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April 20, 2021

HIGHER LEVEL OF SENIORS CARE COMING TO DRAYTON VALLEY, PONOKA

Supportive living changes reflect growing needs in both communities

Submitted by Alberta Health Services

RED DEER - A total of 36 supportive living beds in Drayton Valley and Ponoka will offer a higher level of care starting next month to better meet the needs of residents in those communities.

Currently, these beds at Seasons Retirement Communities provide care for

individuals who are medically and physically stable, able to move independently or with the assistance of one other person, and may be experiencing increased healthcare needs that cannot be scheduled. This level of care is known as SL3.

As of May 1, these SL3 beds will be converted to SL4, a level of care previously unavailable in the two communities. SL4 care is

for individuals with more complex medical needs, including chronic disease management and assistance with daily activities, such as meal assistance (including tube feeds), mechanical lift or two-person transfers, medication assistance or administration.

Continued on Page 2

FIRE RESTRICTION ISSUED FOR LEDUC COUNTY

Submitted by Leduc County

Leduc County is now under a fire restriction as a result of dry conditions and to minimize our firefighters' risk of exposure to COVID-19.

No open fires or fires in burn barrels are allowed and all open fires current-

ly burning must be extinguished immediately.

All fire permits are suspended as per the Forest and Prairie Protection Act, and no fire permits will be issued for the duration of the restriction.

Citizens can use firepits and gas-fired (such as propane or natural gas) cooking and heating appli-

ances such as barbecues, firepits and patio heaters, but should use extreme caution.

Fire officials will continue to monitor conditions, and will update the public at leduc-county.com and albertafirebans.ca when the restriction is lifted or downgraded, or a ban is issued.

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Higher Level of Seniors Care Coming to Drayton Valley, Ponoka

Continued from Page 1

“The Alberta Government is working to ensure the health-care needs of all Albertans are met, and the introduction of this level of care in Drayton Valley ensures residents who need this higher level of continuing care can get it here in the community,” says Mark Smith, MLA for Drayton Valley-Devon.

The decision to offer this higher level of care was made following a thorough review, and consideration of current and future needs of both communities. All current services and care will continue uninterrupted, and these changes will not impact any current residents.

“This is just one of many ways AHS is working to increase choices and options for seniors,” says Lori Sparrow, AHS Executive Director,

Seniors Health, Central Zone. “This decision brings a level of enhanced continuing care to these communities that will help meet the needs of residents and their families now and into the future.”

Supportive living promotes residents’ independence and aging in place through the provision of services such as 24-hour monitoring, emergency response, security, meals, housekeeping and social-enrichment activities. This decision will affect all 16 SL3 beds at Seasons Retirement Communities in Drayton Valley, and all 20 SL3 beds at the facility in Ponoka.

“Seasons is very pleased to be able to offer this enhanced care option at Seasons Drayton Valley and Seasons Ponoka,” says Nicole Almost, Senior Regional Director, Resident and Guest Services, Seasons Retirement Communities.

“I want to thank AHS for

their continued support and partnership. Our ongoing collaboration greatly benefits our residents, staff and local seniors. The SL4 designation will also allow us to hire more team members, which is good for the local economy and our retirement communities.”

Established in 2009, Seasons is a Canadian company that operates 13 retirement residences in Ontario and nine residences in Alberta, with more under development. Its management team has extensive experience in the senior housing sector and has developed a culture dedicated to providing residents with superior customer service. Seasons wants residents to feel proud to call them home and to know they are surrounded by people who genuinely care. Connect. Care. Change. For more information, please visit www.seasonsretirement.com.

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JOKE of the week

A mother mouse and a baby mouse are walking along when suddenly a cat attacks them. The mother mouse shouts “BARK!” and the cat runs away. “See?” the mother mouse says to her baby. “Now do you see why it’s important to learn a foreign language?”

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LEDUC RCMP ARREST TWO MALES FOR THEFT OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

Submitted by Leduc RCMP

On Wednesday March 31, Leduc RCMP executed a search warrant on a vehicle that was

seized at the business where the two males were arrested on March 27 and recovered four catalytic converters.

Through investigation, three of the catalytic converters

were determined to belong to vehicles from a break and enter to a business in Nisku.

As a result, Leduc RCMP have laid eight additional charges against the two accused males:

- Mischief under \$5000. X3
- Possession of property obtained by crime under \$5000. X2
- Theft under \$5000. X3

RCMP ARREST THREE PEOPLE FOLLOWING A SEARCH WARRANT

Submitted by Drayton Valley RCMP

On March 23, 2021 following a two-month long investigation the Drayton Valley RCMP General Investigation Section arrested three people for a number of drug related offences. Drayton Valley RCMP General Investigation Section along with the assistance of Drayton Valley RCMP and RCMP Police Dog Services executed a search warrant at a residence in Drayton Valley, Alta.

Police seized what is believed to be 128 grams of Cocaine, 147

grams of Methamphetamine, 1400 millilitres of GHB, 38 vape pens filled with an unknown substance, Oxycodone, Fentanyl, stolen ID cards, brass knuckles as well as a loaded .40 calibre handgun.

Joey Lee GALLIE (34) of Drayton Valley, Alta. has been charged with:

- Possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking (X3)
- Possession of a controlled substance
- Unsafe storage of a firearm
- Possession of a prohibited firearm
- Possession of a prohibited

weapon

- Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose (X2)
- Possession of a firearm contrary to prohibition order (X2)
- Fail to comply (X5)

GALLIE was remanded into custody and is scheduled to appear in Drayton Valley Provincial Court on April 1, 2021.

Chantel Marie LAPOINTE (30) of Drayton Valley, Alta. has been charged with:

- Possession of a prohibited weapon
- Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose
- Fail to comply (X2)

LAPOINTE was released

from custody following an Interim Judicial Hearing and is scheduled to appear in Drayton Valley Provincial Court on April 6, 2021.

A 28-Year-old female from Blairmore, Alta. has been charged with:

- Possession of stolen property under \$5000 (X3)

The 28-year-old female was released on an Appearance Notice and is scheduled to appear in Drayton Valley Provincial Court on May 18, 2021 at 10:00.

All three had outstanding arrest warrants from other jurisdictions.

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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM ALBERTA'S TEACHERS

Alberta's teachers do not have confidence in the content and design of the Draft K-6 Curriculum.

Submitted by The Alberta Teachers' Association

The curriculum consultation and development processes used after the suspension of a partnership agreement with the Alberta Teachers' Association have been deeply flawed and have lacked transparency.

The ATA supports key elements of The Guiding Framework for the Design and Development of Kindergarten to Grade 12 Provincial Curriculum published by Alberta Education in December 2020, but this curriculum fails to meet the criteria set out in the government's own framework. We expect

that any programs of study proposed for adoption will meet the criteria previously determined by government.

We support the decision of school boards to not pilot this draft curriculum and, furthermore, we call on all school authorities to refrain from participating in or directing their teachers to participate in the curriculum pilot.

Teachers who believe this curriculum is unsound and potentially damaging to student learning have the professional responsibility and moral right to refuse to participate in voluntary piloting. The government and school boards must respect

the decision of individual teachers to not participate in piloting.

Given the extensive concerns identified by many, the ATA is calling on the Government of Alberta to immediately stop work on the piloting and implementation of the Draft K-6 Curriculum until an independent, full and open review and rewrite can occur.

The independent review must meaningfully involve a broad cross-section of certificated Alberta teachers and faculty members from Alberta faculties of education and must be properly inclusive of francophone, First Nations, Métis and

Inuit perspectives. Before piloting is to resume, rewritten curriculum must be developmentally, structurally and pedagogically sound, and should enjoy the broad support of Albertans.

Alberta's students and teachers require an appropriate, inclusive and workable curriculum. We are committed to supporting the development of such, and the ATA is prepared to work constructively in partnership with the Government of Alberta toward that end.

We just need to be invited.

Pledge your support for a rewrite at curriculum.the-learningteam.ca

A MESSAGE FROM MLA MARK SMITH

Submitted by MLA Mark Smith | Drayton Valley – Devon Constituency

Alberta has produced some of the best curriculum anywhere in the world. The new K-6 draft curriculum has just been released and Albertans are carefully combing through it to see how it is going impact their children's education.

The new K-6 curriculum draft:

- was produced and vetted by a Curriculum Advisory Panel made up of experts.

- 8,500 Albertans provided feedback through public consultations.

- 102 experienced elementary teachers provided feedback as well

- The Association of Alberta Deans of Education and over 30 Faculty of Education deans

and professors.

As is always the case Albertans have spoken up both in praise and criticism of the new curriculum. Many educators believe that the new curriculum's re-emphasis on traditional math logarithms and the de-emphasizing of Discovery Math is going to help Alberta students reverse the trend in declining international math scores.

There are also some who are questioning one or more aspects of the curriculum. Some elementary teachers have reached out to me worried about the amount of material or age appropriateness of the material in Social Studies. As I scanned the K-6 Social Studies curriculum I saw many positives.

- I like the way it is organized with an: Organizing

Idea, Guiding Question and Knowledge, Understanding and Skills objectives.

- It is clearly divided into the traditional components of History, Civics, Geography, Economics and has a new component added in called Financial Literacy.

- I like the chronological progression through the grades from First Nations, Ancient and Medieval Societies, Canadian history, settling of Alberta and the North West, the Great Migration and Canada/USA.

- I see the many touchstones that will help our students understand the world that they live in today from: various faiths, to First Nations, European, French Canadian cultures etc.

Yet there are still challenges ahead for us. Expecting teach-

ers to implement all of the disciplines of learning in one year is going to be a difficult task. I look forward to the feedback from the validating teachers, especially as they address the issue of content and age appropriateness in Social Studies. There is still much work to be done in developing age appropriate resources and assessment pieces. Perhaps some of these concerns can be addressed by engaging and articulating a clear role for the Alberta Regional Professional Development Center moving forward.

Over all I believe the new K-6 draft Program of Studies is a step forward over the previous draft curriculum inherited by the government and will with some more work produce a world class curriculum for our students.



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THANK YOU COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, was pleased to recognize community volunteers in the House of Commons during Members' Statements.

He said:
 "Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize the great work of volunteers in my riding of Yellowhead. I want to give special rec-

ognition to the brand-new food pantry at the Edson United Church who have already been supplying free nutritious hot meals to the community. I recently had the opportunity to visit the church and it was fantastic to see the shelves stocked and volunteers in action. It is working in co-operation with the Edson food bank, so they are not duplicating

services and the community gets the best of both organizations.

Another fantastic initiative I would like to recognize is Edson's new shelter pods for the town's homeless population. Once completed, this project will help some of Edson's homeless find a safe and warm place to stay. These shelter pods are a commendable initia-

tive that should be considered in all corners of the country.

I am proud to represent a riding with such great organizations that have a strong sense of community and support people who are in need. Keep up the great work."

AIR CANADA TO OFFER REFUNDS FOR FLIGHTS AFFECTED BY COVID-19 SINCE FEBRUARY 1, 2020

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellow-

head is pleased to advise constituents that Air Cana-

da customers whose fares were non-refundable and

cancelled due to COVID-19 since February 2020, are able to submit a refund request.

As of April 13, 2021, customers who purchase non-refundable fares whose future flights are cancelled or rescheduled by more than three hours will have the option of a refund.

The airline will not recall commissions for refunded tickets that travel agency partners process.

Customers can request a refund through their travel agent or online at: www.aircanada.com/refund until June 12, 2021.

More details can be found at: Refund (Eng) (003).pdf

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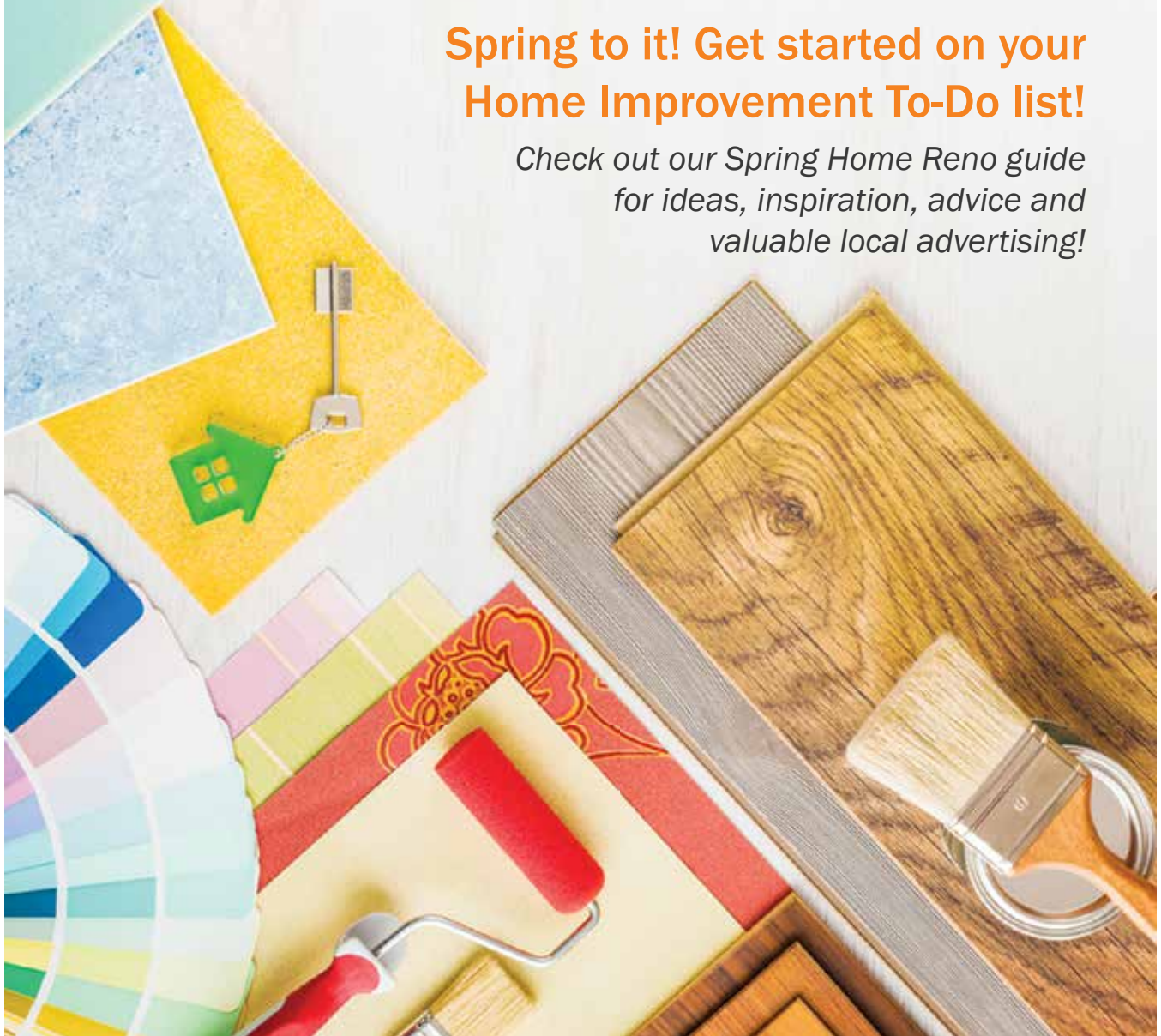


Spring HOME RENO GUIDE

APRIL 2021

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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE

SHOULD I DIY?: 3 QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE IF IT'S BEST TO RENOVATE ON YOUR OWN

A do-it-yourself mentality has taken hold in millions of households across the globe. Popular television channels like HGTV and DIY Network as well as accessible home improvement content on apps like YouTube has inspired many homeowners to tackle renovation projects around their homes. Taking such initiative is admirable, though it also can prove costly if homeowners end up biting off more than they can chew.

Home improvement videos and television shows have a tendency to oversimplify renovation projects, potentially giving homeowners a false sense of confidence in their DIY abilities. A concerted effort on the part of homeowners to determine if it's best to renovate on their own or hire a professional should always be the first step of any renovation project. No two homeown-

ers are the same, but the following three questions can help homeowners determine if DIY is their best option.

1. Can I afford to DIY?

Professional home improvement projects are costly for a variety of reasons. Materials can be costly, but so are the tools and labor necessary to do the job right. Homeowners may not have the tools necessary to complete complicated projects. Specialty tools can be expensive to purchase or even rent, and the cost of acquiring such tools should be included in any DIY project cost estimates. Labor also factors heavily into professional projects, and for good reason. Talented contractors have unique skills that have been developed and perfected over many years. Those skills can ensure projects are completed quickly and correctly. Labor may

seem costly, but such costs may ultimately prove to be a bargain compared to the cost of fixing DIY mistakes. Projects that are minor in scope and don't require the use of potentially costly specialty tools may be better suited for weekend warriors than more complicated renovations.

2. Do I have the time?

Homeowners must determine how much time they have to complete a project before deciding to do it themselves. No one wants to spend months staring at an unfinished renovation project. Homeowners who are already pressed for time may not be able to complete projects in a timely fashion, which can make homes less comfortable and even less safe.

3. Can I pull this off?

DIY projects can instill homeowners with a sense of pride in their homes, but it's imperative

that homeowners considering the DIY option conduct an honest assessment of their skills. A lack of renovation experience does not necessarily mean a homeowner cannot successfully complete a DIY project. But in such instances, it may be best to start with small, straightforward projects and then gradually move up to bigger, more complicated projects as skills are fine tuned. And homeowners who have never been at their best with a hammer in hand should not be ashamed to leave the work to the professionals.

Television shows and online tutorials can make renovations appear easier than they actually are. Homeowners considering DIY renovations can ask themselves a handful of questions to determine if they're ready for the challenge of renovating their homes on their own.



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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE

VARIABLES TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A MEDIA ROOM

The term "home theater" once made homeowners who love movies and sports dream of the day when they could dedicate a large area in their home to watching the big game or their favorite films. Such rooms are now widely referred to as "media rooms." Though the terminology may have changed, media rooms are not all that different from home theaters.

Before choosing an area of their home as their designated media room, homeowners must consider a host of variables to ensure they get as much out of the room as possible.

· **Location and shape:** Of course the location of the room is of the utmost importance. Media rooms tend to be more social settings than traditional home theaters,

which were often designed to be isolated from the rest of the home so noise and natural light did not adversely affect the film-watching experience. Homeowners may not want their media rooms to be in high traffic areas of their homes, but they needn't be completely secluded, either. The renovation experts at the DIY Network note that the shape of a room should be considered before designating it as the media room. In general, square rooms are not ideal, as such rooms can produce harmonic distortions. A rectangular room likely won't produce such distortions, especially when homeowners place their screens and primary speakers on short walls. It's important that homeowners do not downplay the importance of sound, as media rooms, unlike traditional home theaters,

may be used for listening to music just as much as they are for watching films or sports. Viewers may not recognize distortions when watching something, but homeowners may notice these abnormalities when listening to music.

· **Windows:** Media rooms are multi-purpose rooms, so homeowners don't need to remove rooms with windows from consideration. But the experts at the DIY Network note that windows are hard surfaces that can reflect sound and distort audio, and the light that gets in through windows can produce reflections on the viewing surface. Each of those factors can adversely affect your listening and viewing experience. A room with windows can still make for a good media room, but you may want to invest in some blackout curtains

to mitigate some of the disadvantages of having windows in the room.

· **Wall colors:** The colors of the walls in the room is another variable homeowners will have to consider. Homeowners won't want to host guests for the big game in rooms with darkened walls, as that can create a dreary atmosphere and potentially make people tired. But especially bright colors will reflect light and adversely affect the viewing experience. Neutral colors should not affect the colors on the screen, making them the ideal color choice for media room walls.

Media rooms are high on many homeowners' renovation lists. Considering a host of variables prior to designating an area for a media room can ensure the finished product is as enjoyable as possible.



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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE

DECOR IDEAS TO GIVE HOMES A FRESH LOOK THIS SPRING

Spring is a season of rejuvenation, and that spirit of renewal can take hold inside a home.

Warm weather and longer hours of daylight make spring a perfect time to imagine a

home's interior design in a new light. The following are a handful of decor ideas that may inspire homeowners to give their homes an entirely new look this spring.

- **Wallpaper:** Wallpaper fell out of favor years ago, but new styles that aren't so heavily patterned can make for wonderful additions to any room. Large-scale prints can give a room a whole new feel without giving homeowners or their guests the impression that they have stepped back in time. A simple, mural-style floral wallpaper on the walls surrounding a table in a breakfast nook can bring nature inside.

- **Pastel colors:** Nothing embodies the spring quite like pastel colors. If colorful, bright flowers dot the garden in the backyard, homeowners can bring those uplifting pastels inside by painting an accent wall or even adding some brightly colored accent furniture to rooms that could use a lift.


- **Declutter:** Clutter is often conquered during spring cleaning

sessions, but homeowners who want to create more free-flowing interior spaces can downsize their furniture and/or look for multipurpose features that make it hard for clutter to take over a room. Create more open space in entertaining areas by mounting the television and getting rid of a bulky entertainment center. Create even more space by replacing rarely used end tables with a storage ottoman where books and magazines can be stored to give a room a fresh, clean look.

- **Accent features:** Sometimes the smallest changes to an interior space make the biggest impression. Replace dated accents like vases and table lamps with newer items that reflect the latest styles and trends. Such adjustments won't break the bank, and they can give rooms a whole new feel.

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TEACHERS CALL FOR STOP TO CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

Submitted by The Alberta Teachers' Association

The Alberta Teachers' Association is calling for the Government of Alberta to stop all work on the piloting and implementation of the draft curriculum until an independent, open and full review and rewrite can occur.

The Association is publishing full-page ads in daily newspapers across Alberta tomorrow to issue the call for a moratorium and to show support for school boards and teachers that decide not to participate in piloting.

"Alberta's students and teachers require an appropriate and workable curriculum. The government is being told loudly and clearly that this curriculum is unacceptable. We now need the government to announce a stop to their implementation plans and to spell out a new way forward."

—Jason Schilling, ATA president

ATA president Jason Schilling says the Association supports school boards that have decided not to pilot this draft curriculum, and he calls on all school authorities to refrain from directing their teachers to participate in piloting.

"Teachers who believe this curriculum is unsound and potentially damaging to student learning have the professional responsibility and moral right to refuse to participate in voluntary piloting. The government and school boards must respect the decision of individual teachers to not participate in piloting."

—Jason Schilling, ATA president

Although the teaching profession is frustrated by being left out of the curriculum development process, Schilling says teachers are more than willing to assist the government with a rewrite that reflects their extensive expertise and knowledge.

"We are committed to supporting the development of a

high-quality curriculum, and the ATA is prepared to work constructively in partnership with the Government of Alberta toward that end. It is the only workable path forward. We just need to be invited."

—Jason Schilling, ATA president

The call follows the release of preliminary survey results showing that 91 per cent of teachers and school administrators are unhappy with the

draft curriculum, with three in four teachers stating that they are "very unhappy." The survey also showed that 90 per cent of elementary school teachers feel uncomfortable about teaching the new K-6 curriculum, and 95 per cent of principals feel uncomfortable about supporting the curriculum in their school and community.

The ATA is directing parents and the public who are con-

cerned about the draft curriculum to pledge support for the moratorium and review by visiting curriculum.thelearningteam.ca.

The Alberta Teachers' Association, as the professional organization of teachers, promotes and advances public education, safeguards standards of professional practice and serves as the advocate for its 46,000 members.

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STOP THE QUARANTINE CHAOS

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, during Question Period, asked the Liberal government the following:

He said:
 "Mr. Speaker, last week constituents of mine working in the pipeline repair and inspection services were detained upon arrival into Canada, de-

spite having provided a travel letter and a government essential service workers' permit to the CBSA agents. Workers who cross the border for essential work have been deemed essential for a reason.

Why is the government causing quarantine chaos, locking them up in their COVID hotels, even when proper credentials

were presented?

Reply: Hon. Marco Mendicino (Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Lib.):

"Mr. Speaker, we have taken the measures that are necessary to protect the health and safety of all Canadians. At the same time, we have introduced exemptions for workers, including essential workers, to

ensure that we can keep our economy going. We will continue to apply those measures with great rigor so that we can both protect the health and safety of Canadians as well as meet the needs of Canadians economically."

The video of the exchange can be found at: <https://fb.watch/4q0bBneWEH/>

NEW CEBA EXTENDED

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, wishes to advise that the deadline for the new Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) applications is being extended from March 31 to June 30, 2021.

This deadline extension applies to any new applications for CEBA loans of \$60,000 or to new applications from businesses that have already received the \$40,000 loan and intend to apply for the additional \$20,000.

The extension will allow more businesses to access the support they need as Canada's economy continues to deal with localized public health restrictions and, for a number of businesses, reduced opening hours or reduced demand

for services. Extending the application deadline to June 2021 also aligns CEBA with the timelines of other federal government support programs for business.

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CLASSIFIED RATES INCLUDE GST. 1st 20 Words: First Insertion = \$6.00; Subsequent insertion = \$3.00 each. (Eg: 2 insertions = \$9.00; 3 insertions = \$12.00; 4 insertions = \$15.00; etc) Each additional word is 20 cents per word, per insertion. BOLD/CAPITAL text available for an additional \$1/line. Lost & Found and To Give Away (up to a max. of 25 words) are free of charge. Ads must be paid in advance either by cheque, cash, Visa or Mastercard. No Refunds Allowed on Classified Ads. DEADLINE: is Thurs. 4:00 pm (Wed. 4:00 pm on long weekends). Classified ads may be called in to the COMMUNITY VOICE office at (780) 962-9228, emailed to: classifieds@com-voice.com, dropped off at Onway Registries, or mailed with your ad and payment to: COMMUNITY VOICE, BAG 3595, SPRUCE GROVE, AB T7X 3A8. Ads may also be placed on the web at www.com-voice.com/classified.htm

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