

Market Watch

S&P/TSX 33,108.22 +150.27	S&P 500 6,582.69 +7.37	DOW 46,504.67 -61.07	NASDAQ 21,879.18 +38.23	DOLLAR 71.85¢US -0.15¢	OIL per barrel US\$111.54 +\$11.42	GOLD US\$4,679.70 -\$133.40
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Whisky standards create potent economic driver: MLA

GEORGE LEE
Local Journalism Initiative

Lacombe-Ponoka MLA Jennifer Johnson raised a glass Wednesday to Alberta's proposed new whisky law, anticipating a high-proof economic booster within and beyond her largely rural riding.

The UCP member said clear industry standards and requirements are good for farmers, distillers, barley breeders like Western Crop Innovations in Lacombe and malhousers like Rahr Malting Canada Ltd. in Alix.

"In small towns and big cities, family-run distilleries and local businesses are putting in the work every single day to craft world-class whisky," said Johnson, whose riding is between Red Deer and Edmonton.

"They're creating jobs, supporting farmers and building something that reflects who we are as Albertans."

Bill 24, the Alberta Whisky Act, aims to define and protect Alberta whisky. The goal is to create a strong identity for quality and authenticity, like Kentucky bourbon and Scottish whisky, called scotch internationally.

According to Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis, Alberta boasts 45 whisky distillers, 43 of which are small craft distillers.

In recent years, Alberta-made whiskies have earned a sheaf of



SUPPLIED IMAGE

The province hopes to make the authenticity and quality of Alberta whisky a selling point, prompting a UCP MLA to toast the industry and proposed new legislation.

awards and medals on the national and international circuits.

Consumers need to know their whisky "was made right here with local ingredients by hard-working Albertans," Johnson said during her member's statement, "because, at the end of the day, this is about people."

She continued: "It's about the farmer growing the grain, the distiller perfecting their craft, and the small businesses and communities that benefit when things go right."

"When our distillers succeed, it means more visitors coming through our doors, more opportunities for local tourism, and more Alberta products on shelves right here at home and around the world."

Trade data from 2024 values

whisky exports from Alberta at \$48.2 million, making up about 70 per cent of the provincial beverage export sector.

The government envisions an industry-led Alberta Whisky Trail that helps get Alberta to \$25 billion a year in visitor spending by 2035.

Under the law, which passed second reading today, a product labelled Alberta whisky would have all its water and two-thirds of its mash cereal by weight sourced within the province.

It would have to be produced in Alberta, aged at least three years in small barrels, be at least 40 per cent alcohol by volume and have only minor, defined additions to the product made after distillation.

Grassy Narrows chief wants Carney to apologize in person for comments about protester

The Canadian Press

The chief of Grassy Narrows First Nation is demanding an in person apology from Prime Minister Mark Carney after he said "I can outlast her" when a press conference he held in Toronto on Monday was disrupted by mercury-poisoning protesters.

Chrissy Isaacs, a Grassy Narrows First Nation woman suffering from mercury poisoning, was in Toronto on Monday to demand compensation from the provincial government for mercury contamination in her community.

Grassy Narrows Chief Sherry Ackabee said in a media statement that she wants to see Carney visit her community, and nearby Wabaseemoong, to apologize, discuss compensation for mercury poisoning and the shutdown of the Dryden Paper Mill.

"We are inviting Prime Minister Carney to show leadership by meeting with us face to face in our communities to resolve the issue of mercury poisoning," Ackabee said.

"The Prime Minister should apologize in person for insulting a Grassy Narrows mercury sufferer and meet with us about our urgent demands to fairly compensate our people and shut down the mill that continues to poison our people every day."

The Canadian Press has reached out to the Prime Minister's Office for comment.

A media statement issued by the PMO on Wednesday said that Carney could not hear what the protesters were saying, and that Indigenous Services Minister Mandy Gull-Masty is in contact with Grassy Narrows leadership.

The PMO statement said that members of Carney's staff met with the protesters after Monday's press conference to get a better sense of their concerns.

The Dryden Paper Mill released thousands of kilograms of mercury into Grassy Narrows' river system from the 1960s to the 1970s.

It's widely considered to be one of the country's worst environmental disasters and community members are still dealing with the fallout today.

PUBLIC NOTICES



8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages.....	403.529.8260	Water & Sewer Emergency	403.502.8042
Gas Emergency	403.529.8191	After Hours Special Services	403.526.2828

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED MARCH 26 TO APRIL 1, 2026

RESIDENTIAL

324 SOMERSIDE ROAD SE - Single Detached House With Variance To Front Setback.

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/ INSTITUTIONAL

770 1 STREET SE - Portable Sign.

9 2020 STRACHAN RD SE - Change Of Use To Health Care Services.

15 EAGLE BIRTH ROAD SW - Open Space Development (Parking Lot).

3307 DUNMORE ROAD SE -Change Of Use To Health Care Office.

8 2020 STRACHAN ROAD SE - Change Of Use To Health Care Office.

HOME BUSINESS

798 19A STREET NE - Home Business Minor - Massage Therapy.

88 SAAMIS MEADOWS LANE SW - Home Business Minor - Consultant (Counselling).

669 5 STREET SW - Home Business Minor - Service (Pressure Washing, Dump Removals, Gutter Cleaning), Landscaping.

529 A NORTH RAILWAY STREET SE - Home Business Minor - Painting and Sandblasting.



Scan code to view development notices online (updated weekly)

GAS, ELECTRIC, WIND ENERGY RATES SET FOR APRIL

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

Natural Gas - all customers

The April natural gas default rate is \$1.638 per gigajoule (GJ), down from the previous month of \$1.641 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 April, May and June 2026 is \$0.0449/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 April is \$0.0046 per kilowatt hour.

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

For further information, please contact: media@medicinehat.ca

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.

SEASONAL ORGANIC WASTE COLLECTION BEGINS

Seasonal collection of organic yard waste materials starts on Monday, April 6, 2026!

Organic waste collection occurs on the same day as household waste and recycling collection.

Download the Recycle Coach App or refer to medicinehat.ca/collectionschedule to determine your first scheduled organic waste collection day.

To ensure successful collection of organic waste materials, please remember the following tips:

- Place grass clippings and other yard waste materials loosely inside the green organic waste cart. Only materials inside the cart will be collected.
- Cut branches and trimmings to less than 3ft (1m) in length and 2in (5cm) in diameter to fit inside the cart.
- Do not over pack or overfill the cart to allow the materials to fall freely when tipped.
- If the temperature dips below zero, materials may freeze in the cart. Be sure to loosen up the contents before collection.
- Green carts contaminated with plastic bags or garbage will not be collected.
- Be sure to set all carts 3ft (1m) apart and away from all obstacles.

If you do not have a green organic waste cart or would like more information, refer to medicinehat.ca/yardwaste or contact Environmental Utilities at 403-529-8176 or by email to eu@medicinehat.ca.

www.medicinehat.ca

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