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**March 2, 2021**

## COUNTY ABANDONS TALKS ON CRITICAL ICF NEGOTIATIONS WITH TOWN

**Submitted by Town of Mayerthorpe**

Mayerthorpe, Alberta, February 26, 2021 – The Government of Alberta mandated Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs) on October 26, 2017 for the purpose of fostering cooperation between neighboring municipali-

ties. The key areas of focus are transportation, water/wastewater, solid waste, emergency services, recreation and any other services that benefit residents in more than one of the municipalities who are party to the ICF.

The legislation specifically mentions cost-sharing to ensure municipalities con-

tribute adequately to facilities and services that benefit their residents, including those supplied by another municipality. Although not rooted in finances, out of necessity, these ICF negotiations must include discussions about the dollars and cents.

*Continued on Page 2*

## RELIEF FOR WORKING PARENTS

**Submitted by Government of Alberta**

Alberta parents who use child care will receive \$561 per child with the new Working Parents Benefit, a one-time payment to help parents with the cost of child care.

The Working Parents Benefit will see \$108 million go to families that used child care – including licensed or unlicensed daycare, day

homes, out-of-school care, or preschool – from April to December of 2020.

“Alberta’s government is focused on protecting lives and livelihoods and that means being there for working parents. Families are facing additional stress due to the pandemic and the uncertainty in the economy. We want to directly support these parents by alleviating the financial pressures they have faced this past year.” -

Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Children’s Services

“It’s great to see the government recognize the pressures that working parents are facing. As a single mother who has felt the stresses of work and child care this past year, this money is greatly appreciated.” - Tiffany-Joy Robertson, working parent

*Continued on Page 2*

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# County Abandons Talks on Critical ICF Negotiations with Town

*Continued from Page 1*

In addition, the legislation states that efficiencies must be sought through integrated strategic planning and delivery of services and that thoughtful stewardship of scarce resources be at the forefront of the conversations.

I'm disappointed in this turn of events. The Town's ICF

Committee members were determined to remain optimistic during often tense talks with the County. In an effort to foster a productive relationship with our County colleagues, we embraced the process, even though we knew it wasn't going to be easy." – Mayor Janet Jabush

Users from around the region enjoy the services and facilities available in the Town of Mayerthorpe. The burden of funding these public services has long been disproportionately borne by the Town's ratepayers. Securing a more equitable arrangement was the goal of the Town's ICF Committee members, current Council, and previous Councils.

From the outset, the Town

of Mayerthorpe has provided consistent, factual data to Lac Ste. Anne County in support of its position. Using modelling developed by Stantec and vetted by both the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), the Town has proposed that the County fairly contribute to the facilities and services their ratepayers enjoy in the Town of Mayerthorpe.


The distinct differences between the Town of Mayerthorpe and other municipalities within the County's borders must be recognized. Not all municipalities offer the same access to facilities and services nor do they bear the cost of operating those amenities.

Mayor Jabush states, "After

years of enjoying services and facilities within the Town, the County is being asked to contribute proportionally to its usership. This is all about responsibility. We need a more equitable arrangement."

The Town of Mayerthorpe will continue to act professionally and in the best interests of its citizens. It is unfortunate the mediation process failed. It leaves the parties with no choice but a costly arbitration process.

Relying on processes established by the Government of Alberta, the Town will participate in good faith throughout the arbitration process in pursuit of a fair and equitable arrangement for the citizens of our community.



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**Onoway and District Historical Guild**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**March 17, 2021 7:30 pm**  
Regular meeting commences 7:00 pm  
**Onoway Heritage Centre – Room 3**  
**COVID distancing and protocol to be required.**

**We invite everyone to join us at this meeting!**

<b>Agenda:</b>	Election of Executive & Board of Directors
Audited Financial Statement	Review of 2020 operation
Plans for 2021	Showcasing our museum - our history!

**We need your help to**

- ensure that Onoway Museum/Heritage Centre persists in today's world
- make Onoway Museum/Archives Onoway's #1 tourist attraction
- make volunteering a possible career in COVID times
- bring local history to life in whatever way we can!

**JOKE of the week**

Conor, the barber, was hearing complaints from his present trimmee about the price of barbers' services. "I tell you, Conor, these New York barbers gotta stranglehold on the citizens. I was in London just last week, and you charge me half again what they charge there." "That may be true, Sir," said the Irishman, "but think of the airfare."



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Visit [LSAC.ca](http://LSAC.ca) to explore the latest County news and events in greater detail.



## SEPTIC SENSE WORKSHOP Solutions for Rural Living

### Virtual Workshop – via Zoom

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

The Septic Sense program will help you understand and take care of your septic system.

This FREE workshop includes a Homeowner Information Package. Workshop participants may pick up a package at their participating county office, before or after the March 10 presentation.

For more details and to register, visit [LSAC.ca](http://LSAC.ca), email [LTaylor@LSAC.ca](mailto:LTaylor@LSAC.ca) or call Lorraine at 780.203.2968.

Please register by 4:30pm on March 9 to ensure you can receive the Zoom meeting access.

*Presented by Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association.*

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM (CVITP) FREE preparation of 2020 taxes for eligible citizens

Starting March 1, 2021, the County's Community Services department will gear up to offer its popular annual Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) to eligible citizens.

The CVITP is a partnership between the Canada Revenue Agency and

Community Organizations that host tax prep clinics and arrange for volunteers to prepare income tax and benefit returns for eligible citizens, review those results with the client, and with the client's approval, e-file the return.

Eligibility criteria for the CVITP Program can be found at [About free tax clinics - Canada.ca](http://About free tax clinics - Canada.ca) or by calling the Community Services department to discuss.

To schedule an appointment, or for more information regarding this program, please contact the Community Services Coordinator, Taryn Monteith, at 780.785.3411 or email [tmonteith@LSAC.ca](mailto:tmonteith@LSAC.ca).

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

## NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPROVALS

The following Development Permits have been approved or conditionally approved under the provisions of the Land Use Bylaw. This list does not include Permitted Uses. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the Planning and Development department at 1-866-880-5722 or [devassistant@LSAC.ca](mailto:devassistant@LSAC.ca), Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm to request additional information on a permit.

PERMIT #	LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	APPEAL DEADLINE
21-D0024	Unit 259, Plan 1123180 Waters Edge within SE 10-55-03 W5M	Stick Built Storage Building 24.0' x 33.5' (804.0 sq. ft.) and Wall height 13.5' with Variance Request as follows: Front Regulation: 6.0m Requested: 4.0m, East Side Yard Regulation: 2.43m Requested: 0, West Side Yard Regulation: 2.43m Requested 0	March 14, 2021
21-D0023	Unit 260, Plan 1123180 Waters Edge within SE 10-55-03 W5M	Stick Built Storage Building 24.0' x 33.5' (804.0 sq. ft.) and Wall height 13.5' with Variance Request as follows: Front Regulation: 6.0m Requested: 4.0m, East Side Yard Regulation: 2.43m Requested: 0, West Side Yard Regulation: 2.43m Requested 0	March 14, 2021
21-D0026	NW 1-57-03 W5M 57025 RGE RD 31	Minor Homebased business, Farm store selling market, Garden produce, Homemade goods	March 22, 2021
21-D0012	NE 15-55-01 W5M 55225 RGE RD 12A	New stick build home on basement with decks and attached garage, Main 60.0' x 24.0' (1508.0 sq. ft.), Basement 60.0' x 24.0' (1508.0 sq. ft.), Deck 12.0' x 36.0' (432.0 sq. ft.), Covered decks 14.0' x 10.0' + 6.0' x 14.0' (224.0 sq. ft.), Attached garage 24.0' x 24.0' (576.0 sq. ft.)	March 14, 2021

Anyone who claims to be affected and who wishes to lodge an appeal against any of the above developments must do so in writing on the applicable form on or before 4:30pm on the above noted date(s). Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, c/o Lac Ste. Anne County, Planning & Development department, Box 219, Sangudo, Alberta, T0E 2A0.

PLEASE NOTE: Lac Ste. Anne County requires that a non-refundable fee of \$250.00 be paid for every appeal served on the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board. Fees may be paid by Cheque, Visa, MasterCard, Interac or Cash.



To review the draft plan, download IDP maps and learn more about the upcoming public hearing, visit [LSAC.ca/idp](https://lsac.ca/idp).

# Lac Ste. Anne County is holding a **PUBLIC HEARING** (and you're invited)

Bylaw 09-2021

## Implementation of an **INTERMUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Lac Ste. Anne County and Barrhead County are currently working to implement a new Intermunicipal Development Plan. This plan is aimed at guiding future growth for both municipalities, and provides a forum for intermunicipal dialogue and collaboration as development occurs in and around their shared border.

### Come share your input.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> BEGINNING AT 11:00<sup>AM</sup>**  
**LAC STE. ANNE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
(56521 Rge Rd 65)

If you wish to comment on the proposed Bylaw, you'll have an opportunity to do so at the March 25 Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the hearing, a written submission can be made to the County. You will, however, need to ensure that your comments are received by the County prior to the date of the hearing.

Comments can be sent by email to [devassistant@LSAC.ca](mailto:devassistant@LSAC.ca), by fax to 780.785.2985, or by mail to Box 219, Sangudo AB, T0E 2A0. All submissions will be public information. For more information, please contact Matthew Ferris, Planning and Development Manager, at 780.284.1946 or [mferris@LSAC.ca](mailto:mferris@LSAC.ca).

It will be possible to access the Public Hearing via Zoom. To find out more and to get the link information, please visit [LSAC.ca/idp](https://lsac.ca/idp).



LAC STE. ANNE COUNTY





# WHEAT FARMERS CAN CLAIM 31% SR&ED CREDIT ON THEIR 2020 TAXES

**Submitted by Alberta Wheat Commission & Alberta Barley**

February 23, 2021 (Calgary, Alberta) – Wheat farmers who pay the Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC) check-off are eligible for a 31 per cent tax credit through the Scientific Research & Experimental Development Fund (SR&ED) program, for their investment in wheat

research and development (R&D) projects. For example, farmers who paid \$100 in check-off to AWC in 2020 would earn \$31 in tax credit.

The federal SR&ED program encourages R&D investment through tax-based incentives, giving claimants tax credits for their expenditures on eligible R&D work. The tax credit percentage is based on the amount invested in

R&D that meets the criteria laid out by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Farm individuals should use form T2038 (IND) to claim this credit when filing their taxes, while farm corporations must use form T2SCH31.

For more information, contact the Canada Revenue Agency directly, or visit the CRA website.

Farmers who have re-

quested a refund of their check-off are not eligible for the tax credit.

For more information about claiming the SR&ED credit, please contact:

Syeda Khurram  
Chief Operating Officer  
Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions  
skhurram@albertawheat-barley.com  
403-219-6264

## Relief For Working Parents

*Continued from Page 1*

The Working Parents Benefit adds to the recently announced Critical Worker Benefit, a \$1,200 payment to 330,000 front-line and essential workers, and the Enhanced COVID Business Benefit, a \$10,000 support for businesses hit hardest by the pandemic.

Families will be eligible to apply for the Working Parents Benefit if they have:

- Children in any form of child care, including licensed or unlicensed child care.

- A household annual income of \$100,000 or less.

- Paid for three months of child care between April 1 and Dec. 31, 2020 (must provide receipts).

A MyAlberta Digital ID is needed to apply for the benefit. Sign up for your MyAlberta Digital ID.

Apply for the Working Parents Benefit online at [alberta.ca/WorkingParentsBenefit](https://alberta.ca/WorkingParentsBenefit) starting March 1. Applications close March 31.

**Quick facts**

- Families can apply starting March 1 to March 5, and applications will be open by region to manage volume.

- This \$108 million of unspent funds from Children's Services will be redirected under the Working Parents Benefit to support the families of up to 192,000 children.

- As of Feb. 12:

- 96 per cent of daycares, preschools and out-of-school care programs

(2,739 programs) are open.

- Four per cent of programs (102 programs) are not open.

- The 2,739 open programs have 115,285 spaces available. On average 58,003 children attended during the week, representing a 50

per cent enrolment rate.

- Child care operators have received more than \$100 million in COVID relief payments over the past year to address cost pressures and adhere to health, cleaning and safety guidelines.

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# COUNTY'S ICF DEAL WITH THE TOWN OF MAYERTHORPE PROVES ELUSIVE

*Town remains the sole outlier in the County's good-faith efforts to collaborate with its municipal neighbours.*

**Submitted by Lac Ste. Anne County**

Sangudo, Alberta, Thursday, February 25, 2021 – After two years of earnest efforts to find common ground with the Town of Mayerthorpe – and mere months away from the provincially-mandated deadline for such initiatives – a fundamental rift in fiscal policy threatens to derail the entire process. Simply put, the County finds the Town's arbitrary expectations of financial support unwarranted; unsustainable; irresponsible; and unnecessarily burdensome on the County and its ratepayers.

At risk is the County's final Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework, or ICF for short. ICFs are mandated by the Province as a way for neighbouring municipalities to share knowledge, combine resources and do more with less. All municipalities need to structure ICFs with their bordering neighbours, and the deadline for doing so is April 1, 2021.

Following 19 successful ICF outcomes with all other adjacent municipalities (17 completed and two pending), the sole outlier in the County's good-faith efforts to collaborate with its municipal neighbours is the Town of Mayerthorpe. It should also be noted that Mayerthorpe is the one and only municipality that has attached a financial stipulation to its ICF negotiations.

Ratepayers are advised to visit [LSAC.ca/icf](http://LSAC.ca/icf) to get the facts on this consequential County matter and weigh in with insights of their own.

The key points are as follows:

- Mayerthorpe is the County's only remaining municipal neighbour without an ICF at or near completion.

- To satisfy Mayerthorpe's conditions for the ICF, the County would have to pay considerably more for the Town's recreation facilities.

- Failure to enter into an ICF by April 1, 2021 may force the Town and County into binding arbitration, which generally results in a matter being split down the middle to appear equitable.

- Splitting the matter down the middle represents considerable financial gain for Mayerthorpe, and a stark loss to the County.

- The County's loss will mean less funding to more than 150 other local organizations, service reductions, a tax increase for County ratepayers, and a diminished capacity for the County to determine its own future.

It defies logic to suggest that the cost structure for Town facilities like the Aquatic Centre has increased several fold. This is the same swimming pool that existed last year and the year before. Regardless, it is wrong-headed for any municipality to think that the County should adjust its own tax rate to absorb that municipality's shortfalls.

"The Town expects us to increase OUR taxes during a time of financial hardship so that THEY can benefit from increased funding," stated Lac Ste. Anne County Reeve Joe Blakeman. "Such a complete abdication of responsibility is appalling, and underscores just how differently our two leader-

ship teams view the present realities of Rural Alberta."

The County continues to weather a perfect storm of continued economic downturn; provincial cost down-loading and assessment model changes; uncollectable linear tax revenue; diminishing funding resources; and the financial impacts of COVID-19. As a result of these events, the County anticipates a total financial impact in excess of \$1,500,000 or approximately 5% of its operating budget.

County Council and administration have worked together to make difficult financial decisions in support of fiscal responsibility. These decisions include no changes to the County's salary structure, and a tax increase for 2021 as close to 0.0% as possible. In parallel to this lean and sustainable business model, County residents continue to provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in broad financial support to a spectrum of vital recreational, cultural and social programs and services throughout the region.

"In this time of unprecedented financial strain and austerity, the last thing we would do is further burden our ratepayers," shared Reeve Blakeman. "It is unfortunate that Mayerthorpe is experiencing viability difficulties, but when their solution is to shift its financial challenges onto the County, we're going to have a problem. This is just not right, and it will be to the detriment of everyone in the region...except perhaps Mayerthorpe in the short term."

"Transferring your financial burden onto your next-

door neighbour is certainly not the spirit of the ICF," he continued. "From Council's perspective, Mayerthorpe has two options: accept the substantial financial funding provided to the Town and start to manage your affairs responsibly, or we say enough is enough and have a different conversation. If our administrations cannot see eye-to-eye on the fundamentals of sound governance, then perhaps it's time to talk about a single administration."

The Municipal Government Act allows for the amalgamation of two municipalities as a solution for creating long-term sustainable communities. Among other potential benefits, amalgamation could save money, provide more expertise, resolve intractable issues, reduce taxes, and give municipalities a stronger voice.

"If a municipality wants us to be their bank, then so be it," muses Reeve Blakeman. "But what does the bank do when you can't pay your mortgage? I think we all know the answer to this question."

Lac Ste. Anne County acknowledges the positive and participatory process it has experienced when working with the vast majority of its neighbours throughout the ICF process. Agreements are already in place, or close to completion, with all bordering municipalities – with the unfortunate exception of the Town of Mayerthorpe.

For more details on this evolving matter, please visit [LSAC.ca/icf](http://LSAC.ca/icf).





auto

SPRING 2021

# TUNE-UP

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## WHY IS TIRE ROTATION SO IMPORTANT?

Vehicle owners need to keep maintenance on the mind to ensure their cars and trucks are operating at peak capacity. Various components should be

checked and serviced at key intervals. Oil changes and fluid top-offs are part of routine maintenance, but it can be easy to forget about other important

parts of the vehicle, including tires.

Rotating tires is vital to their upkeep. Bridge-stone Tires advises that tire rotation involves routinely repositioning a vehicle's tires in specific patterns from front to back and side to side. According to Big O Tires, the front tires tend to wear on the outside edges because the tire leans over when a driver turns a corner. The rear tires just follow the front ones, so they usually wear more evenly. By leaving tires in place, the outside edges on the front tires will wear down much faster

than the rest and those tires will need to be replaced sooner. Rotation may be required by tire warranties. Rotation also keeps the tires working properly.

Experts generally advise tire rotation every 6,000 to 8,000 miles, even if they do not show any signs of wear. It is challenging to determine if weather treads are uneven or how much wear has been sustained just by looking at them. Rotating tires can prolong the life of tires and decrease how frequently they need to be replaced.

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## Why Is Tire Rotation So Important?

the tread depth uniform and helps maintain traction and consistent handling across all four tires. Bridgestone says the tire rotation pattern that is best for a particular vehicle depends on the type of tire being used. Patterns are recommended by the standardizing body of the tire industry, called The Tire and Rim Association, Inc. Individuals can consult with professional mechanics about the proper way to rotate tires. Many tire manufacturers or automotive stores that have sold customers tires also will do tire rotations - some free of charge.

In addition to proper traction, minimizing uneven tire treads causes the vehicle to be more balanced, advises Wrench, a mobile auto repair and maintenance company. This enables the driver to have more control even when roads are slippery. Many auto service centers will then align and balance tires after they have been rotated. At this time the mechanic will likely check brakes as well, since it is easy to see and reach them when the tires are off.

Tire rotation is an important component of

vehicle maintenance. Check with a qualified automotive professional to see if it's time to have your vehicle's tires rotated.

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**Entries must be recieved by April 1, 2021.**

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Box 3595 Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3A8**



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# SUDOKU

of the week

**Here's How It Works:** Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

**Like puzzles?** Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

## ANSWER:

4	6	3	2	7	9	1	8	5
1	8	2	3	5	6	4	7	9
9	7	5	8	1	4	2	3	6
6	9	8	4	3	1	5	2	7
3	4	7	5	8	2	6	9	1
5	2	1	9	6	7	8	4	3
8	1	9	7	2	5	3	6	4
2	5	4	6	9	3	7	1	8
7	3	6	1	4	8	9	5	2

	6	3	2	7	9			
				5	6	4	7	
9				1			3	
	9	8	4	3	1	5		7
	4		5	8				
					7			
8		9		2			6	
2	5		6		3			
		6	1			9		

# Church Directory

## Rich Valley Community Church

Sunday School  
10:00 a.m.  
Worship Service  
11:00 a.m.

## Catholic Parish of Lac Ste. Anne

Sunday  
10:00 a.m.

## Mayerthorpe Baptist Church

Worship Service  
Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Church  
10:30 a.m.  
4606-54 St. Mayerthorpe  
(780) 786-2677

## Alberta Beach Alliance Church

Sunday Worship  
Service & Kid's  
Church 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School  
10:00 a.m.  
(780) 924-3282

## St. John's Anglican Church

Onoway  
Sunday Service  
10:00 a.m.  
**Everyone Welcome**

## St. John's Lutheran Church

Alberta Beach  
Sunday Service  
11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School

## Zion United Church

Sunday Service  
10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School  
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Wabaman, Darwell &  
Lake Isle, Onoway & Area  
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## Sangudo United Church

**Christmas Eve Service 6:00 p.m.**  
Worship Service  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 11:00 a.m.  
4907-50 Ave. Sangudo, AB

## St. Mary's Anglican Church Service

Holy Communion  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each  
month 11:00 a.m.  
at Sangudo United Church  
Reverend Barry  
Rose Officiating

## Cherhill Community Church

Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Worship Service  
Sunday 11:00 a.m.

## St. Michael Lutheran Church

Sunday Services 1<sup>st</sup> &  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 2:00 p.m.  
Pastor Rick Chappell  
(780) 674-2618  
Mystery Lake

## Trinity Lutheran Church (LC-C)

"The Church of the Lutheran Hour" - Rockfort Bridge  
Pastor Dan Hansard  
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Sunday Worship  
9:00 a.m.  
Senior's Service & Cottage Bible Study - Phone for locations

## Crossroads Community Church

P.A.O.C.  
Rev. Arnold Lotholz  
Sunday Service  
10:30 a.m.  
(780) 786-2424

## Onoway Baptist Church

Sunday Service  
10:30 a.m.  
(780) 967-2266

## Roman Catholic Church

St. Agnes' Parish, Mayerthorpe  
Sunday 9:00 a.m.  
St. Elizabeth Parish,  
Evansburg  
Saturday 7:00 p.m.  
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## Calahoo Alliance Church

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