



Your Local Government...  
Working for You



## Mayor's Message

The City of St. Albert is an exciting place to call home. From our small beginnings as a mission settlement, St. Albert has grown to over 58,000 residents. We look forward to celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011 as we continue to build a sustainable community for both today's residents and future generations.

Municipal government in St. Albert has changed and expanded as the City faces new opportunities and responds to new challenges. This handbook will help you learn about St. Albert, discover how the City works and the ways you can get involved in your community.

The picturesque landscape, many parks, a significant trail system, state-of-the-art recreational facilities and a diverse arts and culture scene are all sources of pride for the community. Add to this the city's rich history and friendly character and you'll understand why St. Albert residents enjoy a high quality of life.

St. Albert is proud to host several popular annual events, including the International Children's Festival, the Rainmaker Rodeo and the largest outdoor farmers' market in Western Canada. You can also take a step back in time by visiting the city's heritage sites, namely the Father Lacombe Chapel and Little White School House.

These are only some of the reasons why St. Albert is a choice community and why the City is committed to ensuring it remains that way for years to come.

I invite you to take advantage of opportunities to better understand and participate in your government, such as attending Council meetings or by watching proceedings on Shaw TV. You are also welcome to share your thoughts with members of City Council by making an appointment, by telephone or by mail.



  
Nolan Crouse

Mayor

Email: [mayor@st-albert.net](mailto:mayor@st-albert.net)

Phone: 780-459-1605



## Meet Your City Councillors



**Councillor Len Bracko**  
Email: [len@bracko.ca](mailto:len@bracko.ca)  
Phone: **780-458-6478**



**Councillor Lorie Garrity**  
Email: [lgarrity@telus.net](mailto:lgarrity@telus.net)  
Phone: **780-458-1348**



**Councillor Roger Lemieux**  
Email: [jrcl@shaw.ca](mailto:jrcl@shaw.ca)  
Phone: **780-460-7223**

**Councillor James Burrows**  
Email: [burrowsj@telusplanet.net](mailto:burrowsj@telusplanet.net)  
Phone: **780-458-4958**



**Councillor Gareth Jones**  
Email: [garethj@telus.net](mailto:garethj@telus.net)  
Phone: **780-458-0014**



**Councillor Carol Watamaniuk**  
Email: [cwatamaniuk@st-albert.net](mailto:cwatamaniuk@st-albert.net)  
Phone: **780-460-1576**



## St. Albert's History

St. Albert celebrates a rich history that dates back almost 150 years and has often been called "Alberta's Finest City." Founded in 1861 by Father Albert Lacombe, St. Albert is the oldest non-fortified community in Alberta and was the largest agricultural settlement west of Winnipeg.

Father Lacombe, one of the earliest missionaries in the west, proclaimed Mission Hill home of the St. Albert mission settlement. He built a log chapel for ministering to the Cree and Métis. Father Lacombe Chapel, the oldest building in Alberta, is now a provincial heritage site and has been restored to its original appearance. It is located on the north hill of the river and is open for tours from May to September.

In 1900, St. Albert was incorporated as a village, followed by town status in 1904. St. Albert officially became a city in 1977.

Today, St. Albert is a bustling city with more than 58,000 residents. With over 70 kilometres of trails, 1,000 acres of green space, the Arden Theatre, the visual arts studios, the Musée Héritage Museum and numerous special events, it's easy to see why St. Albert is renowned for its rich heritage, artistic community and natural environment.

### Population

1996	46,888
1998	49,243
2000	51,716
2001	53,081
2002	53,683
2003	54,588
2005	56,310
2006	57,719
2008	58,501

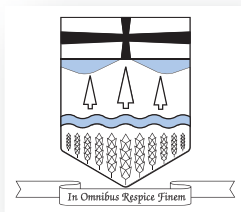


Father Albert Lacombe  
Autumn 1884  
Glenbow Archives



## Coat of Arms

St. Albert's coat of arms was developed in 1967 as part of a Canadian Centennial project and is used exclusively for legislative purposes. It appears on the Mayor's official letterhead, Council documents and invitations, official plaques and St. Albert's flag.



The coat of arms depicts a stylized cross, signifying Father Lacombe's mission. The sky and hills portray St. Albert's scenic surroundings and the wavy band represents the Sturgeon River. Spruce trees illustrate the lumber that was used to build the settlement and wheat symbolizes the agricultural basis of the economy in the early days. St. Albert's motto, *In Omnibus Respice Finem*, means "in everything you do, look to the end."



## Flag

In 1980, residents chose St. Albert's flag through an official ballot. The designer of the flag provided the following description: "In abstract design, the blue and white, the colours of Québec, recall the Métis and francophones

who were the first settlers in St. Albert. The traditional colours of Britain – red, white and blue – symbolize the many anglophones who contributed to the expansion of the community."

First Nations woman at  
St. Albert, Alberta  
Glenbow Archives  
July 1929



## Logo

The City's logo was adopted in 1977 in celebration of St. Albert attaining city status and provides a unified identity for the City of St. Albert as a corporation.



The **S** depicts the curving Sturgeon River that flows through the heart of St. Albert. The **T** symbolizes the cross, which recognizes the mission from which the city developed. The **L** refers to St. Albert as the 11<sup>th</sup> community in Alberta to be granted city status. The **B** is written to resemble the number six, which represents St. Albert being the sixth largest city in Alberta at the time of incorporation. The double lines symbolize the two founding fathers of St. Albert, Bishop Taché and Father Albert Lacombe.



Opened in 1948, the Little White School is now a heritage site that takes visitors back to the early days of a two-room school house near the banks of the Sturgeon River.



## How Your Civic Government Works

When you turn on a light, brush your teeth, swim in a pool or ride the bus, your civic government had a part in planning, developing and maintaining the services you need to function daily.

City Council is responsible for setting corporate bylaws and policies, levying taxes and establishing budgets for the delivery of services throughout the community.

Residents of St. Albert elect the Mayor and six Councillors for a three-year term. The positions held by Councillors are part-time, while the Mayor works at City Hall on a full-time basis.

The majority of meetings Councillors attend occur on weeknights or on weekends, as some Councillors may hold other full-time jobs. Council governs in accordance with the powers granted under various Provincial statutes.

City Council meets the first, third and fourth Monday of every month in Council Chambers at St. Albert Place. In accordance with the Municipal Government Act, public meeting notices are advertised in local newspapers and meetings are open to the public.



## Making a Difference

The City of St. Albert encourages residents to become involved in their community by serving on a civic board.

It's an opportunity to provide guidance to Council and assist in civic operations. You can choose to serve on one of the following civic committees or boards:

### Assessment Review Board

- Hears appeals and makes decisions regarding the assessment of property.

### Community Services Advisory Board

- Reviews the budgets of local social service agencies funded under the *Family and Community Support Services Act* and makes recommendations regarding annual grant allocations.
- Reviews and makes recommendations regarding grant applications for the St. Albert Games Legacy Awards program and Community Events Grant program.
- Advises on issues and policies related to recreation, culture and social services.

### Environmental Advisory Committee

- Advises on issues related to the environment.
- Reviews and makes recommendations on the Environmental Initiatives Grant.

### Library Board

- Oversees the operations of the St. Albert Public Library through planning and developing policies and goals.



## St. Albert Economic Development Advisory Committee

- Advises Council on economic development matters and enhances economic development in St. Albert from a community perspective.
- Builds and maintains partnerships with St. Albert businesses, non-governmental organizations, educational and health institutions, Council and City Administration.



## Subdivision and Development Appeal Board

- Considers appeals related to the Land Use Bylaw.

Appointment terms vary from one to three years. If you are interested in serving on one of these boards or would like an application package, call Legislative Services at 780-459-1500.

Legislative Services maintains a registry of citizens who have expressed a willingness to serve, but for whom a placement is not immediately available. If a vacancy occurs or an ad hoc committee is created, the Citizens' Registry provides a valuable resource.

## Contacting Council

If you would like to discuss any item within Council's jurisdiction, there are different ways you can bring it to Council's attention, such as writing a letter to the Mayor or addressing Council at a City Council Meeting. For details contact:

### Legislative Services City of St. Albert

5 St. Anne Street  
St. Albert, Alberta T8N 3Z9  
Phone: 780-459-1500  
Fax: 780-460-2394  
Website: [www.stalbert.ca](http://www.stalbert.ca)

## Vision

St. Albert is the community of choice for citizens and businesses because of our exceptional programs and services, safety, amenities and the quality of life we receive in our responsive and business-friendly city – all with a small-town feel.

Residents and business owners choose St. Albert because of diverse community leisure and cultural opportunities, smart growth, sound stewardship of natural assets and physical infrastructure and strong fiscal leadership.

St. Albert – serving the needs of our growing region.

## Mission

The City of St. Albert provides leadership in a well-managed, progressive and sustainable environment to deliver high quality, innovative municipal services that meet the expectations of citizens and businesses.

We are building the future while respecting the past.



## Values

### The City of St. Albert values:

- Positive attitudes
- Leadership
- Good stewardship
- Respect, trust, dignity, honesty, integrity and flexibility in relationships
- Open two-way communications and diverse opinions
- Active participation of citizens
- Collaboration and cooperation
- Competent, productive and satisfied employees
- A safe and caring environment
- A balance of work and family life
- Safety and health
- Lifelong learning
- The generosity of volunteers

## Civic Services

The City of St. Albert provides a range of municipal services, most of which are funded through property taxes, government grants and user fees. In addition, the City operates three utilities – water, sewer and waste management.

### City Manager's Office

The City Manager's Office operates and administers the corporation. This includes guiding the City of St. Albert's services and programs, based upon bylaws and Council policies. The City Manager's Office also acts as a bridge between the many internal and external stakeholders.

The City Manager's Office works closely with Council to oversee the City's operations and finances, while implementing policies and procedures.

## Business and Strategic Services

Business and Strategic Services contributes to the City of St. Albert's sustainability and strengthens the corporation through strategic planning, building relationships and pursuing business growth. The division includes Business and Tourism Development, Business Licensing, Corporate Communications, Corporate Planning, External Relations and Geographic Information Systems.

## Community and Protective Services

Community and Protective Services delivers a range of programs and services including the following: Arts, Culture and Heritage; Recreation; Family and Community Support Services; Fire and Emergency Medical Services; Municipal Enforcement and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (policing).



## Corporate Services

Corporate Services provides administrative support to all City departments to ensure they have the internal resources needed to carry out their tasks. The division includes six departments: Assessment and Taxation Services, Financial Services, Human Resource Services, Information Technology Services, Legal Services and Legislative Services.



## Planning and Engineering Services

Planning and Engineering provides programs and services focused on: planning; engineering technology; environmental management; solid waste management, including garbage collection, recycling and composting; parks maintenance; snow removal; water and sewer maintenance; road, sidewalk and bridge construction and maintenance; and public transit for St. Albert.



## Your Tax Dollars at Work

The City of St. Albert works hard to provide you with value for your tax dollars. Staff, working together with City Council, strives to understand the needs and expectations of St. Albert residents and to deliver services and programs in an efficient, effective way.

Approximately 67 per cent of city program costs are covered by property taxes; the remaining 33 per cent of the required revenue comes from other sources, such as grants, reserves, investment income and user fees.

In addition to municipal property taxes, the City also collects education taxes on behalf of the Alberta School Foundation Fund and the Separate School Board. The education tax represents about 26 per cent of the total taxes collected by the City.

## Value for Your Tax Dollars

Council recognizes the importance of maintaining service levels. Many areas receive enhanced levels of funding or extra resources to improve the level of service or type of service provided. These include:

### Physical Environment and Transportation

- As plans are drawn to accommodate future growth, the City is continuing to construct and maintain its roads and major thoroughfares.
- Transit services have been upgraded to better serve the increasing number of passengers using St. Albert Transit.
- Enhanced maintenance for parks, trees, trails and areas included in the Red Willow Park/Sturgeon River corridor is provided. This includes enhanced snow removal along Red Willow Park trails.
- Enhanced road, bridge and sidewalk maintenance.
- Enhanced water and sewer pipe maintenance.
- Recreational amenities maintenance.



## Economic Development

- A community's economic health needs strong partnerships between civic departments, public institutions and the private sector. The City of St. Albert has completed an Economic Development Master Plan that focuses on these partnerships - it is a long-range blueprint that points the way towards greater employment opportunities, growth of unobtrusive, clean industry and a more balanced tax base.
- To achieve employment and business growth, the Business and Tourism Development Department is working closely with motivated developers and landowners to bring projects on stream. The department also works closely with developers and real estate agents to identify what product is available and provide interested investors and business owners a contact list to expedite the site selection process.
- Provide counseling and nurturing to support small business start-ups and expansions.
- Business Licensing is assisting with safety/emergency issues and creating a detailed database of businesses operating within the city of St. Albert.
- Tourism has been identified as an important economic generator for the community, resulting in the creation of the Tourism Master Plan and the Community Assessment.
- Economic development initiatives will assist to address the City's current reliance on the residential tax base and will strive to create a more balanced blend of business, industry and residential tax assessment. This will ensure one sector is not unduly burdened with municipal costs.

## Safety

- Firefighters, paramedics, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Enforcement officers provide a high level of safety in St. Albert.
- The newly developed Fire Station #3 will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of fire and ambulance operations in the city.

## Community

The City provides significant funding to not-for-profit organizations, such as the St. Albert Public Library, Arts and Heritage Foundation, Northern Alberta Business Incubator, St. Albert Youth Centre, St. Albert Senior Citizens' Club and several social service agencies. This funding allows those organizations to better serve the community.

## Past Mayors

1904 – 07 Cheri Hebert	1945 – 46 John E. Leclair	1977 – 80 Ronald H. Harvey
1907 – 08 Fleuri Perron	1946 – 47 Eugene Maheux*	1980 – 89 Richard S. Fowler
1908 – 10 Lucien Boudreau	1947 – 51 Neil M. Ross	1989 Ray M. Gibbon*
1910 Herbert B. Dawson	1951 – 65 William J. Veness	1989 – 98 Anita Ratchinsky
1910 – 13 Leon Levasseur	1965 John deBruijn*	1998 – 2001 Paul Chalifoux
1913 – 18 J. Arthur Giroux	1965 Richard S. Fowler*	2001 – 2004 Richard H.M. Plain
1918 – 19 Alex Perron*	1965 – 68 Richard S. Fowler	2004 – 2007 Paul Chalifoux
1919 – 43 Michael Hogan	1968 – 74 Ray M. Gibbon	2007 – Nolan Crouse
1943 – 45 Richard Poirier*	1974 – 77 Richard H.M. Plain	

\*Fulfilled term

## City Website – [www.stalbert.ca](http://www.stalbert.ca)

The City of St. Albert website is a great resource for finding information on matters of government and also offers great facts about living, visiting and doing business in St. Albert. Visit [www.stalbert.ca](http://www.stalbert.ca) and learn everything you need to know about our community.

### City Phone Numbers

**Main Switchboard**  
780-459-1500

**Mayor's Office**  
780-459-1606

**City Manager's Office**  
780-459-1607

**Assessment & Taxation Services**  
780-459-1603

**Business Licensing**  
780-459-1618

**Bylaw Enforcement**  
780-458-4300

**Community & Protective Services**  
780-459-1600

**Corporate Communications**  
780-459-1500

**Cultural Services**  
780-459-1600

**Business & Tourism Development**  
780-459-1631

**Engineering Services**  
780-459-1654

**Family & Community Support Services**  
780-459-1756

**Financial Services**  
780-459-1601

**Fire Services**  
780-459-7021

**Human Resource Services**  
780-459-1650

**Information Technology Services**  
780-459-1701

**Legislative Services**  
780-459-1500

**Planning & Development Services**  
780-459-1642

**Public Works**  
780-459-1557

**Purchasing Services**  
780-459-1647

**RCMP**  
780-458-7700

**Recreation Services**  
780-459-1600

**Taxation**  
780-459-1516

**Transit Services**  
780-418-6060

**Utilities**  
780-459-1520

**Akinsdale Arena**  
780-459-1556

**Arden Theatre**  
780-459-1542

**Arts & Heritage Foundation**  
780-459-1194

**Chamber of Commerce**  
780-458-2833

**Field Conditions (Recording)**  
780-459-1568

**Fountain Park Recreation Centre**  
780-459-1553

**Grosvenor Pool**  
780-458-2002

**Library**  
780-459-1530

**Musée Héritage Museum**  
780-459-1528

**Profiles Public Art Gallery**  
780-460-4310

**Registration (City programs)**  
780-459-1600

**Servus Credit Union Place**  
780-418-6088

**St. Albert Heritage Sites**  
780-459-1528



Your Local Government...  
**Working for You**

Phone 780-459-1500 Fax 780-460-2394 [www.stalbert.ca](http://www.stalbert.ca)

THE CITY OF  
**st. Albert**