

No local allegations toward former teacher facing child porn charges

ALEX McCUAIG
amccuaig@medicinehatnews.com
Twitter:MHNMCCuaig

The superintendent of the southern Alberta French school district says there have been no criminal allegations involving students at École Le Ruisseau in Brooks in connection with a former teacher who is now facing charges in relation to an alleged pedophile network.

Jacqueline Lessard, directrice générale at Conseil scolaire FrancoSud, said the school board's crisis intervention team was dispatched to the school shortly after learning of the allegations against Claude Paquette.



Claude Paquette

Paquette, 31, was arrested in Montreal last month and is one of 15 men facing charges in connection to a three-year Quebec provincial police investigation into a pedophile ring primarily based in that province.

Lessard said Paquette taught at École Le Ruisseau from September 2014 to June 2015 with the school having no indications of improper behavior prior to working at Le Ruisseau or during his time in Brooks.

"Le Ruisseau in Brooks is a very small school ... To our knowledge to date, there are no victims with any of our students," said Lessard, adding that they have been involved with RCMP and parents regarding issues raised by Paquette's arrest.

Paquette is involved in a contested bail hearing being held in Montreal and remains in custody.



CP PHOTO AARON VINCENT ELKAIM
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks to media Friday about his first 100 days in office.

Trudeau promotes fed spending to help economy

The Canadian Press

OTTAWA

Justin Trudeau is talking up the need for more federal spending to help the economy—even as the experts warn his government of an ever-gloomier outlook.

Speaking in Toronto to mark his 100th day in office, Trudeau said it's more important than ever for the Liberal government to spend on growth-generating projects, such as the party's promised infrastructure plan.

The prime minister made the comments shortly after a group of private-sector economists shared their latest economic forecasts with Finance Minister Bill Morneau at a meeting just across town.

For decades, federal finance ministers have used an average of private-sector economic forecasts as the foundation of their fiscal plans.

The projections can have significant impacts on just how much wiggle room is available for governments to spend.

That fiscal flexibility is poised to be considerably tighter than it was in the fall, the last time the group was convened.

For example, Conference Board of Canada chief economist Glen Hodgson said he gave Morneau a 2016 growth forecast Friday of just 1.7 per cent—one of the most optimistic predictions in the room.

But Trudeau said a struggling economy provides an even stronger argument in favour of the Liberal government's job-creation plan: running deficits in the coming years in order to spend billions on stimulus like

infrastructure projects.

Many experts, including Hodgson, say infrastructure investment is one of the best ways to stimulate an economy.

Trudeau also highlighted the other Liberal measures he said will help the economy, such as boosting child-benefit payments and providing some income-tax relief for middle earners while hiking rates for top earners.

He said Canadians voted for the Liberal plan instead of the platforms presented by the Conservatives and New Democrats, both of which argued it was more important to balance the budget at all costs.

"We said, 'No, we need to invest at all costs,'" Trudeau said.

In a recent interview published by Montreal's La Presse newspaper, Trudeau said his government would not fulfil its promise to keep the 2016-17 deficit under \$10 billion. He did not indicate how high the shortfall could go.

In that same interview, Trudeau also shied away from an earlier vow to balance the federal books before the end of his government's four-year mandate, a pledge that was central to the Liberal election platform.

Instead, the government has been emphasizing its other, more flexible "fiscal anchor," which is to continue lowering Canada's debt-to-GDP ratio during its mandate.

While Trudeau has acknowledged government finances were even tighter than they were a couple of months ago, he has not indicated what will become of the Liberals' many non-economic spending vows.

UN head praises Canada's response to refugee crisis

The Canadian Press

MONTREAL

Canada's response to the Syrian refugee crisis is an example of compassionate leadership, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said Friday as he praised the country's "huge solidarity" with the international community.

Ban, who on a visit to Ottawa on Thursday applauded the country's decision to re-engage with the United Nations, told reporters in Montreal, "I'm back (on Canadian soil) because Canada's back."

He said the 25,000 Syrian refugees who are coming to Canada may represent a small number, "but it's a huge (international) solidarity."

"I deeply appreciate and highly commend such a compassionate leadership and generosity as shown by the Canadian government in accommodating 25,000 refugees."

Ban called on other developed countries to alleviate some of the burden on poorer nations by doing more to help the millions of Syrians who have either fled the country or been internally displaced by civil war.

He added he met about 40 Syrian refugees during his state visit to meet Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Ottawa.

"They were very relieved knowing that their lives have been assured and protected and promoted," he said while on a visit to Montreal's city hall. "Their human dignity has been supported and I think this is what the international community should show."

When asked if Ban's comments about "Canada is back" were an insult to former prime minister Stephen Harper, whose government had been cooler to participating at the UN, Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre said he is more interested in what lies ahead.

"I'm not looking at the past," Coderre said. "But the future is promising. Because we have a government (now) that believes in a multilateral approach. We had lost that reputation for a certain time."

The Conservative government had been criticized internationally for what was perceived as its refusal to take climate change seriously or to fully participate at United Nations-sponsored conferences.

Spanish ship a stop-gap for East Coast navy

The Canadian Press

HALIFAX

When the Royal Canadian Navy's East Coast fleet goes to sea for exercises later this month, it will be accompanied by a Spanish navy supply vessel.

SPS Patino sailed into Halifax harbour on Friday to fill the hole left last year when the last of the RCN's supply vessels was taken out of service. SPS is the abbreviation for Spanish naval ship.

The ship is a 17,000-tonne replenishment vessel that can carry fuel and supplies to keep naval groups at sea for prolonged periods.

The stop-gap will ensure that Canadian ships and sailors maintain their ability to refuel at sea and extend their deployments and exercises.

"By putting together this mutually beneficial arrangement with our Spanish colleagues, we not only fill a short-term capability gap in

the Canadian fleet, but even more importantly, we strengthen a vital relationship with a like-minded ally through the building and sharing of expertise," Vice Admiral Mark Norman, commander of the navy, said in a statement.

Both of the navy's 1970s-era supply ships, HMCS Protecteur and HMCS Preserver, were taken out of service last year.

Protecteur suffered a serious engine-room fire off Hawaii in 2014 and was decommissioned. Preserver was found to have corrosion problems and technicians had to scour eBay for parts. The ship has been relegated to duty as a floating fuel station in Halifax harbour.

The first of a new class of supply ship isn't due to be completed until 2020 at the earliest. A plan by the former Harper government to fill the gap by converting a civilian vessel was put on hold by the new Liberal government.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Stay informed go to www.medicinehat.ca

8AM - 4PM
SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages.....403.529.8260
Gas Emergency.....403.529.8191
Water & Sewer Emergency.....403.502.8042
After Hours Special Services.....403.526.2828

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

COLLECTION DAY CHANGES

There will be **no solid waste collection** on **Monday February 15, 2016** due to the Family Day Holiday. Residential waste zone collection will advance as follows:

DATE	CITY ZONE
Monday, February 15	No Collection
Tuesday, February 16	Zone 3
Wednesday, February 17	Zone 4
Thursday, February 18	Zone 5
Friday, February 19	Zone 1

Refer to medicinehat.ca/ew, download the My-Waste App, or contact Customer Service at 403-529-8176 for more information.

CART COLLECTION

- Household waste and yard waste are separate collections and collection times vary.
- Carts must be out by 7 a.m. on your collection day to ensure service.
- Make sure carts are accessible with 3 ft. (1 m) clearance on all sides.
- Ensure cart lids are closed to avoid litter or collection problems.
- Yard waste material in plastic bags **WILL NOT** be collected.

RETURN CARTS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY (AND OFF OF ROADWAYS, SIDEWALKS, BACK LANES, ETC.) WITHIN 24 HOURS OF COLLECTION TO PREVENT THEFT OR DAMAGE TO YOUR CART.

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED FEBRUARY 4 TO FEBRUARY 10, 2016 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

437 2 Street NW (Lot 20,21, Block 5, Plan 726M) Permit No. DP12570. Detached Garage Including Maximum Accessory Site Coverage Variance.

94 Taylor Crescent SE (Lot 78, Block 32, Plan 8710776) Permit No. DP13063. Single Detached House. (Enclosed Deck) Including Rear Yard Setback Variance.

171 Sierra Drive SW (Lot 22, Block 31, Plan 0412814) Permit No. DP13065. Single Detached House. (Enclosed Deck) Including Rear Yard Setback Variance.

91 Sunset Drive SW (Lot 1, Block 29, Plan 0312828) Permit No. DP13066. Single Detached House (Rear Deck Enclosure).

HOME OCCUPATION

705 8 Street SW (Lot 8, Block 11, Plan 43496S) Permit No. DP13043. Office With Storage On Site. Janitorial Service.

39 Division Avenue SE (Lot 5, Block -, Plan 1744M) Permit No. DP13045. Office With Storage On Site. Painting and Decorating.

49 Calder Road SE (Lot 4, Block 3, Plan 8111075) Permit No. DP13046. Office With Storage On Site. Distribution/Sales (Bracelets).

260 Colter Crescent NW (Lot 4, Block 7, Plan 1481JK) Permit No. DP13047. Office With Storage On Site. Online Sales.

107 Stone Crescent SE (Lot 17, Block 13, Plan 8010981) Permit No. DP13050. Office With Storage On Site. Roofing/Siding Contractor.

1552 7 Avenue NE (Lot 6, Block 5, Plan 1433HS) Permit No. DP13055. Office With Storage On Site. General Contractor/Project Manager.

160 Ranchview Way NE (Lot 19, Block 16, Plan 0910426) Permit No. DP13060. Office Use Only. Mobile Mechanic.

73 Burns Crescent NW (Lot 21, Block 3, Plan 703HE) Permit No. DP13067. One Employee to Attend Site. Sheet Metal - Intersification.

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Officer or the Municipal Planning Commission may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within fourteen (14) days of this publication. Notice of Appeal forms are available from the City Clerk Department, Third Floor, City Hall or on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. Further information on any Development Permit may be obtained from the Planning & Development Services Department, Second Floor, City Hall during normal business hours (Telephone 403-529-8374).

PROTECT WATER LINES FROM FREEZING

The following actions should be considered to protect your water lines.

1. Repair broken windows and ensure windows/vents are closed during the winter.
2. Insulate water pipes in unheated areas, include crawl spaces.
3. For sinks located against a non-insulated outside wall:
 - Open the vanity door to allow warm air to reach the water pipes.
 - A light bulb placed near the water pipe may generate enough heat to keep the water flowing.
 - Heat tape wrapped around the pipe may keep the pipe from freezing.
4. For Residents of mobile homes
 - check the condition of the heat tape on their water service and meter
 - protect unheated indoor water meter with an insulated box
 - water pipes should be wrapped in insulation using heat tape
 - Outside water taps and underground sprinkler systems should have the water supply shut off inside the house at the isolation valve for the tap
 - Sprinkler lines and taps should be drained/blown out
5. A thin stream of water (as thick as a pencil lead) running continuously from at least one tap will help prevent a frozen water service.
6. If you plan to be away from home over the winter period, close the main water isolation valve in your home. This is located next to your water meter.

A frozen water service, or a burst water pipe, is an inconvenience and expense that most people would like to avoid. Please take precautions to prevent this happening in your home or business.