

Market Watch

S&P/TSX
32,470.98
+476.38

S&P 500
6,932.30
+133.90

DOW
50,115.67
+1,206.95

NASDAQ
23,031.21
+490.93

DOLLAR
73.27¢US
+0.15¢

OIL per barrel
US\$63.55
+\$0.29

GOLD
US\$4,979.80
+\$90.30

Union files complaints as feds increase public servants' in-office time

CATHERINE MORRISON
The Canadian Press

Canada's largest federal public sector union has filed several unfair labour practice complaints - and another union is warning of a possible strike - as the government moves to increase public servants' in-office time.

The federal government is ordering public servants to be in the office at least four days a week starting in July, while executives are expected to return to the office full-time in May.

Sharon DeSousa, national president of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, said the union has filed five unfair labour practice complaints with the Public Sector Labour Relations and Employment Board in response to the government's decision.

"We're currently in bargaining and the employer is trying to change the working conditions of our members, which is against the law," DeSousa said.

A statement from the union released Thursday said it would fight the decision "every

step of the way."

"I am hoping the government of Canada understands that they are not above the law," DeSousa said Friday. "Everything is on the table and we're looking at what actions to take next."

The federal directive applies to public servants working in the core departments and agencies under Treasury Board, though the Canada Revenue Agency has said already it intends to follow the same approach.

The Treasury Board said other federal agencies, like the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, are "strongly encouraged" to follow the same rules.

Adam Blondin, a spokesperson for the Canada Revenue Agency, said in an email Friday the CRA is reviewing how the requirement will be implemented across its workforce.

Remote work rules have been an ongoing source of friction in the public service since COVID-19 forced most federal workers to work remotely in 2020.

After public health restrictions began to ease, the federal govern-

ment moved in 2023 to have workers return to the office two to three days a week.

The current rule, in place since September 2024, requires public servants to work a minimum of three days a week in-office, with executives in office four days per week.

Thursday's order updates that rule.

Other federal unions have said they're also "not ruling anything out" when it comes to fighting for remote work.

Nathan Prier, president of the Canadian Association of Professional Employees, said his union's priority is to go into contract negotiations this summer "organized and ready to win" telework rights in its next collective agreement.

"We are not ruling anything out because we know that this is an issue that has a major impact, not only on the lives and working conditions of our members but also Canadian taxpayers," said Prier.

Sean O'Reilly, president of the Professional Institute of the

Public Service of Canada, said the union is looking at all options to push back against the decision. He said those options include rallies or reaching out to members of Parliament.

O'Reilly said he's still open to discussing in-office rules with the government but "it's really hard not to escalate when the workers are ignored."

As the union enters contract negotiations, O'Reilly said this decision might lead to a strike down the road.

"It wouldn't be in the next couple of months, but it depends where those negotiations go. It depends on when we reach an impasse with the employer and then we'll be reexamining our options," he said.

NDP member of Parliament Heather McPherson raised concerns about the timing of the decision Friday, pointing out that thousands of public servants are facing job cuts.

"It's a bad choice by this government," she said. "It's one more indication that (Prime Minister) Mark Carney doesn't actually care

about the public servants that are running this country."

Departments and agencies across the public service have started notifying staff of coming job cuts as the government looks to cut program spending and administration costs by about \$60 billion over the next five years through its "comprehensive expenditure review."

The review will see the elimination of about 40,000 public service jobs — out of a peak workforce of 368,000 in 2023-24 — and of 1,000 executive positions over the next two years.

A government website providing data on workforce reductions in the core public service up to the end of January says it's currently targeting a reduction of 8,230 employee positions and 425 executive positions across 24 departments through the workforce adjustment or career transition processes.

It says 15,755 employee positions and 642 executive positions will be eliminated, in part through attrition and vacated positions.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED
JANUARY 29 TO FEBRUARY 4, 2026**

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/ INSTITUTIONAL

1450 STRACHAN ROAD SE - Installation Of One Freestanding Sign And Two Fascia Signs.

3 1071 ROSS GLEN DRIVE SE - Installation Fascia Sign.

622 3 STREET SE - Installation Of Fascia Sign.

2040 11 AVENUE NW - Change Of Use To Motor Vehicle Service Station

427 NORTH RAILWAY STREET SE - Commercial Building Addition.

103 1201 KINGSWAY AVENUE SE - Change Of Use To Retail And Consumer Services.

HOME BUSINESS

70 12 STREET SW - Home Business Minor - Welder. (Refused. No application fee payment / Incomplete application)

488 8 STREET SE - Home Business Minor - Service (Event Planner). (Refused. No application fee payment / Incomplete application)

934 QUEEN STREET SE - Home Business Minor - Non-Profit. (Refused. No application fee payment / Incomplete application)

95 CONNAUGHT DRIVE SW - Home Business Minor - General Contractor/Project Manager.

1845 19 AVENUE SE - Home Business Minor - General Contractor/Project Manager.

521 C 5 AVENUE SE - Home Business Minor - Photography and Equipment.

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.

PROTECT WATER LINES FROM FREEZING

The following actions should be considered to protect your water lines from freezing during the cold weather months:

- Repair broken windows and ensure windows/vents are closed during the winter.
- Insulate water pipes in unheated areas, including crawl spaces.
- For sinks located against a non-insulated outside wall:
 - Open the vanity door to allow warm air to reach the water pipes.
 - A light bulb placed near the water pipe may generate enough heat to keep the water flowing.
 - Heat tape wrapped around the pipe may keep the pipe from freezing.
- Residents of mobile homes should check the condition of the heat tape on their water service and water meter.
- Protect an unheated indoor water meter with an insulated box and water pipes should be wrapped in insulation using heat tape.
- Outside water faucets and underground sprinkler systems should have the water supply shut off inside the house at the isolation valve for the faucet/hose bib.
- Sprinkler lines and faucets should be drained/blown out.
- Run a stream of cold-water, with a flow of approximately 250ml per 10 seconds, continuously from one faucet.
- If you plan to be away from home over the winter period, close the main water isolation valve located next to the water meter in your home.
 - You should leave the heat on in your home and have someone check inside your home daily while you're away.

A frozen water service or a burst water pipe is an inconvenience and expense that most people would like to avoid. Please take all possible precautions to prevent this happening in your home or business.

For more information, refer to www.medicinehat.ca/frozenwaterlines 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

GAS, ELECTRIC, WIND ENERGY RATES SET FOR FEBRUARY

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

Natural Gas - all customers

The February natural gas default rate is \$2.277 per gigajoule (GJ), down from the previous month of \$2.865 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 January, February and March 2026 is \$0.0500/kWh which, under the Electric Utility Bylaw 2244, defaults to the minimum \$0.0700/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

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 February is \$0.0046 per kilowatt hour.

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

For further information, please contact:

media@medicinehat.ca

Canadian Tire ordered to pay \$1.3M for false advertising

The Canadian Press

Canadian Tire will pay just under \$1.3 million after pleading guilty to 74 counts of violating sections of Quebec's Consumer Protection Act related to false advertising.

Crown prosecutor Jérôme Dussault says the Canadian retail giant agreed to the settlement after initially pleading not guilty.

At the Montreal courthouse, Quebec court Judge Simon Lavoie approved the agreement, which includes fines and costs ranging from \$15,625 to \$18,150 per count.

The case stems from a six-month investigation by the province's consumer protection office in 2021.

The office concluded Canadian Tire had attempted to convince consumers that sale items were on deep discount by including an artificially inflated regular price on its advertising material.

Analysis of sales data showed that the products in question were rarely sold or advertised at the so-called regular price.

The consumer protection office targeted seven products and verified their prices between April and October 2021 in Canadian Tire flyers, on the company's website, and in three stores in the Montreal area.

Under the deal reached between parties, Canadian Tire admitted liability for five products under investigation, including Henckels and Cuisinart knife sets, Lagostina and Heritage cookware, and a Dewalt cordless drill.

THE PALISADES FINAL PHASE

Welcome to the final phase of The Palisades - an exclusive collection of age-restricted (35+) executive bungalows designed for comfort, convenience, and elevated living.



Features include:

Walkout bungalows

Optional elevator for future-proof living

Low-maintenance lifestyle

Thoughtfully designed layouts for everyday ease

Opportunity to customize interior colours and flooring to suit your style

Now available:

A fully finished show home, open to view and available for purchase.

Whether you're downsizing, planning ahead,

or simply ready for maintenance-free living,

this is a rare opportunity in a highly sought-after community.

Come take a look - you won't be disappointed.

Call today for details or to book your private showing.



Kirby Chisholm
403-529-7204

Michelle LeBlanc
403-580-0423

River Street
REAL ESTATE