

O'Toole says he won't bar MPs from using private COVID-19 testing site

STEPHANIE LEVITZ
The Canadian Press

OTTAWA
Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole says he's urging his MPs to be hypervigilant amid concerns they could bring COVID-19 from Ottawa back to their ridings.

But he won't stop them from using the same private testing clinic he did after he was turned away from a public facility in Ottawa that was over capacity.

"Well, what I'm actually going to do is try and get (Prime Minister Justin) Trudeau off his duff to get some tests so that people can do in their home like they can in most G7 countries," O'Toole said in a telephone interview with The Canadian Press.

O'Toole is nearing his final days in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19 last week.

He first sought testing at a public site last Wednesday, but after several hours in line, was turned away.

A call to the public health office for MPs directed him to a clinic and he went the next day without realizing it was a fully private establishment set up for MPs, he said.

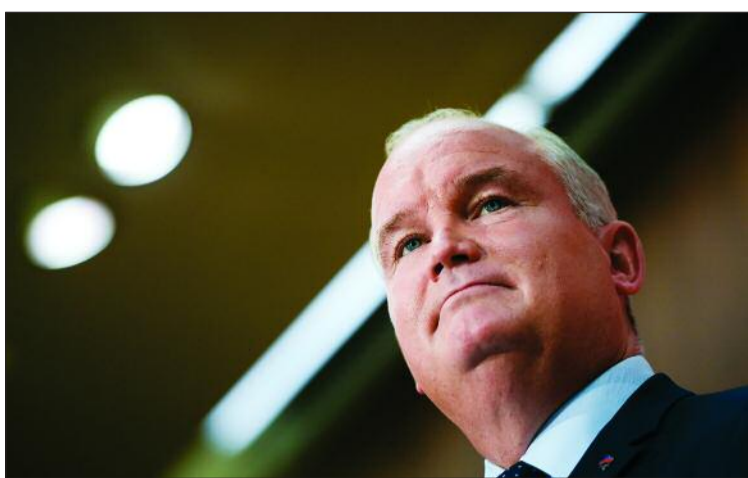
He had thought he was going directly to the same kind of private laboratory used for medical testing by many Canadians.

"So should there be a special clinic where people get superior access? No," he said.

"We were just looking for an option to to get it done quickly. And I had no idea that it was a private clinic."

The nation's capital is seeing a surge in cases just as Parliament is resuming semi-normal operations for the first time in months.

Dozens of MPs are back on the Hill, many coming to and from ridings where there is little sign of the novel coronavirus



CP FILE PHOTO

Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole holds a press conference on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Sept. 2.

circulating.

While all parties agreed to a hybrid approach that allows MPs to attend the House of Commons in person or log-in remotely, the Tories have been steadfast in maintaining that in-person sittings are crucial.

O'Toole said his own experience with the virus hasn't changed his point of view. If schools can run, so can Parliament, he said.

But he said how he came down with COVID-19 ought to serve as a warning: even social bubbles can burst.

He is believed to have contracted the virus from a staffer who was in his immediate circle. As MPs come and go, he said, they can't be sure of where their own staff have been.

"Hypervigilance needs to be the rule of the day," he said.

"And that means not taking your mask off when you're in your office with your staff. It means constant vigilance, so that we can we can do the democratic role we have responsibility (to perform)."

While O'Toole and his wife both have the virus, so far their two children are negative, though he said they do need to be retested given Rebecca's

more recent diagnosis. He said it wouldn't surprise him if the kids do test positive, given they had more contact with Rebecca before she fell ill.

O'Toole joked that while it means his son, Jack, gets what he wants - not having to go to school - the reality of hours-long line-ups and the fact kids are being pulled out of school carries huge risks.

"The worry is people see those lines and, if they're in precarious employment, they'll just go back to work," he said.

"And we could actually be causing more community spread because the testing is so poorly run."

He said taking the government to task for its response on testing will be part of his response to the speech from the throne next week once he comes out of quarantine.

Much of the sacrifice of the last several months was made in the name of getting the country ready for the second wave, he said.

"I think a lot of families right now are wondering, after all we went through, we're not ready for testing of the second wave?" he said.

"It's flabbergasting."

Amusement fair operators ask for support during COVID-19 pandemic

DENISE PAGLINAWAN
The Canadian Press

A group representing amusement fair operators is calling for government support, saying the COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a severe blow to the industry.

The Canadian Association of Amusement Operators said its members have lost nearly all their projected revenue for the year as many annual fairs and carnivals have been cancelled.

The association said in a statement that despite not being able to hold events, operators still have to cover expenses such as insurance, rent and maintenance.

Fairs offer cultural and economic value to communities, the association said, noting individual operators can employ up to 100 people.

Director Andrew Gidaro, who operates a company that rents out midway rides in the Greater Toronto Area, said the pandemic has been an "incredible disaster"

for the industry.

"Fall fairs are a major part of Canadian culture and heritage. A lot of them are 150 or 160 years old," Gidaro said in an interview.

The association warns that without support, such events may not be able to return in the future.

"We need help from the government to keep us alive so when the pandemic is over, we can get back out there," Gidaro said.

Patrick Jamieson, general manager of World's Finest Shows, which bills itself as Ontario's largest travelling carnival, said his business has not generated any income in nearly a year.

"We won't have any income for 18 months," Jamieson said in an interview.

Earlier this month, Ontario Premier Doug Ford said he was willing to help the Canadian National Exhibition amid reports the Toronto event's future may be jeopardized after it was cancelled due to the pandemic.

RCMP charge man with falsely claiming involvement in terrorism

The Canadian Press

OTTAWA

The RCMP has arrested and charged an Ontario man with falsely claiming to have committed terrorist acts. The national police force says the criminal charge against Shehroze Chaudhry, 25, stems from numerous media interviews in which he described travelling to Syria in 2016 to join the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and committing acts of extremism.

The Mounties say the Burlington, Ont., man's interviews were published in multiple media outlets, aired on podcasts and featured in a television documentary, raising public safety concerns.

Chaudhry is charged with a Criminal Code offence of per-

petrating a hoax related to terrorist activity.

He is to appear in court in Brampton, Ont., on Nov. 16. RCMP Supt. Christopher deGale says hoaxes can generate fear and create the illusion there is a potential threat to Canadians. "As a result, the RCMP takes these allegations very seriously, particularly when individuals, by their actions, cause the police to enter into investigations in which human and financial resources are invested and diverted from other ongoing priorities," said deGale, the officer in charge of an RCMP security enforcement team.

The RCMP says it collaborated with several other agencies during the course of the investigation.

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 SEPTEMBER 17 TO SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

- 101 STEVENSON STREET SE** (Lot 16, Block 14, Plan 8010981) PLDP20201033. Garage.
- 526 8 STREET SE** (Lot 29, 30, Block 21, Plan 1595M) PLDP20201140. Single Detached House (Addition).
- 934 & 936 BALMORAL STREET SE** (Lot 21, Block A, Plan 49455) PLDP20201181. Garage.
- 191 FAIRCHILD STREET SW** (Lot 84, Block 1, Plan 8010927) PLDP20201214. Single Detached House (Enclosed Deck).
- 135 2 STREET NE** (Lot 40, Block 5, Plan 3204M) PLDP20201257. Garage (Carport).
- 454 4 STREET SW** (Lot 28, 30, Block 9, Plan 833M) PLDP20201265. Garage.

COMMERCIAL

- 1788 SAAMIS DRIVE NW** (Lot 7, Block 1, Plan 1110546) PLDP20201310. Motor Vehicle and RV Sales (Storage).
- 648 AND 656 2 STREET SE** (Lot 23, Block 6, Plan 1491) PLDP20201324. Change of Use To Discretionary Use Parking Facility.

HOME OCCUPATION

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).

DEFECTIVE STREETLIGHTS Resident Alert

If you reside in the City of Medicine Hat, Redcliff or Dunmore and you notice a streetlight that is not operating properly, please notify Electric Utility at:

www.medicinehat.ca/reportaproblem

Or, call **403.529.8262**. If after hours, please leave a message.

Please have the following information when submitting your report:

- streetlight number
- street address or nearest house number, office or store
- nature of problem (i.e. cycling between on and off, always off etc.)
- number of lights out (single light, multiple lights, sequence of lights)

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.

2020 PROPERTY TAX NOTICES

The 2020 Property Tax Notices were mailed on July 24, 2020.

Tax Due Date

Taxes are due on or before September 30, 2020.

If a Canada Post postmark is absent or illegible, the date received by the City of Medicine Hat will be considered the payment date. Commercial postage meter imprints will not be honoured.

A penalty of 5.82% will be added to any unpaid balance by end of day September 30, 2020.

Ways to Pay:

Tax Instalment Payment Plan: TIPP is a monthly instalment payment plan. Payments are withdrawn on the 1st of each month. Sign up on or before September 30, 2020 to pay the total of the missed instalments of the current year now, plus a one-time late filing fee of 2% of the initial payment. The remaining balance will be paid by monthly instalments.

Tax Arrears Payment Plan: TAPP is an optional monthly instalment payment plan, which allows taxpayers to make consecutive monthly payments for current taxes and taxes in arrears over a term not exceeding 24 months. Payments are withdrawn on the 1st of each month. Please contact collections@medicinehat.ca or call 403.529.8113.

At Your Financial Institution: Payments can be made at Chartered Banks, Trust Companies, Treasury Branches, and Credit Union Offices.

Internet / Telephone Banking: Payments can be made through internet/telephone banking. Please ensure your taxation account number is registered for internet/telephone banking payments.

After Hours Drop Box: Payments made by cheque can be deposited in the drop box at the west entrance to City Hall. Please do not leave cash in the drop box.

Post-dated Cheques: Post-dated cheques will be accepted by the City of Medicine Hat. Cheques must be dated for September 30, 2020 or earlier.

Mail to: City of Medicine Hat, 580 1 Street SE, Medicine Hat AB, T1A 8E6.

In Person: Payment may be made at Cashiers, Main Floor City Hall, between 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Cash, cheque or Interac accepted.

Credit Card through PaySimply: Pay with credit card through paysimply.ca. A convenience fee of 2.5% is charged by PaySimply to cover payment handling and processing charges.

For further information:

- Telephone: 403.529.8111
- Email: tax@medicinehat.ca
- Online: www.medicinehat.ca
- Visit: Customer Service, Main Floor, City Hall