
- Earlier this year, in August 2025, the province announced realignment of 3 km of the westbound lanes of Highway 3 on the east side of Fort Macleod. Alberta Budget 2026 includes \$152M over three years to advance the twinning of 36 km from east of Bow Island to Medicine Hat.

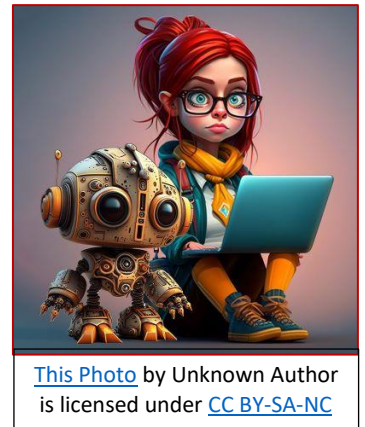
❖ A new tune: Old MacDonald's Future Farm... A-I-A-I-O

And, not just the farm... all of us are using AI tools in our everyday operations, and the Board is addressing this as an important topic for municipalities, organizations, and businesses.

AI policy requires CLARITY before tackling the details of rules and tools.

Advice to leadership is to begin by

- defining a shared understanding of what is acceptable, and
- ensuring AI use addresses risk factors and public responsibilities, and
- reducing uncertainty so individuals and teams can innovate with confidence.



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Sean Miles, Investment Development Director, created a

short video (using AI!) that summarizes a report prepared by Lumaris AI Solutions titled "Responsible AI in Municipal Leadership"

If you wish a **copy of the document**, and/or **link to the video**, send request to bev@albertasouthwest.com

❖ Investment Development Highlights

Sean has been meeting with councils and businesses in the region. There are many exciting things happening in manufacturing, agriculture, processing, and tourism development, airports and municipal infrastructure. If you are aware of a business or organization doing things we should know about, please contact Sean or Bev. (E-mails below.) As Sean continues to travel the region, there are clear opportunities to "connect the dots" for cluster development and opportunities to pursue in each community.

❖ UPCOMING EVENT...

Southern Alberta Economic & Tourism Summit 2026, Lethbridge Trade and Convention Centre

Attend one or two days:

- **Tourism Summit Wednesday, March 25** from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm TICKET \$80
- **Economic Summit Thursday March 26** from 8:30 am to 3:30pm TICKET \$80
- TICKET for **BOTH** days: \$140

www.eventbrite.ca/e/southern-alberta-economic-tourism-summit-2026-tickets-1976482149314?aff=oddttdcreator



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