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August 6, 2025

COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND CELEBRATION ON ALBERTA DAY

Submitted by Government of Alberta

On Aug. 31, Albertans are invited to celebrate 120 years of culture, innovation and community spirit as Alberta marks a major milestone.

Alberta was established as a province on Sept. 1, 1905, through the Alberta Act. It is a province built on hard work, am-

bition and an unshakable belief in possibility. Today, we recognize Sept. 1 as Alberta Day, a chance to celebrate the people of this great province, to reflect on where we came from and show pride in all we have achieved. It is also a time to honour the Indigenous Peoples who cared for the land for generations and recognize their enduring

contributions to Alberta's identity.

This year, Alberta's government is making Alberta Day a full-day celebration of everything that makes our province so special. From our entrepreneurial spirit to our deep-rooted values of grit, determination and opportunity that continue to shape

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MASKWACIS RCMP CONTINUE TO COMBAT GUN CRIME

Submitted by Maskwacis RCMP

Maskwacis RCMP continue our efforts combating gun crime in the community. During 2024, Maskwacis RCMP seized 84 illegal firearms, an increase of 62% over the previous year. Maskwacis has one of the highest crime severity indexes in the province and firearm violence represents a large portion of these statistics.

During the first two weeks of June 2025, the Maskwacis RCMP has seized several illegal firearms from various calls for service. Examples of these seizures include.

• On June 11, 2025, an officer making patrols ob-

served an intoxicated male carrying sawed off shot gun. The officer quickly arrested the suspect. A male resident of Maskwacis has charges pending for 4 weapons offenses. The suspect was released from custody with his next court date set for Aug. 14, 2025, at the Alberta Court of Justice in Wetaskiwin.

• On June 11, 2025, an officer making patrols conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle with a suspended driver. During an interaction with the occupants, the investigator observed a loaded shot gun in the vehicle. After a short foot pursuit, the accused was arrested. Anthony Kelsey Omeasoo (32) a resident of Maskwacis has been

charged with 4 weapons offenses, resident arrest and 3 counts of possession of a firearms contrary to a prohibition order. Omeasoo was taken before a Justice of the Peace and released with his next court date set for June 26, 2025, at the Alberta Court of Justice in Maskwacis.

Through community and leadership support, the Maskwacis RCMP have had success in obtaining information on illegal firearms. To maintain community safety and security it is important that these relationships are sustained and prohibited firearms are reported to the RCMP.

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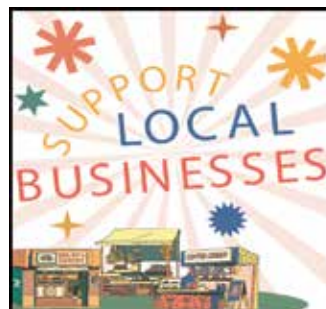
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Community, Culture And Celebration On Alberta Day

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our future. The main festivities kick off on Aug. 31 at 11 a.m., coming to life at the legislature grounds in Edmonton and Heritage Park in Calgary. Albertans are invited to gather, connect and celebrate 120 years of history and growth while enjoying free cultural dance and music performances, kids' crafts, local vendors, food trucks and so much more.

"This Alberta Day marks 120 years since Alberta became a province! It will be an unforgettable day celebrating this major milestone, and the people and traditions that have shaped

this amazing province and Alberta's rich history within Canada."

Tanya Fir, Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women

In the evening, Alberta's local music talent takes to the stage with 12-time Country Music Alberta Awards-winning band The Prairie States headlining the Edmonton show, and CCMA-nominated singer-songwriter Jake Mathews headlining in Calgary.

"The Prairie States are incredibly proud to call Alberta home. We cannot wait to stand on stage and celebrate this beautiful place we all call home. We will see ev-

eryone on Aug. 31 at the Legislature Building."

The Prairie States, Edmonton Headliner

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to share my songs during Alberta Day and celebrate everything that makes this province so special."

Jake Mathews, Calgary Headliner

This fun-filled day will wrap up around 9 p.m. in both cities with colourful aerial drone shows that light up the night sky and tell the amazing story of Alberta.

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JOKE of the week

A warthog hits this lady and the husband calls 911.

The operator asks, "Where are you at?"
The husband replies, "I'm on Euclipstic Road."
The operator asks, "Can you spell that for me?"
"Well... I'll just drag her over to Oak Road, so you can pick her up there?"

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ALBERTA'S TOURISM SOARS PAST NATIONAL AVERAGE

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Alberta's tourism strategy delivered 12 per cent growth in 2024, outpacing other provinces at four times the national average.

In 2024, Alberta's government launched Higher Ground: A Tourism Sector Strategy. The strategy will unleash Alberta's visitor economy potential by charting the path towards a bold and ambitious goal of growing Alberta's visitor economy from \$10 billion a year to \$25 billion annually by 2035 while creating jobs and economic opportunity for all regions of the province.

This push by the province to prioritize the visitor

economy is already seeing results, with tourism continuing to be Alberta's number one service export sector, bringing jobs, dollars and prosperity into the province's economy. Last year alone, the tourism industry supported more than 85,000 jobs in Alberta.

"There's no better time than now to experience Alberta. I'm proud of the work our government has done to showcase our province as a must-see world-class tourism destination. Visitors spent a record-breaking \$14.4 billion in our province and I think these latest numbers prove that the world wants more Alberta."

Andrew Boitchenko,

Minister of Tourism and Sport

According to the latest Statistics Canada data released on May 30, visitors in Alberta surpassed the province's previous record of \$12.8 billion in 2023 by 12 per cent. The growth is driven by significant international and steady domestic travel by Canadians even in the face of economic uncertainties.

"Alberta's visitor economy is thriving, thanks to the bold investments in developing and promoting world-class destinations, hard work and commitment from partners across the province, and an unwavering belief in the power of the visitor economy to drive

long-term prosperity. We look forward to continuing this great momentum, with tourism growth that's outpacing other provinces across the country."

Tannis Gaffney, chief marketing officer, Travel Alberta

These indicators clearly show that the work of Travel Alberta and the province's continued investment in Alberta's visitor economy is paying off – strengthening the economy and creating more jobs for Albertans. By prioritizing the visitor economy, Alberta's government is continuing to fulfill its commitment to making the province the best place to live, work, visit and play.

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NEW STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Alberta's government has introduced new standards to ensure school library materials are age-appropriate.

School libraries should be safe and supportive places where students can learn and explore without being exposed to inappropriate sexual content. However, in the absence of a consistent standard for selecting age-appropriate library materials, school boards have taken different approaches, leading to concerns about safeguards in place.

In response to these concerns, and informed by feedback from education partners and the public, Alberta's government has created standards to provide school boards with clear direction on the selection, availability and access to school library materials, such as books.

"Our actions to ensure that materials in school libraries don't expose children to sexual content were never about banning

books. These new standards are to ensure that school boards have clear guidance to ensure age-appropriate access to school library materials, while reflecting the values and priorities of Albertans."

Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister of Education and Childcare

The new standards set clear expectations for school library materials with regard to sexual content and require school boards to implement policies to support these standards.

Standards for school library materials

Under the new standards, school libraries are not permitted to include library materials containing explicit sexual content. Non-explicit sexual content may be accessible to students in Grade 10 and above, provided it is age-appropriate.

"Protecting kids from explicit content is common sense. LGBTQ youth, like all children, deserve to see themselves in stories that are age-appropriate, supportive and affirming – not in material that sexualizes or con-

fuses them."

Blaine Badiuk, education and LGBTQ advocate

School boards must also regularly review their school library collections, publish a full list of available materials and ensure that a staff member supervises students' access to school library materials. School boards will have to remove any materials with explicit sexual content from their school libraries by October 1.

School board policies and procedures

All school boards must have publicly available policies that align with the new standards for selecting and managing library materials by January 1, 2026. School boards can either create new policies or update existing ones to meet these requirements.

These policies must outline how school library materials are selected and reviewed, how staff supervise students' access throughout the school day, and how a student, parent, school board employee or other member of the school community can

request a review or removal of materials in the school library. School boards are also required to clearly communicate these policies to employees, students and parents before January 2026.

"A robust, grade- and age-appropriate library catalogue is vital for student success. We welcome the ministry's initiative to establish consistent standards and appreciate the ongoing consultation to help craft a plan that will serve our families and communities well."

Holly Bilton, trustee, Chinook's Edge School Division

"Red Deer Public Schools welcomes the new provincial standards for school library materials. Our division is committed to maintaining welcoming, respectful learning spaces where students can grow and thrive. Under the new standards for school libraries, we remain dedicated to providing learning resources that reflect our values and support student success."

Nicole Buchanan, chair, Red Deer Public Schools

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ALBERTA LEADS WITH HEALTH CARE AIDE REGULATION

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Alberta will become the first province to regulate health care aides under a health professional regulatory college, ensuring patients get high-quality care from qualified professionals.

Alberta's 40,000 health care aides play a vital role in the health system, providing hands-on support to Albertans who need a high level of care, including seniors and those with chronic or acute illnesses. Starting Feb. 2, 2026, health care aides in Alberta will be regulated under a professional college – just like many other front-line health professionals.

To practise and use the health care aide title, individuals will need to meet approved education requirements, follow standards of practice, commit

to ongoing learning and abide by a professional code of ethics.

"This is a major step forward in strengthening Alberta's health care system. It gives Albertans confidence that the care they receive is safe and that health care aides have the proper training and oversight."

Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta will become the College of Licensed Practical Nurses and Health Care Aides of Alberta and will be responsible for registering health care aides, setting practice and conduct standards, ensuring continued professional development and responding to complaints. This work builds on the college's experience regulating licensed practical nurses in Alberta.

"The College of Licensed

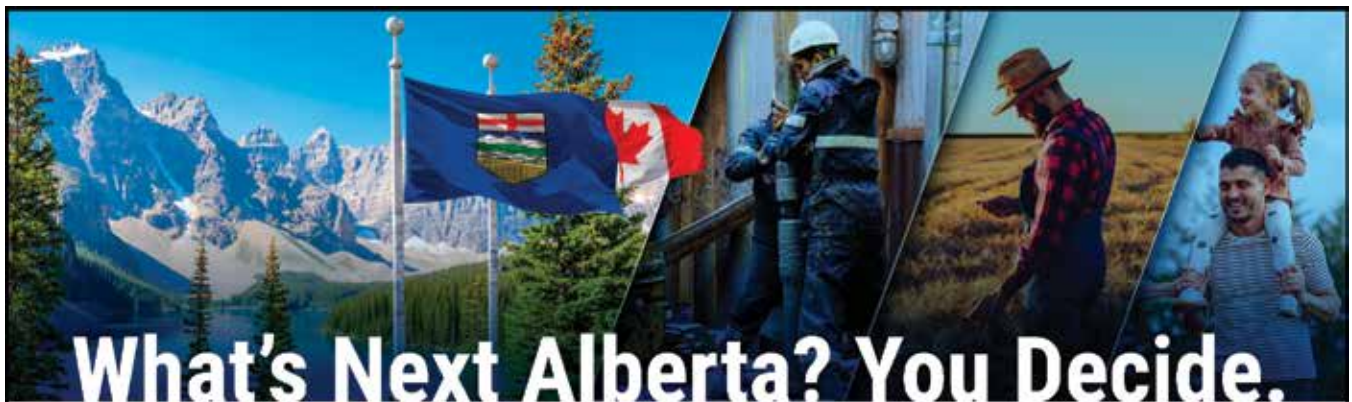
Practical Nurses of Alberta is ready to take on the work of regulating health care aides in a manner that protects the public. We are leveraging our experience as a trusted regulator of licensed practical nurses to prepare health care aides and our partners for this transition. The CLPNA is confident that the interests of Albertans will be served through our oversight of registration, practice, conduct and continuing competence."

Kurtis Kooiker, president, College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta

Health care aides who meet the requirements are eligible for enrolment in the Alberta Health Care Aide Directory. Those enrolled in the directory immediately before regulation comes into force will be transferred to a health care aide register with the college and issued a practice permit.

As of Feb. 2, 2026, individuals who meet the requirements for registration as a health care aide, who intend to provide health care aide services to the public, and who want to use the health care aide title must apply for registration with the College of Licensed Practical Nurses and Health Care Aides of Alberta. Going forward, only registered health care aides will be allowed to use the health care aide title, and all registered health care aides will be required to renew their practice permits annually.

In the weeks ahead, regulatory changes to support implementation will be finalized. The college will also continue working with health care aides, employers, post-secondary institutions and other partners to support a smooth transition.



What's Next Alberta? You Decide.

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Many of the ideas discussed will form questions for a provincial referendum in 2026.

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**ALBERTA
NEXT
PANEL**

MORE PRIMARY CARE ON THE WAY FOR RURAL ALBERTA

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Rural Albertans will soon have better access to doctors and care teams as 74 medical residents begin providing care and dozens of clinics expand their staff.

Alberta's government is committed to ensuring Albertans receive the care they need when and where they need it. To strengthen rural health care, grants under two programs have been awarded. These grants support medical resident physicians training in rural and remote communities and help primary care clinics across rural Alberta grow their teams.

The initiatives include a \$16-million pilot bursary program that supports 74 family medicine residents expected to begin practising in rural Alberta between now and July 2027. At the same time, the Rural Team Recruitment Grant will provide \$6 million over two years to help clinics hire additional health professionals – such as nurses, pharmacists and physiotherapists – expand care teams and improve access.

"This is a great example of how we're delivering real improvements in primary health care. Our bursary program will help bring more family doctors to rural communities, and the team-based care grants mean Albertans will have better access to health professionals who can support their needs. Physicians are choosing to practise in Alberta in record numbers, especially family doctors, and we're working to make sure they increase access for patients in rural Alberta as well as in the cities."

Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services

The Rural Team Recruitment Grant helps clinics and community organizations increase their capacity by hiring non-physician health professionals. These multidisciplinary teams significantly improve access to primary care by ensuring a range of health services are available locally.

In the first round of funding, 29 clinics across the province will receive support. This includes clinics in Consort, Drumheller, Stettler, Crowsnest Pass, Cold Lake, Grande Cache, Peace River,

Delburne, Drayton Valley, Barrhead and Bashaw. Approximately 52 new full-time health professionals are expected to be hired, with a second intake for the grant program opening soon.

"The Rural Team Recruitment Grant is a meaningful step forward for health care in rural Alberta. When clinics can hire more team members, people get access to the care they need faster and closer to home."

Ron Wiebe, parliamentary secretary for rural health (north)

The Rural and Remote Family Medicine Resident Physician Bursary Pilot Program is helping attract and retain doctors in Alberta's rural and remote communities. It provides bursaries of \$125,000 for rural placements and \$200,000 for remote placements to residents who commit to working in eligible communities after completing their training.

Bursaries are available to medical students from any Canadian university who have matched to a family medicine residency program at the University of Alberta or the University of Calgary. Residents can apply at any point

during their training. Applications are being accepted until early 2026 or until all funding is committed.

Resident physicians are more likely to stay and practise in the communities where they complete their residency, making this program a key step toward building sustainable, long-term access to primary care in rural and remote areas.

"This bursary is an investment in Alberta's future. It gives resident physicians the support they need while helping rural and remote communities attract and keep family doctors."

Justin Wright, parliamentary secretary for rural health (south)

"This bursary is a significant step in strengthening retention in rural and remote family medicine practice. Resident physicians are the future of our physician workforce; fair and competitive retention initiatives will ensure all Albertans have access to the high-quality health care they deserve."

Dr. Sia Zare-Zadeh, president, Professional Association of Resident Physicians of Alberta (PARA)

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Online auction will start soft closing on Friday, August 15, 2025 at 12
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Pickup will from Saturday, August 16, 2025 to Monday, August 18, 2025
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A MESSAGE FROM MLA ANDREW BOITCHENKO: ADVOCATING FOR OUR REGION AND ALBERTA'S FUTURE



Submitted by MLA Andrew Boitchenko

As the elected representative for Drayton Valley–Devon and Alberta's Minister of Tourism and Sport, I remain deeply committed to serving our constituency and advancing the priorities that matter most to our communities. It is a privilege to represent such a dynamic and resilient region, and I want to share a few key updates on the work we've been doing both locally and provincially.

Minister Boitchenko's New Role as Minister:

I'm honoured to take on the role of Alberta's Minister of Tourism and Sport. This new responsibility is an exciting opportunity to help grow two vital sectors that fuel our economy, celebrate our culture, and bring Albertans together. From supporting local tourism operators to investing in sport infrastructure and youth programs, I'm committed to making Alberta the best place to live, work, visit and play. Tourism showcases our province's natural beauty and supports small businesses, while sport fosters community, resilience, and well-being. As MLA for Drayton Valley–Devon, I'm especially proud to represent a region rich in outdoor adventure, local events, and community spirit—and I look forward to sharing our story with the world.

Updates in the Drayton Valley–Devon Constituency:

This summer has been very busy with stakeholder meetings, constituent meetings, and many community events, especially with the additional role as a Minister.

On June 25th, we celebrated the Grand Opening of Kickstand Drayton Valley and it was a tremendous success. I couldn't be more proud of the incredible teamwork that brought this vision to life. Thank you to everyone who played a role in developing Kickstand into the vital community hub it is today. I'm especially grateful to my colleague and friend, Minister Rick Wilson, for joining us in celebration and for meeting with stakeholders in the community following the event to discuss support for the people of Drayton Valley. Our government is committed to prioritizing the health and wellness of Alberta's youth, and Kickstand is a key partner in that mission. With the support of the Mental Health Association and the Drayton Valley Primary Care Network, this new centre is already making it easier for young people to access the mental, physical, and social support they need—right here in our community. I look forward to a brighter, healthier future for Drayton Valley and the surrounding area.

Additionally, what an incredible day it was to celebrate Canada Day right here in beautiful Drayton Valley—surrounded by friends, families, and neighbours. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the organizers, volunteers, and community leaders who made the day's festivities such a success. It was a privilege to attend and bring greetings on behalf of the

Alberta Government. As someone who immigrated to Canada as a teenager, this day holds deep meaning for me. From our vibrant local events to the hardworking people who make this community thrive, Drayton Valley truly embodies the Canadian spirit.

Calgary Stampede Highlights:

The Calgary Stampede was a whirlwind of events and meetings. I had the pleasure of serving pancakes at community breakfasts, spending an evening with Equal Voice celebrating women in politics and leadership, and hearing inspiring words from Premier Danielle Smith. I also had the opportunity of meeting with Westjet and discussing their exciting newly added routes and explored what comes next. At the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation event, I met with leaders and entrepreneurs, highlighting the strength of Indigenous partnerships in Alberta's tourism sector. These experiences reaffirmed the importance of community, culture, and collaboration in building Alberta's future.

Local Government Projects and Grants (non-exhaustive):

Yellowhead County
- Pave and rebuild Township Road 542 (between Highway 748 and Range Road 165)

Total Project Cost: \$12,500,000 | **Grant Amount:** \$4,404,921

- Rehabilitate Township Road 542

Total Project Cost: \$12,500,000 | **Grant Amount:** \$2,382,792

Town of Thorsby

- Replace a public works vehicle

Total Project Cost: \$105,000 | **Grant Amount:** \$105,000

- Rehabilitate 53 Avenue (in-

cluding watermain, valves, hydrant, and curb stop connections)

Total Project Cost: \$711,000 | **Grant Amount:** \$494,727

Provincial Updates:

· **Alberta Eyes Exit from Federal Supply Management**

Premier Danielle Smith is exploring an "Alberta version" of the dairy and poultry supply management system to address low national quotas.

· **Vaccine Hesitancy and Measles Resurgence**

MP Michelle Rempel Garner links Alberta's measles outbreak to declining vaccine trust post-COVID-19.

· **New Grant to Combat Gender-Based Violence**

The Community Pathways to Justice grant offers up to \$1.25 million to support survivors of gender-based violence.

· **Ensuring Fairness and Safety in Sport**

Starting September 1, the Fairness and Safety in Sport Act will ensure that women and girls have the opportunity to compete in biological female-only divisions, while also supporting meaningful participation for transgender athletes in the sports of their choice.

· **Boosting Rural Health Care Access**

\$16M bursary and \$6M recruitment grants will support rural clinics and family medicine residents.

· **Alberta, Ontario & Saskatchewan Forge Economic Alliance**

A new agreement will advance pipelines, rail, and trade infrastructure to connect Western Canada to Ontario and global markets.

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Prairie 14' T/A BP Stock Trailer
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MORE CLASSROOM SPACES ON THE WAY

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Alberta's government continues to invest in more school spaces now with the 2025-26 school year on the horizon.

To support schools in managing the growing number of students, Alberta's government is investing \$50 million to add 62 pre-made classrooms this fall. Through previous Budget 2025 commitments, a total \$100 million will deliver 109 new modular classrooms, creating space for 2,725 students and relocating 575 more.

"Alberta's government is moving quickly to build new schools and create more classroom spaces, so our students continue to have room to grow and thrive. This additional funding for modular classrooms will help us get much-needed spaces to some of our busiest schools, while we work as quickly as possible to open the doors to more

than 130 school projects underway in the province."

Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Education and Childcare

"Rocky View Schools welcomes these additional modular classrooms to help ease current enrolment pressures while we await completion of the seven much-needed new schools approved in budgets 2024 and 2025. RVS has experienced years of unprecedented enrolment growth and appreciates the Government of Alberta's recognition of the urgent need for more student spaces in our fast-growing communities. We remain committed to working with the government to ensure new school and modular approvals keep pace with student enrolment growth across RVS."

Fiona Gilbert, board chair, Rocky View Schools

Alberta's government is also providing \$1 million in planning funding to advance four new charter

school projects. The funds are being provided to New Horizons Charter Academy, New Humble Community School, Suzuki Charter School and Thrive Charter School to finalize planning details such as programming needs and the size and type of classrooms needed in each school. When completed, these new charter schools will contribute more than 2,400 new or updated student spaces.

"The Thrive Charter School Society is excited about this opportunity to advance efforts in addressing opportunity gaps for students in Edmonton. This investment paves the way to serve more students and their families with the programming and supports necessary to truly thrive."

Michael Hladun, vice-chair, Thrive Charter School Society

Alberta's government is looking to the future by providing \$610,000 in pre-planning funding for 13 potential future school

projects. Pre-planning funding helps school boards begin planning for school projects they believe will become priorities within the next three to five years. Examples of pre-planning activities include project scoping and community engagement and outreach. Although it is an important first step, pre-planning funding does not guarantee a school project will be built.

These investments in modulars and school planning are all part of the province's Schools Now program, which includes a generational investment of \$8.6 billion to build and update more than 100 schools across the province and create more classroom spaces now. Over seven years, Schools Now will create more than 200,000 student spaces, helping school boards manage class sizes and bringing learning closer to home for more Alberta students and families.

BRINGING FAMILY JUSTICE SERVICES TO MORE ALBERTANS

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Expanding the Family Justice Strategy will help more Albertans settle family disputes outside the courtroom.

Through Budget 2025, Alberta's government is investing an additional \$3.2 million for a total of \$11.2 million for the Family Justice Strategy to give more Albertans a streamlined and consistent process to access family justice services.

The Family Justice Strategy helps families resolve matters outside the courts to reduce the stress on children and parents during an already difficult time.

"We're making it easier for Albertans to resolve family matters by expanding access to pre-court services. This investment means more communities will benefit from simpler, faster supports that put families first."

Mickey Amery, Minister of Justice and Attorney Gen-

eral

This additional funding will support an expansion of the strategy to Grande Prairie, Stony Plain, St. Albert, Sherwood Park, Leduc and Fort Saskatchewan. The Family Justice Strategy directs Albertans to pre-court services that help people either avoid making a court appearance or better understand the process if they do go to court.

This includes:

- Forms of dispute resolution such as medi-

ation, where people meet with a neutral mediator to discuss issues including parenting, child support and spousal support.

- An online Parenting After Separation course for all parents with minor children.

- A meeting with a family court counsellor for anyone representing themselves.

These services are meant to help Albertans resolve their family law issues

Continued on Page 11

Bringing Family Justice Services To More Albertans

Continued from Page 10

in a manner that emphasizes the best interests of the child, lessens the hardship between separating parents and promotes family wellness.

"The continued expansion

of the Alberta Family Justice Strategy throughout the province represents a significant achievement in the collective efforts of justice sector partners. We look forward to continued innovations in our justice system, which will serve to

improve court processes and advance access to justice for Alberta families."

Robert D.L. Bassett, president, Canadian Bar Association - Alberta Branch

After launching in Edmonton and Calgary in December 2023, the Fami-

ly Justice Strategy was implemented in Red Deer on March 17. Since the strategy was launched, more than 69,000 Albertans have accessed pre-court services helping them resolve their family law issues.

ADVOCATING TO UNLEASH OUR NATIONS' ECONOMIC POWER

Submitted by Government of Alberta

MLAs will push for a barrier-free trade relationship between Alberta and U.S. partners while at the National Conference of State Legislators in Boston, MA, from Aug. 2 to 7.

MLAs Angela Pitt (Aird-

rie-East), Glenn Van Dijken (Athabasca-Barhead-Westlock), and Chelsae Petrovic (Livingstone-Macleod) will represent Alberta in discussions with lawmakers and legislators from across the U.S. at the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) 50th annual summit.

MLAs will participate in a series of policy sessions, meetings and networking events to highlight Alberta as a secure and reliable energy and agricultural partner of choice, advocate for cross-border pipelines to bring even more product to our U.S. customers, and protect and

strengthen our trade and investment relationship that promotes mutual economic growth and stability.

"It is vitally important that Alberta is well-represented in discussions that have the potential to significantly affect our province's future -

Continued on Page 12

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Advocating To Unleash Our Nations' Economic Power

Continued from Page 11

especially as Canada strives to reach a new economic deal with the U.S. In my discussions with decision makers, I will stress the benefits of enhancing two-way trade with Alberta that builds bridges to prosperity."

Angela Pitt, MLA for Airdrie-East

"Promoting increased access to U.S. markets for Alberta's farmers, ranchers and agri-processors will be at the top of my agenda when I take my seat on this year's NCSL Agriculture Task Force. Our producers put top-quality food

on American tables, and I will leverage these discussions to reinforce the key role Alberta can play in establishing North American, and global, food security."

Glenn Van Dijken, MLA for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock

"Given the sheer number of influential Amer-

ican legislators attending the NCSL, it's crucial to make sure Alberta is well represented in the room. I look forward to joining my MLA colleagues at this year's annual summit to advance our province's priorities with high-level decision makers who have shown time and again that they are willing to champion calls for repairing and strengthening ties with Alberta in conversations at the state-level and beyond."

Chelsae Petrovic, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod

The NCSL, established in 1975 by state legislators and legislative staff, brings together lawmakers and government leaders from all 50 U.S. states, commonwealths, territories and the District of Columbia. The conference promotes co-operation and information exchanges between state legislatures in the U.S. and in other countries. Alberta formalized its role in the NCSL by becoming an affiliate member of the organization and a member of its International Advisory Council last year.

Mission expenses will be posted on the travel and expense disclosure page.

LIVE ON SITE AUCTION For Estate of Bernie & Rita Krawiec Thursday August 21 at 5pm

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MAKING EVERY DROP OF WATER COUNT

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Alberta's government is exploring opportunities to make more water available by updating the Water Act – and wants to hear from Albertans.

Demand for water is rising and Alberta is looking at ways to make more water available for farmers, ranchers, businesses and growing communities. The Water Act has not been updated in 25 years and with more families, agri-businesses, food processing plants and many others coming to Alberta, it is important that the system makes every drop count.

While most of the Water Act is working well, government recently heard from over a thousand Albertans who suggested improvements that could potentially help make the system stronger. Alberta's government is now seeking public feedback on some of the targeted changes put forward by Albertans to maximize the water supply and make more

water available to those who need it.

"We need to ensure we have the water we need for people, our environment and our major industries for today, tomorrow and for generations to come. Albertans have given us clear feedback on the Water Act, that it can and should be reviewed, and suggested specific updates for further discussion. We know there are many different views and perspectives, and we're grateful for the participation and engagement to help us get this right."

Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

Critical areas are not up for discussion

The foundation of Alberta's water management system is already working successfully. For example, Alberta's priority system will continue to be based on principles of first-in-time, first-in-right – a system that has worked well for more than 100 years. There will be no changes considered that re-

duce anyone's current water allocations, nor add any new royalties, bulk or volumetric pricing for water.

Alberta's Water for Life strategy will keep guiding the province's water system, ensuring healthy, secure and sustainable water supply for communities, economy and aquatic ecosystems. Alberta will also continue to support water allocation transfers in basins with approved water management plans and will continue to require a special act of the legislature for any high-risk inter-basin transfers.

Targeted improvements proposed by Albertans

Having heard from Albertans directly, government is seeking feedback on some of the most commonly raised, or practical, changes that were proposed. The updates could:

- Streamline regulatory decisions on licence amendments and transfers.
- Enhance water use information to support licence and transfer decisions.

- Enable lower risk inter-basin transfers where it is safe and appropriate to do so.


- Enable management of alternative water sources, such as rainwater, stormwater and wastewater reuse.

Albertans can provide feedback on the specific proposals until June 30.

There will also be targeted in-person sessions across the province with Indigenous communities and water using sectors in May. No decisions have been made, and government will review all the feedback before determining what changes, if any, move forward.

This engagement builds off the first phase undertaken in fall 2024 and winter 2025, but there is more work to do. Engagement on other ideas for regulatory, policy and program changes put forward by Albertans to improve water availability may also take place in the future as government works to strengthen the water management system.

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.

ANSWER:
Last Weeks

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

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

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

If you are a LICENSED, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, you are welcome to submit your announcement FREE of charge, space permitting. You are required to submit your non-profit number. Call (780) 962-9228. Please note that all submitted event listings must be limited to 25 words or less (including spaces). DEADLINE: 12 noon Friday prior to publication (Thursdays on long weekends).

FARMERS MARKETS

DRAYTON VALLEY: Farmers' Market, Wednesdays starting May -October4 from 3:00pm-6:00pm at 5015 Industrial Rd. dvagsocietyinfo@gmail.com for information. We have facebook, instagram and a website.

EVANSBURG FARMERS MARKET: Every Saturday 10am - 2pm located right beside Evansburg Tipple Museum 780-505-0905

May-Sept

Leduc Public Market: Every Thursday 10-2 @ City Center Mall. 5201 50 st. Leduc

Devon Handmade Arts & Crafts Sale, monthly sunday market Community Centre 12-4pm. New Vendors Welcome. More info: 780-652-3304 www.artsdevon.org

Mulhurst Bay Farmer's Market. Saturday 11-3 @ Community Hall.

BINGO

CALMAR: Every Wednesday night, 7:00PM at the Calmar Legion.

JAMBOREE

Edmonton Northwest Senior's Center: 12963 - 120st NW, Every Wed From 1-3:30pm Aug & Sept Admin: \$5 non members \$2 members Yearly membership \$30

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

DEVON: Wed. at 9:30AM at Riverside Baptist Church, 2 Saskatchewan Dr., Devon.

Contact Brenda at 987-9113 for info.

EDMONTON: Thurs 8:30-10AM at Annex of Grace United Church (6215-104 Ave). \$7/month

LEDUC: Tuesday Nights at Peace Lutheran Church, 4606 - 48 St. Leduc. Weigh-ins: 5:45-6:30PM, Meeting 7:00-7:30PM. Call Marie at 780-986-6477.

THORSBY: meeting every Monday morning 9:00AM at Thorsby Fire Hall. Call 780-621-3461.

SOCIAL EVENTS

50+ YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON for Parkland County Seniors. 12PM at Stony Plain United Church Basement, \$7 per plate. 3rd Wed of Each Month, Sept - June. For reservations call Audrey 780-963-1782.

CALMAR SENIORS: Meetings - every 2nd Wed of every month. 1:00PM. (587) 988-3636.

DEVON RECREATION: Volleyball, Mondays 8-10PM, \$2, John Maland High School. Badminton, Fridays 7-9PM, Robina Baker School, \$2. Hockey (Arena), Tues & Thurs, noon (children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult).

INDOOR PLAYGROUND: Mondays, 10AM-12PM, Alder Flats Community Centre. Info (780) 388-3333 No fee. Please bring a snack for your child.

JAM DANCE & CARDS: 1st Fri, 7PM, Buck Creek. (780) 514-3781
"KIDS OWN WORSHIP" an hour after-school, 1st and 3rd Thursdays

each month. Songs, Crafts, Snacks and FUN! No charge. Call All Saints' Anglican Church. (780)542-5048

MUSICAL JAM SESSIONS: 4th Tues, 1:00PM at Calmar Seniors Centre. Bring your own instruments and have fun.

MUSICAL PROGRAM: every 4th Saturday at the Cloverleaf Manor, 2:30PM. Everyone welcome.

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MEETINGS

AHS: Addiction Services provides assessment and counseling for alcohol, other drugs, tobacco and gambling in Breton on court day Wednesdays. To make an appointment, please call 780-542-3140.

Do you have a problem with alcohol & are you looking for an AA MEETING or someone to talk to? Call Toll Free 1-877-404-8100.

Drinking a Problem? There is a Solution, call AA 780-491-1043

ALDER FLATS AG SOCIETY: 3rd

Wed, 7PM, Community Centre. Call (780) 388-3318 for more info.

BRETON COUNCIL MEETINGS: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7PM at the Council Chambers, Carolyn Strand Civic Centre. 780-696-3636.

BRETON & DISTRICT AG SOCIETY Regular Meeting 2nd Thurs. at 7:30PM at Hall.

CITIZENS ON PATROL: 2nd Thurs of each mo, 7:30PM in Entwistle Seniors Bldg

DEVON TOASTMASTERS, Thurs. 7PM at St. Georges Anglican Church (2 St. Clair, Devon). Learn and practice the skills required to effectively speak in public - we help conquer your fear.

More info: Marc 780-729-4932

DEVON: Paint night, 4th Wednesday of the month, 7-9 pm. Info at artsdevon.org or phone 780-652-3304.

DRAYTON VALLEY BRANCH OF ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY: meets 7PM at Drayton Valley Municipal Library every 3rd Wed of the month. For more information call (780) 542-2787

LEDUC MS SOCIETY COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP Are you diagnosed with MS and have questions? This group is for you! Meetings TBD. Contact the Edmonton Chapter, 780-471-3034

MS SOCIETY DRAYTON VALLEY COMMUNITY GROUP meets every 1st Tuesday of the month, Sept-June from 6-8PM at Norquest College, dates TBA. Info, Terra Leslie at 1-403-346-



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Loaded, Cloth Interior
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