

Market Watch

S&P/TSX 34,471.36 +61.87	S&P 500 7,473.47 +27.75	DOW 50,579.70 +294.04	NASDAQ 26,343.97 +50.87	DOLLAR 72.42¢US -0.13¢	OIL per barrel US\$96.60 +\$0.25	GOLD US\$4,523.20 -\$19.30
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Uncertainty over separation comes at 'exactly the wrong time': business group

LAUREN KRUGEL
The Canadian Press

Alberta's latest step toward a possible vote on splitting from Canada adds an unwelcome layer of unpredictability in an already shaky global economic landscape, business leaders said Friday.

More ambiguity means investment dollars stay on the sidelines, projects get more expensive and delays become more likely, said Deborah Yedlin, president and CEO of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce.

"At this moment in time, we don't have that luxury," she said. "Uncertainty is the enemy of investment, and we're now introduced to new elements of uncertainty."

Premier Danielle Smith said in a televised address late Thursday that the Oct. 19 referendum will include a question on whether Alberta should remain in Canada or if the province should hold a binding referendum on separation. Nine other questions announced in February deal with immigration and constitutional matters.

Smith's announcement came as the war in the Middle East continues to upend the global energy market and Canada looks push forward the infrastructure needed to get more of its oil and gas to customers clamouring for stable supply.

The referendum news also came one week after Smith and Prime Minister Mark Carney resolved one of the last remaining sticking points in the energy

accord they signed late last year: an agreement on how to implement an increase in the industrial carbon price. The memorandum of understanding lays out conditions that could see a new Alberta-to-West coast pipeline built to enable more bitumen exports to Asia.

"We don't need this," Yedlin said of the separatism debate ratcheting up just as the regulatory logjam holding back resource development shows signs of loosening after a decade.

Yedlin said there's a concern the rest of the country doesn't appreciate the gravity of the situation, and that businesses based elsewhere in Canada aren't immune to the risk of separation.

"It has to be something that we take seriously as a country and as a province because this is not worth breaking up the country for."

Candace Laing, head of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, said the country has already been contending with economic costs beyond its control while also recognizing the need to remove self-imposed barriers.

"Prolonged uncertainty around constitutional or political separation brings real risks for investor confidence, economic growth and Canada's global competitiveness at exactly the wrong time," she said.

"There are legitimate concerns being raised in Alberta around competitiveness, market access and economic opportunity. Canada's democratic sys-



Premier of Danielle Smith speaks to reporters on the sidelines of the annual Canada Strong and Free Network in Ottawa on May 8.

CP PHOTO SPENCER COLBY

tem is strong enough to address those concerns constructively while continuing to build a stronger, more competitive national economy together."

The Business Council of Alberta agreed that valid grievances are being voiced in the province, but said separation is not the solution. In a statement, the council said last week's carbon price agreement shows what's possible when the provincial and federal governments work together.

"It is an example of a shift by the federal government to

recognize Alberta's importance and unique contributions to the federation. We commend Premier Danielle Smith's work with Prime Minister Carney to advance a fairer deal for Alberta," it said.

But the business council said there is more to be done to make the federal-provincial relationship more fair, such as reforming the equalization program and giving provinces more of a say over immigration.

ATCO Ltd. chief executive Nancy Southern has been one of the few Alberta business lead-

ers to speak out in favour of Alberta staying within Canada.

She told reporters after the company's annual general meeting last week that Albertans should take lessons from the Brexit vote a decade ago, which led to the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union.

"It has not been a good situation for Great Britain," she said.

"It's in my heart and soul to be a proud Canadian as well as a proud Albertan. I don't believe this discussion should have gone as far as it has."

PUBLIC NOTICES



DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED MAY 14 TO MAY 20, 2026

RESIDENTIAL

- 89 STAFORD CRESCENT SE - Garage.
- 103 BURNS CRESCENT NW - Garage (Carport)
- 46 TERRACE VIEW NE - Garage
- 6 SIERRA GREEN SW - Single Detached House

COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL/ INSTITUTIONAL

- 710 GERSHAW DRIVE SW - Portable Sign With An Electronic Display (Refused Due To Public Safety And Traffic Impacts & Impact On Adjacent Residential Properties And Compatibility)
- 200 623 4 STREET SE - Change Of Use To Healthcare Offices, Retail And Consumer Services (Pharmaceutical), And Restaurant (Coffee Shop)

HOME BUSINESS

- 1283 MCKENZIE CRESCENT NW Home Business Minor. Gasfitter. (Refused. No application fee payment / Incomplete application).
- 115 SOUTHLANDS POINTE SE Home Business Minor. Landscaping/General Contractor/Project Manager.
- 155 SUNDANCE ROAD SW Home Business Major. Manicure/Pedicure/Aesthetics.

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.



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

THE CITY OF MEDICINE HAT LAND USE BYLAW 4853-2026 LAND USE BYLAW REFRESH PROJECT

TAKE NOTICE that the Medicine Hat City Council gave first reading on Monday, May 4, 2026, to the following City of Medicine Hat Bylaw:

Bylaw 4853-2026 proposes to repeal and replace the existing Land Use Bylaw No. 4168 and adopt a new Land Use Bylaw regulating the use and development of land and buildings within the City of Medicine Hat. The bylaw applies to all lands within the municipal boundaries.

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 4853-2026 will be held on **Monday, June 1, 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, May 25, 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

A copy of the proposed bylaw, including all schedules, maps, and related documents, may be viewed on the Shape Your City webpage for the project (<https://shapeyourcity.medicinehat.ca/land-use-bylaw-rewrite>), inspected by the public at Planning & Development Services - City Hall (580 First Street SE) during regular business hours, or online at www.medicinehat.ca under the "Proposed Bylaws" section.

Dated at the City of Medicine Hat, in the Province of Alberta, this 16th day of May 2026, updated on this 23rd day of May, 2026.

Stephanie Zubrecki
Interim City Clerk

Higher sales at gas stations as prices rise boost retail sales in March

The Canadian Press

Retail sales rose 0.9 per cent to \$72.7 billion in March as higher gas prices boosted overall sales for the month, Statistics Canada said on Friday.

Sales at gas stations and fuel vendors rose 12.4 per cent as the attack on Iran by the U.S. and Israel drove oil and gas prices higher, the agency said. In volume terms, sales for the subsector fell 1.9 per cent for the month.

"The war-driven price shock is leaving a mark on Canadian consumers, who have otherwise held in there against elevated economic uncertainty and outright population declines," said BMO senior economist Shelly Kaushik in a note to clients.

She said the StatCan report suggests consumer spending will remain under pressure until energy prices normalize.

Oil prices have remained high amid ongoing uncertainty about how long the war in the Middle East will keep the Strait of Hormuz shut. The closure of the crucial waterway has prevented oil tankers from exiting the Persian Gulf to deliver crude to customers worldwide.

Core retail sales, which exclude gasoline stations and fuel vendors and motor vehicle and parts dealers, fell 0.1 per cent in March.

Sales at building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers fell 2.9 per cent, while general merchandise retailers saw sales slip 0.5 per cent.

"A stagnant housing market continues to weigh on retail sales," said CIBC senior economist Andrew Grantham in a note.

The largest gain in core retail sales came from food and beverage retailers, up 0.5 per cent, StatCan said.

Overall retail sales in volume terms fell 0.7 per cent in March.

Grantham said inflation-adjusted consumer spending appears to be pulling back again following a solid start to the year.

"That stall in spending will limit the ability of higher gasoline prices to spread to wider inflationary pressures, enabling the Bank of Canada to look through the near-term spike in headline inflation and keep interest rates on hold this year," he said.

Looking ahead, Statistics Canada said its preliminary estimate for April suggests retail sales rose 0.6 per cent, though it cautioned the figure will be revised.

Grantham said early insights into April, suggesting potentially lower volumes, are setting the second quarter up to be a "much weaker quarter for consumer spending."

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.