

The FEVER

Volume 26, Issue 42

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Two Calling Lake male residents arrested during suspicious vehicle check

Details on Page 3



Alberta has highest rate of measles in North America

Measles - Focus front page

Canada loses its measles elimination status

Wildfire season is over, but fires are still burning

Story on Page 3

Bigstone Cree Nation Chief Andy Alook suddenly resigns

Band Notice Page 3



Shelters seeing rise in family violence

Growing Calls for Help

Shelters answered 59,215 calls for help in the last tabulation of data in 2023, representing a 12.5% rise over 2022. This number also was the highest number of calls Alberta Council of Women Shelters had recorded in the past 10 years.

Of those calls, 26,317 involved requests for shelter admission, but only 19% of the calls resulted in the shelter being able to provide immediate admission.

See Fever Page 4 for an article on family violence



Remembrance Day in Wabasca



Photos by Michelle Grach

Publisher's Ponderings ...

• So millions of Canadians may be watching Grey Cup football this Sunday as the Saskatchewan Roughriders battle it out with Montreal Alouettes in Winnipeg. But people in general and those reporting on social news and societal trends are still talking what effect the Toronto Blue Jays and their almost-victorious World Series run has had on the entire country.



It appears even Canadians who don't normally pay attention to Major League Baseball got sucked into the nation-wide fascination with the seven games of exciting baseball - even the one game which went to 18 innings. Commentators feel that people realized that the Toronto team members actually were more than just a group of highly paid professional athletes, but a special family of players who wanted each other to do well and wanted to give their fans and the City of Toronto a championship title. That did not happen but there is always next season.

But back on the topic of the Grey Cup, since the two Alberta CFL teams, particularly Edmonton Elks did not do so well this past season, Albertans should at least be neighbourly and cheer on the green Roughriders. After all, millions of Canadians living outside of this province cheered on the Oilers during the last two Stanley Cup finals, only to see the Edmonton squad fail to deliver.



• And after their 9-1 loss to Colorado Avalanche, the Oilers certainly deserve being boo'ed by their own fans for lousy performances.

Currently the Colorado crew is on top of most betting lines to win the Stanley Cup next spring. The Oilers sit in fifth spot with Florida Panthers, Vegas Golden Knights and Carolina Hurricanes second through fourth in cup betting odds.

• Deserving praise are those Canadians who are fighting back against the American attack on this country by President Rump and his Republican/conservative goon squads. There are all types of financial sufferings being felt on the American side of the border as Canadians refuse to visit the states and refuse to buy American products.

Almost all economists say that the senseless U.S. tariffs that are announced as going up or down on social media, not by notices from the

A column of news & commentary

United States Congress which is supposed to handle trade policies, are hurting Americans, often times as much as the people of countries targeted for the insane tariffs. Specifically being hit the hardest by Canadians refusing to have anything to do with the States are American companies involved in production of alcohol/spirits, tourism and hospitality, food and agricultural industries. Surveys have shown the percentage of Canadians planning to boycott America in various ways, has been as high as 70 per cent. Statistics Canada reported that during July, U.S. residents made 1.8 million trips into Canada while Canadians only made 1.7 million trips across the borders. In past years, Canadian trips south have always been higher than American trips north across the border.

• One of the ugliest characters seen in Wabasca this Halloween was spotted hanging out with the Bigstone Fire Department's roadside treat station.

We are assuming this beautiful soul was a firefighter who was caught trying to eat all the treats ahead of time, so sewing shut his mouth was his punishment.

• Below are two promotional items advertising an Edmonton event meant to fund-raise dollars towards helping rising talent Bobbi-Jo Starr produce her first album. Helping the Peerless Trout Nation singer song writer is Bigstone Cree entertainer/artist Lance Cardinal.

Tickets \$20
at Door
or use code:



The FEVER

Weekly Newspaper serving North Central Alberta

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Slave Lake Forest Protection Area had a busy fire season

Alberta's 2025 wildfire season officially ended on October 31, but there are still flames and smoke in several of the 10 Forest Protection Areas.

As of Wednesday, the provincial wildfire dashboard listed 25 active fires throughout the province, but the highest number continued to be in Slave Lake Forest.

Of the 25 fires, only one in the Calgary Forest was considered out of control and two were listed as being held. All of Slave Lake Forest fires were under control.

A total of 1,260 wildfires have occurred in Alberta

and they have affected over 681,000 hectares.

Slave Lake Forest

From the forest headquarters in Slave Lake come these notes:

The wildfire danger across the Slave Lake Forest Area is low. Wildfires can still start in cool, damp conditions. Be cautious if you're spending time outdoors and do your part to prevent wildfires.

Wildfire situation

Since January 1, 2025 there have been 214 wildfires reported in the Slave Lake Forest Area, burning a total of 379,244 hectares.

There are 7 active wild-

fires in the Slave Lake Forest Area, all of which are under control.

Red Earth East Complex

Red Earth East Complex includes 5 under control wildfires, located east of Highway 88.

These large wildfires will take time to fully extinguish. At this time, there is no threat to nearby communities.

Winter burning

Wait until there are 15 cm of snow on the ground before taking on a burning project in the Forest Protection Area of Alberta.

Fire permits are no longer required after November 1, but following safe winter burning practices is always important.

Applications are now open for the 2026 wildfire season. Positions are available for crew members and leaders on Unit, Helitack and Hoist crews.

WFX-FIT test open house

Slave Lake Forest Area is hosting a Fitness Testing Open House on November 29. Come try the WFX-FIT and see what it takes to be a wildland firefighter.

Two residents arrested in Calling Lake in stolen vehicle; charged with crimes

Athabasca RCMP thank citizens of Calling Lake for reporting suspicious activities that should get police attention, following a November 8 incident in which police received a call about a suspicious vehicle being driven around the community.

Officers arrived a-round 9 a.m., stopped the vehicle which they found out had been reported as stolen, seized a prohibited weapon, and arrested the two vehicle occupants who were already known to police. One of the individuals had outstanding warrants for their arrest.



Both individuals were arrested without incident. During the investigation, police officers recovered a stolen vehicle and located a prohibited handgun in the possession of one of the males.

Greg Cardinal (48), a resident of Calling Lake, has been charged with possession of property obtained by crime over \$5000, and failing to comply with a probation order (x3). Cardinal was brought before a justice of the peace and released on conditions. He is set to appear in before the Alberta Court of Justice in Athabasca on December 2.

Lindsie Bigstone (38), a resident of Calling Lake, has been charged with:

- Unauthorized possession of a firearm
- Careless use of a firearm
- Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose
- Carrying a concealed weapon, and
- Failing to comply with a probation order

Bigstone was arrested on his outstanding warrants. He was brought before a justice of the peace and remanded into custody, to appear before the Alberta Court of Justice in Athabasca on November 24.

The family of Marie Louise Auger deeply appreciates the many kind expressions of sympathy and support

Special thank you to:

-Lisa, Clara and the team, and Louise's friends at Keenow Seniors Facility
-Andrea, Pauline and the caring staff at the Wabasca Hospital
-Jackie and her colleagues at MD #17
-Dale and Jennifer, Athabasca Community Chapel
-Fever Newspaper, Angie's Bakery, and Northern Store for their services
-Father Stan at St. Martin's Catholic Church
-Flower's by Christina in Athabasca
-Our friends at Ruel Concrete for flowers, platter
-The many Friends and Family, near and far, who came to lend us their support
Apologies to anyone we may have missed, but please know we are forever grateful.



Great Spirit bless
For making us
As lesser gods
And underdogs,
Revering and reversing,
Unversed and versifying,
Unable to live but to forgive;
Alive not evil
Love not evil;
Love to be loved
Love to Beloved.

John Kortuem



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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19: NOON TO 1 P.M.

SESSION 2: MÉTIS HUNTING AND GATHERING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19: 6-7 P.M.

MÉTIS WEEK

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Let's End Family Violence — Starting at Home

By Priya Phillips

Family violence doesn't always leave bruises.

Sometimes it lives in silence, in fear, humiliation, and broken trust. It happens in homes that may look peaceful from the outside, yet behind closed doors, hearts ache and voices go unheard.

It affects women, men, children, and elders. And though it is painful to face, the first step toward ending it is acknowledging that it exists, even here in our communities.

What Family Violence Really Means

Family violence is any behaviour used to control, harm, or frighten someone in a close relationship. It can be physical — pushing, hitting, or destroying belongings — but it can also be emotional, verbal, sexual, or financial.

Threats, constant criticism, humiliation, controlling who someone talks to, or keeping them from using money or transportation are all forms of violence.

In real life, it rarely begins with a punch. It often starts small, a raised voice, a jealous question, a bit of control disguised as love.

Over time, those moments grow into patterns of fear. Many victims convince themselves it will get better, or that it's their fault. It never is.

Why It Happens

There is no single reason, but stress, substance abuse, unemployment, financial pressure, and poor communication can all make tempers short and control tempting.

Cultural silence — the idea that family problems should stay inside the home — makes it worse. Abuse thrives when people are afraid to speak.

But understanding the causes is not the same as excusing them. No stress or anger ever justifies hurting someone. Violence is a learned behaviour, and that means it can be unlearned too.

It Begins with Awareness

The first step is awareness. Too often, people say "it's not my business" or "it doesn't happen here." But it does, in towns, reserves, and cities across Alberta. The more we talk about it, the harder it becomes for violence to hide.

We can all learn to recognize warning signs. Someone who becomes withdrawn, nervous, or unusually quiet may be living in fear. Children who are anxious, aggressive, or overly protective of a parent might be witnessing harm at home. When we notice, we must not turn away.

Small Steps Create Big Change

Every home can be part of the solution. Managing anger, speaking calmly even when upset, and teaching children how to disagree respectfully are simple but powerful steps. Families can set boundaries — no shouting, no threats, no humiliation.

Friends and neighbours can help by

reaching out gently. A kind word, a quiet conversation, or offering a safe space can make all the difference. You don't need to fix someone's life — just listen and remind them they are not alone. Often, the smallest show of care becomes the turning point.

Communities Working Together

Strong communities make safe families. Churches, schools, and local groups can organize talks and workshops about healthy relationships.

Community leaders can remind everyone that violence — in any form — is never acceptable.

Local media, can continue to share stories, promote awareness events, and publish help lines and support services. Each story told, each message shared, breaks a bit more of the silence that traps victims.

We can all help shelters, outreach centres, and counselling services through donations, volunteer hours, or simply by spreading the word.

When help feels close and visible, people are more likely to reach out before it's too late.

From Reaction to Prevention

Stopping violence after it happens is not enough. We must prevent it before it begins — by teaching respect, empathy, and self-control.

Parents can model gentle communication. Schools can include lessons on emotional health and conflict resolution.

Employers can create safe workplaces where victims are supported, not shamed.

When kindness becomes the community standard, violence loses its power.

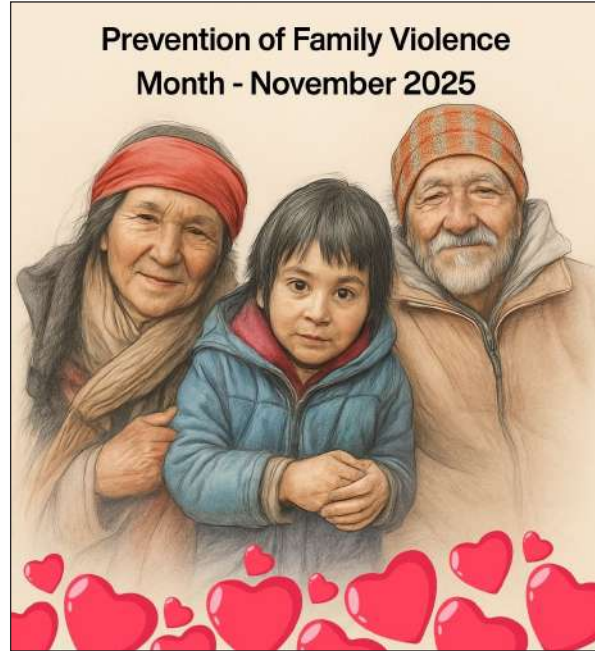
When we raise boys who see strength as calmness and girls who see love as safety, we build a future where control and fear have no place in relationships.

November is Family Violence Prevention Month in Alberta. It reminds us that love should never hurt and home should never be a place of fear.

If you or someone you know is suffering, help is available — free, confidential, and close to home.

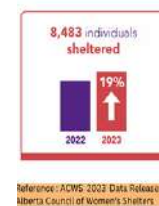
Call the Family Violence Info Line at 780-310-1818, open 24 hours a day. If you are in immediate danger, call 211.

This month, let us speak openly, listen compassionately, and act courageously. Each conversation, each moment of care, each act of kindness moves us closer to ending family violence — and building homes where safety, respect, and love truly live.



Shelters Supported Thousands Across Alberta

Reference: ACWS 2023 Data Release
Alberta Council of Women's Shelters



Growing Numbers of Individuals Sheltered

8,482 were sheltered. This is a 19% increase from last year. This includes 4,852 women and seniors, 3,561 children, 53 men, and 17 who identified as gender-diverse.



MD OF OPPORTUNITY & BIGSTONE CREE NATION PRESENT

2025

WABASCA

Christmas FESTIVAL

December 10th
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-DOOR PRIZES-
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REGAN @ 780-891-2659
OR
DEBORAH @ 780-891-3777



The FEVER

Thursday, November 13, 2025

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FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL
Lot # 85 Dural Trail, Reserve 166A
Box 960 Wabasca, AB. T0G 2K0

Public Statement

On November 5, 2025 at a duly convened meeting, Bigstone Cree Nation Chief Andy Alook resigned from office by submitting a signed written Notice of Resignation to the Council on November 5, 2025;

Bigstone Cree Nation Council by quorum of Council accept and acknowledge the notice of resignation, as per section 16 of Bigstone Cree Nations Election code effective November 5, 2025.

Further updates will follow from Bigstone Cree Nation Council as required by Bigstone Cree Nation's Election Code.

Bigstone Cree Nation Council

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M.D. of Opportunity Council Meetings 2025 - 2026 Schedule

ALL MEETINGS COMMENCE AT 10:00 A.M. UNLESS SPECIFIED OTHERWISE

| DATE | TYPE | LOCATION | VENUE |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|----------------------------|
| November 5, 2025 | 1 st Draft Interim Operating Budget Review | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| November 6, 2025 | 1 st Draft Interim Capital Budget Review | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| November 10, 2025 | Regular | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| November 24, 2025 | Delegation | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| December 4, 2025 | 2 nd Interim Operating & Capital Budget Review | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| December 8, 2025 | Regular | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| January 12, 2026 | Regular | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| January 26, 2026 | Delegation | Calling Lake | Community Complex |
| February 9, 2026 | Regular | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| February 23, 2026 | Delegation | Chipeuwan Lake | Community Hall |
| March 9, 2026 | Regular | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| March 23, 2026 | Delegation | Red Earth Creek | Community Hall |
| April 13, 2026 | Regular | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| April 27, 2026 | Delegation | Sandy Lake | Community Hall |
| May 11, 2026 | Regular | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| May 25, 2026 | Delegation | Red Earth Creek | Community Hall |
| June 8, 2026 | Regular | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| June 22, 2026 | Delegation | Calling Lake | Community Complex |
| July 13, 2026 | Regular | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| July 27, 2026 | Delegation | Sandy Lake | Community Hall |
| August 10, 2026 | Regular | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| August 24, 2026 | Delegation | Calling Lake | Community Complex |
| September 14, 2026 | Regular | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| September 28, 2026 | Delegation | Red Earth Creek | Community Hall |
| October 13, 2026 | Regular | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| October 19, 2026 | Organizational | Wabasca | Council Chambers |
| October 26, 2026 | Delegation | Chipeuwan Lake | Community Hall |
| Wabasca Office | 780-891-3778 (tele) | 780-891-4283 (fax) | 1-888-891-3778 (toll free) |
| Red Earth Office | 780-649-3427 (tele) | 780-649-3440 (fax) | 1-888-649-3427 (toll free) |
| Calling Lake Office | 780-331-3880 (tele) | 780-331-3950 (fax) | 1-888-331-3880 (toll free) |

Stay Updated

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Alerts • Missing/Wanted Persons
Weather • Community Notices
Special Events • Commentary

RCMP looking for suspect(s) in shootings that wound two people at Simon Lake

Two victims of shootings in Simon Lake, on Woodland Cree Nation Saturday about 10 a.m., are expected to recover after being hospitalized, according to Peace River Regional RCMP.

The victims were not identified by gender, age, or residency. Emergency Medical Services arrived on the scene and transported them to hospital. Alberta RCMP has deployed the Western Alberta District General Investigations Section to take carriage of the investigation.

Although early in the investigation, according to a press release, RCMP believe that both victims were injured as part of the same localized incident and there is no ongoing risk to the public.

“Peace Regional RCMP is seeking the public’s assistance in identifying those responsible for this crime. Anyone with information is asked to please contact the Peace Regional RCMP at 780-624-6611 or your local police. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8377 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the ‘P3 Tips’ app.”

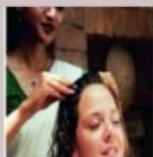
Simon Lake is located off Secondary Highway 986, west of Cadotte Lake and is approximately 70 kilometres northeast of the municipality of Peace River.

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for an appointment - or drop in

Businessman holds annual pig roast in support of Wabasca Food Bank

Every year, Wabasca businessman Ken Beaudry has a Pig Roast Fundraiser for the local food bank.

What began as a simple idea to share good food and raise money for the community has now become a tradition that seems to attract more people each year.

The 2025 Pig Roast was held Saturday, September 6.

Working closely with his Filipino friends, known for their culinary skill and expertise in roasting pork, Ken tries to ensure every roast is prepared to perfection.

The team personally visits the Hutterite Colony north of Westlock to select pigs weighing around 70 kilograms, the ideal size for the perfect balance of tenderness and flavor.

Before the roast, the meat goes through a meticulous six-hour seasoning process using a blend of traditional Filipino spices and herbs.

Tickets are sold at just



This year’s roast drew about 60 guests, raising \$1,540 in ticket sales alone.

Community spirit was even brighter with other generous contributions: Dave Zobot from Wabasca Home Hardware and Lolly from Luxury First Hotel each donated \$400.

Nearly \$2,400 was raised this year in support of the Food Bank.

This marks the sixth food event organized by Ken.

In its early years, the fundraiser featured an oyster roast, but over the last three years, it has become a more popular pig roast.

In the past, Ken Beaudry has operated other projects in support of the local food bank, including rental of an ice fishing shack on North Wabasca Lake.

Previous years and this year as well, even when the pig roast is history, Ken appeals to other Wabasca businesses or outside businesses working in the area to contribute to the Pig Roast Donation fund.



One of the stars of the pig roast!

Check TheFever weekly employment opportunities from MD of Opportunity and Bigstone Cree Nation!

Other employers are invited to do their hiring through Fever pages by phoning 780-474-8929 or toll-free 1-877-508-5727 or wabascafever@shaw.ca



A final Remembrance Day show in Calling Lake. Photo by Devin Dequaine

**BIGSTONE COMMUNITY WELLNESS
IS SEEKING A
CATERER**

**FOR OUR ELDERS CHRISTMAS DINNER
DECEMBER 17, 2025**

AT GEORGE D. COMMUNITY HALL

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS DINNER:
TURKEY, HAM, MASHED POTATOES,
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BEVERAGES

Please submit all bids to Treena Gladue at
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treena.gladue@bigstonehealth.ca

Deadline to submit bid is November 21, 2025



Bigstone Community Wellness Presents:

Indian Residential School Inquest
Survivor Support Group

A variety of topic discussions
and information sharing

Wabasca

George D. Auger Community Hall

November 17 Session has been cancelled!

December 17, 2025

4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM (On both days)

All Chipewyan Lake Residential
School Survivors are welcome to join
the Wabasca Support Group

Supper Provided

If you need transportation, please
contact front desk.

780-891-3777 Or

toll free 1-877-767-7060

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Wabasca and Sandy Lake Members,
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Calling Lake Members,
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Centre at 780-331-3343.



Provided by
Bigstone Community Wellness.
This program will continue
while passes last.

Any questions, please call
Bigstone Community Wellness at 780-891-3777
or Toll Free: 1-877-767-7060

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HEALTH COMMISSION

WABASCA
Community Hall
November 17th
&
November 18th
4:00pm - 9:00pm

CALLING LAKE
Community Complex
November 19th
4:00pm - 9:00pm

Chipewyan Lake
Community Hall
November 20th
12:00pm - 4:00pm

TRANSPORTATION
AVAILABLE

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For More Information Please Call:
Bigstone Community Wellness @ 780-891-3777

Canada loses its “measles elimination status,” mainly because of Alberta cases

By Kathryn H. Jacobsen, MPH, PhD
(Epidemiology, University of Michigan)

First published in *The Conversation*

In the wake of a measles outbreak in Canada that has infected thousands of people over the past year, an international health agency revoked the country's measles-free status on November 10.

The Pan American Health Organization, which serves as the World Health Organization's regional office for the Americas, made this announcement after the agency's measles elimination commission met in Mexico City to review the latest public health data.

As a global health epidemiologist who studies the spread of infectious diseases, this change in status does not surprise me. Measles is highly contagious, and a drop in childhood vaccination rates in Canada and in other countries has left many children unprotected from the disease.

The resurgence of measles in Canada after decades with very low numbers of cases is not an isolated problem. The U.S. has also had large outbreaks of measles this year, and it will likely soon lose its measles-free designation as well.

The loss of measles elimination status is a symptom of a deeper issue: declining trust in public messaging about science and health, which has led to decreased vaccination rates and growing vulnerability to vaccine-preventable diseases.

What does it mean

for a country to be measles-free?

Measles is one of the most contagious

diseases on the planet. Before the measles vaccine was licensed for use in 1963, nearly every child got measles infection and more than 2 million children died from measles each year.

The vaccine decreased that risk dramatically. By 1968, five years after the vaccine became available, case counts in the U.S. had dropped by more than 95%. Cases in Canada also decreased substantially after the vaccine was introduced.

Tragically, about 100,000 children still die from measles each year even though a safe, effective and low-cost vaccine is available. Almost all of those deaths occur in low-income countries where many children do not have access to recommended vaccines.

The World Health Organization uses three labels to describe how well a country is preventing the spread of infectious diseases such as measles. A disease is said to be controlled when public health interventions such as routine childhood vaccinations significantly lower the rate of new infections. A disease is considered to be eliminated from a country when the only cases that happen are small outbreaks linked to international travel. And finally, a disease is deemed eradicated only after several years of no cases occurring anywhere in the world.

To achieve the status of measles elimination, a country must have no ongoing



FOCUS

Supplement of News, Employment Ads
and Classified Ads for Readers of *The Fever*

The FEVER

Thursday, November 13, 2025

local transmission of the disease for at least one year. It will lose that status if it has a chain of cases that spread from person to person for more than one year.

Once a country has eliminated measles, there is almost no risk from the disease as long as vaccination rates stay high. But when vaccination rates drop, outbreaks will soon start happening.

What happened in Canada?

In 1998, the Pan American Health Organization confirmed that Canada had eliminated measles transmission. Two years later, the U.S. also gained the measles-free designation.

By 2016, every country in the Americas had achieved measles elimination status. The region lost that status in 2018 after outbreaks in Brazil and Venezuela, and then regained it in 2024.

But childhood vaccination rates have been falling worldwide, especially during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. To protect communities from measles outbreaks, about 95% of the population must be vaccinated against the disease.

In Canada, the percentage of 2-year-olds who have received at least one dose of measles vaccine dropped from about 90% in 2019 to about 82% in 2022 and 2023. As the number of unvaccinated people in the population increased, the risk of measles outbreaks grew.

Central America, South America and the Caribbean will retain their measles-free status for now. But the outbreaks in North America increase the risk of measles spreading to other countries.

Without a significant improvement in vaccination coverage and public trust in community health measures, many countries are likely to face more, and bigger, outbreaks of measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases in the coming years.

Preterm Birth Awareness Day is observed November 16

Preterm birth is the leading cause of infant death in Canada. Every year, about 1 in 12 babies are born too soon.

Canadian Institutes of Health Research has researchers working on this tragic problem and they have developed collaborative hospital networks that now share data and best practices. These practices have significantly improved survival rates and outcomes for preemies, making Canada a world leader in neonatal research and quality improvement.

Canadian innovation is transforming neonatal care worldwide.

Alberta Data from October 26 to November 01, 2025

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| 114 (375 this season) Influenza cases | 202 (1787 this season) SARS-CoV-2 cases | 28 (98 this season) RSV cases |
| 3.4% Influenza positivity | 6.5% SARS-CoV-2 positivity | 0.9% RSV positivity |
| 25 Influenza in hospital** | 67 SARS-CoV-2 in hospital** | 1 RSV in hospital** |
| 3 Influenza in ICU** | 1 SARS-CoV-2 in ICU** | 0 RSV in ICU** |
| 1 (1 this season) Influenza deaths | 2 (36 this season) SARS-CoV-2 deaths | 0 (0 this season) RSV deaths |

With AI seeming to be taking over the world, parents should understand how it may affect their children's education and life in general

By Nadia Delaney

Assistant Professor, Leadership, Policy, and Governance
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Since ChatGPT and other large language models burst into public consciousness, school boards are drafting policies, universities are hosting symposiums and tech companies are relentlessly promoting their latest AI-powered learning tools.

In the race to modernize education, artificial intelligence (AI) has become the new darling of policy innovation. While AI promises efficiency and personalization, it also introduces complexity, ethical dilemmas and new demands.

Teachers, who are at the heart of learning along with students, are watching this transformation with growing unease. For example, according to the Alberta Teachers' Association, 80 to 90 per cent of educators surveyed expressed concern about AI's potential negative effects on education.

To understand comprehensive policy needs, we must first understand classrooms — and teachers' current realities.

As a researcher with expertise in technology-enhanced teaching and learning at the intersections of assessment, leadership and policy, I interviewed teachers from across Canada, with Erik Sveinson, a Bachelor of Education student. We asked them about their experiences with generative AI (GenAI) in the classroom.

Their stories help contextualize a reality of AI in a K-12 context, and offer insights around harnessing AI's potential without harming education as a human-centred endeavour.

AI policy and teaching wisdom

This qualitative study involved 10 (grades 5 to 12) teachers from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and British Columbia.

What we heard

The following themes emerged from our interviews:

1. The assessment crisis: Longstanding tools of assessment, such as the essay or the take-home project, have suddenly become vulnerable. Teachers are spending countless hours questioning the authenticity of student work.

All teachers interviewed consistently said they struggled with their current assessment practices and how students may be using GenAI in work.

Continued on Page 3

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- Monitor performance metrics, operational plans, program policies, and budget execution for all departments.
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- Must be local or willing to relocate to Wabasca, Alberta on a full-time basis.
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Posted on: October 29, 2025

AI effects on education/students ...

Continued from Page 2

Confidence in the reliability of assessments have been challenging.

The majority of teachers shared they felt they needed to consider students cheating more than ever given advancing GenAI technology.

2. Equity dilemmas: Teachers are on the front lines of seeing firsthand which students have unlimited access to the latest AI tools at home and which do not.

3. Teachers perceive both opportunities and challenges with AI. Great teaching is about fostering critical thinking and human connection. Ninety per cent of teachers interviewed faced complex challenges relating to equity and how best to support critical thinking in the classroom while building foundational knowledge.

In particular, middle and high school teachers in core subject areas indicated students were using GenAI tools in their own time outside class without ethical guidance.

‘One more thing piled’ on

One teacher from central Alberta said: “AI is definitely helpful for my workflow, but right now it feels like one more thing piled onto an already impossible workload. The policy says, ‘embrace innovation,’ but where’s the guidance and support?”

Classrooms are dynamic ecosystems shaped by emotion, relationships and unpredictability. Teachers manage trauma, neurodiversity, language barriers and social inequities while delivering curriculum and meeting student achievement expectations.

Teachers say there’s little recognition of the cognitive load they already carry, or the time it takes to vet, adapt and ethically deploy AI tools. They say AI policies often treating educators as passive implementers of tech, rather than active agents of learning.

A high school teacher from eastern Canada shared: “AI doesn’t understand the emotional labour of teaching. It can’t see the trauma behind a student’s meltdown. As much as I appreciate professional learning, when it is all about what tools to use, it misses the mark.”

This perspective highlights a broader finding: teachers are not resisting AI per se; they are resisting implementation that disregards their emotional expertise and contextual judgment. They want professional learning initiatives that honour the human and relational dimensions of their work.

Burnout, professional erosion

This disconnect is not just theoretical, it’s emotional. Teachers are reporting burnout, anxiety and a sense of professional erosion.

A 2024 study found that 76.9 per cent of Canadian educators felt emotionally exhausted, and nearly half had considered leaving the profession. The introduction of AI, without proper training or support, is compounding that stress.

There’s also a growing fear reported by the Alberta Teachers’ Association that, if not implemented properly with support for teachers new to the profession, AI could deskill the profession.

Concluded on Page 6



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AI in schools ...

Continued from Page 3

A teacher in Vancouver shared: "I am a veteran teacher and understand the fundamentals of teaching. For beginner teachers, when algorithms write report cards or generate lesson plans, what happens to teacher autonomy and the art of teaching?"

Turning teaching into a checklist?

Overall, the interview responses suggest what's missing from AI policy is a fundamental understanding of teaching as a human-centred profession.

As policymakers rush to integrate AI into digitized classrooms, they're missing a critical truth: technology cannot fix what it may not understand.

Without clear guardrails and professional learning grounded in teacher and student-informed needs, AI risks becoming a tool of surveillance and standardization, rather than empowerment.

This tension between innovation and de-professionalization emerged across many teacher responses. Educators expressed optimism about AI's potential to reduce workload, but also deep unease about how it could erode their professional judgment and relational roles with students.

A northern Ontario teacher said: "There is hope with new technology, but I worry that AI will turn teaching into a checklist. We're not technicians, we're mentors, guides and sometimes lifelines."

Teachers fear that without educator-led frameworks, AI could shift schooling from a human practice to a compliance-driven one.

Responsible AI policy

If we want to harness AI's potential without harming education as a human-centred endeavour with students and teachers at the core, we must rethink approaches to AI innovation in education. That starts with listening to teachers.

Teachers must be involved in the design, testing and evaluation of AI tools. Policies must prioritize ethics, transparency and equity.

That includes regulating how student data is used, ensuring teachers can ascertain algorithmic bias and ethical implications and also protecting teacher discretion.

Third, we need to slow down. The pace of AI innovation is dizzying, but education isn't a startup. It's a public good. Policies must be evidence-based and grounded in the lived experiences of those who teach.

**"I don't know
what to do."**

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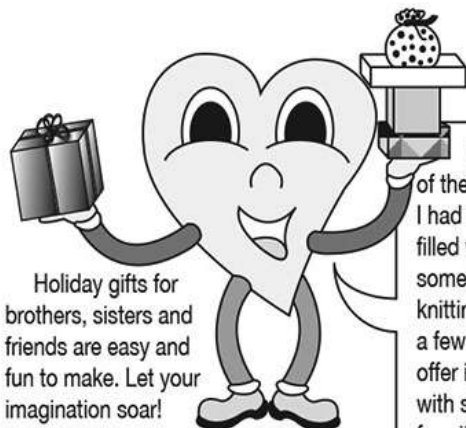
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I'm making puzzles for everyone.

Kids: color stuff in!



With Christmas season coming up, time to think about gifts you can make yourself for family and friends!



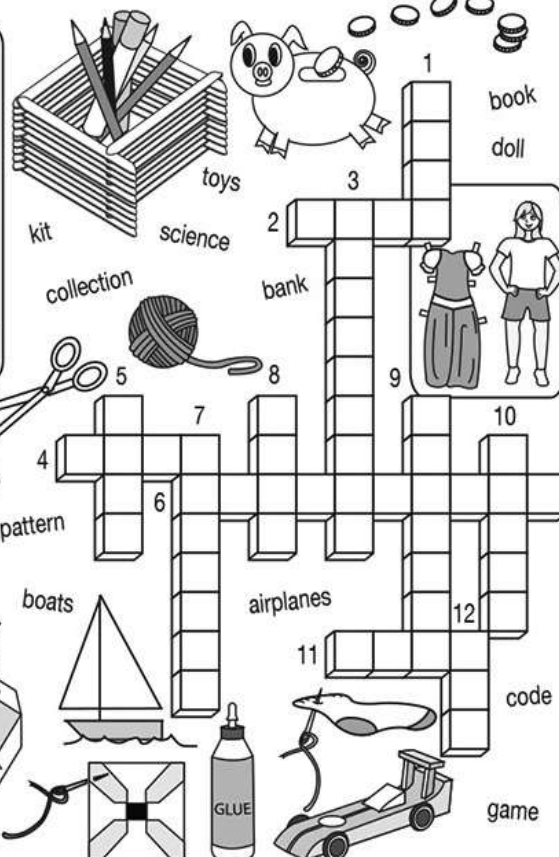
Holiday gifts for brothers, sisters and friends are easy and fun to make. Let your imagination soar!

Plan and make your gifts ahead so you won't get crushed in the holiday rush!

Read the clues to fill in the crossword:

1. write a mystery and create a secret _____ to solve it
2. design and make a board _____
3. cut, fold, decorate a set of paper _____ to fly
4. put together a box or basket with small _____ in it: cars, dinosaurs, or farm animals
5. cut and draw to make a flip _____ of "moving images"
6. start a _____: baseball cards, miniatures, badges
7. make a _____ box: a small magnifying glass, items to study - yarn, leaf, a dust ball, a rock, a flower
8. draw and cut out a paper _____, make clothes with tabs to fit
9. use a ruler or computer to create a simple _____ that can be folded, made into a toy
10. turn milk cartons into paddle _____ that really float
11. make a _____ - be a sport and put a few coins in it
12. gather buttons, old jewelry, ribbons, colored string, etc., to put in a "_____ to make stuff"

Wow! I went to the library and stood in front of the "do it and make it yourself" section of books. I had no idea how many books there are, each filled with ideas for making presents. You need some basic skills for some of the ideas, such as knitting, sewing or woodworking. Some gifts require a few small purchases. But, most of these books offer ideas for plenty of gifts that anyone can make with stuff around the house. So...not much money for gifts this holiday season? No excuses anymore - get to work on these gifts from the hands and heart!



Gifts For Family and Friends

Match the activities in each set to the gifts that will be made.

1. printing, painting, coloring
2. measuring, mixing, baking
3. tying ribbons, gluing beads
4. covering with paper, foil separating sections inside
5. making your own pieces to play with on the board

- A. tic-tac-toe, checkers
- B. decorative hangers
- C. wrapping paper
- D. box to hold change, keys, watches
- E. favorite cookies, candy

1. rubber stamping, inking, gluing glitter
2. painting, personalizing, gluing felt to the bottom
3. writing, promising, helping
4. melting, coloring, scenting wax, dipping string
5. drawing 12 seasonal pictures of times with your family, dates, days

- A. brick book ends
- B. candles
- C. calendar
- D. pop-up cards, writing paper
- E. book with coupons that can be "turned in" to get extra help with chores



You can make most of these gifts yourself. But, a few require adult supervision... so ask first!



It's always fun to paint something. There are so many things that you can decorate! Fill in the list of items below with letters from the paint palette:

1. b _ rdh _ use
2. fo _ ts _ ool
3. lu _ ch ba _ s
4. gi _ t w _ ap
5. s _ ir _ s
6. _ _ t s
7. _ ode _ s
8. _ nea _ ers
9. s _ o _ es
10. to _ e ba _ s
11. a _ ro _ s
12. s _ hool bo _ es

Puzzle answers on Page 8

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The holidays are coming! Gifts From The Heart

Holiday gifts for brothers, sisters and friends are easy and fun to make. Let your imagination soar!

With a Little Paint!

Gifts For Family and Friends

Did you match the activities to the gifts that will be made?

- printing, painting, coloring
- measuring, mixing, baking
- tying ribbons, gluing beads
- covering with paper, foil
- making your own pieces to play with on the board

- tic-tac-toe, checkers
- decorative hangers
- wrapping paper
- box to hold change, keys, watches
- favorite cookies, candy

Did you match these too?

- rubber stamping, inking, gluing glitter
- painting, personalizing, gluing felt to the bottom
- writing, promising, helping
- melting, coloring, scenting wax, dipping string
- drawing 12 seasonal pictures of times with your family, dates, days

- brick book ends
- candles
- calendar
- pop-up cards, writing paper
- book with coupons that can be "turned in" to get extra help with chores

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- ☐ Proof of age (Photo ID)
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Questions or further information, call FCSS 780-891-2659 ext 403 Jodi Decoine or 405 Janice Auger

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