

Province announces 10-year strategy to tackle gender-based violence

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Local Journalism Initiative

The province is putting together a made-in-Alberta solution to help combat gender-based violence.

To this end, they have created a 10-year Strategy to End Gender-Based Violence, a “bold, provincewide plan that addresses all forms of gender-based violence,” says the province.

This strategy contains both short- and long-term actions to both strengthen current efforts and introduce new ones to co-ordinate community and government efforts, engage men and boys as partners, enhance women’s economic empowerment and ensure targeted programs are Indigenous-led.

“Our commitment to public safety is reflected in Alberta’s approach to preventing and responding to gender-based violence by supporting victims, preventing violence and

ensuring high-risk offenders are held accountable,” said Mike Ellis, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services. “This strategy is a bold step forward — one that brings together government, community partners and front-line professionals.

United, we are proud to unveil Alberta’s decade-long commitment to ending gender-based violence, a crucial step towards a safer future for all.”

The government says its 10-year Strategy to End Gender-Based Violence complements and enhances existing initiatives such as the Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit Plus People and the Human Trafficking Action Plan to address the root causes of gender-based violence and prevent it before it occurs.

It also aims to increase awareness of what gender-based violence is, implement early-pre-

vention strategies, empower women to be economically independent with social and financial resources, support Indigenous-led solutions and incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing and being and support those affected how, where and when they need it.

“By prioritizing financial empowerment and Indigenous-led solutions, this strategy will help more Alberta women avoid or leave high-risk situations. Women Building Futures applauds the Government of Alberta for this farsighted, whole-of-government approach to the pervasive and complex problem of gender-based violence,” said Carol Moen, president and CEO of Women Building Futures.

Budget 2025 invests \$19.8 million to support the plan, and the province says it will be used to make targeted investments to ensure provincial programs are coordinated, collaborative, effective and sustainable.

Cheers to 50 years, Veiner Centre celebrates with its own brew by Medicine Hat Brew Co.

Medicine Hat News

In celebration of providing services and support for aging adults in Medicine Hat for 50 years, the Medicine Hat Brewing Company has collaborated with the Unison at Veiner Centre to brew its very own brand of beer.

The Veiner craft beer, called Vintage 75, is now available at the Bistro. A portion of all sales of Vintage will go back towards programming in Medicine Hat.

“That’s one heck of a 50th anniversary gift,” reads a social media post promoting the Vintage 75. “Special thanks to Medicine Hat Brewing Company for making a delicious and inspiring beer that supports the world by our friends in Medicine Hat.”



HANDOUT PHOTO

The Unison at Veiner Centre’s Bistro is selling a special brew called “Vintage 75” to celebrate the centre’s 50th anniversary. The craft beer was brewed by the Medicine Hat Brewing Company.

Daily measles case tracker for southern Alberta

Medicine Hat News

An additional case of measles has been found in southern Alberta and as such, Alberta Health Services has issued a notice regarding possible points of infection for residents.

Those who present with measles symptoms are asked to stay home and call Health Link at 811 before visiting any healthcare facility or provider.

Individuals who were at the following location during the specified dates and times may have been exposed to measles:

May 1
Lethbridge Polytechnic
3000 College Dr., Lethbridge
Approximately 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

May 2
Lethbridge Polytechnic
3000 College Dr., Lethbridge
Approximately 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Walmart – Medicine Hat
2051 Strachan Rd. SE,
Approximately 1 p.m. to midnight

May 3
Walmart – Medicine Hat

2051 Strachan Rd. SE,
Approximately 3 p.m. to midnight

May 4
Lethbridge Wholesale Club
1706 Mayor Magrath Dr. S.,
Approx. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May 5
Walmart – Medicine Hat
2051 Strachan Rd. SE,
Approximately 5 p.m. to midnight
Walmart – Taber
4500 64 St., Taber
Approximately 6-8:10 p.m.

May 6
Johnson’s Drugs
5204 48 Ave, Taber
Approximately 5-7:10 p.m.

As of May 13, there have been **374 confirmed cases** of measles in Alberta.

Residents are reminded that anyone born in or after 1970 and has fewer than two documented doses of measles-containing vaccine, is at risk for developing measles. Such individuals who were present at potential spread events are asked to monitor themselves closely for symptoms of measles.

toms of measles.

Symptoms of Measles include a fever of 38.3° C or higher, cough, runny nose and/or red eyes and a rash that appears three to seven days after fever starts. This rash usually begins behind the ears and on the face and spreads down to the body and then to the arms and legs.

The rash is often red and blotchy on lighter skin colours, but on darker skin colours it can appear purple or darker than the skin around it, or it might be hard to see, said AHS.

Following a measles exposure, vaccine given within 72 hours can prevent infection.

Measles vaccine is highly effective at preventing infection and complications. In Alberta, measles vaccines are offered, free of charge, through Alberta’s publicly funded immunization program. Those unsure of their vaccination history can text ‘vaccine record’ to 88111, call Health Link (811) or call their local public health or community health centre.

For the latest information on measles in Alberta, visit ahs.ca/measles.

Wild Horse border starting summer hours on Thursday

Medicine Hat News

Summer hours of operation at the Wild Horse border crossing will come into effect on May 15, meaning the Port of Entry south of Medicine Hat will be open four

hours later each evening.

Travellers will be processed until 9 p.m. until Sept. 30. That is opposed to winter hours which sees the board offices closed at 5 p.m. The border opens at 8 a.m.

year round seven days per week for travellers.

Commercial travellers are processed on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. except holidays for 12 months each year.

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Former Hatter earns spot in Carney’s cabinet

Medicine Hat News

A junior member of the new federal cabinet has ties to Medicine Hat.

Eleanor Olszewski is the new minister of emergency preparedness and responsible western economic development after a swearing-in ceremony in Ottawa on Tuesday.

The recently elected MP for Edmonton-Centre grew up in Medicine Hat’s Kensington neighbourhood and attended Monsignor McCoy High School before earning degrees in pharmacy and law from the University of Alberta in the 1980s.

More recently she served as the federal party’s provincial association board along with Medicine Hat’s Stan Sakamoto.

“I think it’s great to have someone from Western Canada in cabinet, having our views at the table,” said Sakamoto. “I think she’s a great fit, and Eleanor will be great for the region and Western Canada.”

Olszewski told the News in a 2019 interview that her family moved to Medicine Hat when she was young after her father Stan was transferred by Canadian Pacific Railway. Her mother Helen taught near their family home at St. Mary’s School.

On Tuesday, she joined federal cabinet as the Minister of Emergency Management and Community Resilience, as well as the minister responsi-



Eleanor Olszewski

ble for Prairies Economic Development Canada. That agency was created years ago from Western Economic Development when its mandate for British Columbia was put in a stand-alone agency.

The 2025 election was Olszewski’s fourth attempt to win a seat in the Alberta capital, having previously run in the riding of Edmonton-Strathcona.

Prior to the April 28 election, Olszewski assumed the candidacy for Edmonton-Centre, where incumbent candidate Randy Boissenault was retiring. Edmonton-Strathcona was held by New Democrat incumbent Heather McPherson.

Several other Western Canadian members of the Liberal caucus were named as secretaries of state with special portfolios.

Former Vancouver mayor Gregor Robertson is Minister of Housing and responsible for Pacific Economic Development.

Buckley Belanger, elected in the Saskatchewan riding of Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River, will focus on rural development.

Others are Stephen Fuhr, MP for Kelowna, Defence Procurement, and former Alberta MLA Stephanie McLean (seniors), who won a federal seat on Vancouver Island last month.

Manitoba MP Rebecca Chartrand is a minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs, and responsible for the Northern Economic Development.

RCMP officer in Swift cleared of wrongdoing after woman dies in hospital shortly after peaceful arrest

Medicine Hat News

A Mountie in Swift Current has been cleared of any wrongdoing after a resident of that town died in hospital shortly after being arrested last year.

A report released last week by the Saskatchewan Serious Incident Response Team states that on May 5, 2024 family members requested a welfare check for the 55-year-old female who they believed was in medical discomfort and may be suicidal.

Police called paramedics shortly after arriving, at which point the report states the subject became combative and threatened suicide.

She was handcuffed and walked to the ambulance about 11:55 a.m., arrived at the Cypress Regional Hospital three minutes later and was pronounced deceased at 12:26 p.m. by a doctor.

“While the stress of being arrested, along with numerous


chronic and acute medical issues, may have played some role in the timing of the onset of the affected person’s medical distress ... that arrest was both based on reasonable grounds, and was reasonably conducted,” the report concluded.

An autopsy determined the cause of death as cardiorespiratory arrest.

SIRT stated no use of force was employed while the officer had to consider past behavioural concerns, substance use and mental state during the arrest.

“It is worth noting that any arrest, even one conducted without any use of force by police, may be stressful to the subject of the arrest by its very nature,” the report states. “The subject officer attempted to convince the affected person to attend for medical treatment voluntarily.”

The report concludes SIRT’s role in the matter without a recommendations against action.


Medicine Hat

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD
APPEAL #2-2025
675 INDUSTRIAL AVE SE
(Lot 4, Block 1, Plan 9011164)

TAKE NOTICE THAT the following appeal will be heard by the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board at a Public Hearing in City Hall Council Chambers, commencing at **9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 22, 2025.**

On April 4, 2025, Bylaw Enforcement issued an Order To Remedy Unsightly Property. The appellant is appealing the Stop Order.

If you wish to inspect any other documentation on file with regard to this matter, you may do so by attending at the City Clerk Department, 3rd Floor, City Hall between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Written/electronic submissions, regarding the above, will be accepted and placed before the Board. All submissions will be treated as public documents and must be received by the undersigned by noon, **Tuesday May 20th, 2025.** Oral Submissions are normally limited to five (5) minutes.

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