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February 9, 2021

EXPANDING COVID SUPPORTS FOR ALL ALBERTANS

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Prior to this expansion, only Albertans in Edmonton and Calgary were eligible for the \$625 payment when they completed self-isolating in their assigned hotel.

Now, Albertans across the province - including First Nations individuals living both on and off reserve and

people living on Metis Settlements who cannot isolate safely in their own home - are eligible.

Upon referral by Alberta Health Services, Albertans who must isolate or quarantine and cannot do so safely at home are eligible for a free-of-charge hotel room stay of up to 14 days, complete with culturally appropriate food and other supports.

COVID Care Teams will continue to provide on-the-ground supports and interventions to limit the spread of the virus. Supports include care packages with masks, sanitizers and information translated in multiple languages. Safe transportation to COVID-19 assessment and testing facilities is also available.

Continued on Page 2

READING AROUND THE WORLD CHALLENGE PROMOTES LITERACY AND STUDENT LEARNING!

Submitted by GYPSD

Family Literacy Day was January 27, 2021, and we love how students at Wildwood School are tying in this year's theme of Travel the World Together!

Students have taken on the challenge to read around the world by tracking the number of minutes they read at

home and are using each minute read to travel one kilometre around the world. Combining the minutes encourages the students to work together to achieve their goal. The students will earn a magnetic badge as they arrive in designated cities in each of the countries that have been chosen. The students will travel the com-

plete route after they have achieved 52,000 km. This will require every student to read a total of approximately 750 minutes between December and June.

Check out your local school to learn about other great literacy initiatives happening to foster a life-long love of reading in our students.

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Expanding COVID Supports For All Albertans

Continued from Page 1

“Today’s expansion builds on the effective outreach efforts of COVID Care Teams. No matter what they earn, what community they live in or what language they speak, all Albertans should be able to isolate safely to protect themselves, their families and their neighbours from COVID-19. Re-

ducing the spread means we can get Alberta’s economy back on track while we protect both lives and livelihoods.” - Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs

“Expanding the isolation supports to include people on First Nations and Metis Settlements is the right thing to do. Everyone should have the chance to isolate safely while having the financial support to cover expenses while they recover.” - Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations

“Our community needs this kind of support to stop the spread of COVID. Having come from an area that has been particularly hard hit, we are grateful to the province for providing

a means for our residents to access a place to isolate safely. Knowing they will be able to cover their bills when sick will make a world of difference for the Samson Cree Nation and all other Indigenous communities.” - Chief Vernon Saddleback, Samson Cree Nation

Alberta’s government is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by protecting lives and livelihoods with precise measures to bend the curve, sustain small businesses and protect Alberta’s health-care system.

Quick facts


• The COVID Care Team program launched in December 2020 as an integrated way to reach communities with particularly high levels of COVID-19

spread.

• The Government of Alberta also developed an outreach campaign to communicate important public health information directly to Albertans who may have English language barriers through expanded access to translated materials and other supports.

- Messages are being delivered in 10 languages through radio, television and print advertising, as well as through various social media channels and web platforms.

• Since the launch of the COVID Care Teams and outreach campaign on Dec. 15, more than 850 Albertans have accessed hotel accommodations for self-isolation purposes.



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YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

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Gerald Soroka MP
YELLOWHEAD

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JOKE *of the week*

When a woman on the staff of the school where I worked became engaged, a friend and colleague offered her some advice. 'The first ten years are the hardest.' 'How long have you been married?' she asked. 'Ten years', he replied.

MARK SMITH
MLA FOR DRAYTON VALLEY-DEVON



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HELLO FROM THE WILDWOOD AND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Submitted by Carol Riehl

Isn't it amazing how quickly time passes. We are already well into 2021 and still in lockdown. We all have concerns about the whole COVID 19 issue. So Perhaps there will not be an annual fair in August of 2021. If things are opened up by May, the possibility of having a fair is feasible. Not much is happening right... but we had an annual meeting via Zoom. Certainly not very pleasant but workable. Some might think those types of meetings are like a Séance... Hello are you there! Is that you Carol? Lol.

Our president is Wilma Swinkels, Vice President: John Mochniuk, Secretary: Connie Fahrion, Treasurer: Carol Riehl. Our Directors are Barry Fahrion, Donna Powell, Sylvia Martinetz, Gene Campbell, Rose Campbell, Tom Whaling. Advertising is Carol Riehl, Grounds Maintenance: Barry Fahrion, Fair

Coordinator is Wilma Swinkels, Fair Coordinator Assistant: Donna Powell, Fair Coordinator Assistant: Melanie Drake (with Permission)

Thank you to all these people for Volunteering again. It

is with great anticipation that we wait for the "go ahead" with a fair. A Friend told me she has received her seed catalogue already so we know what's up ahead... gardening! Strive for those prize winning

items. All our creative juices have been restored due to the need to stay home so I'm sure some great projects are awaiting entre into the bench show.

Stay Safe and healthy!

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DOING YOUR PART FOR ALZHEIMER AWARENESS

Submitted by Yellowhead County

In honor of Alzheimer's Awareness Month, the Alzheimer Society has launched a 4-part short film series that follows Alicia, one of 1.1 million Canadians who is affected by Alzheimer's and dementia, as well as her daughter and caregiver, Judy, as they

cope with the challenges and heartbreak they face—punctuated by moments of togetherness and laughter.

Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible and progressive brain disorder that slowly weakens memory, thinking, skills, and eventually, the ability to carry out the simplest tasks. Currently, there are 25,000 new cases of Alzheimer's diagnosed in

Canada per year. This number is expected to triple by 2050. As well, care giving costs are expected to balloon to \$12 billion by 2040.

Tragically, this disease affects everyone in one way or another. By working together to spread awareness, we can make a difference for those who are struggling and remind them that help is available. Like

Alicia's daughter says: "I hope by sharing our story, it shows others who are going through similar situations that they are not alone. Sharing and connecting with others is so important. It changes everything."

Helping is as simple as doing your part to educate yourself and raise awareness about the disease. To learn more about Alicia's story, the Alzheimer Society, and to see other ways in which you can help, please visit www.alzheimer.ca or call 780-488-2266 or 1-866-950-5465 (toll free). Kindly pass your knowledge on to your social network so others may learn of where to seek help and get the support they need. This is key to having a successful journey for those living with the disease.

Yellowhead County Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) staff can also help individuals navigate the system and provide resources for Alzheimer's disease and dementia. We've launched Alzheimer and caregiver support groups that connect members of the community with similar experiences (the groups have suspended meetings for the time being due to the pandemic). Don't hesitate to call us at 780-325-3782 or 1-800-814-3935.

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MP GERALD SOROKA ON BILL C-10 'BROADCASTING ACT' AND DEPLOYING SPECTRUM IN RURAL AREAS

Submitted by Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead

OTTAWA: Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, participated this morning in the debate on Bill C-10 "An Act to amend the Broadcasting Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts". MP Soroka believes that C-10 is a regulatory mess that could have unintended consequences. His comments can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/GeraldSorokamp>

Later that morning during Question Period, he questioned the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry (Science) on the results of the 600 MHz auction last year.

MP Soroka stated: "Mad-

am Speaker, when the minister announced the results of the 600 megahertz auction last year, she noted the government's set-aside policy had created more competition for Canadians, but we now know that set-aside bidders have a poor track record of deploying Spectrum in rural communities. There needs to be a "use it or lose it" condition to ensure Spectrum is deployed in rural Canada.

Why will the government not force service providers to deploy Spectrum in rural Canada so we can get high speed Internet?"

Mr. William Amos (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry (Science), Lib.) replied: "Madam Speaker, our government is taking every single mea-

sure in the policy toolbox to ensure that all sorts of investments and all sorts of new infrastructure around telecommunications can be integrated across Canada.

Spectrum auction is just one of these sets of policies. We are working towards a new spectrum auction

later on this year. There have been delays due to COVID-19, but we are well aware that this is a very important mechanism to ensure that Canadians have the very best of telecommunications infrastructure across Canada."

Are you a not for profit organization looking for funding? Check out our Family and Community Support Services grants!

We are currently accepting applications for 2021 FCSS programs or special projects. Our Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) programs provide funding to non-profit organizations that enhance the social well-being of individuals and families.

So if you have child and youth programs, family life enrichment courses, senior's programs, information and referral programs, and other preventive social support programs, this grant may be available to you.

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR NEW BUSINESS RELIEF

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Expansions to the Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant program announced in January are now included on the Government of Alberta's application portal. New businesses that began operating between March and October 2020, as well as unregistered sole proprietors, can now apply for COVID relief funding.

"Even during the pandemic, Alberta saw around 10,000 new businesses open across the province in 2020. These new businesses were started by Albertans who had the entrepreneurial spirit and confidence to bet on Alberta. Entrepreneurs, whether new or experienced, need to know that Alberta's government is here to support them." - Doug Schweitzer, Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation

"We appreciate the govern-

ment expanding access to the SME relaunch grant for sole proprietors and new businesses that started operations in 2020. Access to the grant for new businesses will help, considering they have largely been unable to access the federal support programs. With restrictions continuing and small businesses struggling, support programs will need to be extended and expanded in order to avoid widespread business closures across the province." - Annie Dormuth, Alberta provincial affairs director, Canadian Federation of Independent Business

The Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant offers financial assistance to Alberta businesses, cooperatives and non-profit organizations with fewer than 500 employees that have faced restrictions or closures due to COVID-related public health orders, and have experienced revenue

losses of at least 30 per cent.

Businesses can use the funding as they see fit to offset the costs they are facing as they relaunch their businesses. This includes the costs of items that help prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies, as well as rent, employee wages or replacing inventory. The funds can also be used to help businesses expand their online presence or e-commerce opportunities so that they can continue to serve customers. These grants do not need to be repaid.

The program launched at the end of June 2020, and the government has committed \$500 million to the grants. More details are on the program web page. Application intake will be open until March 31, 2021, unless otherwise communicated.

Alberta's Recovery Plan is

a bold, ambitious long-term strategy to build, diversify, and create tens of thousands of jobs now. By building schools, roads and other core infrastructure we are benefiting our communities. By diversifying our economy and attracting investment with Canada's most competitive tax environment, we are putting Alberta on a path for a generation of growth.

Quick facts

- As of Feb. 1, Alberta's government has provided more than \$327 million to more than 47,000 businesses.
- Small and medium enterprises are an important part of Alberta's economy, accounting for more than 99 per cent of all businesses and almost 55 per cent of all employment.
- Additional supports for businesses are available through the federal government.



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Bridal Guide

February 2021

Your Guide to Planning Your Big Day

Filled with helpful planning advice, savvy how-to tips and the latest wedding trends, as well as a host of local wedding vendors here to help you plan the perfect day!

Bridal Guide



HOW TO FIND YOUR WEDDING FLORIST

Weddings join the lives of two loving individuals so they can share their future with one another. Various elements help make weddings both momentous and magical.

Some weddings adhere to themes that are designed to make an impression and showcase couples' personalities. Floral arrangements are key components of wedding themes, as they help to establish ambiance at both the ceremony and reception.

Flowers can easily help couples achieve a desired vibe, whether that's rustic, romantic, modern, or even whimsical. Skilled florists may use a variety of flowers and foliage, as well as dramatic displays to help create the couple's wedding day vision. According to an internal study from the wedding advice and planning resource The Knot, which surveyed more

than 27,000 couples who got married in 2019, the average cost of wedding flowers was \$2,000 in 2019. However, the cost of floral arrangements can vary depending on the scope of the arrangements and choice of flowers, including whether they're in season or not.

It is essential for couples to spend time vetting potential florists to find one who will produce their desired vision at a price that fits their budget. These guidelines can make the process go more smoothly.

- Establish your theme early on. Floral arrangements will complement and enhance other elements of the wedding, including color scheme and the wedding theme. If your wedding theme ties into a specific season, you will work with the florist to find blooms and other pieces that coordinate. For example, winter weddings with white, ice

blue and silver color schemes may coordinate with white ranunculus flowers, dahlias, dusty miller foliage, and viburnum berries.

- Bring swatches and photographs to consultations. It is easier to explain color palettes to a florist with examples in hand. Show the florist the types of arrangements you prefer and have actual fabric swatches from bridesmaid gowns or groomsmen vests so that colors can be complemented.

- Create a list of desired items. Florists may sell items a la carte or have packages of common floral pieces for wedding celebrations. Types of floral arrangements include bridal bouquet, bridesmaids' bouquets, maid of honor bouquet, corsages for mothers/grandmothers, boutonnières for groomsmen and fathers/grandfathers, flower girl headpiece, petals

to sprinkle, table centerpieces, altar arrangements, pew or chair decorations, and cake decorations.

- Go easy on aroma. Tread lightly when selecting blooms that have strong aromas. They may be beautiful, but many people are sensitive to smells. Allergies also may be exacerbated by flowers with strong aromas. Discuss options with the florist before proceeding.

- Explain your budget. Research the average cost of floral arrangements and let the florist know what you can afford. This can help the florist narrow down options or make substitutions that fit your theme and your budget.

Couples can take certain steps as they choose floral arrangements for their weddings. Cost should not be the only factor in the decision, even though it is an important one.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Bridal Guide



HOW TO HOST A SOCIALLY DISTANT WEDDING

It's likely that few people heard of "social distancing" prior to 2020. That changed as the novel coronavirus COVID-19 spread rapidly across the globe and the world found itself in the midst of a deadly pandemic.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines social distancing as keeping a safe distance of at least six feet between yourself and other people who are not from your household. Public health officials continue to champion social distancing while acknowledging the fatigue that many people have experienced as the pandemic stretched on for months. Though much of the world hit the proverbial pause button, life went on during the pandemic. Perhaps nowhere was that more evident than at the altar, where

many couples still tied the knot, albeit in scaled back ceremonies that adhered to social distancing guidelines in their communities.

Engaged couples who have yet to tie the knot no doubt recognize that planning a socially distant wedding will not be the same as organizing more traditional ceremonies and receptions. While planning a socially distant wedding presents some unique challenges, couples can take certain steps to ensure their big day is memorable and safe.

- Spread the socially distant word. Let guests know what they're in for should they decide to take part in the festivities. Many people have strictly followed social distancing guidelines, while others have been reluctant to do so. Couples intent on keeping themselves and

their guests safe from COVID-19 should emphasize that their weddings will be socially distant affairs so there's no confusion come the big day.

- Stream the wedding online. Stream the wedding online for those guests who won't be in attendance. By the end of 2020, millions of people had already "attended" weddings via platforms like Zoom, so loved ones may be experienced virtual guests by the time couples walk down the aisle in 2021. Couples who may need some help planning virtual affairs can visit the virtual wedding coordinators at Wedfuly.com, who recently partnered with Zoom to help couples bring their ceremonies online.

- Pare down the in-person guest list. Couples who planned large

weddings prior to the pandemic can still invite all of their loved ones to witness the festivities online, but pare down the in-person guest list to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Limit in-person guests to immediate family and those people who are part of your social distancing bubble.

- Plan a party for down the road. Couples can still celebrate their nuptials with family and friends down the road. Plan a post-pandemic reception and let guests know you will fill them in on the details once social distancing restrictions have been lifted.

Socially distant weddings may require couples to take some unusual steps as they try to tie the knot while keeping themselves and their loved ones safe.

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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:

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

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

Church Directory

Seba Beach Christian Fellowship

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

Weekdays Bible Study & Prayer

(780) 305-3594

Advent Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship & Sunday School 11:00a.m.

Evansburg
O: 747-3594

Roman Catholic Church

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

(780) 786-2032

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Sunday Mass 11:30a.m.
Tuesday Mass 7:00p.m.
Wabamun, AB

St. Augustine's - Parkland Anglican Church

131 Church Rd. Spruce Grove
Sunday Service 10:00a.m.
Eucharist with Sunday School & Nursery
All are Welcome

Office 780-962-5131
www.staugustinesparkland.org

Parkland Baptist Church

Sunday Worship Service 10:30a.m.
All Welcome

121 Brookwood Drive
(780) 962-4101
www.parklandbaptist.ca

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Service starts at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday morning, come all & be bless.

St. Anthony's Ukrainian Orthodox Church

6103 172 St. NW, Edmonton
Saturday:
Vespers 5:00PM
Sunday: Divine Liturgy 10:00AM
780.487.2167
santhony@telusplanet.net
www.st-anthonys.ca

Stony Plain United Church

Sunday Service 10:30a.m.
3012-51 Ave. Stony Plain

Mewassin United Church
Sunday Service 9:00a.m.
Rev. Heather Koots
Hwy 627 - Rg Rd 30
Ph: 780-963-4745

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal

Sunday Worship Service 9:30a.m.
Sunday School

780-963-4048

Emmaus Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship Service 11:30a.m.

Rev. Robert Marshall
4604-59th Ave, Drayton Valley
Ph: 780-542-5101
emmauslutheranchurch.wordpress.com

Church of God

Worship Service Sun. 11:00a.m.
Please contact for activities
5004-49 Street, Drayton Valley
Ph: 780-542-5091

Calvary Baptist Church

Pastoral Team: Kenton Penner

Sunday Worship 10:30a.m.
Youth & Ministries Info - calvbapt@telus.net
4403-50th Ave. Drayton Valley
780-542-4774
www.calvarybaptist.ca

Drayton Valley Alliance Church

Pastor John Haazen
Join us for Sunday Service at 10:30a.m. 5014-56 Ave. (next to Value Drug Mart) Programs for all ages
Ph: 542-6501 dvalliance.ca

All Saints' Anglican Church

Sunday Morning Worship 9 BCP 10:30 BAS with Sunday School & Nursery
5212-47 Ave. Drayton Valley
(780) 542-5048

St. Anthony Catholic Church

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:
Saturday 5:00p.m.
Sunday 12:00p.m.
4708-50 Ave. Drayton Valley
Parish Office: 542-5254

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