

# 'Unprecedented' measures to fight COVID-19 continue as cases surpass 1,000

The Canadian Press

## OTTAWA

The federal government unveiled historic new measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic on Friday, promising a sweeping revamp of the national industrial landscape while closing the country's doors to some who might once have been welcome.

As the nationwide number of cases surpassed 1,000, the federal government announced it would be supporting businesses to shift their operations to focus on products needed to help combat the spread of the novel coronavirus. Previously announced measures to close the border with the United States will also be tightened even further, with Ottawa reversing a decision to isolate some would-be asylum seekers and opting to bar them entry instead.

"We recognize that the efforts we are going through are unprecedented," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a news confer-

ence outside his home, where he's been in self-isolation for a week.

"These are historic times in which we need to do everything we can to support Canadians and mobilize all our efforts in smart ways."

Trudeau, who has long been emphasizing the need for personal actions to curb the spread of the illness, shifted his focus to the corporate realm with word of financial incentives for companies that join the fight against the global pandemic.

Government cash will be available to businesses that shift their practices to produce more goods needed for the ongoing COVID-19 containment effort, Trudeau said, such as auto parts manufacturers who switch gears to make badly needed medical supplies. Businesses already producing items such as masks and hand sanitizer, he added, will also receive support as they ramp up their operations.

Trudeau also announced a reversal of a previously announced

measure related to the pending border closure with the United States, which was expected to go into effect late Friday.

Rather than placing asylum seekers entering Canada on foot in isolation as previously announced, Trudeau said those "irregular" border-crossers would be treated the same as most other travellers and turned away at the border.

Trudeau described the move as an exceptional, temporary measure to protect Canadians.

The mutual agreement between Ottawa and Washington will see the border closed to all but trade and essential travel at 11:59 p.m. as both countries grapple with the COVID-19 outbreak.

Thousands of people have been crossing into Canada from the U.S. using unofficial entry points to get around a deal that forbids people from lodging asylum claims at land border crossings.

Deputy Prime Minister

Chrystia Freeland called on Canadians to be patient as the government worked to enact the unprecedented new measures, saying Ottawa is departing from the norm by focusing on speed rather than perfection.

Freeland also reflected on the impact the COVID-19 outbreak is having on society at large, saying even the youngest Canadians are struggling to come to grips with the surreal new norm that's shuttered everything from restaurants to schools over the past week.

"Having a long school holiday may have seemed fun when it was first announced. But when it also includes learning that you can't have playdates, you can't spend time with your friends, it's really hard for our children," Freeland said.

The struggle in getting that message across to young Canadians played out in downtown Toronto, where a massive lineup formed outside a local video game store ahead of the

release of several highly anticipated titles.

The long queue, which actively flouted conventional wisdom on combating the spread of the virus, drew a sharp rebuke from Ontario's premier.

Doug Ford expressed frustration with those eschewing the advice to practice social distancing, calling on businesses and parents to do what was necessary to keep kids safe.

"Isn't it a shame that we have to go to this degree? You're putting everyone else into danger," he said. "Please do not create these environments out there."

Ford's remarks came as provincial health officials announced 60 new cases of COVID-19, bringing the national count of confirmed and presumptive diagnoses over 900. Data showing 49 new positive tests in Alberta, 18 in Quebec and six in Saskatchewan later edged the country past the bleak milestone of 1,000 cases overall.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## 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



## DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED MARCH 12 TO MARCH 18, 2020 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### RESIDENTIAL

<b>1929 3 AVENUE NE</b>	(Lot 62, Block 3, Plan 7410135) DP15354. Single Detached House (Covered Deck).	
<b>526 8 STREET SE</b>	(Lot 29, Block 21, Plan 1595M) DP15357. Garage (Shed).	

### COMMERCIAL

<b>1870 STRACHAN ROAD SE</b>	(Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 9710582) DP15364. Four Fascia Signs.
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### HOME OCCUPATION

<b>172 RANCHVIEW WAY NE</b>	(Lot 22, Block 16, Plan 0910426) DP15366. Office Use With Storage On Site. Landscaping.
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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 twenty-one (21) 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](http://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).

## BYLAW #4616 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE LAND USE BYLAW #4168 390 ABERDEEN STREET SE

TAKE NOTICE that City Council gave First Reading on Monday, March 16, 2020 to Bylaw #4616, a Bylaw of the City of Medicine Hat to amend the Land Use Bylaw #4168 by rezoning the subject property from Low Density Residential District (R-LD) to Mixed Use (MU). The rezoning application is intended to allow for the subject land to be converted to a psychologist counselling office.

A Public Hearing in general accordance with the Municipal Government Act and the City's Procedure Bylaw, and consideration of the Second/Third Readings of proposed Bylaw #4616 will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers at the address below on Monday, April 6, 2020, beginning at approximately 6:30 pm. Any person who claims to be affected by the proposed bylaw may make representation to City Council at the Public Hearing. Oral submissions are limited to five minutes.

For further information, or to view a copy of proposed Bylaw #4616 and related documents, please contact Planning & Development Services at 403.529.8374. Bylaw #4616 may also be accessed via the 'Proposed Bylaws' section on the City's website at [www.medicinehat.ca](http://www.medicinehat.ca).

Anyone wishing to have a written submission concerning this proposed bylaw placed before the City Council must submit it to:

City Clerk Department, 580 First Street SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 8E6

by 12:00 noon, Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

All submissions are treated as public documents.

Dated at the City of Medicine Hat, in the Province of Alberta, this 21st day of March, 2020.

Angela Cruickshank, City Clerk  
Phone 403.529.8234  
Fax 403.529.8324  
E-mail: [clerk@medicinehat.ca](mailto:clerk@medicinehat.ca)

## PROTECT WATER LINES FROM FREEZING

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

- Repair broken windows and ensure windows/vents are closed during the winter.
- Insulate water pipes in unheated areas, including crawl spaces.
- 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.
- Residents of mobile homes should check the condition of the heat tape on their water service and water meter.
- Protect unheated indoor water meter with an insulated box and 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.
- A thin stream of water (as thick as a pen) running continuously from at least one tap will help prevent a frozen water service.
- If you plan to be away from home over the winter period, close the main water isolation valve located next to the water meter in your home. You should leave the heat on in your home and have someone check inside your home daily while you're away.

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

For more information, refer to [www.medicinehat.ca/eu](http://www.medicinehat.ca/eu) or contact Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

## PROPOSED DIRECT CONTROL DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 603 1 STREET SE

TAKE NOTICE that the Medicine Hat City Council will be considering a Direct Control Development Application for a five storey mixed use building located at 603 1 Street SE. The building consists of a main floor with a hotel lobby and two commercial spaces, a basement with a wine cellar and eighty hotel suites on floors two to five. A plaza will be located near the main entrance, a paved parking lot at the eastern end of the site and a three vehicle main level garage. The site is located within the Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

A Non-Statutory Public Hearing will be held on **Monday, April 6, 2020** at approximately 6:30 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers (580 First Street SE).

At the Hearing, any person may make representation to City Council and discuss, support, object to or ask questions about the proposed development. Oral submissions are normally restricted to a maximum of five (5) minutes.

In addition, any person wishing to submit a written submission (that will be handled as a public document) must submit it to the attention of the writer or her designee by 12:00 noon, Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

If you wish to inspect any other documentation on file with regard to the proposed development, you may do so by attending at the City Clerk Department between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday (City Hall, Third Floor, 580 First Street SE).

Angela Cruickshank, City Clerk  
Phone: 403.529.8234  
Fax: 403.529.8324  
E-mail: [clerk@medicinehat.ca](mailto:clerk@medicinehat.ca)

## Canada watching 70 cruise ships still sailing with 4,000 Canadians on board

MIA RABSON  
The Canadian Press

### OTTAWA

The federal government is trying to keep tabs on as many as 4,000 Canadians on board at least 70 cruise ships still at sea, with many forbidden to dock as governments around the world block international travellers to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Global Affairs Canada warned Canadians March 9 against going on cruises and a few days later most major cruise lines announced they wouldn't be launching any new boats, though the ones already underway would continue their voyages.

Many of those ships now, however, cannot find a place to end those voyages, and if they do, passengers are struggling to find flights to get home.

Among the stranded, are more than 340 Canadians on board the Norwegian Jewel, which left Sydney, Australia on Feb. 28 for a three-week cruise around the South Pacific. Instead of docking in French Polynesia Friday as planned, the ship is now sailing for Honolulu to pick up supplies and fuel. The Hawaiian government is the fourth to refuse to let the boat dock and let anyone off, including American citizens on board.

The ship tried to end its journey early as fears of the virus spread and global travel slowed to a crawl, but Fiji, French Polynesia and New Zealand all turned the ship away. There have been no reports of anyone on board being sick with COVID-19.

A number of other ships are being quarantined off ports in South America, or sailing back to the U.S. after being refused docking in Chile and Peru.

Cruise ships have been a major part of the COVID-19 story since the novel coronavirus began spreading in January, with one of the first major outbreaks on the Diamond Princess cruise ship in February. More than one-fifth of the ship's passengers ultimately tested positive for COVID-19, including at least 48 Canadians.

One of those Canadian passengers died in hospital in Japan Friday. Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam issued condolences to his family at her Friday update on the virus.

Another five Canadians from the Diamond Princess remain hospitalized in Japan.

Spokespeople for Global Affairs Canada will say only that the situation with the cruise ships is being watched. The department and its diplomatic missions around the world are stretched thin right now as tens of thousands of Canadians look for help to come back to Canada.

One official said they normally get about 700 emails a week from Canadians asking for consular assistance. In the last seven days there have been 20,000 requests for help.

Statistics issued by the department Friday show 436,000 Canadians are registered with embassies as being out of the country, though the department is not tracking how many of those people are asking for help to come home.

Canada issued a global travel advisory on March 13, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his cabinet ministers have been warning people for at least a week that it is time to come home.

Heeding that call is not easy when many countries have cancelled international flights and closed their borders. Trudeau said Friday the government is working with Canadian airlines to try and bring home some Canadians who are stranded but he and Foreign Affairs Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne have warned some people may be stuck where they are for weeks, or even months.

Air Canada is sending a plane to Morocco Saturday to bring Canadians back to Montreal and the embassy in Peru is trying to arrange a flight out for dozens of Canadians stranded there after Peru cancelled all international flights March 16.