

The FEVER

Volume 27, Issue 10

Thursday, March 26, 2026



Volleyball continues to be getting lots of attention right across Alberta and again Wabasca's Under 18 Girls added a medal from Calgary to their growing collection. More details on Fever Page 4. Next issue, we'll tell you how popular volleyball is world-wide!

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation is headed to court on April 1st

The First Nation is taking legal action to hold the Alberta Energy Regulator accountable for toxic tailings spills that have contaminated key areas of their territory

Focus Page 8 reports on new group opposing Alberta's proposed CO₂ pipeline.

Teen charged in fatal shooting of international student on highway

Alberta RCMP Major Crimes Unit announced Tuesday morning that an 18-year-old male had been arrested and charged with second degree laid murder, stemming from the shooting of a 22-year-old international student from India while he was driving himself and two friends from Edmonton to Banff Saturday afternoon, March 14.

Victim Birinder Singh was driving a Honda Civic in a south bound right lane of Highway 2, south of Leduc, when what witnesses said was a dirty grey pickup truck momentarily drove along side the small car and then quickly pulled away at a high rate of speed.



Victim Birinder Singh

At least one shot was fired by someone in the truck, and it had struck the victim in the neck. His two friends struggled to get the car under control and stopped on the highway shoulder while also trying to put pressure on the profusely bleeding neck wound.

An emergency call from Singh's friends brought EMS and RCMP to the scene, but the young man was declared deceased at the scene. That portion of the busy highway was closed for the remainder of the day while the RCMP investigated the fatal shooting.

During the weekend, the two grieving friends gave television and other media interviews, but did not reveal themselves to cameras nor give their names out of fear that whoever fired on Birinder would next come after them.

Late last week, RCMP said the involved pickup truck, a 2022 grey Ford 150, had been located, but they did not reveal where it had been found or any other details.

Suspect arrested

Early Tuesday morning, RCMP announced, "As a result of the investigation, on March 21, 2026, RCMP arrested 18-year-old Lloydminster resident, Jimmy Gassner, at Canoe Lake Cree First Nation, Saskatchewan. Gassner has been charged with second-degree-murder. He has been remanded into custody and is being transported to Alberta where a future court date will be determined."

"Despite the laying of these charges, we know that there will be many questions regarding suspects and motivations," said Staff Sergeant John Brown of the Alberta RCMP Major Crimes Unit. "Please understand that our ability to answer these questions is limited while our officers continue their important work."

The RCMP also indicated on Tuesday that their investigation is still ongoing and indicated that there may be other suspects in the case.

During their interviews, the two friends who were in the car indicated that they believed there were several people in the pick-up truck.

Headlines in this week's FEVER:

Murders, violence continue non-stop

Canadian Senator wants gambling ads to stop as betting is destroying sports

Digital Media is stealing our attention

Publisher's Ponderings ...

A column of news & commentary

• Alberta RCMP reported this week that 21 newly trained officers are being deployed across the province. Northern Alberta will have constables moving into High Prairie, McLennan, Valleyview, Wood Buffalo, St. Paul and Red Earth Creek. The Alberta RCMP, headquarters in Edmonton also let it slip that the RCMP have had 5,700 people apply for positions with the RCMP in Alberta. Have that many people applied to be Alberta Sheriffs recently?

We hope Premier Smith is pleased that the federal police force is providing these 21 new police persons, among the total of 65 Mounties they will deploy around Wild Rose land during this year.

• Since Premier Smith and her crew seem to be worrying that emigrants to Alberta have been far too many in past years that we might not be able to afford them using all the services (health care, education, policing, social services, etc.). Wasn't it great that former Premier Kenney had so many new residents respond to his invitation to join us!

Did the UCP undercover rulers object to Kenney's enticing too many emigrants to Wild Rose Country? Or did they also have it out for him for being a good Premier in supporting a very competent Chief Medical Officer during the arrival and first years of Covid? He actually encouraged Albertans to follow the medical advice of getting vaccinated, wearing masks and all the other preventative advice which is credited by those who know how medicine and science work, and saved millions of lives during the pandemic.

It would be nice if the current Premier stopped being influenced by the Trumps, Kennedys, and others like them, so that important areas of concerns like climate change, measles, Covid, air and water pollution, methane, world famine, would be considered on the same level as gas and oil or the sexual orientation of everyone's kids or what they can read in their school libraries.

• Then there are the Edmonton Oilers and how all their fans are wondering how the last few regular games of the season will go, and if the team makes the playoffs, how far into the battle will the team get. Probably best we all just settle back and be entertained regardless of how it is going on the ice.

WABASCA CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB 2026

\$20 seasonal membership fee for adults
 \$40 seasonal membership fee for family
 \$75 seasonal rental fee for all equipment (limited sizes)
 SIGNED WAIVER FORM REQUIRED

WEEKDAY SKIING AT 11:30
 WEEKENDS AT 1:30
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH WEATHER CONDITIONS)

CONTACT -
 DIANE KIM 780 891 5081
 FAY CARDINAL 780 891 0873
 CINDY MOORE 780 891 0083

JOIN US FOR A FREE TRIAL ON OUR BEAUTIFUL GROOMED TRAILS AT THE RODEO GROUNDS & GOLF COURSE

We welcome other community groups to get in touch with The Fever and share your activities and event with our readers!

Late Ice Warning
Ice Is No Longer Safe

Warmer spring temperatures weaken lake and river ice.
 Avoid walking or driving on ice during thaw periods.

If in doubt, stay off the ice.

The FEVER

Weekly Newspaper serving North Central Alberta

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BREAKING NEWS

CELEBRATING 27 ANNIVERSARY
YEARS OF COMMUNITY NEWS SINCE 1999

Serving Municipal District of Opportunity
 #12 Bigstone Cree Nation
 for 27 years!

Advertising deadline: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.

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 *GRADES 7+
 March - June

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL ALEX GOLD 780-331-3810

BIGSTONE CREE NATION
 MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY #12

Middle East oil disruptions could trigger Alberta boom

A prolonged disruption to oil production in the Middle East — similar to events seen during the Gulf War in 1990 — could have far-reaching consequences for global energy markets. With several key facilities potentially damaged and recovery expected to take years, the resulting supply shortage of oil may significantly reshape the economic outlook for Alberta.

The Middle East remains one of the world's largest oil-producing regions. When production is interrupted, global supply tightens and prices rise. If this situation continues over the long term, oil prices are likely to remain elevated rather than experiencing a short-term spike.

For Alberta, whose economy is so closely tied to oil and gas, this creates a strong opportunity for growth.

Higher oil prices make Alberta's oil-sands operations more profitable, even though extracting the oil is relatively expensive. This could lead to increased investment in new projects, expansion of existing facilities, and renewed interest from international investors seeking stable and politically secure sources of energy. As a result, job creation across sectors such as construction, transportation, and energy services could increase significantly.

More money for provincial budgets

At the same time, the provincial government may benefit from higher royalties and tax revenues, potentially leading to budget surpluses and increased spending



on infrastructure and public services.

However, the benefits come with risks. Sustained high oil prices can drive up the cost of living, increasing fuel, food, and housing prices across the province. Rapid economic expansion can also lead to labour shortages and wage inflation, putting pressure on all businesses.

Moreover, prolonged global instability may encourage countries to accelerate their transition toward renewable energy, reducing long-term demand for oil. This highlights the importance of economic diversification, even during periods of strong growth in oil and natural gas.

In the short to medium term, Alberta stands to benefit significantly from prolonged Middle East disruptions. However, careful planning will be essential to ensure that today's gains do not lead to tomorrow's challenges.

Environment Canada Weather Forecast

Wabasca - Peerless Lake - Gift Lake - Red Earth Creek - Cadotte Lake

March 20 to March 24

Thursday night..Clear. Low minus 24.
 Friday..Mix of sun/cloud. High minus 4.
 Friday night..Periods of snow. Low minus 12.
 Saturday..Mix of sun/cloud. High minus 3.
 Saturday night..Cloudy periods. Low minus 16.
 Sunday..Mix of sun and cloud. High minus 3.
 Sunday night..Cloudy periods. Low minus 9.
 Monday..60% chance of flurries. High zero.
 Monday night..Cloudy 30% flurries. Low minus 8.
 Tuesday..A mix of sun and cloud. High plus 1.
 Normals for period..Low minus 9. High plus 4.



MD OF
OPPORTUNITY
ba."Δ<P"

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY

The following Development Permits were processed on March 16, 2026

26-DP-007 – 7822893;2;5 - Wabasca
Development: Neighborhood Commercial Developments
 Zoned as R1A – Residential District – **Approved**

26-DP-011 – NE 35-78-23 W4M - Crown
Development: Temporary Workcamp
 Zoned as E – Resources District – **Approved**

26-DP-012 – NE 18-81-25 W4M - Wabasca
Development: Cabin
 Zoned as P - Conservation District – **Approved**

26-DP-013 – NE 7-82-22 W4M - Crown
Development: Workcamp Renewal
 Zoned as E – Resources District – **Approved**

26-DP-014 – 0822318;2;6 - Wabasca
Development: Temporary Workcamp
 Zoned as CH – Highway Commercial – **Approved**

Any person affected by this decision may submit a written "statement of concern" on the grounds of appeal to: **Terah Yellowknee, Subdivision and Development of Appeal Board Clerk, MD of Opportunity, P.O. Box 60 Wabasca, Alberta T0G 2K0**, within 21 days of publication. Please quote the appropriate application number when submitting a statement of concern. The residential appeal fee is \$100.00, and the commercial appeal fee is \$400.00.

Weekly highlights - Data from March 15, 2026 to March 21, 2026



539 (17528 this season) Influenza cases	72 (5724 this season) SARS-CoV-2 cases	236 (4416 this season) RSV cases
12.3% Influenza positivity	1.9% SARS-CoV-2 positivity	5.6% RSV positivity
28 Influenza in hospital**	42 SARS-CoV-2 in hospital**	50 RSV in hospital**
4 Influenza in ICU**	1 SARS-CoV-2 in ICU**	6 RSV in ICU**
0 (260 this season) Influenza deaths	1 (116 this season) SARS-CoV-2 deaths	1 (44 this season) RSV deaths

BIGSTONE HEALTH COMMISSION

Employment Opportunity

**ADDICTIONS COUNSELLOR**

**One (1) Temporary Full-Time
(Temporary up to January 2027)
Monday to Friday – 7 hours/day
Wabasca, Alberta**

Bigstone Health Commission is seeking an experienced Addictions Counsellor to join our talented health team serving Bigstone communities within Wabasca, Calling Lake, and Chipewyan Lake. This is a rewarding opportunity if you have a passion for helping people, an appreciation for Indigenous culture, a desire for continuing professional development and enjoy the support and collaboration from our multidisciplinary team and various other professionals and agencies.

At Bigstone Health Commission, you are more than an employee – you are part of a community. Our work is rooted in respect for culture, connection, and service to the members of Bigstone Cree Nation. We offer a supportive and welcoming workplace where your contributions matter, your growth is encouraged, and your work helps strengthen health services for present and future generations. Joining our team means building a meaningful career while giving back to community. This is a rewarding opportunity if you have an appreciation for First Nation culture, a desire for continuing professional development and enjoy the support and collaboration from our multidisciplinary team and various other professionals and agencies.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- The main duties of this position will be Prevention, Intervention, Pre-Treatment, Treatment, Relapse Prevention/Follow-up, and Post Treatment counselling.
- Utilize existing resources for development of culturally relevant presentations with youth and adults.
- Responsible for doing month end reports, calendars, monthly newsletter, and annual reports.
- Provide information about Addictions and Mental Health issues, available services, and programs, and make appropriate referrals where necessary.
- Review, evaluate and document client's progress.
- Provide after-care and follow-up as appropriate.
- Develop public education therapy groups and health promotion programs as required.
- Work with organizations, institutions, and communities to develop, implement, and evaluate health and wellness programs.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Must be prepared to work irregular hours depending on job demands.
- Must be reliable and consistent.
- Ability to understand and speak the Cree Language would be an asset.
- Must have the ability to work in a team environment with children, youth, family, and other professionals.
- Must maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- Willing to travel within Bigstone Cree Nation geographical locations.
- Willing to take training as required.

Education and Experience:

- Post-secondary education (Certificate, Diploma or Bachelor's) in Addictions Counselling, or related Human Services Field.
- 2 years' work-related experience working with youth and adults.
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, Mental Health First Aid, Standard First Aid courses.
- Must have a valid class 5, however a class 4 would be considered an asset.

Benefits:

- ✓ Competitive Salary

Salary is dependent on qualifications.

Please forward your Cover Letter, Resume (including 3 work related references), Criminal Record Check, Vulnerable Sector Check & Child & Youth Intervention Check (should be current within the last 6 months) to the:

Human Resources Department

PO Box 1020 Wabasca, Alberta T0G 2K0

Fax: 780-891-2623 | Email: bhcresumes@bigstonehealth.ca

CLOSING DATE: Until a Suitable Candidate is Found.

POSTED: March 23, 2026

*Applicants are thanked in advance for their interest in our organization, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Join a team committed to supporting the health and well-being of Bigstone Cree Nation Members.

More Employment Opportunities in Focus Supplement

Wabasca volleyball warriors are improving as they play as a club involved in provincial tournaments

As Wabasca's Under Age 18 Girls Volleyball Eagles team and two other local teams play as a club within the Volleyball Alberta structure, they get lots of experience against a variety of skill levels with players from around the province.

Last weekend, the Team was in Calgary playing in a Premier 2 Tournament, hosted by the provincial association. After finishing first in their pool, the squad won their first two playoff matches against Grande Prairie Hawks and Rocky Wildcards on the A side of the event.

According to head coach Marcel Auger, the team lost a close match to the Junior Broncos, 25-22 and 25-23. Then onto the final fight for the bronze medal against the North-West Wolves. Although down at one point, 23-18, The Eagles wouldn't let it go and finally won 31-29. That victory gave the girls the momentum in the second set the final win, 25-22 to claim the bronze.

Watch for an additional volleyball feature next issue.

KINDERGARTEN PRE-REGISTRATION

St. Theresa School is taking kindergarten registrations for the 2026–2027 school year.

Register during office hours, weekdays,
APRIL 7th - APRIL 30th

Parents who have children born in 2021 are invited to come to the school to pick up a registration package. The child must be 5 years of age by December 31, 2026.

Parents are asked to provide the following information:

- a copy of the child's birth certificate
- the child's Alberta health care number
- the legal land description of the residence
- if applicable, the child's treaty number
- any relevant medical information that may affect the child's learning or his/her functioning at school



For more information or for applications, please contact
Violet L'Hirondelle or Carolyn Stuart at 780-891-3833

Bigstone Community Wellness Presents:
IRS Inquest

Elders Survivor Gathering

Chipewyan Lake Community Hall

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

IRS Update:

- Building connections and sharing through discussion and activities
- Building the story/narrative for monument planning

Lunch and Beverages will be provided



For more information, please contact Treena Gladue
at 780-891-3777 or Toll Free 1-877-767-7060
E-mail: treena.gladue@bigstonehealth.ca

Went in for hibernation... woke up... **STILL** winter.



BUDGET 2026

Focused on what **matters** to northern Alberta



22 school projects underway, including 3 brand new projects



Replacing Beaverlodge Health Centre



Training more rural physicians at Grande Prairie Regional Hospital to serve northern communities



Replacing Smith Bridge near the Town of Slave Lake



Twinning Highway 63 and upgrading Highways 58 and 686

Budget 2026 is focused on what matters to northern Alberta, with record investments in health care and education, and a plan to keep our economy strong.

LEARN MORE

alberta.ca/budget





Bigstone Community Wellness Presents:
in Wabasca

Girls Night Smoothies and a Flick

****REVISED DATE****

When: May 1st, 2026
Time: 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Where: BCW Foyer

Maximum: 20 Youth
Ages: 9 - 17

Popcorn, Smoothies and
a Movie (Title to follow)

Call to register: Bernadette Schneider at
780-891-3777 or toll free: 1-877-767-7060



Bigstone Community Wellness Presents:
in Wabasca

Girls Night Escape Room

Does your team have what it takes
to make it
out of the escape room?

****Revised Date ****

When: May 2nd, 2026
Time: 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Where: BCW Foyer

Maximum: 10 Youth
Ages: 10 - 17

CALL TO REGISTER: BERNADETTE SCHNEIDER AT
780-891-3777 OR TOLL FREE: 1-877-767-7060



Bigstone Community Wellness Presents:

4 Week Youth Cooking Series

Week 3:

Pizza

When: March 31st, 2026
Time: 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Where: BCW Foyer

Maximum: 10 Youth
Ages: 10 - 17

Must have waiver form filled out prior to cooking
programming.

Call to register: Bernadette Schneider at
780-891-3777 or toll free: 1-877-767-7060



Bigstone Community Wellness Presents:
in Wabasca

4 Week Youth Cooking Series

Week 4:

Chicken Dinner in an InstaPot

When: April 7th, 2026
Time: 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Where: Community Kitchen next to ATB
Updated Venue

Maximum: 8 Youth (Boys and Girls)
Ages: 10 - 17

Must have waiver form filled out prior to cooking
programming.

Call to register: Bernadette Schneider at
780-891-3777 or toll free: 1-877-767-7060

Bigstone Community Wellness presents:
Mental Wellness Conference

SAVE THE DATES:

May 11th & 12th, 2026

Wabasca, AB

George D. Auger Hall

Day 1 = 1:00 pm - 8:45 pm

Day 2 = 3:00 pm - 8:45 pm

May 13th, 2026

Calling Lake, AB

Calling Lake Community Complex

1:00 pm - 8:45 pm

May 14th, 2026

Chipewyan Lake, AB

Community Hall

1:00 pm - 6:45 pm



For more information please contact
Wally Rude or Juline Geoffery-Akobundu
at the Bigstone Community Wellness office :
Ph: 780-891-3777 or Toll Free: 1-877-767-7060



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Murders, violence continue non-stop throughout Alberta; majority of residents are unlikely to be involved, but worried they could become a victim at some time

By Bruce Thomas

While the majority of Albertans may enjoy a life never touched by being violently killed or severely injured, or have a family member being a victim of such, they are more likely to be affected by fraud or a crime against their property like vehicle stolen, break-in or vandalism at their home or business, or petty thefts.

Statistics Canada tracks most every part of Canadians' lives, so it's latest reveal on homicides across the country according to police records, was for the year 2024: 788 in the entire country which was eight less than in 2023 (4% decrease). Interesting that while Ontario, the province with largest population, had 282 homicides in 2024 (down 10 from 2023), Alberta as the fourth largest province had 98 (a decline of 19 from the previous year), slightly ahead of Quebec's 97 and British Columbia's 93 (B.C. had 30 fewer murders than in 2023).

According to StatsCan, less than 20% of 2024's murders, 152, were gang-related, and 17% involved spousal and intimate partner. Of the 100 murders in 2024 within this category, 81 of the victims were female, 81%.

Unfortunately, the usual lop-sided ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous involvement in society's social ills includes homicides.

Statistics Canada states in its 2024 report, "The homicide rate involving Indigenous people was 10.84 per 100,000 population, more than 8 times the rate for non-Indigenous Canadians. Indigenous people continue to be over-represented among homicide victims."

Woman arrested for murder at Ermineskin

A female member of the Louis Bull Tribe has been charged with second degree murder after Maskwacis RCMP were dispatched to a residence on the Ermineskin Cree Nation just before 7 a.m. last Thursday, March 19.

Inside the residence, officers found Shane Buffalo, age 29, deceased of an apparent gunshot wound.

Initial investigation identified a possible suspect who had fled the residence with a firearm. A search was organized to find the suspect involving various RCMP detachments, Police Dog Services and Emergency Response Team.

On Friday, Shaunelle Okeymow (32), was located and arrested and remanded into custody by a justice of peace until a first appearance in the Alberta Court of Justice in Wetaskiwin on Thursday, March 26.

Canadian Senator points out many evils of online gambling; pushes for federal/provincial legislation restricting advertising

By Canadian Senator Percy E. Downe
Representing Prince Edward Island



Photo-Djuradj Vujicic

Canada is falling behind in protecting its citizens from the negative effects of advertisements for addictive sports betting, and we must follow other countries in banning these harmful ads entirely.

Gambling has always existed in our society in some form or another, from bets at the racetrack to bingo games to buying lottery tickets. But the recent emphasis on expanding the number of gamblers through relentless sports betting advertising is crossing a line.

These ads are everywhere — on websites, social media, TV and radio. They often feature celebrities, promise a "premium gaming experience" and urge viewers to turn their phones into a pocket-sized casino, all under the pretext of "responsible gaming." But

what these ads are really doing is encouraging a known addictive behaviour that's been proven to cause very real and very immediate harm to vulnerable people's health.

A report published in November 2025 by Mental Health Research Canada highlighted the growing issue of gambling in Canada and the devastating consequences it can have when addiction takes root. The report found that roughly 73% of adult Canadians have participated in gambling activities; of those adults, one in 10 were classified as problem gamblers.

Those most at risk of problem gambling, according to the report, were young men and those who gamble online.

Addiction
is a gamble
you can't
afford to lose!

"For these individuals, gambling can contribute to significant financial strain, social isolation, psychological distress, and in some cases, suicidal ideation," the report stated.

People with problem gambling were four times more likely to have contemplated suicide and seven times more likely to have planned a suicide in the last 12 months, compared to those who weren't problem gamblers, the report found.

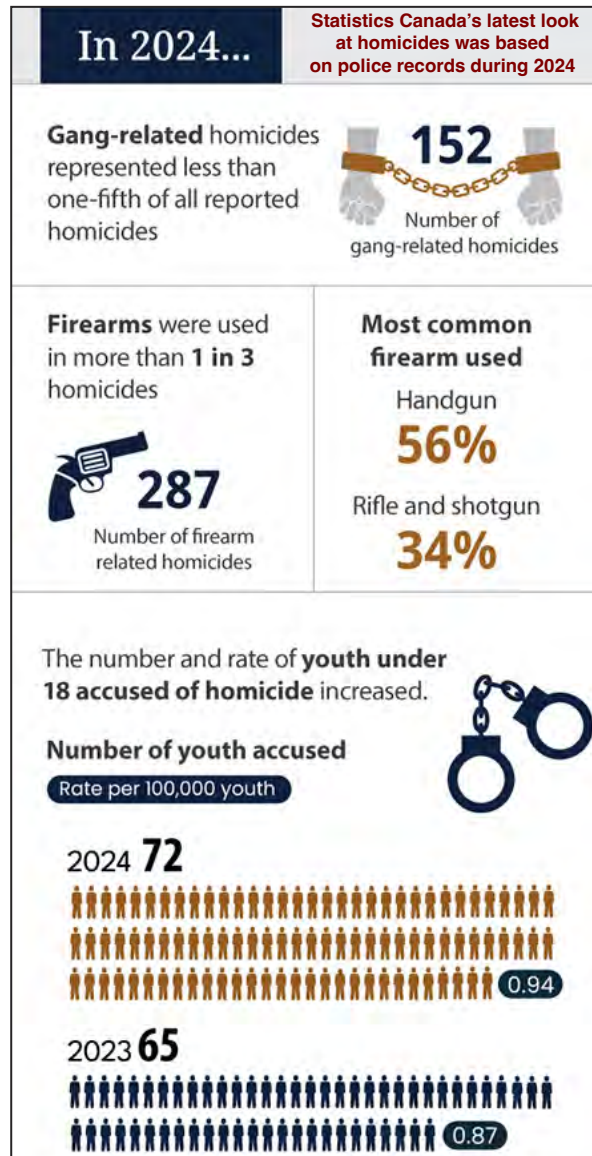
The surge of sports gambling ads and the resulting spike in new gamblers is also corrupting the sports world.

The enormous amount of money at play has introduced a temptation some players and officials are finding hard to resist, leading to an abuse of sports betting in professional leagues around the world.

Evidence of this isn't hard to find — just look at a newspaper or the latest sports report. Recently in the United States, two Major League Baseball pitchers were charged with conspiracy, based on evidence they took payoffs to guarantee bets based on their performance.

Over in Turkey, an illegal sports betting scandal involving players and referees rocked the country's professional soccer leagues in 2025.

Continued on Focus Page 3



Read to enjoy and explore!

Read to learn and understand!



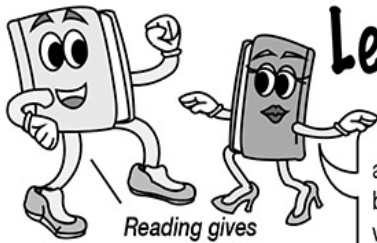
Kids: color stuff in!



Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com Annimills LLC © 2026 V14

Learn to Read! Read to Learn!

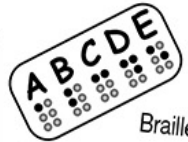


Reading gives us such joy!

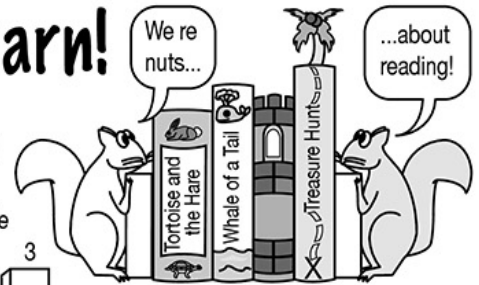
Read the clues about reading to fill in the crossword puzzle:

- We read using the letters of the _____.
- When we read _____ we are able to share stories.
- We read for fun and to _____.
- We read signs by seeing the words or _____.
- We read words, _____ and paragraphs.
- We read using our _____.
- Some people, who cannot see well or are blind, may read using _____, a system of raised dots.
- We learn new words and _____ when we read.
- We read from the left side to the _____.
- We can read about places we can _____ to and places we might not.
- We read music by reading the _____.
- People who are deaf may read finger _____, or hand signals as well as the printed word!

We read using our eyes. We use the alphabet. People who cannot see well or are blind can read Braille, a system of raised dots, with their fingers. People who are deaf may read lips or fingers spelling out hand signals, in addition to the printed word.

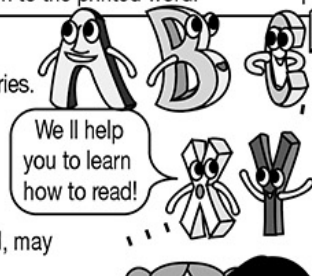


Braille



We re nuts...

...about reading!



We'll help you to learn how to read!

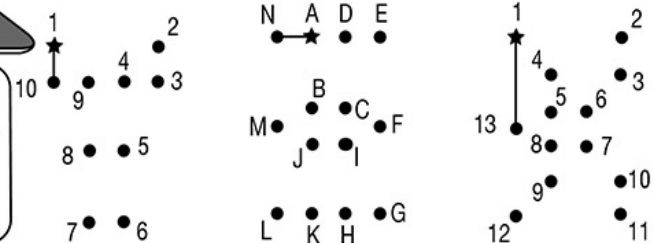
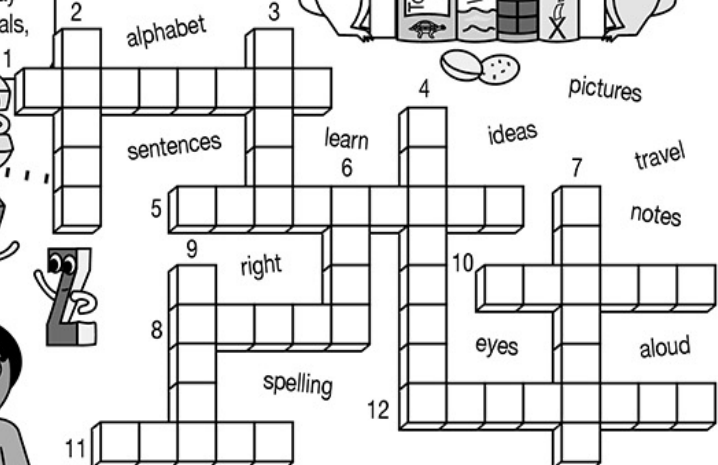
We enjoy reading on our new tablet.



There are 3 letters in my puzzle. Connect dots in the first one by following the numbers. Then, follow the alphabet in the middle one. Finally, connect the numbered dots of the last letter to see the word we use the most.

What Word Do We Use the Most?

Do you know what word is used the most in written materials?



A Recipe for Reading!

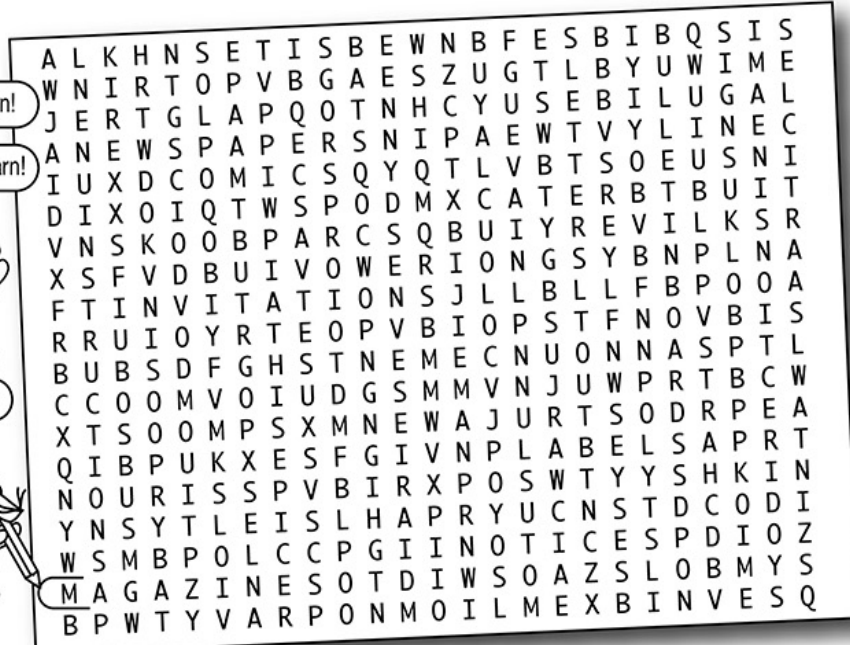


Chatter's recipe for reading is not a secret. Find and circle all of these items that we read every day:

We Read:

- recipes
- poetry
- symbols
- signs
- notices
- websites
- articles
- comics
- labels
- maps
- charts
- flyers
- letters
- books
- diaries
- plays
- announcements
- bulletin boards
- invitations
- directions
- newspapers
- magazines
- instructions
- scrapbooks

I love puzzles!



Is gambling now ruining sports? ... from front page

Here in Canada, the National Basketball Association in 2024 issued what amounts to a lifetime ban to then-Toronto Raptors player Jontay Porter for — in the words of the league — “disclosing confidential information to sports bettors, limiting his own participation in one or more games for betting purposes, and betting on NBA games.”

Canada is not alone in coping with the negative effects of constant sports betting ads, but it’s lagging behind other jurisdictions that have already done something about it — or at least admitted mistakes were made.

Belgium and Italy both imposed comprehensive bans on sport betting ads, including sport sponsorship, online ads, social media ads and all TV and radio ads. In the U.S., Republican Governor Mike DeWine has gone on record saying he “absolutely” regrets signing the law that legalized sports betting in Ohio.

Important work has begun in Canada to curtail this powerful new marketing industry. Notably, the Senate recently passed Senator Marty Deacon’s Bill S-211, An Act respecting a national framework on sports betting advertising, marking a major step toward better regulation and risk prevention. Having passed the Senate, Bill S-211 now will proceed to the House of Commons, where any number of measures could slow or even prevent its coming into law.

A parallel and faster way forward would be for the federal government to ban sports betting ads altogether. More than 40 senators have signed a letter I cowrote with Senator Deacon to Prime Minister Mark Carney, requesting the government follow the approach it took with cigarette advertising and similarly prohibit ads for sports betting apps and sites.

We banned ads for cigarettes because of the harmful effects of smoking on public health. We have mounting evidence that gambling is seriously harmful to Canadians’ health and so the same logic should apply.

In urging the government to ban sports gambling ads, we acknowledge it’s impossible to legislate away human weakness, but it is possible to limit the ability of others to profit from that weakness — or indeed to promote the exploitation of that weakness.

Now is the time for action. We cannot afford to gamble any further with our public health and we must protect Canadians of all ages against ads promoting sports gambling.

Free, confidential help for gambling addiction in Alberta is available 24/7 through Alberta Addiction Helpline: **1-866-332-2322** Services include counseling, crisis support, and treatment referrals Options include community-based counseling, the 20-day Residential Gambling Treatment Program, and online tools, provided by **Recovery Alberta**



**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY # 17
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Park Maintenance – Calling Lake,
Sandy Lake and Red Earth Creek
Seasonal Full Time Positions**

The Municipal District of Opportunity is accepting resumes from individuals who are interested in seasonal employment from April - October. The positions are for maintenance of the parks and day use areas in the communities of Sandy Lake, Red Earth Creek & Calling Lake.

Under the general direction of the Area Manager, the park maintenance staff have direct responsibility for the day-to-use areas and campgrounds, ensuring cleanliness throughout the parks at all times.

The individuals chosen for this position in the M.D. of Opportunity will be responsible for the following duties:

- ◆ Minor carpentry duties;
- ◆ Providing daily maintenance services at the day use areas, including removal of garbage/refuse, grass cutting/grooming and cleaning washrooms and sites;
- ◆ Communicate effectively with the public, and co-workers both verbally and in written form when required;
- ◆ Provide written reports on operations as required;
- ◆ Ability to work flexible hours including evenings and weekends consistently;
- ◆ Ensure that all projects are completed and maintained at optimal capacity;
- ◆ Perform maintenance as required;
- ◆ Experience in landscaping is an asset;
- ◆ Other duties as required;

Qualifications:

- ◆ A minimum of Grade 10 or a minimum of two years’ experience may be considered;
- ◆ Current CPR and basic First Aid is an asset;
- ◆ A valid Class 5 driver’s license is a definite asset;
- ◆ Knowledge of municipal operations;
- ◆ **Physical fitness required, capable of lifting 30 lbs. or more, and must be able to work in various weather conditions;**
- ◆ Ability to adhere to safety protocols, including compliance with appropriate work attire, is essential;
- ◆ Ability to work independently and as a team player;
- ◆ A satisfactory Criminal Record Check will be required at time of hire.

**Human Resources Department
Municipal District of Opportunity No.17
Box 60 - Wabasca, AB T0G 2K0**

Phone : (780) 891-3778 Fax : (780) 891-4283

Email : hr@mdopportunity.ab.ca

The closing date for this advertisement is March 27, 2026 @ 3 pm.

The personal information submitted pursuant to this advertisement will be utilized for this Employment Opportunity only and is subject to compliance with the Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act.

Read Right! Read Left!

We read English words and sentences from left to right. The languages of Arabic and Hebrew are read from right to left.

Here are some fun English words that can be read in both directions and still have meaning for us. **Study the words and fill in the vowels that make sense:**



CAN YOU READ FROM LEFT TO RIGHT?

?TFEL OT THGIR MORF DAER UOY NAC

1. k _ _ p = p _ _ k

2. st _ p = p _ ts

3. p _ ls = sl _ p

4. t _ p = p _ t

5. st _ r = r _ ts

6. l _ v _ = _ v _ l



7. n _ w = w _ n

8. n _ t = t _ n

9. s _ w = w _ s

10. r _ _ d = d _ _ r

11. b _ t = t _ b

12. m _ _ d = d _ _ m



Digital media is using negativity to steal our attention — here's how we reclaim it

Authors

Megan Shipman

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This article first appeared in Conversation which presents articles written by academics with expertise on a variety of topics.

Climate change intensifies displacement and conflict, economic precarity fuels political extremism and public health emergencies expose structural inequality.

As a result, the future can feel more uncertain than ever. If you feel overwhelmed by the constant influx of bad news and find it difficult to focus on day-to-day tasks, that response is understandable.

But research in psychology and cognitive science suggests there are ways to fight back against this and reclaim your attention.

The business model of outrage

Developing a critical awareness of how digital systems operate is an important first step. This sense of overwhelm is deliberately ampli-



fied by the way digital platforms and their profit-driven algorithms are designed.

Many of us go online to cope with stress or to escape, but the content that captures our attention most effectively often makes it worse.

Content that provokes anger, fear or moral outrage generates higher engagement. Negative headlines tend to attract more clicks than positive ones, creating incentives for media outlets to push content that increases engagement.

One study found that social media users are nearly twice as likely to share negative news articles that evoke strong negative emotions. Each interaction — a like, share or comment — signals to algorithms that similar content should be shown again. Increased engagement also reinforces users' continued posting of negative material.

The result is a positive feedback loop in which emotionally charged content is amplified, often leading to the spread of misinformation and sowing of conflict.

Your brain in a 24/7 threat environment

Part of why we are so drawn to outrage lies in human

neurobiology. Studies show that we choose to read more negative or cynically framed news stories even when positive stories are also available.

Much of this is just how humans have been wired: we evolved to pay attention to the most threatening stimuli. From a very early age, we show a biased attention toward spiders, snakes and threatening faces, which activate an acute stress response from the sympathetic nervous system and trigger a fight-or-flight response.

However, we have only just recently started living in a world where negative stimuli are constantly at our fingertips. Digital media now intentionally uses these neural biases to hijack our attention for profit.

At the same time, we can only pay attention to so much at once. Our cognitive capacity is limited by what psychologists call our perceptual load.

If you've ever tried to work in an environment with many distractions — like in an office with construction next door — or attempted to juggle multiple tasks at once, you have experienced how quickly your attention can fragment. Multitasking typically results in poorer performance across tasks.

Doomscrolling and stress spiral

This is where doomscrolling enters the picture. Doomscrolling refers to compulsive scrolling through negative news on digital platforms.

An unlimited stream of negative information that our brains must both react to (through sympathetic arousal) and sort through (perceptual load) can lead to information overload and chronic stress.

Continued next page, top left



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Seasonal Equipment Operators Calling Lake - Temporary Full Time

The individual chosen for this temporary full-time/seasonal position in the M.D. of Opportunity (ending in October) with our Public Works Department at our Calling Lake location will be responsible for the following duties and any other duties required:

- ◆ Operation of various equipment within the Public Works Department.
- ◆ Responsible for operation & routine maintenance of a variety of light & heavy equipment; mowing equipment and tractors.
- ◆ Some manual labor related to maintenance of the road system, parking lots & other MD operated facilities.
- ◆ Maintenance & installation of road signage as required.
- ◆ Routine maintenance of culverts & control of flooding problems on local roads.
- ◆ Provide written reports on operations as may be required.
- ◆ Under the direction of the Area Lead hand.
- ◆ Hauling gravel

Qualifications:

- Valid Class 5 Drivers License
- A minimum of Grade 10 or a minimum of two years' experience may be considered;
- Ability to work independently or as a team player;
- Ability to exercise good judgment on operation of light/heavy equipment as it relates to safety;
- Clean Driver's Abstract.

Interested persons are invited to submit their Resume, current Criminal Record Check and three (3) work related references to:

Human Resource Department
Municipal District of Opportunity No.17
Box 60 Wabasca, Alberta T0G 2K0
Phone: (780) 891-3778 or Fax: (780) 891-4283
Email hr@mdopportunity.ab.ca

This advertisement will close on May 1, 2026

The personal information submitted pursuant to this advertisement will be utilized for this Employment Opportunity only and is subject to compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Stress and perceptual load interact to worsen our attention and diminish performance on certain attention-demanding tasks, suggesting that each utilize similar attentional resources.

You may find yourself in a vicious cycle: stress impairs your attention and task performance, leading to more stress, which then worsens your attention. You may then reach for your phone seeking distraction or relief, only to encounter more alarming content.

Research shows doomscrolling is more likely to cause psychological distress and worsen mental well-being, since the content that we are using to distract ourselves is often negative.

How to reclaim your attention

In the face of our current global poly-crisis, the algorithmic manipulation of our emotions poses a serious challenge. If you want to interrupt this cycle, research suggests there are several practical steps you can take.

First, try to reduce time online. A particularly healthy time to be screen-free is before bed as screens can negatively impact sleep. Notably, poor sleep can lead to stress, and high stress can impair sleep.

Second, replace screen time with new hobbies. Behavioural economics shows that reducing unwanted behaviour, such as drinking alcohol, may be easier when people engage with other activities they enjoy. Ride a bike, do a puzzle or take a cooking class.

Third, reduce stress through exercise, meditation or spending time with friends to break the negativity cycle. Form new, healthy habits that bring you joy.

But perhaps the most important step is simply becoming more aware of the behind-the-scenes forces vying for our attention that exploit our most visceral emotions. While we shouldn't completely disengage from the news media, we need to better equip ourselves to defend against these threats to our attention and well-being.

UCP criticized for failing to support accessibility legislation so all Albertans benefit from all provincial services

Prior to the vote Tuesday in the Alberta Legislature on Bill 206, Friends of Medicare and other public advocacy groups pleaded with the government party to support it.

According to the health care advocate, Alberta remains one of only two provinces in Canada without accessibility legislation, something disability organizations and advocates have been urging the provincial government to address for years.

"Accessibility legislation is long overdue," said Chris Gallaway, executive director of Friends of Medicare. "This private member's bill has widespread support, because it is about ensuring basic rights and removing barriers that shouldn't exist in the first place." Adding, "This should not be a partisan issue."

But as Bill 206 was brought to the floor by NDP MLA Marie Renaud, it was not surprising the UCP majority made sure it was defeated 43-34 as reported by Edmonton Sun.

After the vote, MLA Renaud stated, "The UCP voting down Bill 206: The Accessible Alberta Act shows that this government is unable to support any practical proposals from the Official Opposition based solely on partisanship.

"The purpose of the bill was straightforward: to remove barriers for people with disabilities, who make up one in four Albertans.

"We, as elected officials, had the opportunity to throw open the door and make services accessible to every person with a disability in Alberta. The UCP chose to slam that door shut. Bill 206 would have allowed Alberta to catch up with the rest of the country regarding accessibility. This non-partisan, practical legislation should have been an easy yes."



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Seasonal Equipment Operators Wabasca & Red Earth Creek Temporary Full Time

The individual chosen for this temporary full-time/seasonal position in the M.D. of Opportunity (ending in October) with our Public Works Department at our Wabasca and Red Earth Creek locations will be responsible for the following duties and any other duties required:

- ◆ Operation of various equipment within the Public Works Department.
- ◆ Responsible for operation & routine maintenance of a variety of light & heavy equipment; mowing equipment and tractors.
- ◆ Some manual labor related to maintenance of the road system, parking lots & other MD operated facilities.
- ◆ Maintenance & installation of road signage as required.
- ◆ Routine maintenance of culverts & control of flooding problems on local roads.
- ◆ Provide written reports on operations as may be required.
- ◆ Under the direction of the Area Lead hand.
- ◆ Hauling gravel and driving the MD bus for rentals.

Qualifications:

- **Valid Class 3 Drivers License with Air Brakes (Class 1 preferred).**
- A minimum of Grade 12 or a minimum of two years' experience may be considered;
- Ability to work independently or as a team player;
- Ability to exercise good judgment on operation of light/heavy equipment as it relates to safety;
- Clean Driver's Abstract.

Interested persons are invited to submit their Resume, current Criminal Record Check and three (3) work related references to:

**Human Resource Department
Municipal District of Opportunity No.17
Box 60 Wabasca, Alberta T0G 2K0
Phone: (780) 891-3778 or Fax: (780) 891-4283
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MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Community Peace Officers

Wabasca – Permanent Full Time

The Municipal District of Opportunity is hiring Community Peace Officers (CPO's), to be based out of the Wabasca MD Office. Community Peace Officers will be enrolled in the 12-week CPO Induction Program in Lac La Biche, AB. Upon completion of the required training, CPO's will enforce Municipal Bylaws, Animal Control Services and approved Provincial Statutes, within MD of Opportunity No. 17 boundaries. The individuals must possess a strong work ethic, maintain confidentiality, and can interact with diverse social, economic, and

cultural backgrounds. Liaise with other Enforcement Agencies. Successful candidates will receive conditional Training Allowance.

Required Qualifications:

- ◆ Grade 12 Diploma/Certificate
- ◆ Minimum age 18.
- ◆ Valid Driver's License and Drivers Abstract.
- ◆ Pass Physical Abilities Evaluation and obtain Medical Clearance.
- ◆ Pass or have completed the 12-week CPO Induction Program
- ◆ Ability to speak and understand Cree is an asset.
- ◆ Ability to obtain clean criminal record check and Child Youth Intervention Check upon hire.

Duties/responsibilities are but not limited to:

- ◆ Daily administrative duties including report writing.
- ◆ Ability to multi-task and work within a team-oriented workplace.
- ◆ Document and keep accurate records/stats.
- ◆ Serving Documents.
- ◆ Animal Control duties.
- ◆ Ensure effective resolution on all investigative files.
- ◆ Polite and professional radio communications with the public and agencies.
- ◆ Assist in other duties required with the direction of the Bylaw Enforcement Manager.
- ◆ Ensure adherence to operational health and safety policies and procedures.
- ◆ Shift and evening work is required.

Inquiries about our CPO program or a detailed job description can be directed to the Manager of Bylaw Enforcement,

Bill Auger @ 780-891-0988.

Interested persons are invited to submit their Resume, along with three (3) work related references to:

**Human Resources Department
Municipal District of Opportunity**

Box 60, Wabasca, AB. T0G 2K0

Tele (780) 891-3778 or Fax (780) 891-4283

Email hr@mdopportunity.ab.ca

This advertisement will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

The personal information submitted pursuant to this advertisement will be utilized for this Employment Opportunity only and is subject to compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Applicants are thanked in advance for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

**Please submit photos to wabascafever@shaw.ca
We pay for news and good feature photos!**

**FEVER Newspaper is seeking community reporters
in Red Earth Creek, Calling Lake, Wabasca
E-mail your interest to wabascafever@shaw.ca**

Spring outlook for Northern Alberta

By Priya Phillips

Residents across Northern Alberta may experience a slow and gradual transition into spring this year, according to seasonal outlooks from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Early March temperatures across communities such as Wabasca, Calling Lake, Red Earth Creek, and Peerless Lake remain below freezing. Forecast trends indicate that while temperatures will gradually rise through March, winter-like conditions have continued for several weeks.

Meteorologists say this pattern is typical for Northern Alberta's boreal climate, where colder air masses from the north can linger longer than in southern parts of the province. Short warming periods may occur, but they are often followed by brief returns of colder weather.

Environment Canada's seasonal climate outlook suggests that spring precipitation may be slightly above normal across parts of Alberta; the added moisture can benefit forests, wetlands, and wildlife habitats throughout Northern Alberta, along with lowering wildfire risks.

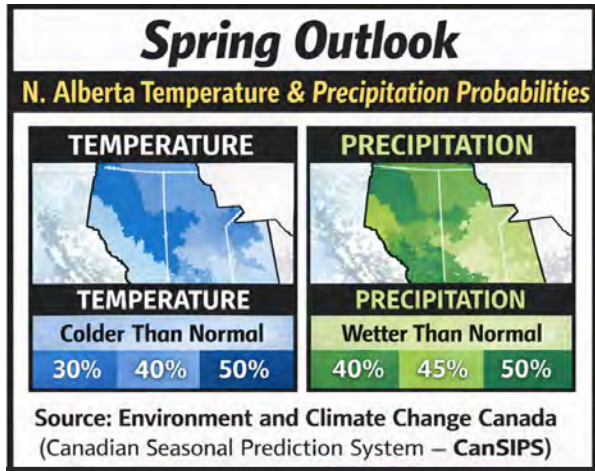
Experts emphasize that seasonal outlooks describe general climate trends rather than exact daily weather conditions. Temperatures and snowfall can still vary widely from week to week.

Nevertheless, the increasing daylight hours and gradually warming temperatures signal that spring is slowly beginning its return to Northern Alberta.

Seasonal Temperature Outlook (Canada)

These maps from Environment Canada's Canadian Seasonal Prediction System (CanSIPS) show the probability of temperatures being above, near, or below normal over the next one to three months.

Sources: Environment and Climate Change Canada Seasonal Forecast System (CanSIPS) / Environment Canada Seasonal Forecast Maps https://weather.gc.ca/saisons/index_e.html / The Weather Network seasonal outlook for Alberta



Slow transition from winter expected



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Early Childhood Educators Red Earth Creek

The Municipal District of Opportunity is seeking to fill a permanent full-time and casual positions at the Opportunity Daycare in Red Earth Creek, AB. The ideal candidate should be outgoing and energetic with demonstrated skills in their area of work, who are self-starters and team oriented. The successful individual will help create and deliver a high-quality early learning childcare service that meets MD policy as well as provincial Childcare Licensing.

Primary responsibilities are to:

- ✓ Provide childcare services by actively engaging in the supervision, care and development of children;
- ✓ Provide a safe and nurturing environment;
- ✓ Ensure the well-being of each and every child in the childcare program;
- ✓ Promote early learning programming and age-appropriate developmental activities.

Qualifications required:

- ✓ Child Development Certification Level 1, 2 and or 3;
- ✓ Valid Class 5 Drivers License and reliable transportation;
- ✓ Child First Aid and/or Standard First Aid certificate;
- ✓ A current satisfactory Criminal Record Check and Child Youth Intervention Check must be provided upon to hire.

Salary will commensurate with qualifications and experience. Please send resume along with 3 work related references and Child Intervention Check to the attention of:

**Human Resources Department
Municipal District of Opportunity
Box 60 - Wabasca, AB T0G 2K0
Phone : (780) 891-3778 Fax : (780) 891-4283
Email : hr@mdopportunity.ab.ca**

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- stop = pots / step = pets
- pals = slap
- top = pot / tap = pat / tip = pit
- star = rats
- live = evil
- now = won
- not = ton / net = ten / nit = tin
- saw = was
- reed = deer
- but = tub / bat = tab
- mood = doom

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Group launches campaign to stop CO₂ pipeline, storage Cold Lake area

Opposition is rising to the proposed CO₂ pipeline in Alberta with a group launching its campaign this past Tuesday in Edmonton with the phrase: “You wouldn’t live next to this – why should we?”

The new coalition of rural, Indigenous and farming communities along the route vows to stop the project, citing danger of explosion, threats to water and public costs

As the April 1st deadline for the Alberta-Canada Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) approaches, opposition is becoming more vocal about the proposed 600-kilometre carbon capture pipeline and 18,000 km² carbon storage (CCUS) project crossing dozens of rural communities and Indigenous nations in northeast Alberta.

“Thousands of Albertans like me live directly in this project’s ‘hazard zone’. In an explosion, people in our communities are facing anything from breathing issues to brain damage to instant death. So I have one question for the Prime Minister: if you wouldn’t live next to this pipeline, why should we?” says Penny Fox, coalition co-founder and resident of St. Paul County, AB

At the launch event, the group announced a series of town halls in impacted communities to organize neighbours and prevent their communities from turning into the world’s largest toxic CO₂ waste site.



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