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Drayton Valley, Leduc, Sunnybrook, Thorsby and Warburg.

## January 8, 2025

### ENOCH RCMP INVESTIGATE TWO ARSONS AT THE RIVER CREE MEDICAL CENTER CONSTRUCTION SITE

Submitted by Enoch RCMP

Enoch RCMP are investigating two separate arson attempts at the River Cree Medical Center construction site on Winterburn Road in Enoch.

On Dec. 2, 2024, at 9:13 p.m. two suspects entered the construction site car-

rying Jerry cans. Once lighting a fire to a heating system, both suspects fled. The suspect were seen in the area from approximately 7:40 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.. Police believe the suspects crossed Winterburn Road into the West Granville Shopping complex to the east. Fortunately the fire was extinguished quickly

and damages are believed to be in the range of \$10 000.

On Dec. 11, 2024, suspects drove a stolen white Dodge Ram pickup truck into a construction trailer at the River Cree Medical Center construction site and lit it on fire. The suspect fled the scene leaving the

*Continued on Page 2*

### DRAYTON VALLEY RCMP CHARGE MAN WITH ANIMAL CRUELTY

Submitted by Drayton Valley RCMP

On Nov. 15, 2024, Drayton Valley RCMP were dispatched to assist Alberta SPCA Peace Officers who were conducting a check on a property to ensure that the landowner was following conditions of a court issued prohibition order. The property owner was ultimate-

ly arrested for obstruction and assaulting a police officer. A check of the property revealed that he was in possession of more livestock than his court order allowed. Additionally, a dog was located on the property with injuries to its legs.

RCMP charged Brazeau County resident 64-year-old James Allan Kurz with:

- Assault on a Peace officer;

- Obstruction/Resist arrest (x2);
- Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose;
- Cruelty to animals;
- Disobeying a court order.

Kurz was initially taken before a justice of the peace and remanded into custody for his next court appearance. He has since been released and

*Continued on Page 2*

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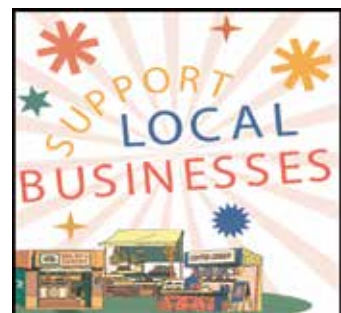
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## Enoch RCMP Investigate Two Arsons At The River Cree Medical Center Construction Site

*Continued from Page 1*

truck at the location appeared to have fled the scene in a white car.

RCMP have obtained photos of the Dec. 2, 2024, fire and the two suspect as well as the suspect vehicle that the suspects fled in on the

Dec. 11, 2024, fire.

Police are asking the public for assistances with both of these investigations.



## Drayton Valley RCMP Charge Man With Animal Cruelty

*Continued from Page 1*

his next court appearance is set for Jan. 7, 2025, at the Alberta Court of Justice in Drayton Valley.

Kurz voluntarily worked with the Alberta SPCA to support many dogs in and around the

property. In total 72 dogs were surrendered to the Alberta SPCA and are being cared for.

"We welcome the opportunity to support the Alberta SPCA with their difficult job in protecting animal welfare in this province," says Cpl. Troy

Savinkoff of the Alberta RCMP, "We are thankful that ultimately the property owner did the right thing in working with the Alberta SPCA in supporting these animals."



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### JOKE of the week

After a Beer Festival in London, all the brewery presidents decided to go out for a beer. Corona's president sits down and says, "Señor, I would like the world's best beer, a Corona." The bartender takes a bottle from the shelf and gives it to him. Then Budweiser's president says, "I'd like the best beer in the world, give me 'The King Of Beers', a Budweiser." The bartender gives him one. Coors' president says, "I'd like the best beer in the world, the only one made with Rocky Mountain spring water, give me a Coors." He gets it. The guy from Guinness sits down and says, "Give me a Coke." The other brewery presidents look over at him and ask, "Why aren't you drinking a Guinness?" and the Guinness president replies, "Well, if you guys aren't drinking beer, neither will I."

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# LARGER FINES FOR ILLEGAL SLAUGHTER, UNINSPECTED MEAT

Submitted by Government of Alberta

In response to the increase of illegal slaughter and sale of uninspected meat, Alberta's government is increasing penalties to protect consumers.

The sale of uninspected meat is illegal in Alberta. Illegal slaughter and food safety non-compliance pose a risk to human and animal health and could harm Alberta's entire livestock and meat processing industry. If passed, the Meat Inspection Amendment Act would increase fines from a maximum of \$10,000 to \$100,000 for each offence.

Alberta's government is proposing to increase these fines to ensure there is a significant deterrent, so offenders are motivated to comply with the Meat Inspection Act. The proposed changes would support food safety for Albertans without increasing consumer costs for inspected meat or operating costs for industry. The changes propose increased fines for those who commit an offence under the Meat Inspection Act and would bring Alberta in line with other jurisdictions.

"We are taking action to maintain public confidence in our food system. I strongly encourage all Albertans to buy their meat from licensed operators and retailers, and while buying meat, ask your retailer where the meat comes from and if it's inspected."

RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

In addition to increasing fines, amendments would extend the amount of time to investigate and lay charges for the illegal

slaughter and sale of uninspected meat. Currently, the act allows inspectors one year after the offence to investigate allegations of illegal slaughter or sale of uninspected meat. If passed, the investigation timeframe for a complex case would be extended to two years from the date the offence came to the attention of an inspector.

"Food safety is something that most Albertans take for granted because Alberta has some of the best people in our province and country

looking out for our health. Both the federal and provincial regulatory bodies truly have the best interests of all Albertans in mind when they go out each day to do their jobs. That is the reason why changes are needed and made, to improve overall food safety and strengthen our provincial acts and regulations, to protect the health and safety of all Albertans."

Mike Bouma, general manager, Family Meats

"As a meat safety and quality researcher, I applaud

the Alberta government for their proposed amendments to the Meat Inspection Act. The substantial increase in penalties for contravention of the Meat Inspection Act will help to ensure that the meat that is available to consumers is safe for consumption."

Lynn McMullen, professor emerita, University of Alberta

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# PROGRESS UPDATE: ENHANCED SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE POPULATION

Submitted by City of Leduc

Three months after announcing enhanced support services for vulnerable community members in Leduc, the City of Leduc is providing a progress update on the initiatives approved in September.

These add to the diverse

programs and services already provided in the community. They are aimed at mitigating risks for the unhoused and supporting pathways out of homelessness and are making steady progress.

Complete

•Hire a second Community Safety Officer, full-time,

three-year contract

•Make the current Community Safety Officer position permanent

•Submit proposal to Government of Alberta to minimize total financial impact to City of Leduc (Government of Alberta to indicate next steps)

In Progress

•Hire a second Life Safety Navigation Coordinator: recruitment underway; anticipate start date in early 2025.

•Launch a pilot program to reduce start-up costs to housing (e.g. damage deposit, renters' insurance, etc.) and to maintain housing (e.g. eviction prevention) for those who cannot access traditional financial aid programs: contract negotiations with third-party provider are in progress; on-track to begin operating in January 2025

• Enhance data collection to support successful future planning regarding the unhoused: collaborating with data company to prepare for implementation in January 2025

• Review and formalize activation procedures for extreme weather plan: in final stages; anticipate final procedures to be in place by end of 2024



*So Much Joy!*

Hope your holiday season is a glow with everything that inspires you.

It's spending time with wonderful people like you that keeps us inspired. We look forward to sharing more happy milestones, moments and memories with this community in 2025 and for years to come!

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# CUTTING WAIT TIMES FOR WATER PERMITS

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Alberta has reduced wait times for Water Act licences by 57 per cent to help businesses, landowners and communities manage water and grow the economy.

Water is a precious resource and must be managed to meet the province's many growing needs. In recent years, many Albertans have expressed frustration about unnecessarily long delays in getting regulatory approvals and decisions under the Water Act. These wait times delay projects, reduce economic development and limit water users' ability to adapt to changing conditions on the ground.

Alberta's government has worked to cut the red tape, bureaucratic delays and outdated processes that slow down good work. As a result

of that work, timelines for Water Act licences approvals have now declined by 57 per cent over the past four years, including a 25 per cent improvement since June 2023, and this government is just getting started.

"As environment minister, I've made improving our regulatory process a priority. We can protect the environment and make timely decisions at the same time. We are seeing real improvements that help communities grow and businesses succeed, but this is just the start. We are going to keep finding ways to increase transparency, and speed up and improve all of our regulatory processes."

Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

Reducing wait times by weeks and months

Since 2021, the average

wait time for licences under the Water Act has fallen by 57 per cent. On average, approvals are now being delivered 253 days sooner.

At the same time, the average wait time for approvals under the Water Act has fallen by 31 per cent. On average, approvals are now being delivered 70 days sooner.

The backlog of Water Act applications that are open longer than six months has now declined by 68 per cent, helping industry, businesses and communities get decisions faster and keep projects moving.

Establishing targets and improving processes

In addition to reducing licence wait times, for the first time, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas has established mandatory service targets to speed up reviews and stop unnecessary delays.

Water Act decisions must now be made within a specific time frame, unless extenuating circumstances arise. Staff are now required to assess each application and make a decision based on its deemed risk:

- Low-risk decisions must be made within 60 days.
- Medium-risk decisions must be made within 90 days.
- High-risk decisions must be made within 120

days.

These targets include the time required for public consultation, where necessary. The department will work to continue lowering these targets in the future, where possible.

Other changes have also helped speed up the system. Previously, users would also have to submit information by paper or email. Now, a new digital system is in place that makes it quicker and easier to submit and review applications. The department also streamlined its internal processes, updated the guidelines on the 10 per cent holdback and fast-tracked applications related to drought this summer.

Just getting started

Progress is being made, but there is more work to do. Moving forward, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas will focus on speeding up Water Act decisions that have not yet seen as much improvement, including complex or high-risk requests such as wetlands.

The government has also instructed the department to find ways to similarly streamline regulatory decisions under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, while looking at other ways to speed up all of Alberta's regulatory processes.



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# SKILLED TRADES TRAINING FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Alberta's government is investing more than \$1.5 million over three years to help Indigenous students meet Alberta's residential construction demand.

As Alberta's economy continues to grow, so does the need for skilled tradespeople, and that demand is expected to continue to rise over the next decade. Meeting the needs of industry and maximizing opportunities for Albertans means promoting and supporting trades education to all communities, including Indigenous people.

Alberta's government is supporting Trade Winds to Success with an investment of \$1,507,263 over three years, beginning in 2024-25. Trade Winds to Success is an Indigenous-led non-profit organization, which helps Indigenous students train for rewarding careers in the skilled trades.

"Trade Winds to Success has an impressive history of helping Indigenous students to discover new career opportunities in the skilled trades, overcome barriers to education and thrive in the workplace. Supporting Trade Winds is a win-win

for Indigenous workers and Alberta's economy."

Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Advanced Education

"Indigenous-led non-profit organizations like Trade Winds to Success help ensure that Indigenous Peoples are included at every level of the economy – as owners, workers and partners. This funding will help Indigenous students gain valuable training in the trades, and moves us forward as we build a stronger, more inclusive economy."

Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations

Through partnerships with Alberta's government, Union Training Trusts, employers, and the Indigenous community, Trade Winds to Success has helped to increase the number of Indigenous people training and working in the skilled trades, with more than 3,000 individuals supported since 2005.

This new funding will support Trade Winds to Success's operations so they can deliver valuable programming, including their Residential Construction Program. Students in this program take foundational courses for six weeks, followed by 12 weeks of hands-on training where they learn

techniques to construct eco-smart small homes for Indigenous community members. Upon completing the program, students receive 330 hours towards their first year in Alberta's carpenter apprenticeship education program.

"The multi-year funding announcement from the Ministry of Advanced Education is the perfect demonstration of reconciliation in action. We are grateful to the Honourable Rajan Sawhney for recognizing the importance of uplifting Indigenous people pursuing careers in the trades, knowing the impact we have on the Alberta economy. Access to operational dollars not only allows us to address core needs but it also allows us to build capacity and

plan for the future. Through quality pre-trades training, we can continue empowering the next generation of tradespeople while finding new ways to support their goals."

Linda Domak, president of the board of directors, Trade Winds to Success

The Residential Construction Program is expected to enrol 156 participants over three years. This investment will help address labour needs in the province, while empowering Indigenous students to find rewarding careers as they help build their communities and the economy. Alberta's government continues to support Indigenous Peoples and all Albertans in meeting the economic needs of today and tomorrow.

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR



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Wishing you good times, good friends and good memories this New Year's Eve and all year!  
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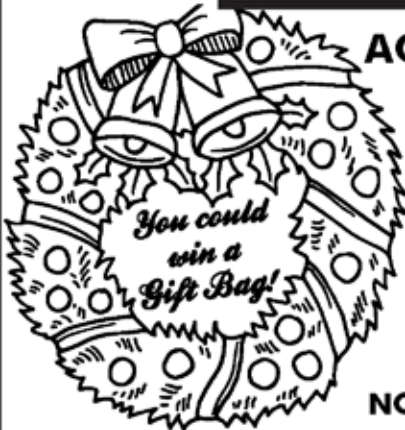
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# UPDATED FISCAL STATUTES BENEFIT ALBERTANS

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Alberta is updating fiscal statutes to extend the Child and Family Benefit, among other updates.

If passed, the Financial Statutes Amendment Act would provide alternative financing options to help expand mortgage financing options for all Albertans. The bill also includes amendments to provide more support for parents who have lost a child, and standardizes indexing across government to help Albertans with the cost of living by creating a consistent and stable system. In addition, a new annual adjustment system would enable a more consistent and flexible approach to determining the amount that benefits and taxes will be impacted. The leg-

islation would also introduce a new tax on electric vehicles, as was announced in Budget 2024.

“This bill proposes a number of important changes. I’m particularly pleased that if passed, Alberta would be the first jurisdiction in Canada to make legislative changes that would permit provincial financial institutions to offer alternative financing options.”

Nate Horner, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance

Alternative financing options would provide homebuyers with more options for mortgage financing. All Albertans who want to buy a home can apply for this financing option.

Additional changes being proposed in the Financial Statutes Amendment Act include continuing Alberta Child and

Family Benefit payments to parents of deceased children for six months after their child passes away. These amendments would align with similar federal changes under the Canada Child Benefit program.

“Families experiencing the unimaginable loss of a child face enough challenges. The proposed changes to the Alberta Child and Family Benefit will not only help lighten the financial burden, but offer a measure of comfort during their darkest moments.”

Searle Turton, Minister of Children and Family Services

Other changes in the proposed bill include:

- Standardizing indexation rates across government. Government is also introducing a system to enable a more consistent and flexible approach for these annual

enhancements. This change ensures Albertans continue to receive annual cost-of-living increases to personal income taxes and important support programs.

- Amendments to the Fuel Tax Act to implement an electric vehicle tax of \$200 annually. This is in line with what drivers of a typical internal combustion engine vehicle pay in fuel tax and is a fair way for all drivers to contribute to public services, such as keeping our roads and highways safe and smooth.

- Technical changes to align Alberta’s taxation of multi-jurisdictional tax filers who have a split income with that of other provinces in order to meet the requirements of the federal-provincial Tax Collection Agreement.

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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 -October 4 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,** 2nd Sunday each month, Community Centre 12-4pm. New Vendors Welcome. More info: 780-652-3304

**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. 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of Each Month, Sept - June. For reservations call Audrey 780-963-1782.

**CALMAR SENIORS:** Meetings - every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** 1<sup>st</sup> Fri, 7PM, Buck Creek. (780) 514-3781

**"KIDS OWN WORSHIP"** an hour after-school, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays each month. Songs, Crafts, Snacks and FUN! No charge. Call All Saints' Anglican Church. (780)542-5048

**MUSICAL JAM SESSIONS:** 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at the Cloverleaf Manor, 2:30PM. Everyone welcome.

**ST. DAVIDS JR. CHOIR** is seeking singers ages 7-13. Boys and girls are welcomed. Rehearsals in Leduc Tuesdays 3:45- 5PM. Contact 780-432-7805.

**WARBURG ARENA HOSTS FREE SHINNY HOCKEY,** Sun 2:30 - 3:45PM & Mon /Wed 4-5:45PM, arena closures & cancellations can be heard on recorded messages, call Arena 780-848-7581

**WARBURG ARENA HOSTS FREE PUBLIC SKATING,** Sundays 1-2:30PM & Fridays 4-5:45PM, call arena for closure dates

## 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:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. 7PM. Community



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**AT THE NEW YEAR**

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And for all of your support and friendship too,  
We lift our glass to each of you!



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*Katherine*  
*Jeannette*

and our  
Delivery Team:  
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*Terry*  
*Dorothy*  
*Karen*  
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