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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN Solution: **8 letters**

D I O V A V T S I F Y L E E F
 E N E E R C S S O F R F R G O
 V S P I C E B R I L A G A F C
 E I I E N O T R A S W N W A U
 I S H I X I (M) (L) (A) (C) E O A I S
 L T S I F S M P R I O R I T Y
 E U N Y N P U P O E N T S H L
 B G O G O A R O R S G S H E A
 A U I O I R E E I O E D I T C
 R A T L T R A P S C V D E A I
 R R A O O I D O T E I E L L T
 I D L P M N Y H S T R P D E P
 E I E A E G A R U O C V S R E
 R N R R E T C A R A H C E U K
 S G P R O T E C T R O P P U S

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 Apology, Avoid, Aware, Barriers, Believe, Boxing, Business, Calm, Character, Composed, Courage, Emotion, Faith, Feel, Firm, Focus, Fortify, Guarding, Hope, Improve, Insist, Pledge, Preserve, Priority, Protect, Ready, Relate, Relationship, Resist, Safe, Screen, Shield, Skeptical, Sparring, Strong, Support, Suspicious, Tone, Trust, Wary
Last Saturday's Answer: Botswana
 To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Siblings, grandparents among those to be let in to Canada under new COVID-19 rules

The Canadian Press

People desperate to bring extended family members to Canada as the world remains locked down due to COVID-19 are being given some hope by the federal government.

Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino announced Friday that more family members of Canadian citizens and permanent residents will now be eligible to enter the country.

"The pandemic is an ongoing threat and we need to continue to be cautious and restrictive about who can enter into Canada," he said.

"We recognize, however, that these restrictions should not keep loved ones apart."

Those now eligible for entry include adult children, siblings, grandparents and those who have been in a committed relationship for at least a year, which will have to be proven by a notarized declaration.

The process of how they will be able to enter will be published online soon and those who have the needed documentation can arrive beginning Oct. 8.

While that might give hope for family reunions for Thanksgiving, Mendicino said nobody should make travel plans until they've been authorized under the new program.

The federal government is also implementing a compassionate-entry program for

those who don't qualify as family but want to enter Canada for specific reasons, such as to see a dying loved one.

Those granted compassionate entry may also be exempt from the current 14-day quarantine requirement, pending discussions with local health officials.

For all other travellers, the quarantine and other screening measures remain in place, and Public Safety Minister Bill Blair said enforcement will be stepped up.

The broader border restrictions with the United States are in place through to Oct. 21, restrictions on travellers from other countries apply until Oct. 31, and Blair said the government continues to review COVID-19 conditions around the world.

"It's not a decision that we come to lightly or renew lightly," he said of keeping the border tightly controlled.

International students are also being granted more flexibility and starting Oct. 20 will be admitted if their places of learning have been identified by provincial governments as having suitable COVID-19 plans.

Canada first closed its borders to all but a short list of essential workers in the spring in a bid to slow the spread of COVID-19.

After an outcry, the govern-

ment opened the gates a crack to immediate family members of citizens and permanent residents, but many other family members had been left off the list of exemptions.

Some of those barred from Canada had been putting pressure on the government in recent weeks to ease the rules, with many coming forward with heartbreaking stories of children having to say goodbye to their dying parents over video chat or siblings unable to enter the country to care for ill family members.

Conservative immigration critic Raquel Dancho said the changes are welcome, though for many come sadly too late. She said her party would be watching closely to see if the new measures are implemented effectively, and urged the government to also move ahead with other options for safe reunification.

"The Liberal government must provide rapid testing for airports and other points of entry into Canada so that Canadians can be reunited with their loved ones safely and protect the public," she said in a statement.

The new measures come in response to what officials have learned about how the virus is spreading in Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said earlier Friday.

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 24 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

- 287 STERLING CRESCENT SE** (Lot 31, Block 1, Plan 1412603) PLDP20201263. Single Detached House.
- 132 HUNT CRESCENT NE** (Lot 50, Block 19, Plan 0012635) PLDP20201287. Single Detached House (Addition) Including Right Interior Side Setback Variance.
- 1007 BASSETT CRESCENT NW** (Lot 32, Block 5, Plan 1481JK) PLDP20201309. Single Detached House (Over Height Fence).

COMMERCIAL

HOME OCCUPATION

- 439 RANCHVIEW BAY NE** (Lot 75, Block 13, Plan 0910426) PLDP20201194. Customers To Attend Site. Beauty Salon.

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 OCTOBER

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

Natural Gas

The October natural gas commodity rate of \$2.2560 per gigajoule (GJ), down from the previous month of \$2.5885 per GJ, for all customers is based on the average of the monthly gas charges set by Alberta gas distribution (pipes) owners.

October 2020 (per GJ)	Rate per GJ
Direct Energy Regulated Services (North and South)	\$2.2510
AltaGas Utilities Inc.	\$2.2610
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	\$2.2560

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 October electricity rate of \$0.06197 per kilowatt hour, down from the previous month of \$0.07498 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*.

October 2020 (per kilowatt hour)	Rate per kWh
Direct Energy Regulated Services	\$0.05852
ENMAX Energy Corporation	\$0.05938
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (Edmonton)	\$0.06548
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (outside Edmonton)	\$0.06450
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	\$0.06197

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 October 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 September was \$0.05605 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 October is \$0.0050 per kilowatt hour.

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

PBO complains of lack of transparency on \$422 billion in federal business support

The Canadian Press

Crown corporations have handed out an estimated \$422 billion in loans, guarantees and deferrals to businesses since the start of the pandemic, the parliamentary budget officer says in a report that warns about a lack of details around the measures.

Four Crown corporations account for roughly \$236 billion of the liquidity measures, as they're known, doled out since the start of the pandemic to make it easier for businesses to manage costs.

The measures are mostly to be repaid, with just some portions of loans being forgivable, meaning they are unlikely to have a large effect on the federal deficit.

But budget officer Yves Giroux's report warned that they represent a significant expansion of the government's financial footprint and exposure to risk from bad debts that would hit Ottawa's bottom line.

"That's potentially a risk for Canadian taxpayers, who are ultimately on the hook if things turned sour. For example, if there was to be widespread default on these loans," Giroux said.

Even more problematic, he said, is the lack of public reporting of potential budget costs and risks.

Three of the Crown corporations reviewed provided the PBO with analyses of how a sharp downturn would impact their finances, but asked that they not be released publicly.

The fact the internal documents aren't being released to parliamentarians is a concern in terms of transparency for the budget office, Giroux said, particularly as the risks to the public purse may be worsened because of the unprecedented shock from the pandemic.

The one outlier in the report is the Bank of Canada, which reports weekly on its asset purchases, making it a model for other Crown agencies to follow, Giroux said.

The central bank has added \$186 billion to its balance sheet since March to help ease funding for provinces, cities and private companies, and \$234 billion in federal debt to effectively provide low-cost loans to the government.

As Giroux's report notes, the programs not overseen by the central bank have had mixed success. Some are under-subscribed, potentially exposing flaws like in the now-expired commercial rent-relief program, or been a big draw like an emergency loan program for small businesses.

The loan program, known as the Canada Emergency Business Account, hands out up to \$40,000 in interest-free loans, with one-quarter of the funds eligible to be forgiven if paid back by the end of next year.

Loans through the program have helped many small companies manage costs, but the Liberals have yet to follow through on a promise from May to expand eligibility. Last week's throne speech also included a pledge to help businesses with fixed costs, such as rent.

Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland told the House of Commons the government would have more to say "very soon" on updates to the loan program and throne speech promises, such as targeted support for businesses facing new rounds of lockdowns.