

Grieving friend says Canadian shot dead in South Africa wasn't asking guide about gun

DYLAN ROBERTSON
The Canadian Press

A Canadian man killed Wednesday in an apparent accident at a wildlife park in South Africa was not the one who asked a hunting guide about his gun, his close friend tells *The Canadian Press*.

"I'm so devastated. I lost my good friend," said Kelvin Choi.

Choi said the version of events provided by local authorities does not reflect what happened at Kruger National Park because his 69-year-old friend was not the one asking the guide about the gun.

Choi said his longtime travel companion was shot accidentally while walking to the washroom by a gun that is used to kill elephants and rhinos.

"What was reported was totally different from what has happened," he said. "I want the truth to be out there, for their family and for myself."

The travel group only discovered the man's body roughly a half-hour later, as they had been seated around a bonfire during a pitch-black night, Choi said.

Choi, his deceased friend and their wives live in the Vancouver area. They were part of a group of 28 travellers which included roughly 10 Canadians. They had signed

up for a safari tour followed by a bonfire barbecue dinner, known locally as a bush braai.

Choi said the group leader brought them to the meal and they sat in a large horseshoe arrangement around a fire pit. Choi provided a photo of that evening taken moments before the incident.

The group leader had a guide on site for protection from wild animals, who told the group a leopard had been recently spotted in the area, Choi said. The guide at one point spoke to the group and was later approached by two tourists, Choi said.

In a Thursday news release, South African National Parks reported preliminary information indicated a private guide "accidentally discharged a firearm, resulting in the fatal injury."

That same day, the South African Police Service reported a claim that the Canadian man had asked a park guide whether his gun was real shortly before being shot to death.

"It is alleged that the 69-year-old male tourist approached the concession operator, who was holding a rifle, and asked if it was a real firearm. While the operator was demonstrating that it was a real rifle, the firearm reportedly discharged. The bullet

struck the tourist in the upper body," the police wrote.

Choi said it was actually two other tourists who spoke to the park guide, while his friend was walking to the washroom.

"It was such a loud bang and everybody was focusing on what happened," said Choi, who recalled his own ears ringing for minutes.

"Nobody knew that my friend was shot because it was very dark."

Choi said the group had assembled for an evening safari around 3:45 p.m. and gathered for the meal around 7 p.m. He said he had finished dinner by the time the shot was fired, around 8 p.m.

Choi said afterwards, the two who had been talking with the guide told members of the tour group that the gun was powerful enough to kill an elephant or rhino with a single shot.

Choi said he was seated toward one end of the horseshoe and his friend was in the middle. He said his friend stood to walk away from the bonfire toward the washroom.

"He fell behind and nobody knew that he was shot until after the whole event, about half an hour later," Choi said.

"Somebody walked up, decided to leave for the truck to go back to the hotel, and found



AP FILE PHOTO
A Savanna elephant is photographed in Kruger National Park, South Africa, in this March 2020 file photo.

him lying in a pool of blood." Choi said the bullet hit his friend through entry point on the left shoulder and an exit point on the right shoulder, and that a nurse who was in the group and another tourist attempted chest compressions until an ambulance arrived.

Police said Thursday the Canadian man was confirmed dead at the scene and they are investigating possible charges of culpable homicide and reckless handling of a firearm.

Local media report a 38-year-old man has now been arrested on both charges, though the local police detach-

ment did not immediately respond to a request to confirm that information.

Choi said he is upset that media reports — based on information from authorities — said it was his friend who had been asking about the gun. Choi said he gave a statement to police, as had many in the group.

"He's my travel buddy for some time now. He's an easygoing guy, very sociable. What can I say? We were so looking forward to this safari trip," he said adding that his travel agency has offered counselling.

"I'm not getting over this thing easily. It's difficult for me."

BUSINESS

Market Watch

S&P/TSX
34,857.34
-111.92

S&P 500
closed

DOW
closed

NASDAQ
closed

DOLLAR
70.57¢US
-0.20¢

OIL per barrel
closed

GOLD
closed

PUBLIC NOTICES



DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED JUNE 11 TO JUNE 17, 2026

RESIDENTIAL

- 46 COOPER ROAD SE - Garage.
- 348 RANGLANDS BOULEVARD NE - Single Detached House And Secondary Suite
- 1277 24 STREET SE - Fence Height Variance
- 1262 DOMINION STREET SE - Single Detached House (Addition)

COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL/ INSTITUTIONAL

- 541 A NORTH RAILWAY ST SE - Change Of Use To Pet Service
 - 345 KIPLING STREET SE - Demolition (Two Buildings)
 - 3806 BOX SPRINGS ROAD NW - Accessory Use (Office And Control Room) With Variance For Rooftop Mechanical Screening
- ### HOME BUSINESS
- 1914 15 AVENUE SE Home Business Minor - Painting & Sandblasting. (Refused. No application fee payment / Incomplete application).
 - 1265 2 AVENUE NE - Home Business Minor - Janitorial Service/ Moving Company. (Refused. No application fee payment / Incomplete application).
 - 1749 15 AVENUE SE - Home Business Minor - Excavation/Landscaping/ Demolition.
 - 124 PRESTON AVENUE NE - Home Business Minor - Service (Events Company).
 - 399 STERLING CRESCENT SE - Home Business Minor - Window Cleaning/Pressure Washing.

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Authority 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. Forms available from: City Clerk Dept., 3rd Floor, City Hall or City website: www.medicinehat.ca.

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. For more information, contact Planning and Development Services, 2nd Floor, City Hall. Ph. (403) 529-8374.

FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS & WATER MAIN FLUSHING

Environmental Utilities maintenance crews perform regular, routine maintenance to uphold the waterworks system infrastructure and water quality by annually inspecting fire hydrants and flushing water mains.

During these operations, there may be some discoloration in the water which is not harmful to consume and will dissipate when flushing is complete.

It is important to note that discoloured water should not be used for laundry, and that fluctuating water pressure may also be noticed.

Should discoloration persist over three hours, turn on a cold-water faucet 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 information on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca/water or contact Environmental Utilities at 403-529-8176.



Scan code to view development notices online (updated weekly)

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD APPEAL #2-2026 710 GERSHAW DRIVE SW (PLAN 4349GS, BLOCK 5, LOT 5)

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 **10:00 am on Tuesday, June 23, 2026.**

On May 14, 2026, Planning and Development Services refused development permit application PLDP20260201 from Harvco Signs. This development permit proposes to erect a portable sign with electronic display in a mixed-use district. The appellant is appealing the refusal of this development permit.

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

Cyndi Cogbill,
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Clerk
e-mail: clerk@medicinehat.ca

THE CITY OF MEDICINE HAT 4888-2026 City owned land title designation change

TAKE NOTICE that the Medicine Hat City Council gave first reading on Monday, June 15, 2026 to the following City of Medicine Hat Bylaw:

Bylaw 4888-2026 proposes to remove the Reserve designation from a portion of certain lands for the purposes of a sale and to designate a portion of certain municipal lands as Municipal Reserve.

If passed, the Bylaw would:

- Remove the Reserve designation from a portion of the municipal reserve lands legally described as Lot R4 (Reserve), Block 6, Plan 7610522.
- Designate a portion of the municipal lands legally described as Lot 1, Block 6, Plan 7610522 as Municipal Reserve.

A public hearing in general accordance with the Municipal Government Act and the City's Procedure Bylaw, and consideration of second/third readings of proposed Bylaw 4888-2026 will be held on **Monday, July 6, 2026**, at approximately **6:30 p.m.** in City Hall Council Chambers (580 First Street SE).

Any person who claims to be affected by the proposed bylaw may make an oral presentation limited to five minutes to City Council at the public hearing.

Written/electronic submissions – all written submissions received prior to the public hearing will be provided to City Council. Submissions received by end of day on Monday, June 29, 2026, will be published in the Regular City Council Meeting agenda.

All written/electronic submissions become public documents and must be submitted to the City Clerk Department at 580 First Street SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 8E6 or via e-mail: clerk@medicinehat.ca

For further information or to view related documents, please contact Land & Real Estate at 403-529-8248. Additional information may also be accessed via the 'Proposed Bylaws' section on the city website at www.medicinehat.ca.

Dated at the City of Medicine Hat, in the Province of Alberta, this 20th day of June 2026.
Amanda Peterson
City Clerk

Ottawa imposes 10 per cent tariffs on some canned vegetable imports

The Canadian Press

The federal government is levying a temporary 10 per cent tariff on some imported canned vegetables to help domestic vegetable growers.

The Department of Finance says the move addresses critical circumstances and immediate challenges the Canadian canned vegetable industry faces.

It says canned vegetable imports from the United States, Mexico, Israel, Chile and developing countries will not be subject to the tariff.

The temporary measure, which will remain in place for up to 200 days, will help stabilize market conditions and mitigate the effects of trade diversion on domestic producers, the ministry says.

Meanwhile, the Canadian International Trade Tribunal will continue its inquiry into global imports of canned vegetables, which was launched in March and is expected to conclude in September.

The tribunal is investigating whether increased canned vegetable imports are causing or threatening to cause harm to Canadian vegetable growers and processors.

Fathers In Nature

June 21st, 1pm - 2pm
Police Point Park

41514017.06/17/2026

MH INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

Managed by the Society of Grasslands Naturalists

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