

Freeland urges restraint with expenses following Rideau Hall renovations

TERESA WRIGHT
The Canadian Press

OTTAWA
Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland says public office holders should be mindful of how they spend taxpayer dollars, following a report on Rideau Hall renovations.

The CBC reported Thursday that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on designs and renovations to the official residence of Gov. Gen. Julie Payette, some allegedly at her personal request, for privacy, accessibility and security reasons.

Freeland would not say whether she believes the expenditures were appropriate, but she did say she thinks questions about the Rideau Hall expenses are legitimate.

“Canadian journalists and Canadians absolutely have the right to look carefully about how we spend Canadians’ money,” she told reporters Friday in Toronto.

“I do think that all of us who have the privilege of serving Canadians have to really be mindful that when we spend

money, we are spending the money of Canadians and we have to be very, very thoughtful about that, very careful about that.”

The Office of the Secretary to the Governor General was unavailable for comment Friday.

Freeland expressed respect for the office and constitutional role of the Governor General, without directly answering a question about her confidence in Payette.

“I think Canadians understand and appreciate the way our system of government, our constitutional system works,” she said.

“The office of the Governor General plays a very important role in that system and I think, like the overwhelming majority of Canadians, I have a great deal of respect for that office and for that role.”

Payette has faced significant scrutiny following reports that she mistreated past and current employees at Rideau Hall - allegations that are now under review.



CP FILE PHOTO

Governor General Julie Payette delivers remarks during a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Statistics Canada at its headquarters in Ottawa on Friday, March 16, 2018.

The CBC reported last month, citing anonymous sources, that Payette had yelled at, belittled and publicly humiliated employees, reducing some to tears or

prompting them to quit. The Privy Council Office, a bureaucratic operation that supports the prime minister and cabinet, said it would launch an independent

review of allegations. Payette issued a statement at the time that said she “deeply concerned” with the media reports and welcomes the probe.

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 JULY 30 TO AUGUST 5, 2020 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

- 1210 30 VISCOUNT AVE SW** (Lot 6, Block 4, Plan 1011691) PLDP20200960. Apartment (Enclosed Deck).
- 2315 HATCHER DRIVE NE** (Lot 21, Block 9, Plan 8310543) PLDP20201025. Single Detached House (Addition) Including Site Coverage Variance.
- 175 SOMERSIDE WAY SE** (Lot 26, Block 9, Plan 0912931) PLDP20201106. Garage (Gazebo).

COMMERCIAL

- 63 STERLINK LINK SE** (Lot 54, Block 5, Plan 1111043) PLDP20200967. Office With Storage On Site. Janitorial Service.
- 1336 17 STREET SE** (Lot 37, Block 3, Plan 7510142) PLDP20201070. Employees To Attend Site. Mobile Food Vendor.
- 217 8 STREET SE** (Lot 6, Block 5, Plan 1132M) PLDP20201090. Customers To Attend Site. Consultant (Nutrition).
- 29 CARSWELL ROAD SE** (Lot 12, Block 1, Plan 7510668) PLDP20201104. Office With Storage On Site. Online Sales (Learning Supplies).
- 7 ROSSLAND DRIVE SE** (Lot 28, Block 10, Plan 7711248) PLDP20201113. Office With Storage On Site. Service (Phone Installation and Repairs).
- 193 HERALD DRIVE NW** (Lot 17, Block 5, Plan 7989HD) PLDP20201118. Office With Storage On Site. Photography and Equipment & Service (Dog Walking).

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).

WATER MAIN FLUSHING & FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS

Environmental Utilities performs regular, routine maintenance to uphold the water quality and system infrastructure by annually flushing water mains and inspecting fire hydrants.

During these operations, there may be some discoloration in the water which is not harmful to consume and will disappear when flushing is complete. Please note that discoloured water should not be used for laundry and that fluctuating water pressure may also be noticed.

Should discoloration persist beyond three hours, turn on your cold water tap or an outside sprinkler and let the water run for several minutes until the water runs clear.

For additional information or to confirm whether crews are working in your zone, refer to the Water Flushing Programs page on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca/eu or contact Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

GAS, ELECTRIC, WIND ENERGY RATES SET FOR AUGUST

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

Natural Gas

The August natural gas commodity rate of \$1.7550 per gigajoule (GJ), up from the previous month of \$1.2415 per GJ, for all customers is based on the average of the monthly gas charges set by Alberta gas distribution (pipes) owners.

August 2020 (per GJ)	Rate per GJ
Direct Energy Regulated Services (North and South)	\$1.3590
AltaGas Utilities Inc.	\$2.1510
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	\$1.7550

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 August electricity rate of \$0.06462 per kilowatt hour, down from the previous month of \$0.06577 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*.

August 2020 (per kilowatt hour)	Rate per kWh
Direct Energy Regulated Services	\$0.06319
ENMAX Energy Corporation	\$0.06222
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (Edmonton)	\$0.06696
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (outside Edmonton)	\$0.06609
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	\$0.06462

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 August 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 July was \$0.07414 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 August is \$0.0050 per kilowatt hour.

For further information, please contact:
Brad Maynes, Commissioner Energy & Utilities Division
City of Medicine Hat • 403.525.8614.

Collapse of Nunavut ice shelf ‘like losing a good friend,’ glaciologist

LAUREN KRUGEL
The Canadian Press

A team of scientists placed research instruments into the Milne Ice Shelf in Nunavut last July, with plans to return to collect them this summer and study how the stability of the structure had changed.

The COVID-19 pandemic put that trip on hold. Then a week ago, the last remaining intact ice shelf in the Canadian arctic broke apart.

“And so we’ve lost not only the equipment, which is now drifting away in the Arctic Ocean, but also the information that it recorded over the time that it was out,” Carleton University glaciologist Derek Mueller said Friday.

The Canadian Ice Service said the ice shelf on the northwestern edge of Ellesmere Island has shrunk 43 per cent to 106 square kilometres from 187 square kilometres.

The calving event, captured by satellite, was not a surprise, Mueller said.

The ice shelf sits in a fjord sheltered by tall cliffs, so it had not melted as quickly as others.

While it managed to stay together until last week, Mueller said he had observed worsening cracks and rifts since he first started studying the area in 2004.

“It certainly has been changing - there’s no doubt. And, to me, it wasn’t really a question of if this breakup would happen. It was a question of when it would happen,” Mueller said.

“But still it hits home. It’s sort of like losing a good friend in a way.”

The ice shelf collapse also set adrift research into marine organisms, such as sponges and sea anemones, discovered in water pockets within the ice.

“We’re not sure what these consequences are for these animals. And certainly they won’t be where we were studying them, because that piece has drifted away from the shore,” Mueller said.

“If we find these kinds of animals again, I think it will be a stroke of luck.”

At the turn of the 20th century, 8,600 square kilometres of ice stretched along the northern coast of Ellesmere Island. By 2000, it was reduced to 1,000 and now it’s half that, Mueller said.

University of Ottawa glaciologist Luke Copland said in a news release that the temperature has been up to 5 C warmer this summer than the average between 1981 and 2010.

The region has been warming at two to three times the global rate, he added. “This drastic decline in ice shelves is clearly related to climate change,” Copland said.

“The Milne and other ice shelves in Canada are simply not viable any longer and will disappear in the coming decades.”

Mueller said the ice shelf collapse should be a wake-up call.

“These ice shelves are well out of balance with the climate and I think their demise is inevitable,” he said.

“But, having said that, it’s not too late to make changes to the way we live and our carbon footprint.”