

# State of the City

Mayor Lars Hansen  
April 10, 2026



Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome, and thank you for coming.

I'm Mayor Lars Hansen, and I'm pleased to be here today to connect with you all about the state of our city.

To begin, I want to extend my appreciation to the Chamber for hosting today's event.

Your partnership, advocacy and commitment to our local business community make gatherings like this meaningful and our city stronger.

I also want to acknowledge MLA Brandon Lundy and thank him for sharing his update today.

We appreciate your support and your ongoing work on behalf of our region.

And of course, I want to thank everyone in the room for being here.

It's always a privilege to gather with Leduc's business community, regional partners and residents who make this city such an extraordinary place to call home and make a living.

Today is about taking stock of where we are, where we're going, and how we're preparing for a future that is arriving faster than expected.

But before we dive in, I want to start by introducing the team that is now helping to lead our city through this next chapter.

Our new Council was elected this last October.

Alongside me at the Council table are two re-elected councillors and four newly elected members, bringing together a blend of experience and fresh perspectives to guide the work ahead.

These councillors are here with us today, and I'll ask that as I call each of you out that you stand up and give a wave to the room.

We have:

- Councillor Bill Hamilton
- Councillor Laura Tillack
- Councillor Bretton Baynes
- Councillor Jill Spinks
- Councillor Shawn Raymond, and
- Councillor Ryley Miller

Each of them brings a unique background, strong commitment to public service, and a shared desire to build a thriving, welcoming, and vibrant community.

To help you get to know them a little better, we've put together a short video.

**Play:** [Council Video](#)

As a new Council, one of our first major tasks is developing the Strategic Plan that will guide our decisions from 2027 through 2030.

While the work is still underway, I'm pleased to share a preview of the themes emerging from our early discussions, including:

- Building connections through engagement, technology, and infrastructure,
- Planning for the future to accommodate growth and address community needs through amenity and transportation development,

- And striving to do these things while balancing affordability and supporting effective service delivery.

Please keep an eye out in the coming weeks as we finalize the plan and share it with the community.

Now, let's talk about the year we just had.

It was absolutely exceptional.

In 2025, our city grew three times faster than expected.

836 new residences and 181 new suites were built.

We are well on track to surpass 40,000 residents this year.

In fact, Statistics Canada estimated that Leduc's population was just thirty-four people shy of this milestone in 2025.

This is years ahead of what was projected.

Subdivision activity surged to levels we've never seen before.

1,375 new lots were created—96 per cent of which were residential.

That equals 110 hectares of land.

To put that in perspective, our yearly average from 2022 to 2024 was just 29 hectares per year.

We also issued a record-setting 1,324 development permits last year, along with 1,330 safety code building permits that reflect a construction value of more than 331 million dollars.

Additionally, we issued 478 *new* business licenses last year, indicating consistent business growth on par with the past five years.

These numbers reflect confidence from families choosing to build their lives in Leduc, and confidence from businesses choosing to invest here.

This momentum is something we should all be proud of.

Because growth at this pace doesn't happen by accident.

Nor does it continue without careful planning.

So, here's how we're preparing.

We are advancing a comprehensive housing strategy with six strategic housing priorities that will:

- Increase the supply of non-market housing
- Maintain and enhance the supply of rental and non-market housing
- Increase the range of housing options
- Address housing insecurity and homelessness
- Continue to deliver exceptional service, and
- Promote and focus on location efficiency

Much of this work was fast-tracked with the 7.6-million-dollar grant that the City received through the Housing Accelerator Fund.

The funding supports the implementation of seven initiatives designed to:

- Address systemic barriers to housing,
- Promote diverse and affordable housing options, and
- Streamline approval processes.

Three of the seven initiatives are complete, with the remaining four underway.

Several of the Housing Accelerator Fund initiatives are also integrated into the renewal of our Land Use Bylaw.

This renewal will help to align the bylaw with the updated Municipal Development Plan, address housing demand and affordability, and make the bylaw easier for residents, builders, and developers to understand and use.

This is one of the most important planning tools we have and updating it will help us stay ahead of and accommodate growth rather than react to it.

Our Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan for 2025 to 2029 continues to move forward, with a strong focus on business growth, diversification, and investment attraction.

This plan positions our city to proactively target high-potential sectors, including energy, advanced manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, hydrogen production, value-added food production, and tourism.

Defence, in particular, is an emerging sector we are watching closely—especially following Prime Minister Carney’s recent announcement of Canada’s first Defence Industrial Strategy.

We see real opportunities here for Leduc businesses, especially those in advanced manufacturing, to play a meaningful role.

I’m looking forward to seeing how our industry partners and investors seize these opportunities.

More broadly, the strategy leverages Leduc’s unique strengths—our prime location on major transportation corridors, our skilled and growing workforce, and our strong infrastructure—to position the city as a leading destination for new investment.

At the same time, our Economic Development team is enhancing business retention and expansion services, strengthening partnerships, and exploring new opportunities in tourism and workforce development.

Together, these efforts—and the strategic infrastructure projects supporting them—are building real momentum.

We're seeing strong interest in our community from investors who recognize the opportunities here, especially with the completion of the new 65th Avenue Interchange.

Thanks to this major infrastructure achievement, current and future businesses in the Leduc Business Park now have access to cargo at the airport 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

This positions the new phase of the park—in which lots are already serviced and ready for purchase—for even greater investment opportunity.

And the Leduc Business Park is not the only industrial area to benefit from the opening of the new interchange.

Leduc Landing is also now positioned for significant investment and development.

This is an exceptional opportunity to create a vibrant new district that will support jobs, services, and long-term economic growth.

Which is why—to ensure long-term land supply for housing, industry and community amenities—we are continuing our work on expanding our municipal boundary through the annexation process.

This is a multi-year undertaking, and we are nearing the half-way mark.

Significant work has been done on several technical studies, and we hope to begin negotiations with our partners in Leduc County soon.

We've also completed one round of public engagement and are beginning to gear up for a second and third round in the coming months.

If you haven't already, I'd encourage you to review the information we've shared about this project at [Leduc.ca/Growth](https://Leduc.ca/Growth).

There's still quite a bit of work ahead, and decisions have not yet been made, but completing this work is critical to ensuring Leduc can grow sustainably and strategically for years to come.

And of course, a growing city must also be a safe city.

Fire Hall 3, which is under construction and expected to become operational in early 2027, will improve response times and support our expanding neighbourhoods and industrial areas.

The addition of a Policing Committee to Leduc's complement of boards and committees also gives residents a stronger voice in community safety priorities.

With continued investment in our emergency, enforcement and public safety programs, we will ensure that as we grow, we remain a community where people feel secure and supported.

We also know that strong partnerships with other orders of government are essential.

Our success with the 65th Avenue Interchange has shown what we can accomplish when local, regional, and provincial partners come together with a shared vision.

That same spirit of collaboration now guides us toward another transformative opportunity—the realignment of Highway 2A.

This is more than a road project.

It is about future growth, safer travel for families and workers, and supporting the economic heartbeat of our region.

With Council's backing and the hard work of our administration, we will continue to advocate for this investment, and others that our city needs.

As we move forward, communication and transparency remain a core value of this Council, and of the City as an organization.

There are many ways to stay connected, including:

- Attending Council meetings in-person or by watching online
- Subscribing to the Leduc Link e-newsletter
- Following the City of Leduc and your Council members on social media
- Reading my newly launched monthly column in The Leduc Rep
- Watching for and participating in public engagement opportunities
- And reaching out directly to any of us on Council.

Your input shapes our decisions.

Your ideas help us build a better city.

And your engagement ensures we remain accountable and responsive.

In closing, I want to thank our residents, our business community, our volunteers, and our partners.

The story of Leduc is one of collaboration and shared purpose.

We are growing faster than predicted.

We have kept up with the demands of that growth through responsible long-term planning.

And we will continue with intentional planning to build a connected community that will thrive for generations.

I look forward to the year ahead, and to connecting with all of you.

Thank you.