

27 out of 130 passengers on Sunwing party flight to Mexico back in Canada: Duclos

The Canadian Press

OTTAWA
Federal Health Minister Jean-Yves Duclos says about 27 of the 130 passengers on the Sunwing party flight to Mexico have returned to Canada. Duclos told reporters today the returning travellers were interrogated at the border, tested for COVID-19 and had their documents, including PCR test results, verified by authorities. Videos shared online of the raucous party on a Dec. 30 Montreal-Cancun charter flight sparked anger from politicians and an investigation by Transport Canada in conjunction with the federal health and public safety departments. Duclos says Quebec provincial police have contacted the federal government for information on the travellers, adding that information on them has been sent to the Quebec government. The videos of the on-board party

showed unmasked passengers in close proximity singing and dancing in the aisle and on seats, as some clutched bottles of liquor, snapped selfies and vaped. The passengers aboard the Sunwing Airlines flight have become pariahs, and many were stranded after Sunwing cancelled their return flight and two other airlines - Air Transat and Air Canada - said they would refuse to carry the travellers home.

The head of Canada's largest private-sector union says the refusal by the country's grocers to reinstate "hero pay" for employees amid an exponential rise in COVID-19 cases is "about greed, period." Unifor national president Jerry Dias says while front-line supermarket workers are facing the biggest risks, executives are receiving the biggest rewards. He says top grocery bosses have received multi-million dollar bonuses as sales and profits soar during the pandemic — even as they refuse to bring back pay bumps for employees. Yet Dias says the risk of catching COVID-19 have never been greater for retail workers as infections surge across the country. His comments come after the federal NDP critic for economic development, MP Brian Masse, sent a letter to the heads of Canada's biggest supermarkets this week saying workers are doing risky work and again deserve a wage premium to keep stores open and shelves stocked. Three grocery chains — Loblaws, Metro and Sobeys — ushered in a \$2-an-hour pay bump in the early days of the pandemic. It was cancelled after the first wave subsided. Loblaws did not respond to multiple requests for comment, while Metro declined to comment. However, Sobeys shared a letter CEO Michael Medline sent in response to Masse's concerns. "We are the only retailer in Canada who publicly committed to reinstating our Hero Pay/Lockdown Bonus program when regions or provinces go back into lockdowns that close all non-essential retail," he said. Sobeys has distributed over \$110 million in "hero pay" and bonuses to its front-line team members since the beginning of the pandemic, Medline said. Sobeys spokeswoman Jacquelin Weatherbee added that the company is closely watching the constantly changing restrictions. If government-mandated lockdowns once again close all non-essential retail, the grocer will reinstate its lockdown bonus, she said.

The Canadian Press

Pressure mounting for grocers to bring back 'hero pay' amid Omicron surge

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 DECEMBER 30, 2021 TO JANUARY 5, 2022 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

29 5 STREET SE (Lot 4, Block 82, Plan 636M) PLDP20210618. Multiple Unit Residential Development Including Site Area and Site Width Variances.



372 12 STREET SE (Lots 22,23, Block 23, Plan 1132M) PLDP20211065. Garage.

904 BRAEMAR STREET SE (Lots 19,20, Block A, Plan 23593) PLDP20211324. Single Detached House (Demolition).

COMMERCIAL

8 STRACHAN COURT SE (Lot 15, Block 1, Plan 0412439) PLDP20211280. Two Fascia Signs.

Unit 3 - 939 KINGSWAY AVENUE SE (Lots 11-13, Block 8, Plan 483M) PLDP20211343. One Fascia Sign.

HOME OCCUPATION

2139 7 AVENUE NE (Lot 16, Block 5, Plan 7410918) PLDP20210986. Office With Customers to Attend Site. Manicure/Pedicure/Aesthetics.

83 ROSSDALE WAY SE (Lot 128, Block 3, Plan 7611036) PLDP20211221. Office With Customers To Attend. Massage Therapy.

2116 HULL WAY NE (Lot 11, Block 2, Plan 9912486) PLDP20211232. Office Use Only. Towing.

36 612 20 STREET NE (Lot 19, Block 1, Plan 7410918) PLDP20211233. Office Use Only. Photography And Equipment.

192 FAIRCHILD STREET SW (Lot 16, Block 2, Plan 8010927) PLDP20211249. Office With Storage. Mobile Mechanic.

684 INDUSTRIAL AVENUE SE (Lot, Block, Plan) PLDP20211250. Office Use Only. Plumbing/Gasfitting/Heating.

2665 22 AVENUE SE (Lot 7, Block 10, Plan 1852LK) PLDP20211265. Office With Customers. Catering.

100 HAMPTONS WAY SE (Lot 47, Block 2, Plan 0710821) PLDP20211300. Office Use Only. Online Sales (Coffee Beans).

228 TERRACE DRIVE NE (Lot 15, Plan 4, Block 0413780) PLDP20211335. Office Use Only. Service (Cleaning And Organizing Clients Residential Homes).

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).

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 or contact City Assets Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

www.medicinehat.ca

GAS, ELECTRIC, WIND ENERGY RATES SET FOR JANUARY

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

Natural Gas

The January natural gas commodity rate of \$3.6460 per gigajoule (GJ), down from the previous month of \$4.7920 per GJ, for all customers is based on the average of the monthly gas charges set by Alberta gas distribution (pipes) owners.

January 2022 (per GJ)	Rate per GJ
Direct Energy Regulated Services (North and South)	\$3.893
APEX Utilities Inc. (Formerly AltaGas Utilities Inc.)	\$3.398
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	\$3.6460

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 January electricity rate of \$0.16194 per kilowatt hour, up from the previous month of \$0.13184 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*.

January 2022 (per kilowatt hour)	Rate per kWh
Direct Energy Regulated Services	\$0.16393
ENMAX Energy Corporation	\$0.15876
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (Edmonton)	\$0.16406
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (outside Edmonton)	\$0.16099
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	\$0.16194

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 January 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 December was \$0.14627 per kilowatt hour.

Fixed Rate Option

The City of Medicine Hat also offers a fixed electric commodity price for Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial customers. The fixed rate for 2022 is \$0.0800 per kilowatt hour.

The Gas Utility offers a fixed natural gas commodity price for all rate class customers. The fixed rate for 2022 is \$4.35 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 January is \$0.0005 per kilowatt hour.

For further information, please contact: media@medicinehat.ca

REAL CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Recycle your real Christmas Tree anytime between December 27, 2021 – January 28, 2022 by dropping it off at one of the following convenient drop off locations:

- 20 Northlands Way NE – Northlands Co-op Recycling Depot
- 240 Kipling Street SE - Kipling Street Recycling Depot
- 3292 Dunmore Rd SE - Southwest corner of the Medicine Hat Mall parking lot

Prior to drop off, please remove all plastic bags, stands, tinsel and decorations.

Please note that artificial trees cannot be recycled in this program nor in the blue recycling cart program. Artificial trees that can no longer be used or donated should be discarded in the garbage. Refer to www.medicinehat.ca/ recycle for more information.

Alternatively, you can take your real Christmas Tree to the Compost Facility, or your artificial tree to the Landfill; both located within the Waste Management Facility.

The Waste Management Facility hours of operation are as follows:

- Monday through Saturday
 - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Closed on Sundays and all Statutory Holidays

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

All Victoria police may be put on front-line duties as city prepares for surge

The Canadian Press

VICTORIA

The Victoria Police Department is preparing to move all its available officers to front-line policing duties as it anticipates staffing shortages caused by the rapid spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

A statement from the department says, for the first time, it is enacting a clause in its contract with its police union that allows for the potential assignment of all officers to front-line duties.

That work includes anything related to serving the public, such as traffic or crowd control, criminal investigations and arrests.

The statement says the change begins this weekend as some Victoria officers will be redeployed to the patrol division to answer calls for help.

Police, fire departments and school boards are among many agencies and businesses across British Columbia making plans in case large numbers of workers call in sick as COVID cases surge.

More than one-third of firefighters in Prince Rupert were ill or isolating on Thursday and the Professional Firefighters Association says although COVID is being felt provincially, fire departments are meeting staffing needs in a variety of ways.

Victoria police Chief Del Manak says maintaining continuity of police operations is critical during the pandemic.

"I am extremely grateful to our officers who are adjusting their shifts and schedules to serve on the front lines, ensuring that citizens of Victoria and Esquimalt know that when they call 911, a uniformed officer will respond to their call for help," Manak says in the statement.

A spokesman with the Victoria City Police Union says the situation is being monitored and the union hopes COVID infections will decline quickly so its members can return to their regular duties and schedules.



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