

**BRAED**

**BATTLE RIVER ALLIANCE  
FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

## **Message from the Board Chair**

The hot and dry weather this summer has been challenging for all of us. However, none as much as BRAED's farmers and agricultural businesses. At this writing Beaver and Paintearth Counties, and the MD of Wainwright have declared agricultural disasters.

We know that the financial and emotional burden for the farming community is tremendous. BRAED understands the links between farmers and communities and the entire economy of our region. We know BRAED's ag services boards and county ag staff are working hard to connect farmers to resources. We wish you well moving through the coming months.

Warmly,

Brian Ducherer,  
*Board Chair*

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**Drought Response: Funding and Outlook for Our  
Producers and Region**

Drought is never welcome. The BRAED region will deal with the economic impact in our agriculture sector with a mix of approaches, programs and our resilient people. Programs and supports will not only assist our economy, but directly help our producer families, business and their communities.

**For Livestock Producers:**

On August 6, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation [published an update](#) on support streams, including water, feed and fencing, if approved. This is AgriRecovery program funding. The provincial announcement about the [program is here.](#)

**Crop Insurance**

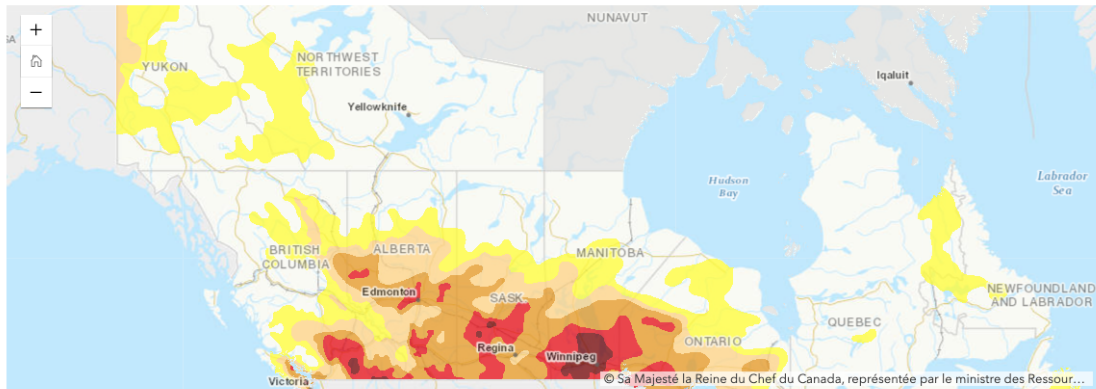
Adjustments have been made to crop insurance and additional funding is being rolled out. The press release from the [Ministry of Agriculture is here.](#)

**Timing and the Funding Process**

Drought and emergency relief in agriculture is a joint effort between the Federal and Provincial governments. The situation is under constant development. However, [this news story from realagriculture.com](#) gives some insight into this ongoing relationship between the two orders of government and the status of agriculture relief rollout (published August 6).

**Canadian Drought Monitor**

BRAED and Alberta are not alone in this terrible year for moisture. The challenge of this year's drought is across the West. Longer term negative affects on feed prices and other parts of the industry are still being determined. Agriculture Canada monitors drought conditions and publishes [a drought map.](#)



## Prairies Economic Development Canada

### New Federal Organization for Government Programming & Support

There has been a significant change in how the Government of Canada is organizing economic diversification programming in the West. Western Economic Diversification has been split into two entities, the Prairies and British Columbia.

Meet the new [Prairies Economic Development Canada](#).

The [department mandate](#) is:

*Support the economic growth and diversification in the Prairie provinces and advance the interests of the region in national economic policy, programs and projects.*

### Featured Program for Employers in the BRAED region

Prairies Economic Development Canada is now the lead agency in the Federal [Jobs and Growth Fund](#).

Eligible applicants in your community:

- businesses, including co-operatives
- not-for-profit organizations and community economic development partners

Full list of programs [is here](#).



**A new Federal Economic Development  
Agency just for the Prairies**



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## Let's Gather in Person

The next BRAED Board of Directors' Meeting is on **Thursday, September 16, 2021**.

It's our first in person event in over a year and we are excited to see everyone again. We've pulled out all the stops with a delicious home-style menu as a special thank you to our members and supporters.

Register via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/braed-board-of-directors-meeting-tickets-166854188369>

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## Member Capacity & Development

### **BRAED Hosted an Investment Attraction Readiness and Response Workshop**

Thanks to Dawna Allard, Regional Economic Development Specialist, JEI and Steve Kwasny, Director, partnership and engagement for, Invest Alberta, for presenting an intensive 2 hour information packed workshop online on July 20. Toolkits are ready to launch on BRAED's website. Stay tuned for the announcement.

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## Statistics of Interest

**Government of Alberta**

The consumer price index (CPI) is published monthly. Since the basket contains goods and services of unchanging or equivalent quantity and quality, the index reflects only pure price movements. Therefore, the CPI can be used as a measure of the rate of inflation. The provincial *Office of Statistics and Information* publishes Alberta's CPI year over year percentage change.

[Alberta's most recent CPI comparison was published](#) July 28. It may not come as a surprise to read in the linked report that, as measured in the CPI, energy cost to consumers is significantly up year over year. However, the index was up 2.7% overall.

### **Is Economic Growth Around the Corner?**

Perhaps it is people seeking certainty and insight as the pandemic shifts and continues to affect the economy—economic predictions for Alberta are plentiful this summer. Here are three economic predictions and reports:

1. [The economic recovery could be sustainable](#). This is a late-July, single page snapshot report from Alberta Central - the central banking facility, service bureau and trade association for Alberta's credit unions.
2. CIBC looks at Alberta and the other provinces for the coming year and predicts Alberta will lead with 7.9% growth. [This 5-page report](#) includes many other statistical comparisons by province, including employment data, government borrowing and spending.
3. Consumer spending is up. [The Retail Council of Canada \(the national organization for retailers\) July report](#) has a more granular look at consumer spending with unadjusted totals across major retail categories. Overall, unadjusted Alberta retail sales are + 55.64% in April, year over year, the most recent month in which data is available.

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## **Government of Alberta Program Announcements**

### **Broadband**

BRAED's position on rural broadband remains strongly in favour of expanded access and availability for all rural Albertans. It is an integral part of our future

economic activity. The Government [made a recent announcement](#) on further investments.

Our team will watch for, "[d]etails on how this new funding will roll out will be announced in the coming weeks" *source Government of Alberta announcement.*

### **Critical Worker Benefit**

The Critical Worker Benefit provides a one-time payment of \$1,200 to eligible Albertans in recognition of their hard work to provide Albertans with the care and critical services they need. For business in eligible sectors, the critical worker benefit application period has been extended to the end of August.

The list of eligible businesses has been expanded since the last issue of KNOTice:

*...truck drivers, farm workers, security guards, cleaners, funeral workers, employees at quick service and dine in restaurants, and taxi and limousine drivers.*

To apply, eligible businesses should scroll down [on this page](#), click on the Private Sector Portal button and have their Alberta Business ID ready.

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## **Municipal Election Season Note**

This fall, our communities will welcome new and returning councillors and leadership. It's a great opportunity to remember our officials can easily access learning on their role and opportunities in economic development.

The Economic Development Association of Alberta has developed an *Elected Officials course*, "to provide specialized information on the strategies, tools and resources needed to help their communities thrive."

[Learn more.](#)





## Contact Us

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