

Market Watch

S&P/TSX 34,937.85 +266.39	S&P 500 7,431.46 +37.16	DOW 51,202.26 +353.51	NASDAQ 25,888.84 +79.18	DOLLAR 71.55¢US -0.09¢	OIL per barrel US\$84.88 -\$2.83	GOLD US\$4,238.80 +\$124.80
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Household debt outpaced income in Q1

The Canadian Press

Statistics Canada says the amount Canadian households owe outpaced income for the sixth straight quarter.

The agency says the seasonally adjusted ratio of household credit market debt as a proportion of household disposable rose 0.9 percentage points to 179.6 per cent in this first quarter of this year.

In other words, there was roughly \$1.80 in credit market debt for every dollar of household disposable income.

The seasonally adjusted

household debt service ratio — measured as total obligated payments of principal and interest on credit market debt as a proportion of household disposable income — was 14.75 per cent in the first quarter of 2026, up from 14.68 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2025.

The pace of seasonally adjusted household credit market borrowing, which includes consumer credit and mortgage and non-mortgage loans, totalled \$35.5 billion in the first quarter, up from \$34.5 billion in the last quarter of 2025.

Ottawa moves to tighten rules barring forced labour products from Canada

DYLAN ROBERTSON
The Canadian Press

The federal government tabled a bill Friday to change the way Canada bars imports of products made with forced labour following an American tariff threat.

Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand was in Paris with Prime Minister Mark Carney as the legislation was tabled by her parliamentary secretary, Rob Oliphant.

"This will be a made-in-Canada solution to an international problem," Oliphant told reporters on Parliament Hill.

He said the bill would create a public list of products that have been linked to forced labour in specific regions, based on intelligence from embassies and other authorities.

The bill would require importers to prove that specific products from listed regions were not made through slavery.

He said Bill C-35 should address the concerns of U.S. President Donald Trump, whose administration is mulling new tariffs targeting Canada and other countries over imports produced through forced labour.

The legislation would shift away from the current practice of Canadian officials inspecting containers. Instead, Oliphant said, officials would be provided with a list of higher-risk products to inspect.

The bill also looks to put Canada in line with Mexico and with rules the European Union is crafting.

"We do not want dumping of cheaper materials, cheaper goods into Canada that are produced with forced labour," Oliphant said.

The bill will require study and consultation and the House of Commons is expected to rise for the summer next week. The government does not have a timeline for when the new system would come into force.

Conservative ethics critic Michael Barrett said he would examine the legislation but criticized the government for previously saying the existing system had been weeding out products of slavery.

"They're introducing legislation, saying that it's going to do



CP PHOTO ADRIAN WYLD

MP for Don Valley West Rob Oliphant stands in the House of Commons on Jan. 27.

the very thing that they said they were already doing," he told reporters Friday before Oliphant tabled the bill.

Oliphant insisted the bill was not tabled solely due to American pressure. He said the Liberals promised changes in late 2024 — shortly before then-prime minister Justin Trudeau suspended Parliament and resigned.

"That is not the principal reason we are doing this now," he said of American tariffs.

Under the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement on trade, Ottawa changed the wording of a customs law on forced labour rules in 2020 to prohibit imports of goods "that are mined, manufactured or produced wholly or in part by forced labour," putting Canadian tariffs in line with CUSMA rules.

But the White House says there is little evidence that Canada has stepped up enforcement.

United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer's office recently recommended an additional 10 per cent tariff on multiple countries — including Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom — it claims are not doing enough to enforce domestic bans on forced labour.

The Trump administration must launch further public consultations before it can impose the tariff. Carney said last week Canada already has a very strong forced labour regime but legislation would be introduced

to crack down on it further.

Advocates have long argued Canada does a poor job of enforcing existing rules meant to bar products made through slavery, a point Carney acknowledged Thursday.

"We have ... a very strong framework and responsibilities — legal framework and standards and responsibilities. We've been ... less effective in fully enforcing those, and some of that relates to how the responsibilities are structured legally, some of it relates to resources," he told reporters in Toronto.

A recent report by Greer's office said the Canada Border Services Agency does not appear to publish official information about its enforcement efforts and cited numbers suggesting enforcement is weak.

The report also noted an analysis by the Coalition Against Forced Labour that said Canadian border officials intercepted only 50 shipments on suspicion of forced labour, and just two shipments were turned away.

CBSA said it has intercepted and detained 50 shipments over concerns about forced labour since 2020. Two shipments were found to have been produced using forced labour — a 2024 shipment of textiles and one in 2025 containing frozen seafood.

Friday's bill would shift the main responsibility for blocking forced labour imports from the minister of public safety to the minister of foreign affairs.

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 JUNE 4 TO JUNE 10, 2026

RESIDENTIAL

81 SUNWOOD CRESCENT SW - Single Detached House With Site Coverage Variance

34 8 STREET SE - Garage Addition With Variance To Accessory Site Coverage

5244 & 5246 SOUTHLANDS DRIVE SE - Attached Housing (Two Principal Dwellings).

87 RANCHVIEW WAY NE - Single Detached House With Site Coverage Variance

51 SUNDOWN ROAD SW - Secondary Suite

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/ INSTITUTIONAL

1 378 1 STREET SE - Change Of Use To Office

1250 52 STREET NW - Accessory Use (Addition To Existing Parking Lot).

20 SAAMIS ROTARY WAY SW - Relocation Of Existing Electronic Display Sign

71 PAUL STOBER DRIVE SE - Hotel

402 3 AVENUE SW - Parking Lot Expansion.

2038 12 AVENUE NW - Non-Residential Addition.

HOME BUSINESS

36 298 SOMERSET WAY SE - Home Business Minor-Painting and Sandblasting/Janitorial Service.

60 SIERRA DRIVE SW - Home Business Minor - Administrative Consultant. (Refused. No application fee payment / Incomplete application).

178 SIERRA DRIVE SW - Home Business Minor - General Business License (Sensory Bus).

38 RUNDLE CRESCENT SE - Home Business Minor - Bookkeeping.

140 SOMERSET ROAD SE - Home Business Minor - Bookkeeping.

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.

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.

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 **4:30 p.m., Wednesday June 17, 2026.** Oral submissions are limited to five (5) minutes.

Cyndi Cogbill,
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Clerk
580 First Street SE
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8E6
Phone: 403.529.8221
e-mail: clerk@medicinehat.ca

www.medicinehat.ca

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FRIENDS OF MEDALTA SOCIETY (FOMS) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, June 25, 2026 @ 6:30 PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
Medalta Potteries Site
713 Medalta Avenue SE
(403) 529-1070 | Medalta.org

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MEDICINE HAT NEWS

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