

**Foothills Okotoks**

# Regional Water Project

**INFORMATION SESSION**  
DECEMBER 12, 2024



**WHAT  
WE  
LEARNED**

**Okotoks**

# Background

## About the Project

The Foothills Okotoks Regional Water Project includes a 25-kilometer pipeline, a water intake from the Bow River, and a massive storage reservoir capable of holding 300,000 cubic meters of water.

This system will connect to the water treatment plant in Okotoks and to Foothills County's water treatment plant in Aldersyde.

## Benefits

- A reliable and sustainable supply of clean water for the community.
- Reduced risk of water shortages.
- A water system that is resilient against potential challenges like population growth, climate change or resource scarcity.
- Water infrastructure will be able to meet both current and future demand.

## Our Goal

To provide safe and secure drinking water to the region to support the growing water needs of new residential growth and business development in Okotoks and Foothills County.

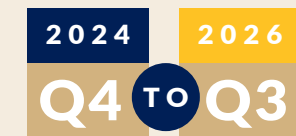
## Project TIMELINE



Design and procurement



Groundbreaking Ceremony to signal the start of construction



Construction underway



In-person Information Session



Regional water system is operational.

# Community Engagement

We are committed (through the Town's Community Engagement Policy) to give the community an opportunity for input into decisions that will affect residents and businesses.

## Who did we engage?

Foothills County residents, focusing on those living within a quarter-section radius of the reservoir site, as well as residences and businesses along the pipeline alignment. Additionally, the event notice was advertised publicly to residents of both Okotoks and Foothills County.

## LEVEL OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This project falls within the **INFORM** level.

 **50**  
In-person attendees<sup>1</sup>

 **6**  
Comment cards collected

 **374**  
Visits to engagement platform

 **7**  
Questions submitted online



|         | INFORM                                                           | CONSULT                                                             | INVOLVE                                                                                                       | COLLABORATE                                                                                            | EMPOWER                                                    |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| GOAL    | To provide balance and objective information in a timely manner. | To obtain feedback on analysis, issues, alternatives and decisions. | To work with public to make sure concerns and aspirations are considered and understood.                      | To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision-making.                                      | To place final decision-making in the hands of the public. |
| PROMISE | "We will keep you informed."                                     | "We will listen to and acknowledge your concerns."                  | "We will work with you to ensure your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the decisions made." | "We will look to you for advice and innovation and incorporate this in decisions as much as possible." | "We will implement what you decide."                       |
|         | INPUT ZONE                                                       |                                                                     | ENGAGEMENT ZONE                                                                                               |                                                                                                        |                                                            |

<sup>1</sup> Approximate, based on head count. Thirty-nine attendees signed a voluntary attendance sheet. Of those, 31 identified they lived in Foothills County.

# Information Session

## Advertising Summary

### Nov. 18 & 20: EAPA Notice

Published on okotoks.ca/pipeline and okotoks.ca/water (Nov. 18), as well as in the Western Wheel (Nov. 20).

### Nov. 28: Event Notice on Town Website

Published on the following web pages: okotoks.ca (homepage); okotoks.ca/pipeline (project page); okotoks.ca/events (events calendar); shapeourtown.okotoks.ca/pipeline (engagement platform).

### Nov. 28-Dec. 12: Community Notice Banner

Information Session event notice published on OkotoksOnline.com

### Dec. 3: Letter Drops

Information Session event notices hand-delivered to all residents and businesses within a ¼ section radius of the Town's reservoir site (where Pipe A meets Pipe B), and to all residents and businesses along the pipeline alignment.

### Dec. 4 & 11: Newspaper Ads

Information Session event notice advertised twice in Western Wheel (¼ page ad).

### Dec. 5 - 12: Local Radio

Promote Information Session through advertisements on Eagle 100.9 and Sun Country 99.7 radio stations.

### Dec. 12: Follow-up Notice on Web Pages

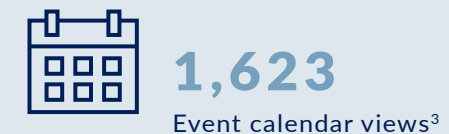
Following the Information Session, event notices were updated to guide visitors to the Engagement Platform, where they could review presentation boards and submit questions.

## Visitor Profile

shapeourtown.okotoks.ca/pipeline



## Website Analytics



## Media Coverage

### Dec. 6: Western Wheel

Article promotion Information Session

*Town hosting info session on Foothills Okotoks water project*

### Dec. 10: CBC Radio

Interview with Rick Donkers to discuss the status of the Foothills Okotoks Regional Water Project, and to promote the upcoming Information Session.

### Dec. 13: Western Wheel

Latter half of article provides an overview of the Information Session, directing readers to the engagement platform to review the information presented and submit questions.

*Regional water pipeline in the Foothills gets federal funding*

<sup>2</sup> Nov. 15, 2024 - Jan. 20, 2025

<sup>3</sup> Nov. 15, 2024 - Dec. 12, 2024

# Findings

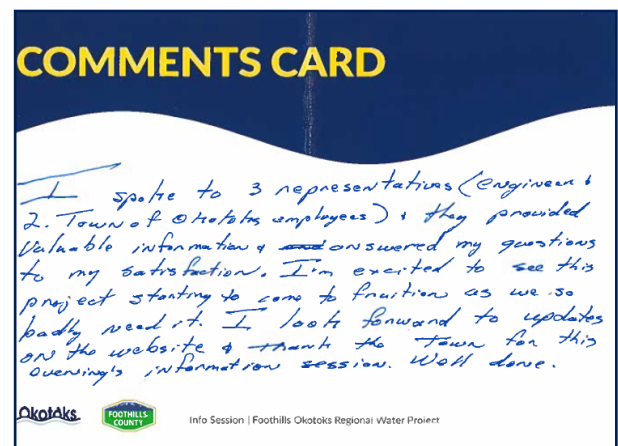
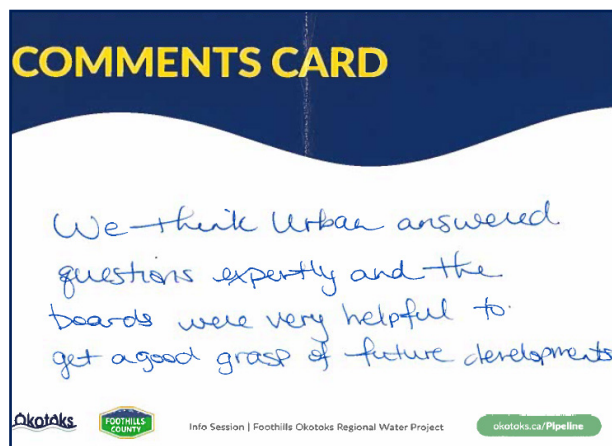
## In-Person Feedback

Eight informational posters were displayed throughout the room, allowing attendees to review the content and ask questions directly to the project team. The team included representatives from the Town of Okotoks, engineering consultants from Urban Systems and MPE, and land agents from Scott Land.

Attendees were encouraged to share their questions and feedback either verbally, or by filling out the provided comment cards. A total of six comment cards were collected.

Most attendees identified as property owners along the proposed alignment route and attended the Information Session with questions around the impact to their properties, access, and an interest in the general construction process and timelines.

Many attendees expressed support for the project and indicated to the project team that their questions had been answered at the session through verbal and comment card feedback.



## Online Engagement - [shapeourtown.okotoks.ca/Pipeline](https://shapeourtown.okotoks.ca/Pipeline)

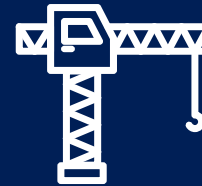
The Engagement Platform was designed to replicate the in-person Information Session experience, allowing viewers to explore presentation boards online and ask questions about the project.

Seven questions were submitted online. The questions posted primarily focus on the project's construction process and timelines, impact to properties, as well as water quality concerns related to regional coal mining projects.

# Engagement Themes

Themes gathered from the Information Session, through comment cards, verbal discussions, and online questions, include:

- ✓ Excitement for water availability.
- ✓ Inquiries about the project funding structure and impact to taxes.
- ✓ Interest in reservoir pump station location, design and capacity.
- ✓ Curiosity surrounding why the proposed alignment location was selected.
- ✓ Shared interest in environmental matters, including tree removal and replanting; potential contaminants from regional coal mining projects; and importance of following environmental protection measures.
- ✓ Considerations regarding construction, including timelines, road access, noise and general disruption.
- ✓ Curiosity around how the reservoir could impact wells and water access.



# Next Steps

2025

Q1

Share Information Session What We Learned Report with the Intermunicipal Committee of Foothills County and the Town of Okotoks for further direction on reservoir construction.

2025

Q1

2026

TO

Q3

Ongoing construction of intake and pipelines.

2026

Q4

Regional water system operational.

