

# Feds to protect number of Quebec's Commons seats, stop province losing MP

The Canadian Press

The federal government is preparing to take action to ensure Quebec does not lose a seat when Canada's electoral map is redrawn.

A number of government departments are working on proposals to protect Quebec's voice in Parliament as it faces losing a seat in an upcoming redistribution of seats based on population.

Because Quebec's population has declined, it stands to lose an MP, while other provinces with

growing populations, including Alberta, would gain MPs. The last time a province lost a seat in redistribution was in 1966.

This week MPs voted to back a motion tabled by the Bloc Québécois rejecting the proposal to redraw the electoral map in a way that reduces the province's political weight in the House of Commons.

The motion called for changes to the formula used by Elections Canada to allot seats. It was supported by the Liberals, NDP and

some Conservatives.

The existing formula means that on the new electoral map Quebec loses a seat, Alberta gains three more, Ontario and British Columbia each gain an MP, and other provinces and territories keep the same number.

Jean-Sébastien Comeau, press secretary to Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Dominic LeBlanc, said the government is working on a way to ensure that Quebec's share of MPs does not shrink.

"We reject any scenario where

Quebec loses a seat. We are carefully considering next steps in terms of the redistribution of seats in the House of Commons and we will have more to say in due course," he said.

The office of Pablo Rodriguez, who is the government's spokesman on Quebec, also known as the Quebec lieutenant, is among those working on ways to protect the province's representation in the Commons.

A source in the Quebec lieutenant's office, who spoke on con-

dition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment to media, said there were "live discussions" ongoing about ensuring the number of seats in the province does not fall.

One of the things the government is looking at is the 2011 Fair Representation Act, which put forward ways to maintain the number of MPs in slower-growing provinces, to see if similar measures could be used to protect the number of ridings in Quebec, the source said.

## 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 FEBRUARY 24 TO MARCH 2, 2022 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

#### RESIDENTIAL

<b>917 4 STREET SE</b>	(Lot 3, Block B, Plan 23593) PLDP20220084. Garage.
<b>29 2 STREET SW</b>	(Lot 4, Block 3, Plan 23560) PLDP20220156. Single Detached House (Demolition).
<b>2073 17 STREET SE</b>	(Lot 26, Block 3, Plan 2662JK) PLDP20220157. Garage.
<b>488 SOMERSIDE PLACE SE</b>	(Lot 23, Block 12, Plan 1012845) PLDP20220159. Garage.



#### COMMERCIAL

#### HOME OCCUPATION

<b>70 10 STREET NE</b>	(Lot 12, Block 12, Plan 4440AH) PLDP20210808. Office Use Only. Consultant (Media And Online).
<b>463 SOMERSIDE PLACE SE</b>	(Lot 19, Block 3, Plan 1012845) PLDP20220008. Office Use Only. Service (Elderly Care).
<b>79 SUNSET CRESCENT SW</b>	(Lot 16, Block 26, Plan 0312828) PLDP20220061. Office Use Only. Service (Home Inspection).
<b>32 CARTER CRESCENT SE</b>	(Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 7910917) PLDP20220062. Office With Customers To Attend Site. Manicure/Pedicure/Aesthetician.
<b>42 ROSSLAND WAY SE</b>	(Lot 17, Block 13, Plan 7711248) PLDP20220086. Office With Storage On Site. General Contractor/Project Manager.
<b>16 CLOVER COURT SE</b>	(Lot 13, Block 2, Plan 7711650) PLDP20220113. Office With Storage On Site. Online Sales (Clothing).
<b>964 20 STREET NE</b>	(Lot 3, Block 8, Plan 7410918) PLDP20220146. Office Use Only. Alternative Therapy.

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](http://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).**

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE BYLAW #4695 LANE/ROAD WEST OF 511 SPENCER STREET SE

The municipal council of the City of the Medicine Hat gave First Reading on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 to Bylaw #4695, a road closure bylaw. The purpose of Bylaw #4695 is to close the lane/road west of 511 Spencer Street SE in order to consolidate the 203, 301, 507, & 511 Spencer Street lots. The subject lane/road has not operated as a road and there are no other adjacent privately owned properties that would use this area for access.

A Public Hearing in general accordance with the Municipal Government Act and the City's Procedure Bylaw, and consideration of the Second/Third Readings of proposed Bylaw #4695 will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers (580 First Street SE) on Monday, March 21, 2022 beginning at approximately 6:30 pm. This meeting will be open to the public with adjustments in place to ensure alignment with current Alberta Health requirements related to COVID-19. Any person who claims to be affected by the proposed bylaw may make representation to City Council at the Public Hearing. Oral submissions are limited to five minutes.

Anyone wishing to have a written submission concerning this proposed bylaw placed before the City Council must submit it to:

City Clerk Department, 580 First Street SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 8E6

by 12:00 noon, Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

All submissions are treated as public documents.

For further information, or to view a copy of proposed Bylaw #4695 and related documents, please contact Land & Business Support at 403.529.8149. Bylaw #4695 may also be accessed via the 'Proposed Bylaws' section on the City's website at [www.medicinehat.ca](http://www.medicinehat.ca).

Dated at the City of Medicine Hat, in the Province of Alberta, this 26th day of February, 2022.

Angela Cruickshank, City Clerk  
Phone 403.529.8234  
Fax 403.529.8324  
E-mail: [clerk@medicinehat.ca](mailto:clerk@medicinehat.ca)

[www.medicinehat.ca](http://www.medicinehat.ca)

### GAS, ELECTRIC, WIND ENERGY RATES SET FOR MARCH

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

#### Natural Gas

The March natural gas commodity rate of \$4.9390 per gigajoule (GJ), down from the previous month of \$5.0510 per GJ, for all customers is based on the average of the monthly gas charges set by Alberta gas distribution (pipes) owners.

March 2022 (per GJ)	Rate per GJ
Direct Energy Regulated Services (North and South)	\$4.758
APEX Utilities Inc. (Formerly AltaGas Utilities Inc.)	\$5.120
<b>City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)</b>	<b>\$4.939</b>

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 March electricity rate of \$0.10723 per kilowatt hour, down from the previous month of \$0.16183 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*.

March 2022 (per kilowatt hour)	Rate per kWh
Direct Energy Regulated Services	\$0.11028
ENMAX Energy Corporation	\$0.10580
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (Edmonton)	\$0.10732
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (outside Edmonton)	\$0.10553
<b>City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)</b>	<b>\$0.10723</b>

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 March 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 February was \$0.12522 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 March is \$0.0005 per kilowatt hour.

For further information, please contact:

[media@medicinehat.ca](mailto:media@medicinehat.ca)

### 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](http://www.medicinehat.ca) or contact City Assets Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

## Canada must do more to control plastic waste exports: Environment Minister Guilbeault

The Canadian Press

In the year since new rules to slow global exports of plastic waste took effect, Canada's shipments rose by more than 13 per cent, and most of it is going to the United States with no knowledge of where it ultimately ends up.

Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault said that kind of lackadaisical approach to exporting plastic waste has to stop.

"I'm very worried about that and I think we clearly have to do better," Guilbeault said in an interview.

"If we're shipping plastics that are aimed at recycling, we better make sure that that's what happens. And frankly, right now, it's not clear to me that is always the case and in fact there's been a number of instances where it's not."

Guilbeault said he is talking to his officials about what can be done to fix the problem "because right now we're not doing a very good job."

Canada's shaky history on plastic waste exports got international attention in 2019, when shipments of garbage falsely labelled as plastics for recycling led to a diplomatic stand-off with the Philippines.

It put a spotlight on the global trade in garbage, which mostly saw wealthy countries putting their trash on container ships bound for the developing world where it often ends up in landfills or burned, causing a raft of environmental and human health repercussions.

In the wake of that embarrassment, Canada said it would work with the Canada Border Services Agency to halt exports of contaminated plastic and agreed to amendments to the United Nations Basel Convention on hazardous waste that added mixed plastic waste to the substances covered by the conventions rules.

On paper that meant that after Jan. 1, 2021, Canada should only be able to export waste to other convention members, and such exports would need prior informed consent from the importing country, and confirmation of how the waste was disposed.

But a few months before the amendments came into force Canada quietly signed an agreement with the United States allowing for free flow of plastic waste between the two, even though the U.S. is not a party to the Basel Convention. The agreement is allowed under Basel rules, but because the U.S. is not bound by the convention, it can do what it likes with the waste, including shipping it anywhere else it wants.

Trade data collected by the Basel Action Network shows more than 340 million kilograms of plastic waste was exported by the U.S. to just four countries in 2021 — Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Vietnam.

Kathleen Ruff, head of Right On Canada which lobbies against the exports of all hazardous waste, called the Canada-U.S. agreement "a colossal loophole that violates the Basel Convention by allowing us to export huge amounts of plastic and other wastes to the U.S. with no controls to prevent our wastes from being then shipped to developing countries."

"This is not the environmental leadership we were promised," she said.

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