

Brooks-MH byelection candidates offer would-be solutions to health-care issues

SAMANTHA JOHNSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
reporter@medicinehatnews.com

Each of the four candidates present at the Brooks and District Chamber of Commerce Forum on Wednesday evening received five minutes to discuss health care issues.

United Conservative leader Danielle Smith says centralization doesn't work.

"COVID didn't break the system but made us realize the system was already broken."

She says an official administrator will be installed by the UCP as the head of Alberta Health Services, with the current board stepping aside.

Smith wants an efficient way of moving patients through hospitals, such as attaching walk-in clinics to hospitals to prevent ERs being utilized for non-urgent care. Using unused operating rooms in hospitals and having a flexible approach to proposals made by surgical teams. The primary care model needs to be updated and a collective approach used by family doctors, she says. A different payment system would allow nurse practitioners, physiotherapists and dietitians to be hired providing each patient with a medical home.

Alberta Party leader Barry Morishita believes the AHS board should be made up of professionals, people who understand what it's like to deliver at the front lines. He wants a return to relying on assets in the community and investigating different pilot projects for transporting patients, such as Handi-Buses.

He wants partnerships with housing to provide long-term care and assisted living. There are municipality-owned foundations to provide extra services but money for staff is needed. There needs to be adequate funding of doctors and nurses and a new triage model in hospitals. Mental health supports and wellness needs to be boosted to prevent further drain on acute care system.

"A multitude of things that we need to move on but we can do it in incremental ways in communities that have the strengths and the purpose to move forward in their areas and decentralizing would help a lot there," Morishita said

Independence Party of Alberta candidate Bob Blayone said, "Let's be honest, we are in a crisis in health care."

A resident of Peace River, Blayone talked extensively about northern Alberta, how ambulances travel from hospital to hospital to find a bed.

"\$23 billion into AHS, the budgetary spending doesn't add up. Where is the money going?"

Blayone wants the College of Physicians and Surgeons dissolved and its control ended.

Gwendoline Dirk, NDP candidate, stated frontline workers are so important but in a state of complete crisis.

"The truth is, as soon as the UCP got into power, they got into a fight with doctors. The doctors weren't happy and continued to argue with the government, and what did they do? They ripped up their contract.

"Students are choosing to do residencies in other provinces because they don't see a future in Alberta, and Danielle Smith is part of the UCP."

Dirk believes tearing down AHS will cause more chaos. Change needs to happen but in a different way. She also discussed the ER problem and says a triage system would be great, but essentially it comes down to more frontline workers. Dirk also said the 89-day contract to EMS drivers forced on them by the UCP needs to be changed to give them long-term stability in their jobs.

Manitoba government funds new police detention facility in Brandon

The Canadian Press

The Manitoba government is putting up millions of more dollars for a new detention facility at the police headquarters in Brandon.

It is the latest in a string of recent crime-related promises from the province.

Premier Heather Stefanson says the Progressive Conservative government will do whatever it takes to support law enforcement officers and public safety.

The money is to be used to build new permanent detention cells that will replace temporary modular ones, and the province says it will be a safer environment for both officers and people being detained.

The project was first announced two years ago with an expected price tag of \$4.4 million.

The new cost is \$8.9 million, and the government says the increase is due to inflation.

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Local AMA reps glad to see Copping stay on

KENDALL KING
kking@medicinehatnews.com
Twitter: kkingmhn

Two of Medicine Hat's most publicly-known physicians, Dr. Fredrykka Rinaldi and Dr. Paul Parks, remain hopeful for improved relations between health-care experts and the province's government, following Premier Danielle Smith's cabinet shuffle.

The shuffle, which was announced Oct. 21, saw several changes over former premier Jason Kenney's picks. Yet, several of his ministers were kept on, including Health Minister Jason Copping.

Rinaldi and Parks both see Smith's decision to keep Copping in the role as a positive one; especially as relations between physicians and government begin to warm for the first time in nearly three years following the Sept. 29 ratification of a new provincial physician agreement.

"Speaking as a physician, I would say it's positive that Minister Copping didn't get moved for a couple of reasons," Parks, an emergency

care physician at Medicine Hat Regional Hospital and new Alberta Medical Association present-elect, told the *News*. "One is that we're in a really tenuous situation right now with our health-care system (and) it takes a long time to get up to speed in such a complex portfolio.

"So, it's absolutely positive that we didn't get changed just for change sake. And that we don't lose time with a new minister coming in and going through that immense learning curve."

Having met and worked with Copping on numerous occasions since he became health minister in September of 2021, Parks feels Copping is well-versed on issues affecting the health-care system. And believes him ready to continue working with experts to create short-term fixes and long-term solutions.

Rinaldi, a Medicine Hat-based family physician and newly elected AMA president, says she and many



Jason Copping



Fredrykka Rinaldi



Paul Parks

other members of the organization, are grateful to Copping for his demonstrated dedication to his role. And appreciate his willingness to collaborate.

"I'm very happy that he's back in because he has been very involved in reaching the agreement ratified by our membership," Rinaldi said. "His participation made a big difference in advancing that agreement. And he's demonstrated that he understands complex issues."

Rinaldi and Parks hope to keep advancing relations and improving the health-care system alongside Copping, and hope he will share the importance of such work with Alberta's new premier.

Alberta's top court overturns first-degree murder convictions

The Canadian Press

Alberta's top court has overturned two first-degree murder convictions in a high-profile case involving the torture and killing of a man and the deaths of three others.

In a decision Friday, the Alberta Court of Appeal said the judge in the trial of Tewodros Kebede and Yu Chieh Liao gave the jury misleading instructions about whether the killing of Hanock Afowerk was planned and deliberate.

Afowerk's body was found in a ditch outside Calgary in July 2017. He was bound, beaten, strangled and shot.

Three other bodies were found in Afowerk's burnt-out car at a suburban construction site. No murder charges have been laid in those deaths.

Court heard that Afowerk's death was the culmination of a plot to kidnap him and extort him for money. The jury agreed with the Crown that Afowerk's killing had been part of the plan from the start.

But the Appeal Court said the trial judge failed to explain that while the kidnapping and beating had clearly been planned, Afowerk's killing may not have been.

The court pointed out a text message sent by Kebede before the killing, which read: "U up for the job tonight?"

That text was one of the chief pieces of evidence the Crown relied on to prove Afowerk's killing was planned and deliberate. It was repeated as part of the trial judge's charge to the jury.

But the recipient of that message did not testify. The Appeal Court said

that left Kebede's meaning unclear.

"It is as reasonable to infer that (the recipient) was being recruited only to kidnap, confine and extort, as it is to infer that he was being recruited to kidnap, confine, extort and kill," said the judgment.

The court has given prosecutors the choice of substituting verdicts of second-degree murder or beginning a new first-degree murder trial.

The appeal does not affect Kebede's and Liao's convictions involving the deaths of the other three victims.

Liao was found guilty of being an accessory in the murders of Cody Pfeiffer, Glynnis Fox and Tiffany Ear, whose remains were found in Afowerk's charred car.

Kebede was convicted of being an accessory in Pfeiffer's murder.

Three children, two adults injured in school bus-semi crash near Edmonton

The Canadian Press

SPRUCE GROVE

Three children and two adults have been injured in a crash between a semi-truck and a school bus west of Edmonton.

Parkland RCMP say there were three children between the ages of about eight and 13 on board the bus

at the time of the crash Friday morning in Spruce Grove.

Alberta Health Services says two boys were taken to hospital in critical, life-threatening condition while the third child, a girl, was treated at the scene and later taken to hospital by family.

The two drivers, a woman in her

60s and a man in his 40s, were also taken to hospital.

In an updated statement Friday afternoon, RCMP say all of the injured were in stable condition.

RCMP say the school bus was travelling northbound on Golden Spike Road when it was struck by the semi-truck.

PUBLIC NOTICES



ENHANCE YOUR RESUME, EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE, HELP SHAPE YOUR COMMUNITY

The City of Medicine Hat invites you to apply for decision making and advisory opportunities on our diverse Boards, Commissions and Committees.

Review the opportunities below, and pick up or download a handbook and application form on our city website: www.medicinehat.ca and click on 'I want to apply'. Feel free to contact the key people listed below if you have additional questions.

Ensure you are the right fit: you are a resident of Medicine Hat (except the Public Library Board). Police Commission applicants are subject to a records check. All terms are three years unless otherwise indicated.

Fill out an application form and attach a two-page resume if you wish and submit it **by 4:30 pm November 14, 2022.**

Drop off: City Clerk Department, Third Floor, City Hall, 580 First Street SE or apply online & email your application to: clerk@medicinehat.ca

ENTITY	VACANCIES	ACTIVITIES	MEETING DETAILS	CONTACT FOR INFORMATION
ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD	1	Hears residential, commercial & multi dwelling taxation appeals (mandated training and paid hearing time)	Sept/Oct/Nov dates depending on appeals	City Clerk Dept. (403.529.8382)
COMBATIVE SPORTS COMMISSION	2	Management, regulation & control of combative sports	Call of the chair	Scott Richter (403.502.8065)
COMMUNITY VIBRANCY ADVISORY BOARD	4	Advise Council on policy and high-level plenary issues contributing to a vibrant community.	Last Wednesday of the month 5:30 pm ± 2 hours with some additional subcommittee work	Leah Prestayko (403.529.8310) Bonnie-Lou Yaroshko (403.529.8316)
MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION	1	Advise & recommends land use planning matters to Council; exercises sub development & development powers	2 nd and 4 th Wednesday of each month 2:30 pm ± 2 hours	City Clerk Dept. (403.529.8220)
POLICE COMMISSION	1	Various powers under the Police Act & Bylaw #1651 (Police check required)	4 th Thursday of month 4:30 pm & 6:00 pm 2 nd Monday of month 12:00 -1:00 pm - informal session	Ted Rodych (Chair) (403.502.8908)
PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD	3	Management, regulation & control of Library, plus other Advocacy work, as Board work may require	1 st Wednesday of month 7:00 pm ± 2 hours plus minimum of 1 monthly subcommittee meeting ± 2 hours	Ken Feser (403.502.8528)
SUBDIVISION & DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD	2	Hears appeals from development authority and some Bylaw orders (mandated training)	As & when appeals received ± 2 hours	City Clerk Dept. (403.529.8382)
HERITAGE RESOURCES WORKING GROUP	2	Assists with promoting the conservation, preservation, restoration, retention and awareness of local heritage resources	2 nd Thursday of month 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Aaron Nelson (403.502.8785)
WORKING GROUP FOR ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION	Up to 4 – 3 year terms 1 – 2 year term	Advise and support City Departments on issues related to persons with physical, developmental and mental health disabilities	1 st Wednesday of month 11:15 am - 1:00 pm	Leslie Jerry (403.502.8086)

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