



## **2025 to 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN 2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **“WHEN VISION BECOMES REALITY”**

#### **Summary:**

##### **A Year of Momentum**

In 2025, the Town of Blaine Lake focused on turning long-term planning into visible progress. Across infrastructure, community facilities, economic development, and service delivery, Council and Administration worked deliberately to strengthen capacity, partnerships, and opportunity.

##### **What Growth Looks Like in Infrastructure & Equipment**

Engineering planning for underground utilities and roads advanced, supported by infrastructure grant applications. Critical fleet equipment was replaced, preventative maintenance practices were formalized, and future capital needs were built into the budgeting process.

##### **What Growth Looks Like in Community Spaces**

The arena and community hall moved into integrated planning following structural analysis and community feedback. Campground expansion planning, new trails, disc golf, and sports grounds improvements added immediate community value while preparing for long-term redevelopment.

##### **What Growth Looks Like in Economic Development**

The Town strengthened relationships with local businesses, regional partners, and Indigenous communities. Housing initiatives moved forward, private-sector investment interest increased, land opportunities were evaluated, and community branding was refreshed.

## What Growth Looks Like in Customer Service

Service delivery improvements included clearer snow removal standards, phased major road rehabilitation, enhanced community aesthetics, and improved purchasing and financial practices—resulting in more responsive municipal services and growing community pride.

## VISION

*The Town of Blaine Lake is dedicated to fostering a peaceful, vibrant, and thriving community by delivering exceptional services and driving growth and prosperity.*

*Through open governance, meaningful engagement and communications with stakeholders, and partnerships with all those committed to making a positive impact, we prioritize innovative community development, sustainable economic growth, and outstanding customer service.*

*Our commitment is to enhance the quality of life for all residents and visitors while ensuring the town's long-term success and vitality.*

## Our Values

Integrity

Urgency

Responsibility

Accountability

Positivity

Courageous

Teamwork

## What could stop us?

Money!!!!!!

Access to Grants

Aversion to Property Tax Increases

Time

Unsuccessful Fundraising

In 2025, the Town of Blaine Lake created its 1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Plan by engaging the Community through a community survey and holding strategic planning sessions. Once completed and released to the Public, it continued the important work of turning its long-term strategic vision into meaningful action. Council and Administration focused on strengthening infrastructure,

improving community amenities, supporting economic growth, and enhancing municipal services—while remaining thoughtful about affordability, partnerships, and sustainability.

This annual report shares key highlights of progress made under the Town's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan and demonstrates how planning decisions are translating into real outcomes for residents, businesses, and visitors.

## **Infrastructure & Equipment Development**

Investing in reliable infrastructure and equipment is essential to maintaining high service levels and preparing the community for future growth.

In 2025, the Town undertook detailed planning to better understand underground utilities and road conditions, including engineering work to estimate costs and develop long-term replacement strategies. Multiple applications were submitted to federal and provincial infrastructure funding programs, positioning the Town to take advantage of future grant opportunities.

The Town successfully replaced a critical piece of fleet equipment—the grader—following a phased budget approach. Additional equipment needs, such as a skid steer and dump truck, have been planned and incorporated into future budgets. Preventative maintenance practices were strengthened through the implementation of daily equipment checks and improved maintenance scheduling.

**What this means for residents:** more reliable services, better value from municipal assets, and reduced long-term risk.

## **Community Development - Building Community Amenities & Recreation**

Enhancing quality of life remains a cornerstone of the Strategic Plan. In 2025, Council carefully evaluated major recreation and facility investments to ensure decisions are both responsible and forward-looking.

A proposed artificial ice upgrade at the arena prompted structural analysis, public input, and expert review. Findings allowed the Town to pause major spending and instead pursue integrated planning for the arena and community hall together—ensuring future investments are sustainable and well-designed. Community surveys showed strong public interest and support for these facilities.

Recreation assets across the community saw renewed attention. Planning and early improvements advanced at the sports grounds, campground, and former golf course lands. The campground is being expanded to attract campers with improved services, while new walking paths and disc golf amenities are already creating fresh recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

**What this means for residents:** more ways to be active, gather, and enjoy the community—now and into the future.

## **Economic Development - Supporting Economic Growth & Housing**

Economic development efforts in 2025 focused on building relationships, preparing land, and creating the conditions needed for investment.

Council and Administration strengthened ties with local businesses, regional partners, and Indigenous communities. Partnerships with Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and 7 Generations Developments advanced through formal agreements, joint working groups, and housing projects designed to increase residential opportunities and inclusive growth.

Interest from new businesses—including industrial, retail, hospitality, and housing proponents—continued to grow. The Town actively assessed land availability, servicing capacity, and zoning to support these opportunities. Work also progressed on modernizing the Town’s brand, including a new logo, merchandise program, and foundations for better online communication.

**What this means for residents:** new jobs, housing opportunities, and a stronger local economy.

## **Enhancing Customer Service & Community Pride**

Customer service improvements delivered visible results in 2025. Snow removal standards were clarified and supported with updated policies and enforcement, ensuring safer winter travel. Road rehabilitation progressed through pilot projects and phased improvements that balanced cost and effectiveness.

Significant effort was also placed on community appearance—expanded landscaping, signage, banners, and seasonal decorations contributed to a more welcoming and well-maintained town. Public feedback reflected pride in these improvements and appreciation for the Town’s attention to detail.

Operational best practices continued to improve, including purchasing processes, budgeting discipline, and long-term financial planning.

**What this means for residents:** a town that is responsive, attractive, and focused on continuous improvement.

## **Looking Ahead**

The first years of the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan have laid a strong foundation. In 2026 and beyond, the Town will continue to move from planning into construction, implementation, and measurable outcomes.

The 2026 Town of Blaine Lake Budget has been completed and continues to support the Strategic Plan.