

## Evacuation order largely rescinded in Lac La Biche

The Canadian Press

### LAC LA BICHE

A mandatory evacuation order in a northern Alberta hamlet has been mostly rescinded.

At least 70 people were required to leave their homes in parts of Lac La Biche late Sunday after heavy rainfall led to flooding.

Officials say residents from all but one area were allowed to return to their homes late Monday.

A bridge was damaged by flooding and is being rebuilt so residents in that area will have to take a 40-minute detour to get home.

Officials say evacuees are not obligated to return to their homes if they have concerns about travelling.

Some highways in the area, about 220 kilometres northeast of Edmonton, are still closed due to flooding.

### Rain pummels southeast Manitoba

Heavy rain in southeastern Manitoba has flooded roads and forced people out of some homes.

David Kiansky, reeve of the Rural Municipality of Stuartburn, says the water rose up suddenly and covered a lot of farmland and most roads running north to south.

He says crews worked to get people out of a handful of homes, including one man who was taken out by tractor as his property was under two feet of water.

The municipality has declared a local state of local emergency and is hoping the Manitoba government will provide emergency aid.

Some parts of southeast Manitoba saw up to 155 millimetres of rain over the weekend.

Kiansky says he is worried because there is more rain in the forecast over the next two days.

## New slide protection in Fairmont, B.C., averts catastrophe: regional district

The Canadian Press

### FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS

Regional officials say a network of traps, channels and culverts built to protect a southeastern British Columbia community from another devastating slide has more than proved its value, barely 18 months after completion.

The Regional District of East Kootenay says despite some damage, it's becoming clear that the slide protection measures averted what could have been a catastrophe in the community of Fairmont.

A statement from the regional district says the magnitude of a debris flow down Fairmont and Cold Spring creeks on May 31 is just

becoming clear as cleanup efforts continue.

The district says heavy rainfall pushed more than 30,000 cubic metres of logs, rock and other debris into traps along the creeks, preventing the torrent from sweeping through the resort community.

It's estimated to be the second-largest debris flow in Fairmont, half the size of a 2012 slide that forced evacuation of a resort, stranded about 500 campers and caused millions of dollars in damage.

Although it's not the first test of the traps, the regional district says it's the most significant since the \$1.9-million debris flow mitigation project was completed in 2018.

Brian Funke, the regional district's manager of engineering services, says several roads and properties have mud and water damage and part of a golf course flooded, but damage could have been much worse.

"The system did an incredible job of keeping the large debris away from homes and properties," Funke says.

He estimates three-quarters of the logs, rocks and gravel filling one of the traps have been cleared and crews continue to empty other traps and make repairs.

"Our priority is to restore as much capacity within the creeks and the debris traps as possible so that we are ready if another event were to occur."

## 'Almost complete loss' of early salmon runs at Fraser River slide last year: DFO

The Canadian Press

Early runs of Stuart sockeye and chinook salmon were devastated last year because they couldn't make it past a massive landslide on British Columbia's Fraser River, government officials said Tuesday.

The officials with Fisheries and Oceans Canada told a Commons committee that 99 per cent of early Stuart and 89 per cent of early chinook salmon were lost.

Rebecca Reid, the department's regional director for the Pacific region, said salmon survival improved later in the summer when work started to transport fish past the slide, helping them reach their spawning grounds.

Mortality during the salmon's long journey inland is already high and it's hard to say what exactly causes their deaths, Eric Taylor, a zoology professor and fish expert at the University of British Columbia, said in an interview.

But he said it's clear that the landslide near Big Bar is the culprit behind last year's elevated mortality rate.

It's believed the massive landslide north of Lillooet occurred in late October or early November 2018, but it wasn't discovered until last June after



CP FILE PHOTO

Workers are seen on the cliff at the site of a massive rock slide on the Fraser River near Big Bar, west of Clinton, B.C., last July.

fish had already begun arriving.

Fisheries Minister Bernadette Jordan told the committee the volume of the slide was equivalent to a building 33 storeys high by 17 storeys wide.

About 60,000 fish were helped over the slide last year, she said, while 220,000 made it past on their own once water volume dropped.

Jordan said so far just two chinook have been observed arriving this year.

Plans are in place to significantly increase the number of fish that survive and reach spawning grounds this year including using a pneumatic fish

pump - a so-called salmon cannon - and building a series of boulders to create a fish ladder.

"The ultimate goal would be to clear it enough so that it's a natural passageway for the fish, so that it's not something that we have to continually monitor or maintain," Jordan said.

"But in the meantime, we are making sure that there are measures in place to get the fish through."

Jordan said another small slide of about two cubic metres happened last month while no workers were present, an indication of the dangerous terrain at the remote site.

## Manitoba non-profits offered subsidy for hiring students during pandemic

The Canadian Press

The Manitoba government is offering another subsidy to encourage student summer jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Premier Brian Pallister says non-profit groups that hire at least one student this summer can get a flat subsidy of \$6,000.

That is in addition to a \$7-an-hour wage subsidy announced in April for any non-profit or small business that hires students for the sum-

mer, for up to five students.

Pallister says encouraging more summer jobs will help the province's economic recovery.

The announcement came as health officials announced no new COVID-19 cases for the fourth consecutive day.

The province's total of confirmed and probable cases to date remains at 300, and there are eight cases that remain active.

## B.C. film industry given go-ahead to restart productions halted due to COVID-19

The Canadian Press

British Columbia's film industry has been given the go-ahead to restart production after WorkSafeBC released new health and safety guidelines to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The guidelines will ensure social distancing during film and TV production and they cover everything from costumes and makeup to transportation and catering.

WorkSafeBC says film production companies are allowed to start working once they have a COVID-19 safety

plan that meets both their protocols and the provincial health officer orders.

The WorkSafe protocols call for work such as casting and location scouting to be done remotely if possible.

Creative B.C., a provincial organization that supports a range of creative industries, is leading a group that will release a guide in mid-June for film for production companies to follow.

It has estimated that film and TV production contributes more than \$3 billion annually to the provincial economy.

## Propane tank caused trailer explosion

The Canadian Press

Fire investigators say a leaking propane tank caused an explosion at a northwest Alberta campground that sent six people from one family to hospital.

Investigators say the small single-use tank was stored inside the trailer and went off when the gas was ignited.

RCMP say the individuals who were hurt - ranging in age from six to 41 - continue to

receive treatment.

The explosion involved a fifth-wheel travel trailer at the Marten River provincial campground, about 25 kilometres north of Slave Lake.

Emergency crews were dispatched to the explosion and treated the injured individuals for serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

They were initially transported to a local hospital before being sent to Edmonton for further treatment.

## Online portal to connect buyers and sellers of COVID-19 supplies launched by Ottawa

The Canadian Press

As the federal government continues to pack its shopping cart full of COVID-19 supplies, it's also launching a one-stop shop for Canadians hoping to do the same.

A new portal was unveiled Tuesday that's intended to both help link commercial buyers and sellers of personal protective equipment and provide guidance to Canadians on what they may want to consider for themselves as they return to work.

"As restrictions are gradually being lifted, it is even more

important to ensure front-line workers have the equipment they need," federal Procurement Minister Anita Anand said Tuesday.

"And we have to work together to ensure this is the case."

Ottawa is spending billions of dollars acquiring everything from ventilators to masks, though a full accounting is not expected for months.

They've signed many contracts using national security exemptions, and in turn are not disclosing how much they are spending to snap up gear that is in high demand around

the world.

Close to 60 plane loads of supplies have now landed in Canada, Anand said Tuesday, along with a cargo ship that docked in Vancouver over the weekend with 160,000 litres of hand sanitizer on board.

She said a second ship with 32 shipping containers of hand sanitizer was scheduled to dock Tuesday and six more were on the way.

Hand sanitizer is also one of the many items Canadian companies have retooled to produce since the pandemic took hold in Canada in March.

## 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



### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COVID-19 PRACTICES

Medicine Hat City Council will meet as scheduled on Monday, June 15, 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's YouTube account at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CityMedicineHat>

The Mayor will be available for media questions on the conference line once the meeting is adjourned at 1-833-353-8610 (participant code 2848289#)

Dated at the City of Medicine Hat, in the Province of Alberta, this 10th day of June, 2020.

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## Federal gov't commits \$8.9M in foreign aid for reproductive health services amid COVID-19

The Canadian Press

Canada is dedicating \$8.9 million in new international aid to ensure women and girls around the world have access to safe abortions and reproductive health services - money experts say will help maintain that access despite restrictions due to COVID-19.

International Development Minister Karina Gould said Tuesday that contraceptives, abortion services and reproductive health care have become more challenging to procure for women in many parts of the world and Canada wants to do its part to "step up."

"We feel particularly right now that it's important to make this funding announcement to demonstrate that we are still committed to SRHR (sexual and reproductive health and rights)

even in a pandemic and actually highlighting the fact that these needs exist and are, in fact, exacerbated by the current pandemic," she said. "This funding will help ensure those services can be delivered."

Of the \$8.9 million announced Tuesday, \$4.9 million will go to Marie Stopes International, a global organization that provides contraception and abortions in 37 countries.

Canada's money will go toward ensuring access safe abortions, post-abortion care and contraception; telemedicine and online outreach and funding for a mobile-phone platform aimed at youth living in isolation and those who are out of school.

A further \$2 million will go to Ipas, another international body that works with governments to advocate for safe, legal abortion

and to make contraception widely available.

Experts who work in the field say the pandemic has heightened barriers that already existed for many women and girls when it comes to accessing safe abortion services, post-natal care and other reproductive health needs.

Laura Neidhart of Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights said the pandemic has made reproductive health care in Canada and abroad harder to get: supply chains for medication and birth control have been disrupted, clinics closed, and doctors more difficult to see.

"We've heard both on the ground here in Canada and also from organizations that are working in countries across the world that this is a pretty substantial problem," she said.