

The FEVER

Volume 27, Issue 34

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Premier Smith drops another point in Approval Ratings

Details on front page of Focus

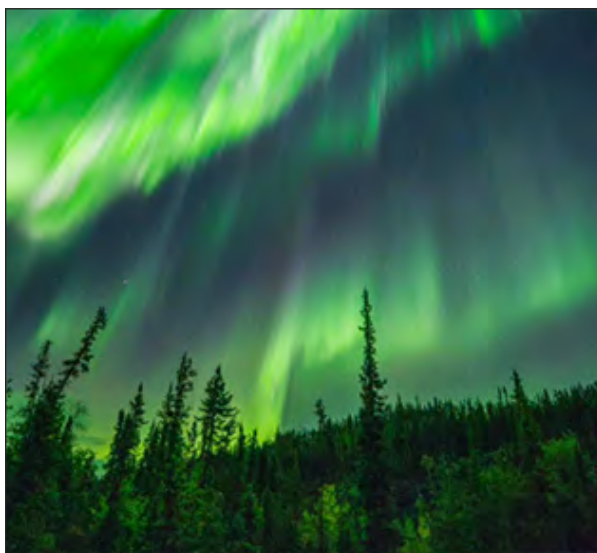


There seemed to be no end of displays at Wabasca Cultural Days!

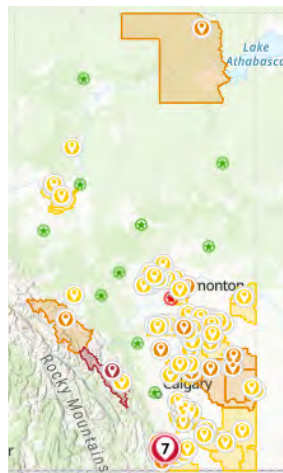
Watch for more photos and articles about the Fifth Cultural Days in upcoming issues of The Fever



Photos from a FCSS video of the 2026 Wabasca Cultural Days, September 16 to 22.



Retired science teacher Denis Carnochan reports, "This is the best of year for the Northern Lights." (above is a file photo)



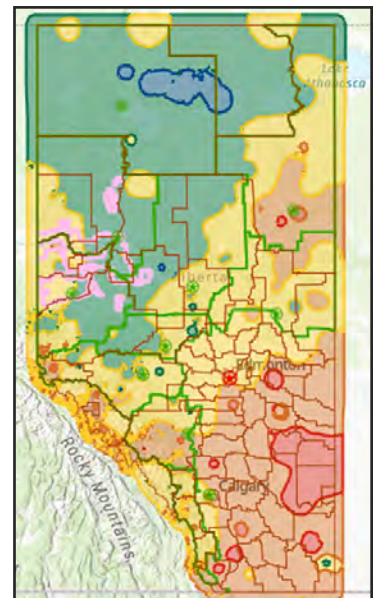
The above map of Alberta shows municipalities, parks and other locations where there are open fire bans or advisories. The yellow flags represent Fire Advisories while the red ones indicate Fire bans. The brown and reddish areas represent areas where the wildfire condition are extreme or very high risk.

Despite high, extreme wildfire ratings, there have not been many fires in about two thirds of the province and as of Monday there were no active fires in Alberta's ten forest protection areas.

Sea surface temperature anomalies in the equatorial Pacific show a strong El Niño continuing to take shape this month. The event is expected to peak this winter, but may mean a very dry fall and a lack of a snow that might drastically affect agricultural areas with drought conditions next spring.

The map (left) of fire bans and fire advisories shows that scores of municipalities, counties, and parks are asking people to avoid activities that might spark grass/brush/forest fires.

Hunters and recreational vehicle operators are being asked to very careful in their activities all over the province.



Legend - Fire danger rating
Updates 2:30 p.m. daily during fire season

- Low:** Fire can still ignite but is not expected to spread to deeper vegetation layers or larger fuels, such as trees.
- Moderate:** Creeping or gentle surface fire is likely.
- High:** Forest fuels are dry and fire risk is serious. Moderate to vigorous surface fire is expected, which may spread to treetops. Conditions may be challenging for fire suppression efforts.
- Very high:** High-intensity fire is expected and likely to spread to treetops. Fire is expected to start easily and to challenge suppression efforts.
- Extreme:** Forest fuels are extremely dry and pose a very serious fire risk. Fast-spreading, high-intensity fires are likely, which are very difficult to control.

Slave Lake Forest Protection Area headquarters has issued a caution that while there has been a lack of wildfires, all the dry weather has raised the fire danger, so people must be careful when camping, hunting or using vehicles in the forests.

Publisher's Ponderings – *Miscellaneous Notes*

By Bruce Thomas

• The Edmonton Elks suffered a loss on Saturday, losing 24-19 to the Argonauts. It was only the fourth loss of the season for Edmonton.



It is still expected that the Elks and Montreal Alouettes will likely be the 2026 Grey Cup combatants. In the CFL standings, the Alouettes are at the top of the east division with a 11-3 record, trailed by the Argonauts and their now 8-6 tally.

The Elks remain in control of the west division with a 10-4 outcome in games so far. The watermelon team of Saskatchewan is in second place with eight wins and five losses.

The sadsacks of the entire league are the Redblacks of Ottawa - 13 straight losses.

The Tiger-Cats come visiting Edmonton Saturday, September 26 with a 5 p.m. kickoff.

• The Prairie States band with singer Matt Cardinal of Wabasca was a nominee in the group category at the Canadian Country Music Awards held Saturday in Saskatoon. There were five groups nominated.

The Edmonton based band, unfortunately did not come home with the award. The 2026 winner was the James Barker Band from Woodville, Ontario. This band was organized in 2013.



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MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY

The following Development Permits were processed on September 21, 2026

26-DP-042 – 472RS;1;3 - Wabasca

Development: Sea Can

Zoned as R1A – Residential District – Approved

26-DP-045 – 2520921;21;10 - Wabasca

Development: Modular Home – Rear Variance

Zoned as R1A – Residential District – 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.

Peerless Trout cultural tourism plan points to new funding opportunity

Peerless Trout First Nation is exploring new opportunities involving culture, land and local entrepreneurship.

The Nation received \$43,100 through Alberta's Northern and Regional Economic Development Program for a feasibility study and business plan to examine expanding the Loonskin Bay Cultural Camp into an Indigenous tourism hub.

The project is an example of how a community can start with planning before moving to larger construction or business investments. A feasibility study can help identify the best services to offer, expected costs, potential visitors, staffing needs, business risks and the long-term financial viability of a project.

For Peerless Trout First Nation, the study is intended to support community-owned economic development while building on the cultural importance of the Loonskin Bay Cultural Camp. Tourism projects can create opportunities for cultural interpretation, guided land-based experiences, outdoor recreation, local food, arts, accommodation, transportation and other small businesses.

The funding came through Alberta's Northern and Regional Economic Development Program, known as NRED. The program is currently accepting applications until November 19, 2026, at 4 p.m. Alberta time.

Indigenous communities, Métis Settlements, municipalities and eligible not-for-profit organizations can apply for support for projects that strengthen regional economies and encourage diversification. Eligible projects may include business plans, feasibility studies, marketing and tourism strategies, investment-readiness work, skills training, business expansion and innovative community initiatives.

Grants range from \$10,000 to \$300,000 per project. Indigenous applicants may receive up to 75 per cent of eligible project costs, with the applicant required to provide at least 25 per cent of the total project cost through community contributions, partners or other funding sources.

The program is designed to help communities turn promising ideas into practical projects. A community may need a study before developing a tourism operation, cultural facility, business hub, local processing project or new service. It may also require marketing, investment planning or training to help local businesses grow.

Peerless Trout First Nation's Loonskin Bay project shows that cultural development and economic development can work together. A project rooted in local knowledge, history and connection to the land can also create employment, support young people, attract visitors to the region and create income for community-owned enterprises.

Other northern Alberta recipients demonstrate the range of projects being supported. The City of Cold Lake received \$100,000 for planning and feasibility work to prepare commercial land for development. The Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association received \$300,000 for a regional tourism brand and attraction strategy.

The Métis Nation of Alberta Association's Fort McMurray Local Council received \$239,600 for planning connected to a McMurray Métis Cultural Centre, intended to become a hub for Indigenous tourism and economic development.

These examples show that provincial funding can support projects at different stages. Some communities are planning tourism facilities, while others are studying clean energy, business growth, and land development.

The NRED program is administered by Alberta's Ministry of Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration. Funding decisions for the current intake are expected in spring 2027. Communities interested in applying can find program guidelines and online application portal by searching Northern and Regional Economic Development on the Alberta government website.

Health Advisory still posted for beach at Calling Lake

By Priya Phillips

A water-quality advisory remains in effect at MacFarlane Beach in Calling Lake Provincial Park, with Alberta Health Services advising visitors not to swim or wade in the water until further notice.

The advisory was first issued on August 27 after testing detected elevated levels of fecal indicator bacteria in the lake water at the beach. Alberta Parks continues to list the warning as active, and says the beach water is tested weekly by Alberta Health Services.

Health officials warn that swallowing contaminated lake water can lead to gastrointestinal illness, including vomiting and diarrhea. Contact with the water may also create a risk of skin, ear and eye infections.

The warning applies specifically to recreational water use at MacFarlane Beach. It does not mean that all of Calling Lake is closed, and it is not a drinking-water advisory for homes in the Calling Lake community. However, AHS reminds residents and visitors that untreated water from any lake should never be used for drinking or cooking.

Calling Lake Provincial Park remains a popular destination for fishing, camping, boating and other outdoor recreation. As the season

continues, visitors are encouraged to check for the latest advisories before entering the water and to supervise children closely near the shoreline.

People who have been in the water and become ill should seek medical advice, particularly if symptoms are severe or persistent. Parents and caregivers should be especially careful with young children, who may be more likely to swallow water while playing or swimming.

The advisory is an important reminder that lake conditions can change during the season. Water testing can identify bacteria levels that may not be visible to the eye, meaning water

that appears clean can still pose a health risk.

At the time of writing, no current water-quality advisory was found for Peerless Lake, Wabasca Lake or Lesser Slave Lake in the official Alberta Health Services and Alberta Parks updates checked by The Fever. The active local advisory is for MacFarlane Beach at Calling Lake Provincial Park.

The advisory will remain in place until health officials determine that water quality has returned to acceptable levels. Visitors can check Alberta Health Services or Alberta Parks online for updates before planning a beach visit.

Many other northern lakes have problems

Meanwhile, in the Northern Alberta Health Zone, at least 25 lakes still have health advisories due to high bacteria levels or Cyanobacterial (blue-green algal) blooms.

More lakes have the blue-green algal blooms rather than bacteria problems.

Alberta Health advises that people, pets and livestock should avoid any body of water affected by blue-green algal.

Eating fish from an infected lake could lead to illness for people as well as pets and livestock.

Source: Alberta Health Services and Alberta Parks.



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY NO. 17

Box 50
Red Earth, Alberta
T0G 1X0
Phone (780) 649-3427
Fax (780) 649-3440

Box 60
Wabasca, Alberta
T0G 2K0
Phone (780) 891-3778
Fax (780) 891-4283

Box 22
Calling Lake, Alberta
T0G 0K0
Phone (780) 331-3860
Fax (780) 331-3950

Municipal District of Opportunity GREATER NORTH FOUNDATION

Are you interested in serving your community?

The MD of Opportunity is seeking a dedicated and community-minded individual to serve as a **Member-at-Large** on the Greater North Foundation Board on behalf of the municipality. The appointment is for a one-year term.

Board Structure

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of 8 appointed members from Contributing Municipalities.

The MD of Opportunity participates in the Foundation because Calling Lake is within the municipality and some MD residents use the Foundation's lodges and homes.

Member Duties

The member is expected to attend Board meetings and report to the MD of Opportunity Council as needed.

Regular Board meetings are held every second month, with special meetings scheduled throughout the year as required. Meetings typically rotate among Athabasca, Boyle and Lac La Biche. Members will be notified of any location changes.

Letter of Interest

Individuals interested in serving on the board are invited to submit a letter of interest by **October 14, 2026**. Submissions may be sent by email, delivered in person or mailed to the Municipal District of Opportunity using the contact information below:

Lynda Gray
Executive Assistant to Administration
MD of Opportunity
PO Box 60
Wabasca, Alberta T0G 2K0
lynda.gray@mdopportunity.ab.ca

The appointment for this Board will be made on October 19, 2026 at the Organizational meeting of Council. If you have any questions or require more information, please contact Lynda Gray at 780-891-3778 or email lynda.gray@mdopportunity.ab.ca.



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Fax (780) 891-4283

Box 22
Calling Lake, Alberta
T0G 0K0
Phone (780) 331-3860
Fax (780) 331-3950

Municipal District of Opportunity MUNICIPAL LIBRARY BOARD

Are you interested in serving your community?

The MD of Opportunity is recruiting one volunteer to serve as a **Member-at-Large** on the Municipal Library Board representing Calling Lake, Wabasca and Red Earth Creek. The appointment is for a three-year term.

Board Structure

The Library Board consists of no fewer than five and no more than 10 members appointed by Council. No more than two Council members may serve on the municipal library board. Appointments are for terms of up to three years.

Board Duties

Subject to any enactment that limits its authority, the municipal library board has full management and control of the municipal library established by the board. In accordance with the regulations, it shall organize, promote and maintain comprehensive and efficient library services in the municipality or municipalities it serves. The board may also cooperate with other boards and libraries in providing those services.

Budget

Before December 1 each year, the municipal board shall prepare a budget and an estimate of the funds required to operate and manage the municipal library during the ensuing fiscal year. The board shall submit the budget and estimate to the council of the municipality.

Accounts

The municipal board keeps account of its receipts, payments, credits and liabilities, ensures a person who is not a member of the municipal board and whose qualifications are satisfactory to council to review the accounts each calendar year & prepares and submits a financial report to council immediately after its completion.

Individuals interested in serving on the board are invited to submit a letter of interest by **October 14, 2026**. Submissions may be sent by email, delivered in person or mailed to the Municipal District of Opportunity using the contact information below:

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IF THEY'RE TEASING YOU, THEY PROBABLY LIKE YOU!

If you spend enough time around an Indigenous family or community, you may eventually experience an important cultural milestone.

Somebody is going to make fun of you.

Then somebody else is going to add to it.

Then an auntie will remember something equally embarrassing you did nine years ago, and suddenly one innocent mistake has become part of community history.

Congratulations – You have entered the archives.

There is no single Indigenous culture and therefore no single Indigenous sense of humour. Cree, Anishinaabe, Blackfoot, Métis, Inuit, Mi'kmaq, Haudenosaunee, Dene and many other peoples have distinct languages, histories and traditions.

Still, humour, teasing,

wordplay and comic storytelling appear across many Indigenous communities.

Long before stand-up comedy, there were stories.

In many traditions, figures often described in English as “tricksters” could be brilliant one minute and spectacularly foolish the next.

Wisahkêcâhk in Cree traditions, Nanabush in Anishinaabe traditions, Coyote in several western traditions and Raven in numerous Northwest Coast traditions all belong to different cultural worlds, but stories involving them can carry lessons through humour.

A character becomes greedy, arrogant or convinced he is smarter than everyone else.

Things go badly. The audience laughs, and somewhere inside the disaster is the lesson.

Métis oral traditions provide one example.

The Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada describes humorous Wiisakaychak stories being used to teach lessons about behaviour, including gluttony.

Storytelling also carries family history, relationships and teachings across generations.

Basically, people figured out a long time ago what parents still know today: sometimes a lesson sticks better when it is funny.

Teasing can serve a different purpose.

Scholarship on Indigenous humour has described it as a way of reinforcing humility, gently correcting behaviour and strengthening relationships.

But context matters. Who is speaking, who is being teased and the relationship between them can be the difference between

affection and somebody simply being rude.

And it does not mean you have to be blood related.

Sometimes people start teasing you because they are comfortable with you. Sometimes it means you have been accepted into the circle.

Sometimes it simply means they like you enough to joke with you.

A stranger trying the same thing without that relationship is another matter entirely.

Language adds another layer.

Cree playwright and author Tomson Highway has described Cree as a joyful and deeply humorous language.

He has spoken about laughter within Cree storytelling, language and the figure of the Trickster.

His 2022 Massey Lectures were titled Laughing

*Cherry
Nyx*



with the Trickster.

Jokes do not always survive translation. Humour can depend on sounds, double meanings, timing and cultural references.

Translate something literally into English and sometimes you are left wondering why everyone else is crying or laughing.

Something lived inside the language that did not make the trip.

Humour has also been used in modern Indigenous health and education. The First Nations Health Authority has described humour as an Indigenous strength, while Secwepemc Elders worked with health organizations on Coyote's Food Medicines, a storytelling project using traditional knowledge and humour to teach about medication safety.

Modern Indigenous comedy carries the tradition into new spaces.

Cree comedian Don Burnstick has spent decades combining comedy with healing and wellness work.

Anishinaabe journalist Tim Fontaine created Walking Eagle News and later hosted APTN's The Laughing Drum, using satire to examine Indigenous affairs, politics and the sometimes unbelievable things

Humour can carry serious ideas without making suffering itself the punchline.

But sometimes there is no deeper lesson.

Sometimes your uncle simply fell off the porch and everybody is going to talk about it until 2047.

Indigenous people deserve to exist publicly as more than Canada's tragedies.



Orange Shirt Day – Truth is where reconciliation begins

By Cherry Nyx

Every September, orange begins appearing in schools, work locations, community buildings and storefronts across Canada.

For Indigenous people, September 30 carries painful history, but Orange Shirt Day also represents something hopeful: a Survivor's story became a national movement, and a history once pushed aside is now being taught publicly.

Orange Shirt Day grew from the experience of Phyllis Webstad, a woman from Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation.

In 1973, when she was six years old, her grandmother bought her a bright orange shirt before she left for St. Joseph Mission Indian Residential School near Williams Lake, British Columbia.

When Phyllis arrived, her clothing was taken from her, including the orange shirt she had been so proud to wear.

Years later, she shared that memory publicly. Her story came to symbolize how residential schools stripped children of far more than clothing.

Children lost control over ordinary parts of their lives while being separated from family, language, culture and community.

In 2013, her story helped inspire the first Orange Shirt Day in Williams Lake. What began as a local commemoration grew into a movement recognized across Canada under the message Every Child Matters.

September 30 is also National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The federal holiday was created in 2021 in response to Call to Action 80 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, which called for a national day to honour Survivors, their families and communities.

The Commission issued 94 Calls to Action in 2015. They cover areas including child welfare, education, language, culture, health, justice, missing children and burial information, media, museums, sport and government responsibilities.

That wider picture matters because reconciliation was never supposed to mean wearing an orange shirt once a year.

From an Indigenous perspective, one of the strongest parts of Orange Shirt Day is that Indigenous people are increasingly telling our own history.

Survivor testimony is preserved. Families are speaking openly about experiences that were hidden

for generations.

Indigenous historians, journalists, educators, Elders and Knowledge Keepers are contributing directly to how this country understands its past.

There has also been meaningful cultural renewal. Languages that institutions tried to suppress are being taught and spoken again.

Ceremonies continued despite attempts to eliminate them. Families are reconnecting with traditions, communities and identities that previous generations fought to protect.

That does not mean reconciliation is complete.

Many of the problems identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission remain unresolved, and symbolic gestures cannot replace policy, accountability or lasting change.

But symbols still matter.

There is something powerful about seeing children walk into schools wearing orange because one little girl's shirt was taken from her more than half a century ago.

That is why September 30 should be both remembrance and responsibility.

Wear orange. Learn the history behind it. Attend Indigenous-led events where they are open to the public. Support Indigenous language, culture, artists, businesses and community organizations. Most importantly, carry that awareness beyond one date on the calendar.

Reconciliation cannot change what happened.

But truth can change what happens next.

Sources for this article: Orange Shirt Society — Orange Shirt Day; Phyllis Webstad's Story; Every Child Matters; National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation — Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: 94 Calls to Action; Government of Canada, Canadian Heritage — National Day for Truth and Reconciliation; implementation of TRC Call to Action 80



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The Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17 Wabasca Forcemain Mulching – Request for Proposal 17-2026

Sealed quotations marked "MD of Opportunity – Request for Proposal 17-2026 – Wabasca Forcemain Mulching" will be received via email to tenders@mdopportunity.ab.ca or received in a sealed envelope at the MD of Opportunity's Wabasca Office, #2077 Mistassiniy Road North Wabasca, Alberta up to 11:00 AM LOCAL TIME, Tuesday October 6, 2026.

The Municipal District of Opportunity (MD) requests written proposals from qualified vendors to provide service for mulching along the right of way for the sanitary forcemain from the Main Lift Station to the Lagoon in Wabasca. The clearing by mulching area is approximately 10 Ha along the forcemain right of way at a width of 10 m.

Tender documents are available by emailing a request to jkitz@mesl.ca.

Inquiries can be directed to;

Earl Gullion
Director of Utilities
earl.gullion@mdopportunity.ab.ca



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Indigenous Perspective by Cherry Nyx

First Nation schools are being built But why are children still waiting?

Canada has invested billions of dollars in First Nations school infrastructure. New schools have opened, existing buildings have been renovated and federal standards have been changed to better recognize the educational and cultural needs of First Nations communities.

The problem is not that nothing is being done. The problem is how long communities can wait before that help reaches their children.

Indigenous Services Canada reported \$2.52 billion in targeted education infrastructure investments between April 2016 and March 31, 2026. That supported 353 projects benefiting 341 First Nations communities, including 84 new schools and renovations or upgrades to 152 existing schools.

Those are significant improvements and deserve to be recognized. But the federal government's own evaluation of its Education Facilities Program identified a much slower reality behind some of those completed buildings.

First Nations participants interviewed for the evaluation described approximately seven years between seeking funding, receiving design approval and completing construction of a school. The process can involve feasibility studies, enrolment projections, proposals, revisions, design work, approvals, procurement and finally construction.

Some of that time is unavoidable. Schools must be properly engineered, safely constructed and designed around future enrolment. Northern and remote construction can also involve higher transportation costs, shorter building seasons, limited contractor availability and supply challenges.

Federal officials uncovered the problems

Federal evaluators nevertheless found problems within the administrative system itself. First Nations described complicated and time consuming applications, multiple funding criteria and proposals requiring revisions and resubmissions. Communities with limited administrative capacity can face an additional disadvantage because navigating the process requires expertise and staff time.

While that process moves forward, children continue attending their existing schools.

That matters because the national backlog has not disappeared. A new Assembly of First Nations (AFN) education infrastructure assessment released this September examined 395 schools and 1,222 teacher residences. It identified 227 overcrowded schools and 77 requiring immediate replacement.

The AFN estimates approximately \$19 billion in capital investment will be required over the next 20 years for the schools and teacher housing included in its assessment, with about \$7.1 billion required within five years. It also estimates current annual operations and maintenance requirements at \$550.3 million.

Maintenance is especially important because delaying smaller repairs can eventually create larger infrastructure problems. Indigenous Services Canada's evaluation found communities reporting that available operations and maintenance funding was insufficient to address existing repair backlogs. When roofs, heating systems, ventilation and other components deteriorate faster than they can be repaired, the eventual replacement bill grows.

Population growth can create another problem

Federal evaluators documented one First Nations school built for 450 students was serving approximately 570 only two years after opening. Other communities reported using community halls because their schools did not have enough room.

Canada has responded to some longstanding concerns.

Federal School Space Accommodation Standards were updated in 2023 and now better recognize that a First Na-

tions school may require spaces different from a conventional provincial school.

Eligible designs can incorporate First Nations language and culture programming, Knowledge Keepers, counselling and wellness services, inclusive education, outdoor and land-based learning and additional storage required by remote communities.

Building an adequate First Nations school should not mean simply reproducing a standard urban school on reserve. Communities need buildings designed around their students, geography, programs and priorities.

There are good examples of what becomes possible when that investment finally arrives.

In Wabasca, Bigstone Cree Nation (BNC) spent years developing education beyond the elementary grades previously available through its own school system. The result includes Osaw Kihew Kiskinwahamatowikamik, Golden Eagle High School, where students have access to science laboratories, technology and media facilities, dramatic arts, food studies, wood and welding shops, athletics, an Elders room and space supporting land based learning.

What makes the national infrastructure shortage frustrating. Canada already knows what modern First Nations education infrastructure can accomplish because communities like BNC are demonstrating it.

For 2026 to 2027, Indigenous Services Canada plans approximately \$263.7 million for education facilities. Budget 2024 also provided \$471 million over three years for First Nations elementary and secondary education infrastructure. Federal investment is therefore continuing, even as First Nations organizations argue the scale of funding still remains below the accumulated need.

Continued on Page 7

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Address: 2542 Raspberry Lane

Email: thunderspirit16@gmail.com

First Nations school construction ...

Continued from Page 6

The issue is not solved by pretending billions have not been spent. Nor is it solved by pointing to completed schools while other communities remain overcrowded.

Both realities exist.

Canada has built and renovated hundreds of First Nations education facilities. Children have benefited from that work. At the same time, the federal government's own evaluation has documented administrative delays and infrastructure pressures, while the latest AFN assessment continues to identify overcrowded schools and buildings requiring replacement.

For a government, seven years can be an infrastructure timeline.

For a child, seven years is most of an elementary education.

That is the standard against which progress should be measured. Not simply how much money was announced or how many projects eventually reached completion, but how many children received an adequate school while they were still young enough to learn inside it.

Canada has demonstrated that it can build better First Nations schools. The work now is closing the distance between identifying the need and opening the doors.

Sources for this article:

Indigenous Services Canada, Evaluation of the Education Facilities Program, 2024.

Indigenous Services Canada, Overview of Indigenous Community Infrastructure Investments, figures current to March 31, 2026.

Indigenous Services Canada, 2026 to 2027 Departmental Plan.

Indigenous Services Canada, School Space Accommodation Standards. Government of Canada, Budget 2024.

Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Education Infrastructure Capital and Operations and Maintenance Needs Assessment, 2026.

Bigstone Cree Nation Education Authority, education infrastructure and Golden Eagle High School information.

Let the Experiment Begin!

By Denis Carnochan, Wabasca's Science & Weather Guy

This week we have experienced the equinox – equal day and equal night.

In our orbit around the sun, the Earth is tilted at 23 1/2°. In the summer, the tilt is directed toward the sun in the north, giving us long summer days. In our winter, we are directed 23 1/2° away from the sun. The sun rays approach at a lower angle and beyond the Arctic circle. This creates a 24-hour-night in November in the far north. Here in Wabasca, our days simply become very short.

Now the governments of the Prairie provinces and British Columbia have decided in their wisdom that we no longer need to switch our clocks back-and-forth one hour.

Those switches are very hard on the body, so no one is complaining. But also in their wisdom - without consulting experts in sleep and body chemistry, they have also decided to leave the clock in what we once called daylight saving time - thinking to maximize our afternoon sun. Other regions tried this before and began using daylight savings time as their marker, and every time, after a couple of years of very, very long psychological winters, people have asked to switch back.

The reason why the days in the winter will feel so long is because you're going to lose an hour of sunlight in the morning. In the summer that never mattered, the sun came up so early it didn't affect anybody. But in the winter, I'm sure everybody will recall driving to work in those blurry hours when the sun is just rising, but at least it was rising.

Now there will be an extra hour of darkness in the morning. People will not see the sunrise until an hour later. The extra little bit of light we will gain in the afternoon isn't very useful for us here because we are generally dark by about 5 o'clock anyway because of the low angle of the sun.

This overall effect of darkness in the morning, it's going to throw our bodies, totally out of sync with our biological clocks. Sleep specialists have known this for years; have told governments about it for years.

As biological creatures, we have chemical processes in our bodies for wakefulness that do not kick in until sun strikes our face or our eyes. So you will be getting up when you think you should still be sleeping - and you should be. Mornings will be dark and groggy. Day after day you will be going to work in darkness. If you thought your kids were hard to get up before..., and teachers are going to be dealing with sleeping children.

If we would've fallen back into standard time, the sun cycle and our bodies physical cycle would've been more closely tuned. Time zones were set up so that people could have wakefulness when the sun comes up. That's why we have the time changes across the world.

A note to people with SAD, Seasonal Affective Disorder, this winter will likely feel rougher than most with the sun rising so late.

I use a lot of vitamin D, mainly for other medical reasons, and that helps a lot.

But using a SAD light to help synchronize your body chemistry really helps if you have time in the morning to sit in front of it for a half hour or more.

To schools and bosses out there. You might want to shift your working hours by an hour so the people aren't 'so damn grumpy'.

Psychological experiments on populations of people are such fun. Enjoy!



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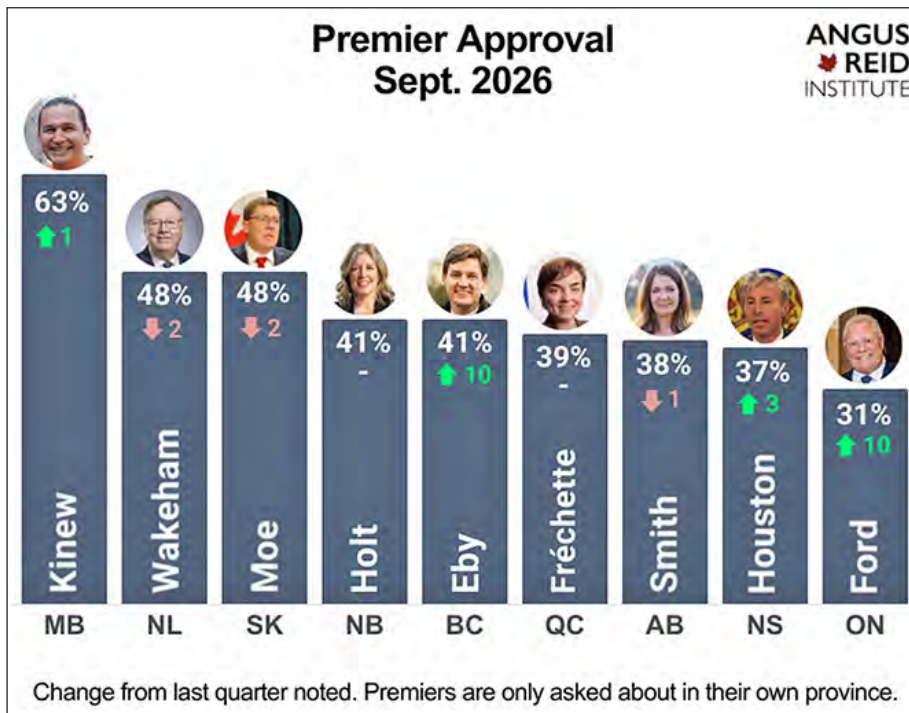
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Premier Smith drops another point in approval; Manitoba Premier continues to be most popular



September 16, 2026 – Some might say the U.S.-Canada trade war has become a renewed source of political leverage for this country's politicians. But unlike last year, when the non-profit Angus Reid Institute found rising personal popularity for a majority of provincial premiers, few of the provincial first ministers appear to be benefiting this fall, even as trade animosity between Canada and the U.S. intensifies.

New data from ARI shows big bumps in approval for B.C.'s David Eby (+10 to 41% approval) and Ontario's Doug Ford (+10 to 31%) but little movement elsewhere in the country. For both Eby and Ford, this represents a recovery in what had been flagging assessments from constituents. However, the latter is still facing deep disapproval across Ontario as plane and hotel spending scandals dog the governing Progressive Conservatives.

With key votes looming in October, eyes are turned to Quebec and Alberta where both Premiers Christine Fréchette (39%) and Danielle Smith (38%) are approved of by approximately two-in-five in their respective provinces. Both have seen no statistically significant change from the previous quarter. Smith's status quo comes as the governing UCP sorts through the aftermath of a surprise byelection defeat in a conservative stronghold and just weeks ahead of the Alberta referenda on separation and other issues. Fréchette has evidently built little momentum as the governing Coalition Avenir Québec looks to fend off the

resurgent Parti Québécois in next month's election.

Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew's honeymoon period continues with approval of approaching two-thirds (63%) in the province. The second most approved-of premiers in the country are Newfoundland and Labrador's Tony Wakeham (48%) and Saskatchewan's Scott Moe (48%).

NDP wins byelection in Calgary

Alberta Premier Danielle Smith was dealt a surprise political blow during a crucial period for her in advance of the referendum when the NDP upset the UCP in the Calgary-Shaw byelection, claiming a historically conservative stronghold.

It perhaps further highlights the challenges facing Smith in holding together the UCP coalition that is bifurcated by the separatist issue.

The UCP candidate in Calgary-Shaw was endorsed by a separatist who ran as a pro-independence candidate for the position of UCP board president. The loss saw UCP yield half of its voters from the 2023 election, while NDP managed to bring out 70% of their support from the previous election.

Still, while there will be questions surrounding the surprise defeat in Calgary-Shaw, Smith's approval is unchanged compared to last quarter, with 38 per cent appraising her positively. A majority of Albertans (56%) say they disapprove of her performance, including 43 per cent who strongly do so, the highest such level of strong disapproval in the country.

FOCUS

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

The FEVER

Thursday, September 24, 2026

ASIRT investigation of Atikameg incident leads to charges against RCMP officer

On September 10, 2025 in the Atikameg townsite, the RCMP responded to a report of a man with a large knife.

No details of what occurred when the RCMP arrived have been released by Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, except that an officer used "a less-lethal baton launcher."

The ASIRT investigation produced "evidence ... provided reasonable grounds to believe that an offence had been committed."

Exactly a year later, September 10, 2026, "ASIRT

arrested Constable Tyler Bell and charged him with assault with a weapon and breach of trust.

"He was released on an undertaking and is scheduled to appear at the Alberta Court of Justice in Slave Lake on October 14, 2026."

The media release on this matter explained "ASIRT is part of the Police Review Commission, an independent civilian-led agency. ASIRT investigates potential criminal cases where the actions of a police officer may have resulted in serious injury or death."

Traffic collisions claim lives

Four pick-up trucks were involved in crashes on Highway 16 about 9 p.m. Saturday and there was one fatality.

According to Strathcona County RCMP, three of the trucks were driving westbound, when suddenly a fourth pick-up heading eastbound appeared in the wrong lanes.

While the drivers and other occupants of the westbound truck escaped with minor injuries and only one was taken to a hospital, the driver and sole occupant of the eastbound vehicle suffered life threatening injuries and later died in a hospital.

The deceased driver was identified as a 66-year-old male resident of Gibbons.

Record year for traffic deaths?

If a little more than the average number of traffic deaths for the fall and early winter on roadways patrolled by the RCMP in Alberta occurs, 2026 may become a record year for such tragedies.

The current record for roadway deaths is 286, set in 2015 while the lowest annual number was 210 in 2019.

As of August 31, the RCMP reported the deaths number in its Alberta jurisdictions was 192.

Environmentalists worried about government trying to adopt new rules which will threaten almost everything

See Focus Page 4

The firefighters in our community give...



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...us lots of fire safety tips and ideas.

Kids: color stuff in!



"Kid, make fire safety a habit at home!"

Fire Safety Matters!

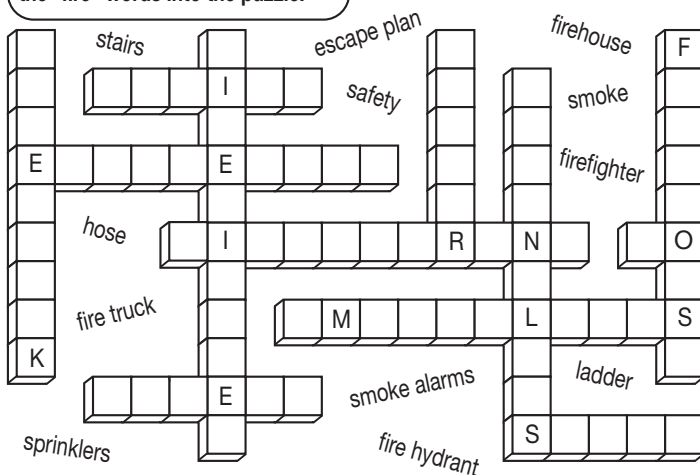


Read the words scattered about this puzzle. Use the letters already placed in the puzzle to help you fit the "fire" words into the puzzle.

Do you know any firefighters? Everyone likes to ask them about their jobs. It's fun to visit the firehouse or have firefighters come and speak at school. They like to talk about preventing fires and display pieces of their fire equipment. Three safety messages that firefighters share with students are:

- Get out of the house quickly if there is a fire.
- Call the fire department from a neighbor's house.
- If your clothes catch on fire, remember to **STOP, DROP AND ROLL!**

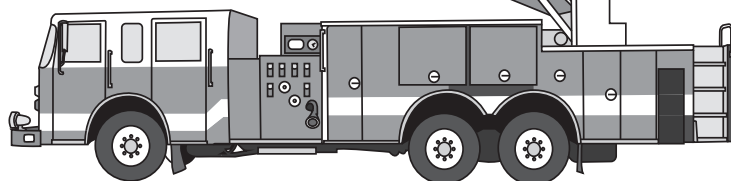
STOP, DROP AND ROLL!



Family Fire Safety Checklist

- ☐ Only cook in the **kitchen** when an adult is helping you.
- ☐ Don't touch matches, lighters or candles. They are for **adult** use only.
- ☐ Do you have smoke **detectors** on every level of your home? Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.
- ☐ Do you know **two** or more ways out of the house?
- ☐ Never use elevators (**stairs** are much safer) if there is a fire.
- ☐ Smoke rises, so if there is a fire, stay low: **crawl** under the smoke.
- ☐ Have you picked a place to **meet** the rest of your family once you are all out of the house?
- ☐ Once you are out of the house, **stay out** of the house.

Cut out the list and talk with your family about each idea.



Why do you think firefighters need to keep in good physical shape?

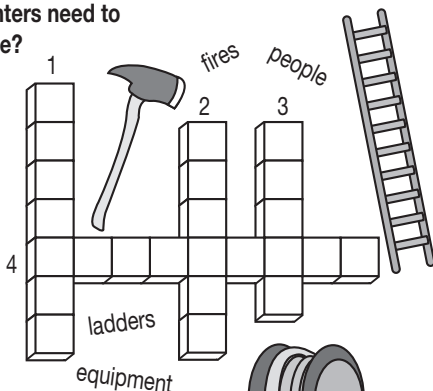
Because they:

1. climb _____
2. carry _____
3. fight _____
4. use heavy _____

How do firefighters stay in top physical condition?

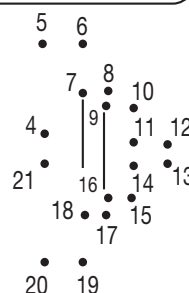
They:

1. get enough _____
2. _____ every day
3. _____ a healthy diet



Firefighters Keep Us Safe!

The job of firefighters is dangerous and physically demanding. They always must be ready to fight fires and help at other emergencies, such as an explosion in a factory or a traffic accident. Firefighters need to stay in shape physically and be mentally alert at all times. They must be able to run, stand for a long periods, drive fire trucks and use heavy equipment to put out fires and keep people safe. **Follow the dots to see one tool that firefighters might use to increase arm strength.**



Stay Smart, Stay Safe - Practice Fire Safety at Home!



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CUSTODIAN

Wabasca – Permanent Full Time

The Municipal District of Opportunity is now accepting resumes for a permanent full time custodian position in our Facility Maintenance Department in Wabasca. The custodian will be responsible for the daily cleaning, maintenance of various buildings, organizing inventory of all cleaning supplies and equipment. The position entails a full spring and fall cleaning (including but not limited to shampooing of carpets, washing windows inside and out, washing walls, etc.) and may include minor maintenance.

Applicants must possess and meet the following qualifications and requirements:

- Ability to work on their feet for a complete shift of an 8 hours/day while constantly bending, stretching, walking and lifting or moving things.
- Ability to communicate effectively with others.
- Preparation of monthly building repairs and maintenance reports.
- Ordering and maintaining cleaning supplies and inventory.
- Must have a minimum of Grade 10 Education or higher.
- Must possess WHMIS or be willing to take training.
- Other Security Checks (CWIS) that may be required.
- A satisfactory Criminal Record Check upon hire.
- **Valid Class 5 Drivers License is required as you will be driving to different facility locations.**

Salary range for this position will reflect on qualifications and experience. Interested individuals may submit their Resumes and three (3) work related references:

**Human Resources Department
Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17
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
October 5, 2026 @ 3PM.**

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.

BIGSTONE HEALTH COMMISSION

Employment Opportunity



Home and Community Care Manager

One Permanent Full-Time Position

Monday to Friday – 8 hours/day

Wabasca, AB

Bigstone Health Commission (BHC) is committed to delivering high-quality, culturally safe health services that uphold the vision of reviving, strengthening, and protecting treaty rights to health while enhancing the quality of life for those living on Bigstone Traditional Lands.

We are seeking an experienced and motivated **Home and Community Care Manager** to lead the planning, coordination, delivery, and evaluation of home and community care programs across the Wabasca and Calling Lake communities. This role requires a strong, collaborative leader with a commitment to Indigenous health, health equity, and continuous quality improvement

Key Responsibilities:

- Client Care and Case Management Oversight
- Leadership and Strategic Planning
- Staff Management
- Operational and Financial Management
- Quality improvement and Risk Management
- Program Development and Evaluation
- Collaboration and partnership
- Program oversight and support
- Perform other duties as assigned

Education and Experience:

- BScN degree from a recognized University
- Licensed with the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta
- Must have valid drivers' license
- Clear current criminal record check
- Knowledge of the Cree Nation culture, government, and language and community dynamics are considered an asset.

Benefits:

- ✓ Competitive Salary
- ✓ Fully Furnished Accommodation Provided
- ✓ Education and Retention Allowances
- ✓ Professional Registration Reimbursement
- ✓ Relocation Assistance
- ✓ Paid Vacation and Health & Wellness Leave
- ✓ Employer matching Registered Pension Plan
- ✓ Extended Health, Dental and Vision Plan

Salary is dependent on qualifications.

All applications MUST include Cover Letter, Resume & 3 Work Related References, Criminal Record Check, Vulnerable Sector Check & Child & Youth Intervention Check

(All checks must be current within the last 6 months).

Bigstone Health Commission

Human Resources Department

Box 1020 Wabasca, Alberta T0G 2K0

Fax: 780-891-2623 or via Email to: bhcresumes@bigstonehealth.ca

Closing Date for this Employment Opportunity will be: **Until a Suitable Candidate is found.**

POSTED: September 15, 2026

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

Vision: To revive, strengthen and protect members' treaty rights to health and to enhance the quality of life of members and others living on Bigstone Traditional lands.

Environmental group suggests federal government must keep some focus on other issues

Statement from Julia Levin, Associate Director,
National Climate, Environmental Defence

Monday's "Bulldoze Nature" bill (the government's Build Canada Strong Act) spells disaster for communities and the environment across Canada. The government is seeking to eliminate barriers to megaprojects like West Coast pipeline and Roberts Bank megaport, no matter cost to nature and wildlife.

The government is essentially suggesting that we keep both eyes closed when we put shovels in the ground, by kneecapping federal responsibility for project reviews. This will leave Canadians in the dark about risks to communities, wildlife and nature. It also would make it practically impossible for the government to meaningfully consult Indigenous communities on major projects, which is constitutionally required.

Environmental laws are not red tape. They exist to protect Canadians and the environment we love and rely on from irreversible ecological harm.

We urge Members of Parliament to vote against this bill and oppose the government's extinction agenda. There is no undo button for ecological damage. Once the places and wildlife that we love are gone, we don't get them back.

Analysis of the "bulldoze nature" bill:

- The bill amends the Impact Assessment Act, the Canada Energy Regulator Act, the Building Canada Act, the Species at Risk Act and the Canadian Navigable Waters Act in order to:

- Allow Cabinet to create "regions of national interest", where certain projects could be designated for fast-tracking. The federal government provides no criteria for identifying these economic zones, nor does it provide any mechanisms for ensuring environmental safeguards within them.

- Impose a one year timeline on major project approvals, including for pipelines. Complex projects cannot be responsibly assessed in 12 months. Rushing assessments means less time to properly study impacts, consult Indigenous communities, and evaluate risks to human health and safety.

- Make the Canada Energy Regulator Commission the sole assessor of pipelines, enshrining regulatory change and weakening the types of review that pipelines will need to undergo.

- Give Cabinet the authority to pre-approve pipelines before their routing details are known, and allow the Canada Energy Regulator to exempt pipelines from unspecified laws.

- Weaken protections for fish and fish habitat. In practice, this would allow companies to destroy critical fish habitat to buy dubious 'habitat credits' or pay a fee to offset the damages.

- Grant Ministers the authority to change, weaken or actually remove project conditions after approvals. It also grants Ministers the ability to change or remove pre-existing conditions for projects of national interest.

- Move responsibility for impact assessments of nuclear projects away from the Impact Assessment Agency to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. This risks undermining informed decision-making concerning approval for projects with extremely high inherent costs and risks.

- Allows early construction activities to start before a project is approved, which could create irreversible environmental impacts or effectively predetermine approval.

- Weaken transparency requirements for the public, to ensure that obligations are "administratively feasible."

- Weakens the Species at Risk Act, by allowing the Minister to determine what types of conditions are "feasible", with no clear criteria to guide those decisions.

(environmentaldefence.ca): Environmental Defence is a leading Canadian environmental advocacy organization that works with government, industry and individuals to defend clean water, a safe climate and healthy communities.



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Assistant Director of Recreation & Culture Permanent Full Time

The Municipal District of Opportunity is currently seeking a dynamic, team-oriented and self-motivated individual to fill the position of **Assistant Director of Recreation & Culture**. Reporting directly to the Director of Recreation and Culture, the Assistant Director will play a vital role in delivering high-quality local government services and management for the communities within the Municipal District of Opportunity. This position involves supporting the role in providing overall direction to the recreation and culture staff, including managers and supervisors. The Assistant Director will support the Director in managing current responsibilities, ensuring all recreation facilities operate smoothly, and that staff understand and adhere to the safety program. Some other duties include but are not limited to as follows:

Responsibilities:

- ❖ Assist in providing support to all managers in Recreation & Culture.
- ❖ Reports for the Director including month end, grant applications,
- ❖ Assist in Capital Project Management of all capital in Recreation
- ❖ Assist and oversee Special Events/Projects such as Canada Day, Remembrance Day, partnerships with Bigstone Cree Nation, Annual Golf Tournament.
- ❖ For the development of programs that are relevant to the needs of all municipal communities.
- ❖ For ensuring the staff of safe work practices and the safety of patrons.
- ❖ For developing an operational budget that allows Recreation and Culture to maintain the desired level of service.

Qualifications:

- ❖ Degree in Recreation or other related discipline from a recognized post-secondary institution or three years of supervisory experience supplemented with training in a Recreation field.
- ❖ Extensive experience in the supervision and direction of staff.
- ❖ A minimum of three years' experience in program development, proposal writing, and project reporting and budgeting would be an asset (excellent writing skills).
- ❖ Strong interpersonal skills and ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing to prepare reports and make presentations.
- ❖ Excellent working knowledge of various computer applications including Microsoft Excel, Word and others.
- ❖ Background in Sports or Recreation, Coaching experience is an asset,
- ❖ Valid Driver's License
- ❖ Ability to obtain satisfactory criminal record and vulnerable sector check and Child Intervention Check upon hire.

The salary range for this position will commensurate based experience and qualifications. Interested individuals are invited to submit their resume and three work related references to:

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

This advertisement will close on October 1, 2026, at 3:00 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 and Protection of Privacy Act. Applicants are thanked in advance for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Privacy Act.



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Equipment Operator Wabasca – Permanent Full Time

The individual chosen for this permanent full-time position in the M.D. of Opportunity with our Public Works Department at our Wabasca location will be responsible for the following duties:

- Operation of various equipment within the Public Works Department;
- Responsible for operation & routine maintenance of a variety of light & heavy equipment;
- 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;

Qualifications:

- Valid **Class 1** Drivers License with Air Brakes (Class 3 may be accepted);
- A minimum of Grade 10 or a minimum of two years' experience may be considered;
- Ability to work independently and as a team player;
- Ability to exercise good judgment on the operation of light/heavy equipment as it relates to safety;
- Clean Driver's Abstract;
- Satisfactory Criminal Record Check upon hire.

Interested persons are invited to submit their Resume along three (3) work related references to the attention of:

**Human Resources 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 job advertisement will remain open until
October 5, 2026 @ 3:00 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 and Protection of Privacy Act



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.

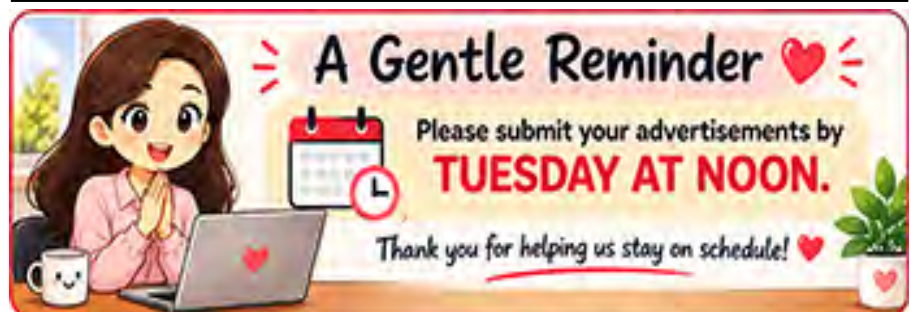
Inquiries about our CPO program or a detailed job description can be directed to the Manager of Bylaw Enforcement, Bill Auger @ 780-891-0988.

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.





MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Arena/Parks Operator **Red Earth Creek – Permanent Full Time**

The Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17 is now accepting applications for one Full Time Arena/Parks Operator for the community of Red Earth Creek. Some duties include but are not limited to:

Responsibilities:

- Keeping proper checklists of areas cleaned.
- Maintaining a clean atmosphere at all times and ensuring facility is properly maintained
- Issue receipt payments.
- Supervise patrons in the Facility.
- Perform minor maintenance as required at the arena in winter and in summer months maintain the parks, cleaning, grass cutting and weed whacking.
- Keep an updated list of cleaning inventory.
- Work towards facility viability and self-sufficiency.
- Must be able to make and maintain ice for skating and curling rinks, this will include painting markers.
- Report daily to the Manager of Recreation for Red Earth Creek.

Qualifications:

- Level 1 & 2 Arena Operators Certificate or ability to attain one.
- A valid Class 5 Driver's License.
- The ability to operate a Zamboni or any other required equipment such as z-tracks and weed whackers.
- The ability to lift a minimum of 50 lbs.
- A willingness & ability to cross train in other positions.
- Knowledge & experience in arena operations with respect to ice-making, janitorial care-taking, maintenance.
- The ability to establish & maintain effective working relationships with officials, authorities, minor hockey & the general public.
- Proven communication, public relation, interpersonal skills and the ability to exercise independent judgment & initiative in completing assigned duties.
- Satisfactory Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check upon hire.

The salary range for this position is based on qualifications and experience. Interested persons are invited to send their Resumes, three work related references to:

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

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.



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY # 17 **Wabasca** **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY** **Administrative Support – Temporary Full Time**

The Municipal District of Opportunity is looking for an individual to work in the Wabasca Administration office on a temporary full-time basis. For this maternity leave cover off candidates should be welcoming, patient and professional at all times, be well-organized with the ability to work independently and multitask in a fast-paced environment, possess strong work ethic, have experience with Microsoft Office products, proficient writing skills, ability to maintain confidentiality, ability to interact with many different personalities and to work as part of a dynamic team is crucial, possess a sense of humor and ability to maintain composure under stress. The expectations of the position include but not limited to be as follows:

- Fulfill all aspects of the office duties in the Wabasca Administration office;
- Answer telephone, direct and/or respond to inquiries;
- Daily filing, cash receipting, preparation of bank deposits, transporting outgoing mail;
- Assist in maintaining and updating all organizational contacts, equipment list and all MD forms;
- Provide information to the taxpayers and members of the general public in completing necessary forms and applications for the various programs and rentals provided by MD;
- Other duties that may be assigned from time to time.

Qualifications

- High School Diploma and Office Administrative Certificate are desired and/or extensive office experience and working with the general public;
- Computer skills a definite asset (Microsoft Environment – Word, Excel, Great Plains);
- Valid class 5 operator's license;
- Fluent in English and Cree would be a definite asset.
- Satisfactory Criminal Record Check upon hire.

Interested individuals are asked to submit their Resumes, three (3) work related references to the attention of:

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

This advertisement will remain open until October 5, 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. Applicants are thanked in advance for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



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Coming Events

FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2026 AUCTION PROGRAM: Firearms, Ammunition, Accessories, or Militaria. Collections, Estates or single items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Contact us: 1-800-694-2609, Email: sales@switzersauction.com or Visit us @ www.switzersauction.com for Auction Dates & Details

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OSOYOOS LAKESHORE Villa: Executive lakeview villa in Osoyoos, BC, breathtaking lake and mountain views; just 3 minutes from town. Vacation in Canada's warmest destination. Or warmer weather, two luxurious 5-star resort units in Phoenix, Arizona. Doug 306-716-2671 or visit osoyooslakevilla.com

Deadline for Ads and other items: Tuesdays: Noon

e-mails:

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thewabascafever@gmail.com
780-474-8928

Early submissions of ads
can aid in proofing
and placement in paper

War between Ukraine / Russia is testing ground for use of AI to play a leading role in combat

By John R. Heckman, Brock University

First published by The Conversation, September 15

A new threat intelligence report from the AI company Anthropic has revealed that a Russian team scraped Ukrainian combat videos to train an autonomous “kamikaze” drone to choose its own targets and destroy them.

Anthropic’s report was published on September 10, two days before CEO and co-founder of the company, Dario Amodei, published an essay arguing that humanity must urgently “slow the pace” of AI development.

The report is a 154-page account of the attempted misuse of Claude AI models for “malicious activity” between December 2025 and August 2026. It covers seven areas: cyber operations, influence operations, surveillance, scams and fraud, biological misuse, conventional weapons development and distillation.

One case, tracked as GTG-27005, describes a small, likely freelance team in Russia that used Claude’s coding tool to help build software for a swarm of autonomous first-person-view (FPV) “kamikaze” drones — the cheap, camera-guided munitions that have become one of the defining weapons of the war.

This should worry anyone who has ever filmed, shared or trusted footage from the war in Ukraine — one of the most visually documented conflicts in history.

It seems that any visual footage — even that created by journalists, soldiers, civilians and researchers to update the outside world and hold nations accountable — can now feed back into a conflict as raw material for weapons development and deployment on the battlefield.

Anthropic’s report states the company’s threat intelligence teams have “investigated and disrupted multiple threat actors” who used Claude models to develop software for either weapons design and development or for intelligence-gathering and procurement

for weapons programs.

The report documents six cases: three in China, two in Russia and one in Yemen.

The “likely freelance Russia-based” developers in case GTG-27005 called their project “DronDoc” or “Serafim.” They began work in May 2026 and routed their traffic through commercial servers to get around Anthropic’s location-based restrictions.

The software they built could enable a drone to pick its own targets, including targets in the category “person,” and issue the command to detonate — without a human confirming the strike first. That detail made headlines and it deserved the publicity. However, one line in the report has received far less attention: the developers trained their targeting software on scraped Ukrainian combat footage, sorted into “enemy” and “friendly,” and tested it against a simulated target location in the region of the Donetsk oblast.

Scraped Ukrainian combat footage

The report does not specify where the footage came from. It could have come from Telegram channels used by military personnel, official and unofficial drone strike compilation accounts, open-source intelligence (OSINT) archives or open databases assembled by journalists and researchers. At this time, we simply don’t know which is the likely source.

The Centre for Information Resilience’s Eyes on Russia Map, for example, has verified and mapped more than 30,000 individual incidents using footage from volunteers, soldiers and civilians.

Drone footage and the aftermath of missile strikes are verified and geolocated by researchers who hope that they’ll be used as evidence for journalistic endeavours, war crimes investigations or simply to show the reality of the conflict in an era when generative AI can skew the narrative.



A resident runs away from his burning car following a Russian FPV-drone strike in Kramatorsk, Donetsk region, Ukraine, on September 2, 2026. (Iryna Rybakova/Ukraine’s 93rd Mechanized Brigade via AP)

AI is being used (trained) to make its own decision as to what a drone should attack.



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