

2025 Election Candidate Biography – Blaine Riding

Vision and goals/platform

My goal during my second term, if elected, will be to further lobby the provincial governments for more money for rural, public education. I will do this by talking to the area MLAs and attempt to make them see why rural, public education is important for them and Peace Wapiti Public Schools.

Local community involvement

Since coming to Spirit River in 1988, I have been involved in helping out in many school sports. I was involved in working with cross-country, basketball, and track and field. Any trip that extra-curricular teams went on whether it be for tournaments or provincial trips, I was usually there acting as chaperone. I was grad advisor for many years. I still, to a small degree, help out around the schools in my ward when I am able too.

In 1995, I also joined the Spirit River Legion which has helped out many students in the community with scholarships towards helping with the cost of post-secondary education. We still do our Remembrance Day service on November 11 each year which I help with in organizing. Both activities have allowed me to meet many people in the Spirit River community and across the Central Peace.

Education, career and/or experience

For Grades 1-12, I attended Ridgevalley School near DeBolt, Alberta which is now a Peace Wapiti school. They did not have kindergarten back then. I attended Grande Prairie Regional College for two years in pursuit of a Bachelor of Education degree and then attended the University of Alberta for three years where I obtained my Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education. I moved to Spirit River in 1988 and stayed, taught school and retired from teaching in the spring of 2020. I subbed for a year after retirement and when I heard that the previous trustee was retiring, I decided to put my name in. I have enjoyed the first term as trustee and look forward to a second one if the constituents of Ward 2 decide that I am able to serve them again.

Biography

- I grew up in DeBolt, AB on a small, grain farm.
- My mother was a teacher so getting an education was serious business.
- I attended Ridgevalley School from Grade 1-12.
- I was in 4-H for six years with my steer project.
- I attended GPRC for two years in pursuit of my education degree.
- I attended U of A for three years in pursuit of my education degree.
- I came to Spirit River in 1988 and started teaching high school English and Social Studies.
- I retired in 2020 after completing 31 years of teacher at Spirit River Regional Academy.
- I decided to put my name in for trustee in 2021 and was fortunate enough to represent Ward 2 in the Peace Wapiti School Division.
- In 2025, I am hoping to earn my second term representing Ward 2 in the Peace Wapiti Public School Division.

Contact

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