

Poland divided over presidential vote during pandemic

VANESSA GERA
The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland
Uncertainty deepened in Poland on Friday over how and when the country can move forward with a presidential election scheduled for May amid the coronavirus pandemic.

President Andrzej Duda has been leading polls as he vies for a second five-year term in the vote, which was initially set for May 10. The governing conservative Law and Justice party – which supports Duda – has been insisting on going ahead with the voting, and pro-

posed mail-in voting for the entire nation as a way of sticking to schedule.

Parliament had been set to vote Friday on the idea for postal voting. However, those plans were thrown into disarray when Jaroslaw Gowin, a deputy prime minister who leads a faction in the conservative governing coalition, said his group refused to accept any kind of May election.

Gowin, instead, put forward a proposal to hold the election in two years, a solution that would give Duda a single seven-year term which would have to be his last.

The Polish constitution foresees a maximum of two five-year terms for a president and it would have to be changed for Gowin's proposal to take effect.

Changing the constitution would require the support of some opposition politicians, but they opposed that solution, increasing uncertainty over an election that was supposed to happen in only five weeks.

Borys Budka, head of the centrist opposition Civic Platform, called on the government to declare a state of emergency, which would automatically

delay the election until 90 days after the state of emergency ends.

Even before the pandemic, the vote was considered by some government opponents as a last chance to salvage Poland's democracy. Duda has approved a series of laws that have given the government unprecedented powers over judges, something the European Union has denounced as undemocratic.

France held local elections in March as the virus was spreading - and authorities suspect voting that day contributed to a rise in infections.

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 26 TO APRIL 1, 2020 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

12 1 STREET SW	(Lot 1, Block A, Plan 23560) DP15233. Duplex Including Height, Exterior Side Setbacks, Site Width And Site Area Variances.
15 CLARKE CRESCENT SE	(Lot 8, Block 9, Plan 7510668) DP15371. Garage.



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
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).

GAS, ELECTRIC, WIND ENERGY RATES SET FOR APRIL

Medicine Hat – The City of Medicine Hat has set its March energy commodity rates.

Natural Gas

The April natural gas commodity rate of \$2.2860 per gigajoule (GJ), up from the previous month of \$1.5730 per GJ, for all customers is based on the average of the monthly gas charges set by Alberta gas distribution (pipes) owners.

March 2020 (per GJ)	Rate per GJ
Direct Energy Regulated Services (North and South)	\$2.1400
AltaGas Utilities Inc.	\$2.4320
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	\$2.2860

The City of Medicine Hat calculates the Monthly Reference Price based on the average of the rates approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission.

Electricity

The April electricity rate of \$0.05736 per kilowatt hour, down from the previous month of \$0.06865 per kilowatt hour, for Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial, Unmetered Services and Rental Lighting, is based on the average of the rates for owners whose regulated rate tariffs are approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission under section 103(2) of the *Electric Utilities Act* for that calendar month as posted by the Alberta Utilities Commission on its internet page under *Regulated Rate Option Regulation*.

March 2020 (per kilowatt hour)	Rate per kWh
Direct Energy Regulated Services	\$0.05970
ENMAX Energy Corporation	\$0.05564
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (Edmonton)	\$0.05753
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (outside Edmonton)	\$0.05655
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	\$0.05736

The City of Medicine Hat calculates the Monthly Reference Price based on the average of the rates using the four Regulated Rate Option providers approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission under section 103(2) of the *Electric Utilities Act*.

The April default electricity rate for Large Commercial, Industrial and Street Lighting customers is based on the monthly average Alberta Power Pool price as established and published by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) plus \$0.02 per kilowatt hour. The rate for March was \$0.06216 per kilowatt hour.

The City of Medicine Hat also offers a fixed electric commodity price for Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial customers. The fixed rate for 2020 is \$0.06800 per kilowatt hour.

The Gas Utility offers a fixed natural gas commodity price for all rate class customers. The fixed rate for 2020 is \$3.50 per GJ.

Going Green Charge

Customers also have a "Going Green" surcharge on their bill. This surcharge is for renewable energy purchased for residential, farm, small and medium commercial customers.

The Going Green surcharge is calculated monthly to recover costs incurred to purchase renewable energy.

The Going Green surcharge for April is \$0.0030 per kilowatt hour.

For further information, please contact:

Brad Maynes, Commissioner Energy & Utilities Division
City of Medicine Hat • 403.525.8614.

CUTTING & REMOVAL OF HAY ON CITY OWNED PROPERTIES

Bids are now being accepted for the cutting and removal of hay for the 2020 season from the following areas.

Area 1 - Box Springs Interchange, PT NE ¼ section (3-13-6 W4M) 14 acres more or less.

Area 2 - Red Deer Drive SW/Cemetery, PT (NW 26-12-6 & SE 35-12-6) 110 acres more or less.

A colour map may be viewed on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca picked up at Invest Medicine Hat on the 3rd floor of City Hall or received via email by sending a request to land_properties@medicinehat.ca

Submit your bid, indicating your interest in Area 1 or Area 2, with a cheque for the full bid price a bid in a sealed envelope and place in the City Hall mail drop box located by the doors across from the sundial.

Address the envelope to:
Invest Medicine Hat
3rd floor, City Hall
580 - 1 Street SE
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8E6

A separate sealed bid and cheque for the full amount of the bid is required for each hay area you are bidding on.

BIDS CLOSE ON

THURSDAY APRIL 9, 2020 at 4:00pm

No late bids will be accepted.

Direct inquiries to 403.529.8148

Invest Medicine Hat reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids submitted and to select a single item from any bid.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION STARTS

Regular collection of yard waste material starts **Monday, April 13, 2020.**

Download the Recycle Coach App to your smartphone or refer to medicinehat.ca/collectionschedule to determine your first scheduled yard waste collection day. Yard Waste collection remains on the same day as household waste collection.

To ensure successful collection of yard waste materials, please remember the following tips:

- Place grass clippings and other yard materials loosely in the yard waste cart
- Cut branches and trimmings to less than 3ft (1m) in length and 2in (5cm) in diameter to fit inside the cart
- Do not over pack or overfill the cart
- Do not place yard waste or garbage outside of carts as it cannot be collected
- Do not contaminate yard waste with plastic bags, garbage or food waste.
- Be sure to set yard waste and household garbage carts 3ft (1m) apart.

If you do not have a yard waste cart or would like more information, contact Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176 or by email to eu@medicinehat.ca.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COVID-19 PRACTICES

Medicine Hat City Council will meet as scheduled on Monday, April 6, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. with adjustments in place to ensure alignment with current Alberta Health restrictions related to COVID-19.

A new Ministerial Order allowing municipalities to host meetings of Council electronically to ensure recommended practices from Alberta Health was announced on March 20, 2020. As per the order, Council meetings will be closed to the public but can be viewed online at the City website at: <https://docs.medicinehat.ca/onbaseagendaonline>

Remote participation options for Public Hearings are available. Those who would like to ask questions can do so via email to clerk@medicinehat.ca between 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on the day of the hearing. Additionally, the public may call in to the Public Hearing via teleconference at 1-877-385-4099 (participant code 9967529.)

The Mayor will be available for media questions on the conference line once the meeting is adjourned.

Dated at the City of Medicine Hat, in the Province of Alberta, this 4th day of April, 2020.

Angela Cruickshank, City Clerk
Phone: 403.529.8234
Fax: 403.529.8324
E-mail: 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 or contact Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

RESIDENTIAL WASTE COLLECTION

COLLECTION DAY CHANGES

There will be **no residential waste collection on Friday April 10, 2020** due to the Good Friday statutory holiday.

Waste collection zones will advance as follows:

DATE	CITY ZONE
Friday, April 10	No Collection
Monday, April 13	Zone 3
Tuesday, April 14	Zone 4
Wednesday, April 15	Zone 5
Thursday, April 16	Zone 1
Friday, April 17	Zone 2

Download the Recycle Coach App, refer to medicinehat.ca/collectionschedule or contact Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176 for more information.

CART COLLECTION TIPS

- Carts must be out by 7 a.m. on your collection day.
- Waste carts are collected separately with collection times that vary throughout the day.
- Make sure carts are accessible with 3ft (1m) clearance on all sides.
- Ensure cart lids are closed to avoid litter or collection problems.
- Contaminated blue recycling carts **will not** be collected.

To prevent theft or damage to your cart; remove carts off roadways, sidewalks, back lanes etc. and return to **private property** within 24 hours of collection.

WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

Residents are reminded that the City of Medicine Hat Waste Management Facility will **be closed on Friday April 10, 2020.** Hours of operation are as follows:

- Monday through Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Closed Sundays and Statutory holidays.

Refer to medicinehat.ca/eu, download the Recycle Coach App, or contact Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176 for more information.