



COMMUNITYVOICE

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Serving: Alsike, Brazeau County, Breton, Calmar, Devon
Drayton Valley, Leduc, Sunnybrook, Thorsby and Warburg.

September 30, 2026

DRAYTON VALLEY RCMP SEIZES DRUGS AFTER TRAFFIC STOP

Submitted by Drayton Valley
RCMP

On Sept. 23, 2026, Drayton Valley RCMP initiated a traffic stop. Upon interacting with the driver, officers noted drug paraphernalia in the vehicle and arrested the five occupants. One of the passengers, who originally provided a false name, was identified and found to be on a Canada-wide warrant for violating his parole. The other four occupants were later released.

A search of the vehicle and occupants incidental to arrest result-

ed in the seizure of the following items:

- 187.9g of cocaine;
- 28.1g of methamphetamine;
- 2g of fentanyl;
- \$1395 in Canadian currency;
- Conducted energy device (stun gun); and
- Drug trafficking paraphernalia.

As a result of the investigation, Jaymz Hancock (33), a resident of Thunder Bay, On., was charged with:

- Possession for the purpose of trafficking (x3);
- Obstruction of a police officer;

•Possession of proceeds of crime under \$5000;

- Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose;
- Possession of a prohibited weapon; and
- Fail to comply with a weapon prohibition order.

Hancock was brought before a justice of the peace and remanded into custody. He is to appear before the Alberta Court of justice in Drayton Valley on Oct. 6, 2026.

SUSPENDING FUEL TAX FOR SAVINGS AT THE PUMP

Submitted by Government of
Alberta

Starting Oct. 1, Albertans will save the full 13 cents per litre provincial fuel tax at the pump as global uncertainty pushes energy prices higher.

Strong energy prices support Alberta jobs, our economy, and help fund the programs and services Albertans rely on every day. However, global conflicts, trade uncertainty and

increasing energy prices are putting more pressure on people's wallets. That's why, starting Oct.1, Alberta will be suspending the full provincial fuel tax, saving families 13 cents per litre on gasoline and diesel every time they fill up until the end of the year.

"We have heard from Albertans who are facing continued high costs at the pump, so we're taking action to help with the cost. Suspending the provincial

fuel tax will save drivers, families and businesses 13 cents per litre every time they fill up for the rest of the year. It's direct relief that will help Albertans keep more of their hard-earned money."

Danielle Smith, Premier
"With global uncertainty and prices rising, we are ensuring Albertans have the support they need to address the higher costs of everyday essentials.

Continued on Page 2

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Suspending Fuel Tax For Savings At The Pump

Continued from Page 1

It's relief we're able to provide thanks to our strong fiscal position, helping us make life more affordable."

Jason Nixon, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance

Suspending the fuel tax will help relieve the pressure Albertans are feeling today, from

workers commuting and parents driving their children to school, to local businesses that rely on the transportation of goods and services.

"Removing the provincial fuel tax delivers meaningful relief when families need it most. We are listening to Albertans, and this is just another way we are building on our ongoing efforts

to make life more affordable across our province."

RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Affordability and Utilities

"With businesses facing rising costs and renewed pressure from U.S. tariffs, suspending Alberta's fuel tax provides welcome relief. Lower fuel costs will help businesses and consumers manage expenses and remain competitive in an increasingly uncertain environment."

Deborah Yedlin, president and CEO, Calgary Chamber of Commerce

Albertans already pay the lowest overall taxes in Canada, and this cut adds to that tax advantage. Families here pay the lowest personal income taxes in the country, the second-lowest taxes on fuel, no provincial sales tax and benefit from the new eight per cent tax bracket, which saved Albertans \$1.2 billion last year. Suspending

Continued on Page 3

Andrew Boitchenko

MLA FOR DRAYTON VALLEY-DEVON

FIRE STARTS WITH YOU!
SAFETY

Review Fire Prevention Tips with your household to protect yourself, your property, your community and your loved ones.

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SERENITY FAMILY SERVICE SOCIETY *YOUR NOT-FOR-PROFIT SOCIETY

JOKE of the week

A salesman was demonstrating unbreakable combs in a department store. He was impressing the people who stopped by to look by putting the comb through all sorts of torture and stress.

Finally to impress even the skeptics in the crowd, he bent the comb completely in half, and it snapped with a loud crack. Without missing a beat, he bravely held up both halves of the 'unbreakable' comb for everyone to see and said, "And this, ladies and gentlemen, is what an unbreakable comb looks like on the inside."

Proposed Internet Tower in the Town of Calmar

Please take notice that MCSnet is proposing a 46 m free-standing tower in the Town of Calmar

LOCATION
4815 47 St.
N 53° 15' 48.11" W 113° 47' 59.29"

The purpose of this tower is to provide enhanced Broadband Wireless Internet Services in the area along with VOIP (Voice over IP) telephone services.

All equipment complies with Health Canada's Safety Code 6, including combined effects within the local radio environment at all times. The installation will respect good engineering practices, including structural adequacy. The tower will be constructed in compliance with Transport Canada's aeronautical obstruction marking requirements.

Any person(s) wishing further information, having questions, comments or concerns are asked to contact MCSnet on or before the close of consultation period end date October 30, 2026.

Projet de tour Internet proposé dans la Ville de Calmar

Veillez prendre note que MCSnet propose l'installation d'une tour autoportante de 46 m dans la Ville de Calmar.

EMPLACEMENT
4815 47 Rue.
N 53° 15' 48.11" W 113° 47' 59.29"

Le but de cette tour est de fournir des services améliorés d'Internet sans fil à large bande dans la région, ainsi que des services de téléphonie VOIP (Voix sur IP). Tout l'équipement est conforme au Code de sécurité 6 de Santé Canada, y compris les effets combinés dans l'environnement radio local en tout temps. L'installation respectera les bonnes pratiques d'ingénierie, y compris l'adéquation structurelle. La tour sera construite en conformité avec les exigences de marquage des obstacles aéronautiques de Transports Canada.

Toute personne souhaitant obtenir de plus amples informations, poser des questions, faire des commentaires ou exprimer des préoccupations est priée de contacter MCSnet au plus tard le 30 octobre, 2026.

MCSnet Attn: Projects Department P.O. Box 98,
St.Paul, Alberta T0A 3A0
Ph: (866) 390-3928 Ext: 797 Email: projects@mcsnet.ca

Suspending Fuel Tax For Savings At The Pump

Continued from Page 2

the fuel tax builds on that record.

"Premier Danielle Smith's government is doing the right thing by dropping this fuel tax back down to zero. This will save hard-working Albertans hundreds of dollars over the next few months and save millions for people and businesses across the province. This is the right move by Finance Minister Jason Nixon – lowering the cost of fuel makes things more affordable and that's exactly what people need right now."

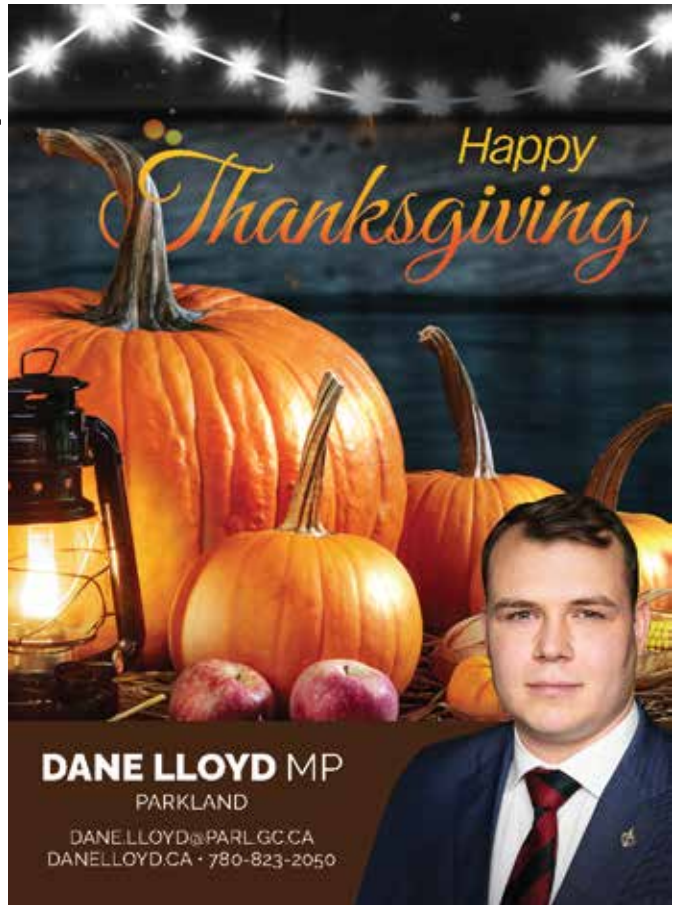
Kris Sims, Alberta director, Canadian Taxpayers Federation

To ensure fuel tax savings are passed onto Albertans, the province will be monitoring pump prices for any wrongdoing and will take action against businesses that price gouge at the pumps. Businesses found guilty of price gouging can be fined by the courts up to \$300,000 or receive up to two years of jail time.

"As Canada's largest Meals on Wheels, we safely prepare more than one million nutritious meals annually. Transportation is essential to delivering meals to those in need. Fuel savings help us stretch every dollar further and keep resources focused on feeding vulnerable Calgarians."

Esther Elder, CEO, Calgary Meals on Wheels

Alberta's government will continue monitoring oil prices throughout the next quarterly review period and, if average oil prices exceed the threshold, will determine the best options to ensure relief reaches Albertans. Suspending the fuel tax is one of the many ways Alberta is using its strong financial position to keep costs down and more money in Albertans' pockets.



Happy Thanksgiving

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Alberta

Drayton Valley–Devon

Your Guide to Voting

Referendum

In this referendum, electors will be asked to vote on 10 questions. Nine questions require a “Yes” or “No” response. One question asks electors to choose between two options.

You have three ways to vote:

- 1. **Vote during Advance Voting** from October 13 to 17, 2026, at an advance voting place in your electoral division.
- 2. **Vote on Election Day, October 19, 2026** at your designated voting place.
- 3. **If you’ve already requested a special ballot**, it must be received by mail at Elections Alberta by 5:00pm on October 16. Canada Post recommends you mail it no later than October 9.

Advance Voting Tuesday, October 13 to Saturday, October 17

During advance voting, you must vote at a voting place in your electoral division.

Advance voting places in your electoral division are listed below.
Or visit elections.ab.ca to find your voting place.

Advance Voting Places		Tuesday, October 13	Wednesday, October 14	Thursday, October 15	Friday, October 16	Saturday, October 17
Calmar Royal Canadian Legion Branch 266 4815 47 St, Calmar		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Devon Pioneer 73 Club 29 Saint Lawrence Ave, Devon		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Drayton Valley Scouts Hall 4801 52 Ave, Drayton Valley		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Enoch Community Centre Enoch Cree First Nation, Stony Plain No 135				9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Holborn Hall 51132 Rge Rd 13, Parkland County		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Warburg Pioneer Recreation Centre 5435 50A Ave, Warburg		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm

Unofficial results will be posted after voting closes and ballots are counted at results.elections.ab.ca.
Official results will be posted October 29, 2026, at officialresults.elections.ab.ca.

Find everything you need to be referendum ready at elections.ab.ca



Election Day Monday, October 19, 2026

Election Day voting hours are 9:00am to 8:00pm.

On Election Day you must vote at your assigned voting place, which will be one of the places listed below. To find your designated voting place, scan the QR code and enter your residential address.

ELECTION DAY VOTING PLACE: Drayton Valley-Devon

Blueberry Community Hall 53109 Rge Rd 15, Parkland County	Garden Valley Community Hall 52002 Rge Rd 274, Parkland County	Mackenzie Conference Centre 5737 45 Ave, Drayton Valley	Warburg Pioneer Recreation Centre 5435 50A Ave, Warburg
Buck Creek Community Hall 5302 50 Ave, Buck Creek	Genesee Community Hall 51020 Rge Rd 30, Leduc County	Moon Lake Community Hall 7302 Twp Rd 520, Entwistle	Whitby Community Hall 6523 Twp Rd 502, Brazeau County
Calmar Royal Canadian Legion Branch 266 4815 47 St, Calmar	Glen Park Community Hall 49004 Rge Rd 274, Leduc County	Seba Beach Hub 53112 Hwy 31, Seba Beach	Wilton Park Hall 27474 Twp Rd 502, Leduc County
Clymont Community Hall 1 51423 Hwy 60, Spruce Grove	Graminia Hall 51101 Rge Rd 270, Parkland County	Spring Lake Office 990 Bauer Ave, Spring Lake	 Scan to find your voting place
Devon Community Centre 20 Haven Ave, Devon	Holborn Hall 51132 Rge Rd 13, Parkland County	Strawberry Hall 1544 Twp Rd 502, Leduc County	
Devon Pioneer 73 Club 29 Saint Lawrence Ave, Devon	Keephills Community Centre 15 - 51515 Rge Rd 32A, Keephills	Thorsby Community Centre 4813 49 St, Thorsby	
Easyford Community Hall 8502 Twp Rd 501, Easyford	Lindale Community Hall 5424 Twp Rd 494, Brazeau County	Tomahawk & District Sports & Agra Centre 51122 Hwy 759, Tomahawk	
Enoch Community Centre Enoch Cree First Nation, Stony Plain No 135	Lodgepole Community Hall 4501 54 Ave, Lodgepole	Violet Grove Community Hall 4701 50 Ave, Violet Grove	

Returning Offices

Main Office

50339 Hwy 60 S,
 Leduc County, AB T9G 0B2
 Office hours:
 Mon to Fri: 9am – 6pm
 Saturday: 10am – 4pm
 Voting Days: 9am – 8pm

Returning Officer:

Sandi Dahl
 Phone: 1-833-483-2800
 Email: ed58@elections.ab.ca

Accessible Voting

Barrier-free Access

All voting places are evaluated and modified, where possible, to provide barrier-free access to voters. Visit elections.ab.ca/accessibility to view accessibility information for each voting place.

A SALUTE TO OUR BRAVEST Calmar FIRE DEPARTMENT



Asstant Deputy Chief Shelley Millar, FF Rebecca Molyneaux, Lt. Tammy O'Hara, FF Marjan Smits, FF Guay Lambert, FF David Littlewood, Lt. Stephen Thomas, Capt. Ryan Vanlooy, Deputy Chief Roger Anger

Missing: FF Justin Kay, FF Matt Nickless, FF Dane Hopp, FF Landon Carlson, FF Calvin Rutter, FF Ryan Menyes, FF Corey Gray, FF Tony Ryan, FF Ian Escalante, FF Benjamin Keller, FF Joshua Vandeburgt

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Thank You to the Thorsby Fire Department for keeping Our Community Safe



**Lt. Serena Lamb-Nelson, FF Zach Pankewicz, FF Anthony Cook,
Capt. Joey Wolf, Lt. Britt Scholten, FF Dallas Wolf, FF Kayden
Filipic, FF Cameron Apperley, Lt. Sean Cook, Deputy Chief Roger
Anger, Lt. Brian Buchanan, Assistant Deputy Chief Shelley Millar
Missing : FF Kyle Taylor**

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 Thomas Leyenhorst Firefighter
 Robert St Yves Recruit
 Annaline Fourie Recruit
 Brandon Banks Recruit
 Adrean Prakash Recruit
 Bret Yaceyko Recruit

Follow these 9 tips to help protect yourself, your family and your property against fire hazards.

1. Install a fire alarm in every sleeping area and on every level of your home, and be sure to test alarms every month. Working smoke alarms reduce the risk of death in a home fire in half.
2. Check the manufacture date on the back of your home's smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years! Batteries should be replaced every year.
3. Never leave burning candles unattended, and always keep matches and lighters out of reach from children.

4. Make a fire action plan, so every member of your household knows how to escape and where to meet outdoors.
5. Over half of home heating fire deaths are caused by equipment being placed too close to things that can burn. Make sure furniture, clothing, mattresses and bedding are at least three feet from heating sources.
6. Always turn off space heaters when you leave the room or go to sleep. Space heaters are the cause of about 79 percent of fatal home heating fires.

7. Remain in the kitchen when frying, grilling or broiling food. Turn off the stove whenever you leave the kitchen, and never leave home while food is cooking.
8. Inspect electrical cords regularly, and replace cords that are cracked or damaged or have broken plugs or loose connections.
9. In the event of a fire, crawl to safety. Use the back of your hand to see if a door is hot before opening it. If it feels hot, try to use another exit.

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Missing:

FF Cody Davis, FF Katlynn Prenioslo, FF Bradley Prenioslo

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ALBERTA STUDENTS RANK TOP IN CANADA

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Alberta students are among Canada's top performers in math, reading and science, according to the latest Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP) results.

The 2023 PCAP results

show Alberta Grade 8 students ranked among the top performers nationally, placing first in science, second in reading and third in mathematics.

These results highlight the strength and consistency of Alberta's education system, as well as the dedication of students, teachers, support

staff and parents in achieving academic excellence.

"Alberta's strong performance on PCAP is, above all, a reflection of student success. Students are gaining the critical skills they need in mathematics, reading and science, thanks to the support of educators, staff and families. We will continue investing in high-quality education to ensure every Alberta student is set up for success."

Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister of Education and Childcare

Alberta Grade 8 students achieved the highest average score in science at 513, ahead of Ontario at 511 and well above the national average of 501. In reading, Alberta ranked second with a score of 508, above the national average of 505.

In mathematics, Alberta ranked third with an average score of 513, above the national average of 510.

"These results affirm the strength of Alberta's Kindergarten to Grade 12 system in building the foundational skills students need to thrive in STEM pathways. I see first-hand how strong literacy, numeracy and scientific thinking translate into confidence, curiosity and readiness for post-secondary and career opportunities."

Lara McClelland, board chair, STEM Collegiate

Alberta's government will continue to work with school boards and teachers to close gaps in learning outcomes and ensure Alberta's education system remains world-class.



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INDEPENDENT REPORT RELEASED ON COSTS OF SEPARATION

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Albertans can now read comprehensive, independent analyses on how separation from Canada could impact Alberta families, jobs and public services.

To provide Albertans with reliable, transparent information ahead of the Oct. 19 referendum, the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy was commissioned to write an independent report examining potential economic and financial impacts of Alberta separating from Canada. The final report considers two hypothetical scenarios to give Albertans a sense of the costs associated with separation:

- A "smooth" scenario in which negotiations

with Canada are quick and favourable to Alberta.

- A "difficult" scenario in which negotiations are protracted and unfavourable to Alberta.

In both scenarios, the independent report shows the short-term impacts of potential separation would result in significant economic disruption and costs for Albertans. The report outlines that the cost of establishing a new country could range from \$50 billion to \$170 billion in the first five years following separation. These costs are in addition to impacts on economic growth and Alberta's fiscal position, which is explored in the report.

Under the "difficult" scenario, limits on trade and market access could create lasting economic and fiscal

challenges for both Alberta and Canada. Even after 20 years, employment could be nearly five per cent lower and Alberta's economy more than 16 per cent smaller than if the province remained in Canada. Despite higher taxes, the government could face an ongoing annual budget deficit

of more than \$30 billion.

In the "smooth" scenario, Alberta may be able to maintain access to major trade markets, expand resource development and deliver some government services more efficiently. The report cautions, however, that any

Continued on Page 15

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Independent Report Released On Costs Of Separation

Continued from Page 13

potential economic recovery could take many years following the disruption of separation and would depend on very specific conditions, including sustained high oil prices, that could not be guaranteed through negotiations.

Advisory panel assessment

An expert advisory panel, chaired by Dr. Jack Mintz, was appointed to review the report and prepare an

independent assessment of the findings. The panel's work adds a broader range of perspectives to the analysis, ensuring Albertans are equipped with the facts.

The advisory panel's assessment underscore two key findings from the independent report: separation would involve significant short-term costs, and that the long-term economic and fiscal effects are highly uncertain. The panel also finds that the impacts of separation would extend

beyond Alberta's borders, causing significant harm to Canada's economy.

"The panel concurs that separation results in short run economic costs for Alberta for uncertain net benefits in the longer run. However, we also stress that Canadians should be aware that Alberta's separation will undoubtedly harm Canada as well."

Dr. Jack Mintz, chair, Advisory Panel on the Potential Impacts of Separation

full report and the advisory panel assessment at: <https://www.alberta.ca/advisory-panel-on-the-potential-impacts-of-separation>. Eligible voters are encouraged to review the findings, consider the evidence and make an informed decision in the Oct. 19 referendum.

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