

**COUNTY OF ST. PAUL**  
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*Our Mission - To create desirable rural experiences*

## You should be concerned

**The Government of Alberta is proposing changes to the Assessment Model for designated industrial regulated properties. This means that the oil and gas companies will pay significantly less tax because the value of their properties will go down. But, you may pay a lot more!**

The County of St. Paul provides excellent service to more than 6,000 residents within the County of St. Paul and to its regional municipalities.

Through direct and indirect funding, the County funds services and programming to 1,450 residents in the Town on Elk Point and to over 5,800 residents in the Town of St. Paul. Overall, the County provides funding support to 13,260 rural Albertans.

### Why this matters

The government is proposing assessment model changes that could reduce the County's revenue by as much as 9%. The large oil and gas companies would benefit - rural municipalities and residents would not.

**TOTAL REVENUE MAY  
CHANGE BY AS MUCH AS  
↓ 9%**

The County will need to make decisions about reducing services, increasing taxes, deferring infrastructure replacement, or increasing property taxes. It would also mean reducing or eliminating financial donations and contributions to community groups and organizations.

In the 2020 budget, the County of St. Paul has supported our regional municipalities and community groups with over \$1,482,947 in direct or indirect funding such as:

- \* Dr. Recruitment \$10,000
- \* Elk Point Medical Professional Recruitment \$5,000
- \* STARS at \$2 per capita at approximately \$12,000
- \* Streetlights to keep our community safe \$178,000
- \* Multi-lateral Recreation Agreement for recreation which supports arenas, recreation facilities, curling rinks, skate parks, golf courses, ball diamonds, trail maintenance, and community events. 2020 allocations -
  - Town of St. Paul \$557,915
  - Town of Elk Point \$ 62,620
- \* Fire Protection Services \$136,000 to reserves for new fire equipment
- \* St Paul Fire Department for a mini pumper \$51,577
- \* County Library Board \$133,955
- \* \$335,880 budgeted for direct grants, donations and scholarships to agriculture, arts & culture, education, sports and youth organizations

**All of this funding support would be gone or greatly reduced.**

### Can you afford a huge increase in residential mill rates?

**RESIDENTIAL MILL RATE  
BY AS MUCH AS**

**↑ 89.7%**



A ratepayer with a 2020 Residential Property Assessment of \$325,000 paid \$2,360 in County taxes.

In 2021, that could increase to \$4,460 if services stay the same.

### County operations could be affected

If the proposed Assessment Model is approved by the provincial government County residents could expect fewer road projects and repairs, longer response times for concerns, closing or reducing the number of County campgrounds, reducing or eliminating funding to community groups and organizations, reducing the number of County employees by as much as 41.4%.



83% of its Alberta's population live in urban settings. 17% live in rural settings. The proposed Assessment Model would devastate rural municipalities because of the location of oil wells and pipelines. (2016 Alberta Stats)

### Ongoing provincial cuts and tax increases

Your County municipal taxes increased this year because of a provincial government imposed police funding model. The County of St. Paul's share for 2020 was \$166,790. By 2024 this will increase to \$500,728. That will mean that you pay more in taxes.

Other impacts: Agricultural Service Board was cut by \$46,000; Fire Training will be cut in 2021; the cost of Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks; Increased cost of Recreation Agreements at \$300,000/year; Student Temporary Employment Program was eliminated.

### Why is the government proposing this change?

The Alberta government is making these changes at the recommendation of the oil and gas industry which is struggling. The largest oil and gas companies will receive a disproportionate share of benefits from the changes. This proposed change does not require oil and gas companies to reinvest in Alberta.

Small and locally-owned oil and gas companies will receive significantly less or could face increased assessments.

**Simply put, residents do not have the income to pay more taxes.** The County feels there are other ways to help oil and gas companies remain viable. Examples include Oil & Gas Royalties Reduction, Education Property Tax Requisition Adjustments and a Tax Rebate Policy on New Investment.

### What the County is doing

The County and many other municipalities are proud supporters and partners of the oil and gas industry. The Reeve and CAO had a one-hour joint meeting with three regional municipalities and MLAs on August 4 and a one hour joint meeting with the Premier on August 5. That was the extend of 'consultation'.

The County will continue to work with other municipalities to ensure the Premier knows the impact of his government's decisions on our communities.

**The deadline is short.** The Alberta government is expected to make decisions before the end of August for implementation in 2021.

### What you can do

**Contact the Premier and other government members.  
Let them know you oppose these changes.**

#### Premier Jason Kenney

phone 780-427-2251  
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#### Hon. Kaycee Madu

Minister of Municipal Affairs  
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#### Hon. Sonya Savage

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#### David Hanson, MLA

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