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August 22, 2023

HELP FOR ALBERTA FARMERS IMPACTED BY WILDFIRE AND DROUGHT

Submitted by MP Gerald Soroka

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead wishes to advise that the

AgriStability program has reopened for late participation so producers affected by wildfires and drought can consider enrolling to manage business risks.

Alberta producers can sign up for AgriStability until September 29. The Government of Alberta and Agriculture and

Continued on Page 2

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CUTTING RED TAPE FOR EMPLOYERS PROTECTING TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS

Submitted by MP Gerald Soroka

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead wishes to advise the launch

of the Recognized Employer Pilot (REP) under the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program. REP is a three-year initiative that will help to address labour

shortages and reduce the administrative burden for repeat employers participating in the program who demonstrate a history

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RCMP CENTRAL ALBERTA DISTRICT GIS CHARGE WOMAN WITH SEXUAL INTERFERENCE

Submitted by RCMP Central Alberta District

On June 23, 2023, Devon RCMP received a report of sexual interference involv-

ing an adult and a youth. The investigation was referred to the Central Alberta District General Investigation Section who

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Help For Alberta Farmers Impacted By Wildfire And Drought

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Agri-Food Canada have re-opened the program recognizing that wildfires and extremely dry conditions have affected many farmers and ranchers since the April 30, 2023, enrolment deadline. This

gives affected producers more time to review and manage the business risks associated with these challenging situations.

In Alberta, producers sign up for AgriStability and access benefits through Agriculture Financial Services Corporation. Factors such as reduced

income, increased expenses or reduced inventory are used to determine a potential benefit.

https://afsc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/2023-AgriStability-Late-Participation_Application-for-Fee-Notice.pdf

Cutting Red Tape for Employers Protecting Temporary Foreign Workers

Continued from Page 1

of complying with program requirements.

Under REP, eligible employers will gain access to Labour Market Impact Assessments (LMIAs) that are valid for up to 36 months, while also benefitting from a simplified LMIA application, should they need

to hire additional workers from the same occupation during the Pilot.

This will help employers better plan for their staffing needs and reduce the number of different LMIAs they need to submit over three years. Recognized employers will also benefit from a Job Bank designation that shows their recognized sta-

tus to prospective workers.

To participate in REP, employers must have a minimum of three positive LMIAs for the same occupation over the past five years from a list of occupations that have been designated as in-shortage based on Canadian Occupational Projection System data.

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JOKE of the week

A couple was dressed and ready to go out for the evening. They turned on a night light, turned the answering machine on the phone line, covered their pet parakeet and put the cat in the backyard. They phoned the local cab company and requested a taxi. The taxi arrived and the couple opened the front door to leave their house. The cat they had put out into the yard scoots back into the house. They don't want the cat shut in the house because "she" always tries to eat the bird. The wife goes out to the taxi while the husband goes inside to get the cat. The cat runs upstairs, the man in hot pursuit. The wife doesn't want the driver to know the house will be empty. She explains to the taxi driver that her husband will be out soon. "He's just going upstairs to say goodbye to my mother." A few minutes later, the husband gets into the cab. "Sorry I took so long," he says, as they drive away. "She was hiding under the bed. Had to poke her with a coat hanger to get her to come out! Then I had to wrap her in a blanket to keep her from scratching me. But it worked. I hauled her downstairs and threw her out into the back yard!" The cabdriver hit a parked car...

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Cutting Red Tape for Employers Protecting Temporary Foreign Workers

Continued from Page 2

These employers will be subject to a more rigorous upfront assessment process based on their history and track record with the program, ensuring that REP targets employers with the

best recruitment practices.

REP will be rolled out in two phases: first, primary agriculture employers will be able to apply starting in September 2023, while all other employers will be eligible to apply in January

2024. Employer applications for REP will close in September 2024.

REP is one measure being launched alongside a series of other initiatives aimed at improving the TFW Program.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/08/backgrounder-temporary-foreign-worker-program-recognized-employer-pilot.html>

RCMP Central Alberta District GIS Charge Woman With Sexual Interference

Continued from Page 1

took carriage of the file. As a result of an investigation, on August 1, 2023, RCMP arrested 30-year-old Spruce Grove resident, Catherine Valiquette. Valiquette has been charged with:

- Sexual Interference
- Sexual Assault

Any information that may identify the victim will not be released.

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ARTICLE FROM MLA BOITCHENKO

Submitted by MLA Boitchenko

When Danielle Smith was first elected premier, she wasted no time getting to work on fixing longstanding issues in Alberta's health care system.

In addition to signing a public health guarantee, Premier Smith signed a \$24 billion, 10-year health care funding agreement with the federal government, ensuring no Albertan will ever have to pay out of pocket to see their doctor. She also invested an additional \$1 billion into Alberta's health care budget, to build a stronger and more resilient system for the future. Most importantly, however, Premier Smith replaced the AHS board with Dr. John Cowell, who she tasked with overseeing major reforms to improve EMS response times, decrease emergency wait

room times, reduce surgery wait times, and restore local decision making – a move that is already showing positive results.

This past week, Premier Smith showed more leadership on health care, when she and Health Minister Adriana LaGrange announced that thousands of new community lab appointments are being made available for Albertans, to help reduce the wait times associated with accessing critical lab services.

There is no question that patients across Alberta are waiting too long to access routine lab services, which are a critical part of a patient's health care journey from diagnosis to treatment. To ensure Alberta patients can get medical testing, when and where they need it, our United Conservative government has worked with AHS and DynaLife to immediately allow Alberta

Precision Laboratories (APL) to offer more community lab appointments.

This decision will add 2,000 new lab testing appointments per week in Calgary alone, where wait times are especially bad, and thousands more across the province. APL is also hiring more staff to expand its capacity and provide more service to Albertans.

I look forward to watching our health care system continue to improve under the leadership of Premier Smith and Minister LaGrange. Recently, Minister LaGrange reiterated her commitment to restoring local decision making in the health care system, saying, "Albertans need faster, better care, and that simply is not possible if hospitals – whether in rural Alberta or downtown Calgary – are fighting layers of bureaucracy in order to make simple decisions ... central to

fostering this environment is increasing the capacity for local decision-making. By empowering frontline health-care professionals, we open the door to valuable insights and expertise that can drive meaningful common-sense improvements at the local level."

Unlike the NDP – who just threw more and more money at Alberta's health care issues, and who watched as wait times increased and issues worsened – Premier Smith, Minister LaGrange, and our entire United Conservative team are working tirelessly to fix the issues that have hindered our health care system for years.

We won't kick the can down the road on fixing these problems. We understand the importance of fixing Alberta's health care system right now, and we are doing the work.

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

- 1) Observe School Zone Speeds
- 2) Obey the Crossing Guard
- 3) Watch & Yield to Pedestrians
- 4) Observe Bus Safety Rules
- 5) Share the Road! Slow Down
- 6) Plan Your Route & Don't Rush
- 7) Obey School Zone Signage
- 8) Always Stay Alert!

Gerald Soroka, MP
Yellowhead

gerald.soroka@ucp.ab.ca
gerald.soroka@mp.ca • 780-723-6068

Welcome BACK-TO-SCHOOL

SCHOOL BUS

School is in! Let's practice school bus safety. Wishing all of our local students a safe, happy & successful school year!

Andrew Boitchenko
MLA FOR DRAYTON VALLEY-DEVON

DRAYTONVALLEY.DEVON@ASSEMBLY.AB.CA TOLL FREE: 1-800-542-7307

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY!

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

1. Always listen to the school bus driver 2. Always stand in a group while waiting for the bus. No pushing or shoving. 3. Always stay out of the DANGER ZONE until the bus driver says its ok to get on. You are too close if you can touch the bus. 4. Always remember to wait until the bus stops before standing up and leaving your seat. You move away from the bus and out of the DANGER ZONE right away when you get off the bus.

THIS SAFETY REMINDER IS COURTESY OF THE FOLLOWING LOCAL BUSINESSES:



BACK-TO-SCHOOL

DID YOU KNOW?

- Red means STOP. The penalty for passing a school bus with its alternating flashing red lights activated is \$402 and six demerit points.
- School buses in Alberta transport nearly 250,000 youngsters twice a day.
- Transport Canada reports that school bus travel in Alberta is 16 times safer than commuting in the family vehicle.
- The biggest bus danger to children is when they are getting on and off the bus.
- More than 6,300 school buses are driven by conscientious, dedicated drivers every school day in Alberta.

This safety reminder is brought to you by these caring businesses:

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Safety First!

Children who walk or ride bicycles to school should also obey the rules of the road. Be sure you see the kids off every morning, and consider checking in with the school or calling kids' cell phones to confirm they arrived safely.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Below are tips to help your child start the school year well rested and back on their regular schedule.

1. Start early. Begin the transition to a regular sleep schedule a couple of weeks before school starts.
2. Shift times in small increments.
3. Be prepared for some resistance.
4. Limit the use of electronics before bedtime.
5. Use a different approach for adolescents.
6. Once the routine is established, don't backslide. Once your child or teen is in a good sleep routine, maintain this routine throughout the week.

These Safety Reminders courtesy of the following sponsors

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WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

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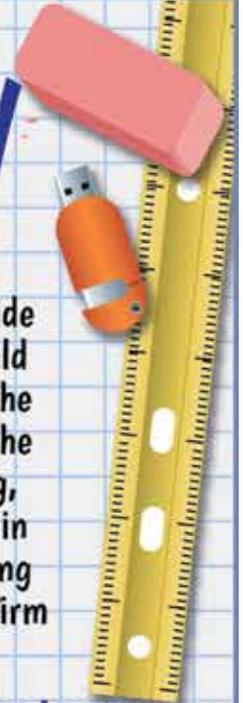
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EARTH-FRIENDLY TIPS FOR AUTUMN

Autumn is upon us, and with the change of seasons comes the fall to-do list that must be completed before the arrival of winter weather. Many outdoor jobs are best completed before temperatures drop, while others can be tackled indoors to help save energy and prepare for increased time spent inside the home.

Outdoor cleanup

Autumn means leaves are falling from trees and littering landscapes. Cleaning up leaves can be a time-consuming task,

but it's necessary to promote the health of lawns and other plants. Grass that is completely matted down with leaves can become starved for light and moisture, and lawns may even rot when forced to spend winter beneath fallen leaves.

One eco-friendly time-saver is to shred leaves with a mower (a manual mower is preferable) and leave them as topdressing for the lawn. As long as the grass blades can be seen within the leaves, the lawn should be fine. Shredded

leaves will decompose and add necessary nutrients and organic matter to the soil naturally.

Leaves also can be used in annual flower and vegetable gardens to improve the soil. Mulch made from shredded leaves can be placed on the soil around trees and shrubs. This helps to reduce weed problems and protects root systems from harsh temperature fluctuations.

Clothing donations

It's time to pack away summer clothing and once again fill closets and

drawers with sweaters and jeans. Before packing away your summer wardrobe, conduct an inventory to determine if there are any items you no longer use. Donate these items or use them as rags when cleaning.

Keep some short-sleeved shirts accessible so you can layer them under sweatshirts and sweaters. The heat from layering will be trapped against your body and keep you cozier, reducing your

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Earth-Friendly Tips For Autumn

Continued from Page 11

reliance on HVAC systems to stay warm.

Home repairs

Check the roof for any missing shingles. In addition, look for spots where animals or insects may be able to gain entry into your home. Seal these areas and repair any leaks. This will make your home more efficient later on when winter hits its stride.

Remove window air conditioners for the winter. If they can't be removed, seal them with caulking

or tape and cover them with an airtight, insulated jacket. If you have forced-air systems, move furniture away from the vents so that air can flow better around the home and keep it comfortable.

Check weatherstripping around windows and doors and make the necessary adjustments. Installing additional insulation also can help reduce energy consumption.

A few tips can help homeowners prepare for autumn in eco-friendly ways.

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fall HOME RENO GUIDE



HOW TO CLEAN AND MAINTAIN STAINLESS STEEL

No matter the style of a homeowner's kitchen, be it modern, traditional or farmhouse, stainless steel appliances can add a pop of shine and a touch of class. Proponents of stainless steel appliances note their easy maintenance, stylish look and durability. Plus, the neutral tone of stainless steel helps it blend in with just about any color palette.

Stainless steel is lauded for its strength and resistance to corrosion and rust. These attributes make it a popular choice in kitchens, where moisture is an issue. Although they are certainly durable choices, stainless steel appliances require maintenance to keep them looking and performing at their best.

Considering that stainless steel also costs more than other finish options, taking the time to learn proper care can help protect homeowners' investments.

- Avoid chlorine bleach or other products containing chloride. Although stainless steel is highly resistant to corrosion, it is not completely impervious. Chlorine products can damage the surface of stainless steel appliances and stain them if the chlorine is left to sit.

- Do not use metal scourers or coarse abrasives on the stainless steel because such products may scratch the steel. Steel wool pads can leave behind a residue of small metal particles that may eventually rust.

- Baking soda mixed with a

little dish soap can be used to remove some tough dirt and stains. Rinse well and towel dry to avoid streaking.

- Clean and wipe the steel in the direction of the "grain." Usually this means working from the top of the appliance and moving down toward the floor.

- Consult with the owner's manual before undertaking any maintenance or cleaning. The appliance may have a special coating over the stainless steel to help protect it, and it's best to know what you're dealing with before getting your hands dirty.

- If you will be trying a cleaning product or scouring method, always test it first in an inconspicuous spot to see if it is

effective or harmful.

- Julien, a leader in commercial kitchen equipment, recommends applying cleansers with a soft cloth or sponge. Then wipe dry with a soft, clean cloth or allow to air dry.

Stainless steel remains a popular material in kitchens for sinks and appliances. With care, stainless steel can look like new for years to come.



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FARMERS MARKETS

DRAYTON VALLEY: Evergreen Farmers' Market, Wednesdays at the Mackenzie Center of the Omniplex from 10:30AM-1:30PM. www.dvevergreenfarmersmarket.ca

BINGO

MULHURST: Every Tuesday night, 7:00PM at the Mulhurst Legion

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

JAMBOREE

DRAYTON VALLEY: Last Sunday of month. Upstairs @ the "55 Rec. Center" Doors at 12PM, Starts at 1PM. 780-542-4378

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.

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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.

BALLROOM, LATIN, COUNTRY DANCE SOCIAL: 1st Saturday of every month. Doors open 8PM at Central Lions Recreation Center, 11113 113 St., Edmonton AB. Cost \$15 paid at the doors. Hosted by Everyone's Ballroom Dance Assoc, More info: www.ebda.ca 780-893-6828

CALMAR SENIORS BUS: to West Edmonton Mall - 1st Wed. 9:30AM; Seniors' Birthday Party - every 3rd Wed. 1:30PM; Meetings - every 2nd Wed of every month. 1:30PM. (780) 985-3117.

DEVON MUSIC JAM & DANCE: 4th Wed. of each month @ 6PM, June - Sept. @ Chalet Lions

Campground. Oct. - May (excl. Dec.) @Pioneers 73 Club (29 St. Lawrence Ave.). Guests \$7, Musicians \$2. More info call 780-987-2093.

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. Pleas 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.

MUSIC JAMBOREE: Last Sunday of each month. Upstairs @ the "55 Rec. Center" Doors open at

12PM, Starts at 1PM. 780-542-3768 **MUSICAL PROGRAM:** every 4th Saturday at the Cloverleaf Manor, 2:30PM. Everyone welcome.

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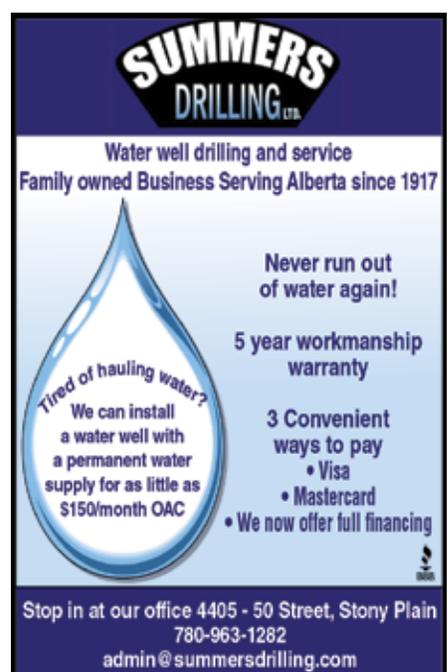


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