

Market Watch

S&P/TSX 35,274.84 -308.17	S&P 500 closed	DOW closed	NASDAQ closed	DOLLAR 70.42¢US -0.10¢	OIL per barrel US\$68.78 +\$0.09	GOLD US\$4,187.30 +\$61.60
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Feds to weigh guardrails, alternatives to ‘contentious’ Labour Code tool: Hajdu

CRAIG LORD
The Canadian Press

The federal government is exploring possible guardrails or alternatives to using what she says is a “contentious” section of the Labour Code that allows Ottawa to intervene in bitter bargaining conflicts, Jobs Minister Patty Hajdu said this week.

Hajdu’s department launched broad consultations with employers, unions and other stakeholders this spring about changes they’d like to see to the Canada Labour Code.

In an interview Thursday, Hajdu said the initial feedback was fruitful but Ottawa has decided to do a second, more focused round of consultations over the summer to go deeper on certain questions.

The federal government wants to modernize the Labour Code to promote earlier engagement between parties and cut down on the number of times bargaining ends with a prolonged work stoppage warranting Ottawa’s intervention, Hajdu said.

“The goal of these consultations is to understand how to minimize those times where relationships are so frayed, where people are so angry with each other, that coming to an agreement about the next five years seems like an impossible task,” she said.

“And then also to provide tools that when, in those

rare cases that have broken down, there is a path forward with help from the (Canada Industrial Relations Board).”

Bea Bruske, president of the Canadian Labour Congress, said in an emailed statement Friday that the first round of consultations were rushed but she trusts the government heard “loud and clear that the right to strike is a fundamental right we will not negotiate on.”

“In the rare occasions when bargaining requires job action, Canadians expect the government to act as a referee, ensuring fairness and respect for the rules,” she said.

“But more and more, the employers have expected the government to get in the game and tip the scales on their behalf.”

Ottawa has intervened in a number of high-profile labour disputes in recent years by invoking Section 107 of the Labour Code, which allows the minister to refer parties to the industrial relations board when they’re at odds. Those included labour stoppages involving railways, ports and Canada Post.

The board can then put the two parties into binding arbitration if warranted to end a strike or lockout.

The labour department got an earful about Section 107 from employers and unions alike during the spring consultations. Hajdu said the second round will delve deeper into how the tool should or



CP PHOTO PATRICK DOYLE
Minister of Jobs and Families Patty Hajdu delivers an announcement in Ottawa on March 10.

shouldn’t be used.

“We heard deep differences between employers and unions about the importance of Section 107 and whether or not it should be kept,” she said.

Hajdu asserted there was a “quiet consensus” during the consultations on the need for a tool to give the minister the power to “foster industrial peace” in the roughly five per cent of cases where the parties are unable to get to an agreement at the negotiating table.

So far, Hajdu said, the government has heard there should be more transparency about when Section 107 should be deployed, and more advance consultations with parties before it’s used. Hajdu said the federal government will also be open to hearing about alternatives to Section 107 in the review’s next phase.

In her statement, Bruske said that Section 107 is effectively dead, since it was invoked to quash the Air Canada flight attendants strike last summer but workers stuck to the picket lines anyway.

She disagreed with Hajdu’s claim that a tool like Section 107 is necessary when the government has the power to pass back-to-work legislation.

“If you’re going to break a strike, at the very least debate it in Parliament and let Canadians see where their MPs stand on protecting workers’ rights,” Bruske said.

Other topics Ottawa will ask about during the review are expediting grievance arbitration, bad faith bargaining and accusations of wage theft. Issues already covered in the first round of talks included AI and automation and health and safety precautions.

Hajdu said the federal government has also been approached by unions seeking a change to the Labour Code for workers organizing for their first collective agreement — an area she said the legislation hardly covers in its current form.

Bruske said her main fear is that the consultations will be used to weaken the right to strike. She said the Canadian Labour Congress’s submissions offer legislative and non-legislative ways to improve labour relations in federally regulated industries.

Hajdu said the right to strike is protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and it’s not something she or the government is looking to touch.

The Senate transport and communications committee published a report last month arguing that Canada needs tools to avoid major labour disputes like the ones that shut down national railways in 2024. Those disruptions put Canada’s reputation as a reliable trading partner at risk, senators on the committee argued.

But Hajdu offered a different take when asked how current economic anxieties collide with labour rights.

She said while the government is focused on building a strong economy, that economy is not separate from its workers, their wages, benefits and their pensions.

Hajdu pointed out that union representatives are often beside Prime Minister Mark Carney and his ministers during major project announcements, reflecting the critical role the unionized trades will play in fulfilling Ottawa’s infrastructure agenda.

Quarterly payments of Ottawa’s boosted grocery and essentials benefit start today

The Canadian Press

Eligible Canadians will find a bit more cash in their bank accounts starting today as quarterly payments begin for the federal Liberals’ boosted affordability benefit.

The Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit is paid out to lower-income households every three months and was previously called the GST/HST credit.

Eligible households got a one-time payment worth 50 per cent of the benefit’s annual value in early June.

The quarterly payments are also getting a 25 per cent boost for the next five years.

Annual amounts can range between a few hundred dollars to more than a thousand dollars per family, depending on marital status and the number of children in the household.

Prime Minister Mark Carney pitched the affordability measure in January as a way to help Canadians cope with economic uncertainty and the rising costs of essentials.

PUBLIC NOTICES



DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED JUNE 25 TO JULY 1, 2026

RESIDENTIAL

- 1073 ROSS STREET SE - Garage
- 113 4000 13 AVENUE SE - Planned Residential Community (Addition)
- 129 COCHRAN DRIVE NW - Residential Accessory Building
- 49 1 STREET NW - In-Ground Pool
- 99 ROSS GLEN ROAD SE - Garage Addition

COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL/ INSTITUTIONAL

- 3 46 CARRY DRIVE SE - Change Of Use Health Care Office (Minor)
- 2 3257 DUNMORE ROAD SE - Change Of Use To Business And Professional Services (Office)

HOME BUSINESS

- 4 SUNSET ROAD SW - Home Business Minor - Consultant. (Refused. No application fee payment / Incomplete application).
- 4 SILCHER STREET SE - Home Business Minor - Service (Mobile Blasting).
- 2649 16 AVENUE SE – Home Business Minor - Janitorial Service/Landscaping.
- 47 HUDSON CRESCENT NE - Home Business Minor - Service (Concert/Event Promoter).
- 60 RANCHLANDS AVENUE NE - Home Business Minor - Service (Graphic Design)/Photography.

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.

ASSESSMENT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION PACKAGES

The City of Medicine Hat Tax Assessment department has mailed out Assessment Request for Information (ARFI) packages to property owners of improved non-residential and multi-family property classes.

This process of collecting property related data is the first step towards developing the 2026 assessment roll for tax year 2027. Collecting data annually ensures the assessment roll reflects current market information.

Completing the ARFI is an important part of the tax assessment process. Assessment values are established to allow for equitable distribution of taxes. Higher response rates will increase the statistical confidence level in the resulting assessment values. It is important for property owners to retain their ability to participate in the assessment appeal process. For property owners to be eligible to appeal their 2026 assessment for the 2027 taxation year, they must respond completely to an ARFI by the July 6, 2026 deadline.

As always, property owners are encouraged to contact the Assessment department directly if they have questions regarding their property assessment or if they require any assistance in completing their request for information forms.

Dated this 4th day of July 2026.
Sue Sterkenburg, AMAA
Manager & City Assessor

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 discolouration 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.

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

GAS, ELECTRIC, WIND ENERGY RATES SET FOR JULY

Medicine Hat - The City of Medicine Hat has set its July energy commodity rates.

Natural Gas – all customers

The July natural gas default rate is \$1.362 per gigajoule (GJ), down from the previous month of \$1.721 per GJ.

The rate is based on the weighted average cost of the City’s natural gas purchases for the month of consumption, plus \$0.07/GJ to recover transactional costs and a small rate of return, in accordance with the Gas Utility Bylaw 2489.

Electricity – Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial, Unmetered Services and Rental Lighting

The calculated electricity rate for July, August and September 2026 is \$0.0447/kWh which, under the Electric Utility Bylaw 2244, defaults to the minimum \$0.07000/kWh for Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial, Unmetered Services and Rental Lighting customers.

The rate is based on a 12-month, volume weighted forecast as per the ICE-NGX wholesale electricity energy market, not to exceed a maximum of 11 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) or go below a minimum rate of seven cents per kWh, and is recalculated on the first business day of January, April, July, and October.

Electricity - Large Commercial, Industrial and Street Lighting Customers

The current default electricity rate for Large Commercial, Industrial and Street Lighting customers is \$0.12025 per kilowatt hour.

The rate is based on the average of the rates for owners whose regulated rate tariffs are approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission under section 103(2) of the Electric Utilities Act for that calendar month as posted by the Alberta Utilities Commission on its internet page under Rate of Last Resort (ROLR) Regulation.

Under the new ROLR Regulation, this fixed rate is expected to remain in place until December 31, 2026.

Rate of Last Resort	Rate per kWh
Direct Energy Regulated Services	\$0.12020
ENMAX Energy Corporation	\$0.12060
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (Edmonton)	\$0.12010
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (outside Edmonton)	\$0.12010
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	\$0.12025

Going Green Charge

Customers also have a “Going Green” surcharge on their bill. This surcharge is for renewable energy purchased for residential, farm, small and medium commercial customers.

The Going Green surcharge is calculated monthly to recover costs incurred to purchase renewable energy.

The Going Green surcharge for July is \$0.0043 per kilowatt hour.

For more details about energy rates, visit medicinehat.ca/energyplans.

Should discolouration 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.