



## NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

#### Town of Olds Announces Enhanced Accessibility Features for Sunshine Bus Service

Olds, Alta. **May 1, 2024** – In an ongoing commitment to serve the diverse needs of our community, the Town of Olds is pleased to announce important updates to the Sunshine Bus service, ensuring accessible and affordable transportation for all residents.

Understanding that there is a community need for affordable, accessible transportation in our community for all residents, the Sunshine Bus will be opening its bookings to the general public as of May 1, 2024 with same day bookings on a first come first serve basis.

Also recognizing the importance of independent living for older adults, individuals with mobility issues, or those with disabilities the Sunshine Bus will prioritize the needs of these community member's by offering priority booking at least 3 days in advance. These changes provide more options for those who want to stay living in their own homes but face barriers to accessing the non-medical services they need to live independently.

The Sunshine Bus is equipped to accommodate one wheelchair user and three additional passengers per trip. A support person rides free with a paying passenger. Offering priority booking status (with advanced notice) enables these valued community members to secure availability for essential trips. "By making transportation more accessible and affordable, we're removing barriers that may prevent our residents from accessing essential services and participating in community life" said Community Service Director Lorraine O'Brien.

Ride fares are \$5.00 one-way per person. Alternatively, an 11-trip punch pass is available for \$50.00. Punch passes can be purchased with cash, credit, or debit at the Town Administration Office and the Aquatic Centre, or with cash only from the bus driver or at the Community Connection Centre.

The Town of Olds is dedicated to fostering an inclusive, accessible, and connected community and the Sunshine Bus is a testament to our commitment to ensuring that every resident can navigate our town with ease and dignity. The Town also understands that there is a need for affordable transportation in our



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community and have taken steps to allow the Sunshine Bus to be booked by the public as well. "This service is more than just transportation; it's about connecting our residents to the places and people that make Olds vibrant and inclusive for all members of our community." said Mayor Judy Dahl.

For more information about this initiative, please reach out to Apryl at [awebb@olds.ca](mailto:awebb@olds.ca) or call 403.507.4847.

To book the Sunshine Bus, please call our booking line at 403.556.8003, Monday to Friday, between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM, to reserve your trip.

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