Murder charge laid after man's body found near Highwy 2 east of Slave Lake

Last Friday, January 23, Slave Lake RCMP were told the body of a deceased person was near Highway 2 in a location east of the town.

Officers went to the scene and confirmed the report and determined the identity of the deceased male to be Kirk Grey, age 39.

Alberta Major Crimes Unit deployed officers to take charge of the investigation which led to the identifying of a suspect.

The RCMP Crimes Unit then called for assistance from Alberta Sheriffs and Edmonton Police Services Tactical Team to locate and make an arrest.

On Monday, January 26, in Edmonton, John Ricky Wade Laboucan, age 27, was charged with second degree murder.

A Justice of Peace remanded the accused in custody and he is scheduled to appear before the Alberta Court of Justice in High Prairie on Monday, February 2.

Northern Alberta News |Features |Commentary $1.90

The FEVER

Volume 27, Issue 02 Thursday, January 29, 2026

Did 50 or more Wabasca residents observe a visit from a UFO disk that left ground markings in 1979?

First part of story on Focus front page

Week begins with robbery and wild pursuit from Wabasca to Calling Lake

A resident of Wabasca was held at gunpoint during the early morning hours of Monday, January 26, until a male and a female suspect stole the victim's vehicle and sped towards Calling Lake along Highway 813.

The victim alerted Wabasca RCMP about the armed robbery and now missing vehicle.

RCMP located the vehicle on the highway and the pursuit was on.

Police reported that at one point during the chase, a firearm was pointed by a passenger in the stolen vehicle towards the police.

The fugitives and the stolen vehicle got contained in the boundaries of Calling Lake and that gave the RCMP an opportunity to use a tire deflation device to bring the vehicle to a stop.

The female passenger in the vehicle remained in it while the male suspect fled. The female, identified as Selena Auger, age 26, of Wabasca was arrested and charged with 14 offences, including:

- Robbery with firearm;
- Possession of property obtained by crime over $5000;
- Possession of firearm while prohibited (x2);
- Failure to comply with probation (x4); and
- Other firearm-related offences (x4).

Auger was remanded into custody and was to make her first appearance in court in Slave Lake on Wednesday.

At Fever press time on Wednesday, multiple charges were pending against suspect Jamie Elroy Noskiye, 28, of Calling Lake.

A food hamper distribution was organized by MD #17's Family and Community Support Services during the January cold snap and the above persons and others had a workbee at Eagle Point Golf Clubhouse to put together the hampers for distribution.

Donation comes in time to help feed families during one of coldest snaps so far this winter

By Janice Auger, FCSS Director

We would like to acknowledge Honouring Life Indigenous Wellness Core for providing funding to help our people in Wabacsa, Red Earth Creek, Sandy Lake, Calling Lake and Chipweyan Lake with surprise food hampers that were so needed!

We at FCSS MD of Opportunity have come to realize food security is needed even more than ever before and we are grateful that our funder trusts to do things.

Over 240 hampers were made from the product we received with these grant dollars. Approx 40 to 50 lbs of food per hamper were delivered on Friday, January 16.

Unfortunately we could not cover everyone.

These hampers were delivered right before what has come to be known as "Blue Monday" in January, when it can be very stressful, affecting mental health and wellness.

FCSS would like to thank MD Bylaw and Peace Officers for helping make the boxes, picking up and dropping off at Eagle Point and also delivering to Chipweyan Lake. Glad we could always count on their department, too!

Special thanks to Nicole for the use of Eagle Point Golf Clubhouse to create the hampers and for all your staff help! Glad we could always count on your team....all the time...for that one more thing FCSS always seems to need to do.

Great big Kudos to the RCMP for also picking up our product to take to Eagle Point but also helping Andrea Stewart move her hampers to Sandy Lake. Awesome work, Andrea, in delivering to Sandy Lake!

Continued on Fever Page 3

Hearing for the Bigstone By-Election for Chief Appeal will be held by Zoom on February 3, 4:00 p.m.

More details on Fever Page

Publisher's Ponderings ...

• If you think Canadians should not worry about all President Trump's past talk about making Canada the U.S.'s 51st state because he is too occupied with taking over Greenland as he did with Venezuala and he also busy continuing to threaten to do the same with Cuba and Mexico.

NBC News broadcast and published in the third week of Janua an extensive report on how many sources close to the American wannabe dictator of the western world indicates: "Trump's latest Western Hemisphere fixation: Canada." with a subhead of: "The president has intensified his criticism of Canada in private conversations with aides in recent weeks over what he sees as the country's vulnerability to U.S. adversaries in the Arctic."

Also read the back page this issue for another growing realization of what Trump is planning regarding the western hemisphere.

• What was the worst winter storm in US history? For a single storm in just one place, The Chicago Tribune had reported a six-day snowstorm on Mount Shasta in California which dumped 189 inches of snow. For Canada, Google cites Wikipedia as listing Tahtsa Lake, B.C. getting 145 cm (57 inches) in one day, February 11, 1999.

But more current and perhaps worse than old records is the winter weather that has been occurring in both countries over the last few weeks and is still occurring this week. On Sunday, downtown Toronto recorded a record 60 centimetres of snow and on a few recent days last week from the Alberta/Saskatchewan border all the way east to New Brunswick, the majority of the county's population was experiencing temperatures in the minus 40's and minus 50's with windchills making it worse. Meanwhile, Texas to Florida and through a swath of states moving northeast over new England, may have been the coldest, snowest and iciest storms many U.S. places have ever seen. The known death toll caused by the weather was over 50 after the weekend and expected to climb much higher. Millions of people in both Canada and United States have seen their electricity interrupted by freezing rain, heavy snow and high winds.

The FEVER

Weekly Newspaper serving North Central Alberta

Publisher/Editor 780-474-8928
Bruce Thomas wabascafever@shaw.ca
Facebook: Bruce Thomas

Assistant Editor
Priya Phillips toll-free 1-877-508-5727

Contributors
Michelle Grach, Denis Carnochan
Others providing community news/sports

Printing Manger 780-474-8929
Mona Bouchard info@scopeprinting.com

BREAKING NEWS
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Find us on the web: www.thefever.online

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During his first term as America's most narcissistic president ever as well displaying questionable behaviour and policy-making, along with actions that seemed to be corrupted and in conflict of interest, Donald Trump seemed to be wanting to have a love affair with Russian Vladimir Putin. Insisting often that he could easily make a deal with his "friend" Putin to end the war in Ukraine, Trump failed and after each Trump statement about his peace dealing with Putin, more Ukrainians died in massive drone and missile attacks on civilian targets – an international war crime. It seems like either Bullies Trump and Putin had preplanned this so Putin could continue trying to commit genocide on Ukrainians.

But in all likelihood, Putin is much better at being an international war criminals and probably much smarter than Trump in achieving his objectives, so here is a cartoon perhaps that shows evil Putin is just playing a better game of golf with Trump and doesn't have to cheat on the scorecard.

Awasis Nahayaw Weyasiwewin

Child Well-Being Community Needs Assessment

Survey will be open from January 21st to February 18th

We want to hear from you!

Bigstone Cree Nation is conducting a Child Well-Being Community Needs Assessment to help shape the Nation's first Child Well-Being Law. Share your voice and help define what child well-being means for Bigstone

Donation made food hamps possible ...

Continued from front page

Thank you, Rob from Red Earth Creek for picking up completed hampers in Wabasca and Kelsey for delivering!

To MD Public Works guys from Calling Lake for picking up the product in Wabasca to deliver to Calling Lake Food Bank.

Great work from Bigstone Community Wellness team for helping us package the hampers but also to deliver them as well.

Special thanks to Bigstone Health Commission as well for delivering to their homecare clients.

To our local stores, we appreciate you working with us for those special meat packages

Environment Canada Weather Forecast

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

January 23 to January 27

Friday..40% chance of flurries. High minus 1.

Friday night..40% of flurries. Low minus 7.

Saturday..Cloudy. High minus 2.

Saturday night..Clear. Low minus 11.

Sunday..Mix of sun/cloud. High minus 2.

Sunday night..Cloudy. Low minus 11.

Monday..Mix of sun/cloud. High minus 3.

Monday night..Cloudy. Low minus 8.

Tuesday..Mix of sun/cloud. High minus 3.

Normals for period..Low minus 22. High minus 10.

Watch Fever Facebook at Bruce Thomas for weather alerts and information

Sponsored by: Bigstone Health Commission and Osaw Kihew Kiskinwahamatowikamik

CAREER FAIR 2026

Don't miss your chance to connect with top employers and explore your career options at our upcoming Career Fair.

3 MARCH 2026

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
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CONTACT CARLEN ALOOK
780-891-2000
carlen.alook@bigstonehealth.ca

CONTACT TARYN HONNING
780-891-2727
taryn.honning@bigstoneeducation.ca

Northland School Board Meeting Highlights

January 17, 2026

Board meets with Elders and Knowledge Keepers to participate in strategic planning

On January 15th, the Board met with the Superintendent's Elder and Knowledge Keeper Advisory Council. The meeting provided an opportunity for new Board members to meet with Elders and Knowledge Keepers and to listen and learn together.

During the meeting, Elders and Knowledge Keepers shared feedback on what Northland is doing well, where there is room to grow, and what additions or changes they would like to see moving forward.

The Board expressed its appreciation for this guidance and values these conversations as part of ongoing learning and reflection.

On January 16th, the Board and Administration also participated in a strategic planning session, supported by an Alberta School Boards Association consultant.

During the session, the Board reviewed its responsibilities as Trustees and spent time setting direction andreviewing Northland School Division's Education Plan.

More Northland Board Highlights throughout this issue!

Historical cases finally-solved give hope to others mourning missing/murdered relatives

A historical murder case dating back to February 2007 on the Samson Cree Nation is believed to have been solved as Alberta RCMP Historical Homicide Unit (HHU), in collaboration with the Maskwacis RCMP, arrested a suspect last week.

According to the Mounties, "The case originated in what was then known as Hobbema.

"For nearly two decades, investigators and community members sought answers in the file.

'While many historical cases are solved through modern forensic advancements, this breakthrough was rooted in the resilience of the community and a strengthening partnership between residents and the police."

The victim was 24-year-old resident Johnathan "Cody" Saddleback

On January 20, 42-year-old Alvin Lee Norman Green, a resident of Maskwacis, was arrested without incident.

Green has been charged with second-degree-murder.

He was remanded into custody for his first court appearance in Wetaskiwin on January 22.

"For our Nation to heal and remain resilient, we must work together to bring closure to the families who have carried these burdens for so long," said Samson Cree Chief Vernon Saddleback

"This arrest shows the importance of our community working alongside the police to close these old files."

Wabasca historical cases

Over the years several persons from Wabasca and Bigstone Cree Nation have been among the missing and murdered ranks of Indigenous people estimated at various times to be between 1,000 to over 4,000.

A thorough combing by the RCMP of its files between 1980 and 2012 led to a 2014 report saying 1,017 Indigenous women and girls had been murdered and 164 were still missing from that period.

Statistics Canada reported that between 2009 and 2021 490 Indigenous females were victims of homicides.

But there are also Indigenous males have been murdered or mysteriously disappeared.

Terence Jerell Alook was 24 and living in Wabasca in 2016 when he went missing and many RCMP and civilian searches over the years have indicated that there is suspicions that he was murdered locally and his remains possibily well hidden in the area.

Terrance Alook

A Wabasca male murder victim Marvin Brian Auger will be a subject of a related article in next issue.

BIGSTONE COMMUNITY WELLNESS PRESENTS:

Women's Support Group

LOCATION: Bigstone Community Wellness

TIME: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Monday January 19, 2026
Monday February 2, 2026
Monday March 2, 2026
Monday March 16, 2026
Monday March 30, 2026
Monday April 13, 2026

BIGSTONE CREE NATION HEALTH COMMISSION

*Food and coffee provided.
*Open to all community members.
*Transportation available.

Topics and activities change per week, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to call or email.

Contact Recovery Care Staff
Crystal Gambler Gladu
780 - 891 - 3777
crystal.gladu@bigstonehealth.ca

Find us on Facebook!
www.bigstonehealth.ca

Superintendent of Schools and CEO retires ...

Northland SCHOOL DIVISION

January 17 Board Highlights

After more than 30 years in education, Northland School Division Superintendent of Schools and CEO Cal Johnson has announced his retirement, effective August 31, 2026.

The Board expressed its appreciation to Mr. Johnson for his leadership and service to Northland School Division and the communities it serves. (Click website link to for full announcement: https://tinyurl.com/4fb7w2j4)

Following the announcement, the Board approved the hiring of Richardson Executive Search to support the process of selecting Northland's next Superintendent.

The Board also approved a change to the Superintendent's salary. The motion was carried by recorded vote, with Ward 1 Trustee Laboucane opposed.

Cal Johnson

Bigstone By-Election for Chief Appeal Hearing

A hearing in the Bigstone By-Election Election for Chief Appeal will be held on February 3, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

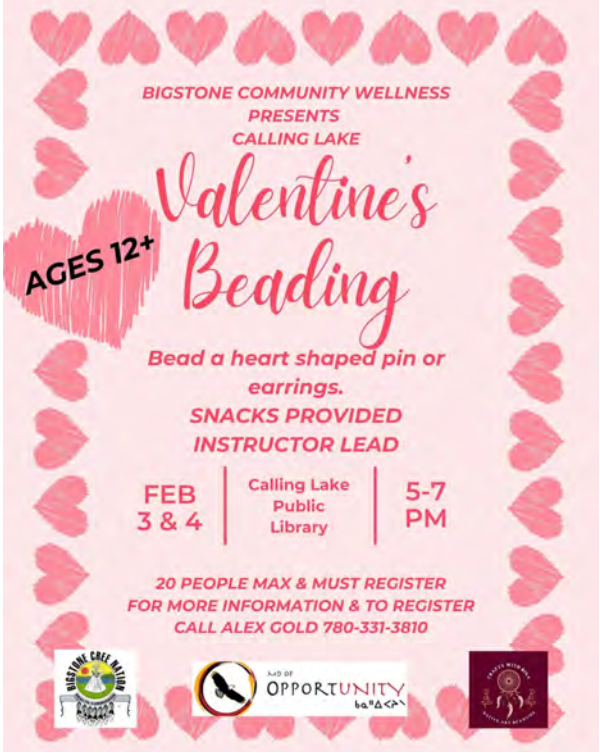
The hearing will be a Zoom virtual hearing which will be set up by the Election Appeal Arbitrator's Office.

For purposes of this appeal the written submissions by the Parties will be considered in addition to the submissions made in the hearing. These include:

- Notice of Appeal and submissions by Jason Noskiye
- Submissions by Silas Yellowknee
- Report of the Electoral Officer concerning the election process and results

Members of the Bigstone Cree Nation may observe the Election Appeal Hearing.

Hon. Leonard S. Tony Mandamin IPC
Election Appeal Arbitrator



RCMP

Wanted

Jordan Ross Laboucan

Last known location:
Akitameg

Areas of activity:
Atikameg, Northern Sunrise County, Simon Lake, Cadotte Lake

DO NOT APPROACH.

This individual is wanted by the RCMP for various crimes.
Report any information to police in your area or contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).
Warrants must NOT be acted upon without first confirming the validity of the record with the originating agency.

To ensure all biases are removed from the selection process, offenders for Wanted Wednesday posts are determined by a data-driven scoring system using the Crime Severity Index to identify the individuals causing the most harm to communities. Factors such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, religion, sexuality, or disability are not considered in the scoring process.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police / Gendarmerie royale du Canada — Canada

Red Earth RCMP find stolen property at Peerless Lake

Red Earth Creek RCMP executed a search warrant January 15 in Peerless Lake First Nation in relation to stolen property, as part of an ongoing investigation.

Over $50,000 in stolen property was recovered, including a motor home and a quad.

As a result of the investigation, Brad Miller (33) and Arisha Cardinal (32), both residents of Slave Lake, were charged with two counts of possession of stolen property over $5000.

Miller and Cardinal were brought before a justice of the peace and released on conditions, to appear before the Alberta Court of Justice in Red Earth Creek on February 3.

Wabasca Volleyball Club's Under 12 Girls Team

$4.5 MILLION IN PRIZES.

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BIGSTONE COMMUNITY WELLNESS

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL INQUEST

PROGRESS UPDATE

To ensure Elders, Survivors and Community Members are informed of the progress we've made in the past two months for the Monument phase, we provide you this update and sincerely hope you consider becoming a part of our future community engagement meetings as we continue to seek input from you.

1. A four-member planning committee was established in November 2025 to assist our Elder Advisory and Staff in planning for the development phase of the St. Martin's and St. John's residential school Monuments.

2. We have initiated a working relationship with STANTEC to move us toward the design of the monuments including other associated project scopes of work and deliverables.

3. Three specific land locations were identified as potential sites for the monuments but not formally confirmed; research continues for land acquisition.

4. The development phase of the Monuments is most vital as they will become historical landmarks in the community when completed and will signify a place to honor the Residential School Survivors in the future years to come.

5. Don't miss this one-time opportunity to contribute to this important planning process!

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

If you have any inquiries regarding the IRS Inquest, you may direct them to Helen Alook or Treena Gladue 780-891-3777 or toll free at 1-877-767-7060

Swan Hills crime operation busted ...

Continued from Focus front page

Also charged with over 10 offences including various firearm violations, fraud and possession of property obtained by crime was Dean Brendal, 35, a resident of Swan Hills.

The fifth charged resident of Swan Hills was Hanmarie Roberts, 35, who faces two counts of possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000, and multiple charges involving firearms.

"This is a great example of an RCMP multi-unit collaboration, bringing together local knowledge, district-level resources and specialized expertise to effectively dismantle this operation. Improving public safety through the removal of stolen vehicles, firearms, and drugs remains a key focus for our unit,"said Constable Dylan Macleod, the primary investigator assigned to the case.

The media release about the arrests stated: "The RCMP reminds the public to exercise caution when purchasing used vehicles and recreational equipment."

The accused were given first court dates in the Alberta Court of Justice in Barrhead on January 27, Febraury 10 and March 24.

2026 Community Debrief

Bigstone Community Wellness is offering debriefing services in Calling Lake, Wabasca and Chipewyan Lake for the following:

-Individual,
-Family
- Group/Agencies

***Available upon request**

Mental Health Supports Available

For more information, please contact our Mental Wellness Response Team, @780-891-3777 or Toll Free number, 1-877-767-7060

"Speed shortens reaction time — and lives."

FOCUS
Supplement of News, Employment Ads and Classified Ads for Readers of TheFever
The FEVER
Thursday January 29, 2026

Flu deaths in 2025/26 respiratory season are on track to set new record in Alberta

As of January 17, the last date the provincial respiratory illness data postings had been changed, there had been 197 deaths in Alberta so far in the 2025/26 influenza season which started in late August.

Alberta's record number of flu deaths which have been tracked since the mid-1990's was set last season, 2024/25, with the total fatalities being 236.

Health authorities involved in the data collection have recently suggested that since there are usually some flu deaths occurring into March and some years, further into the spring, there is good probability that last season's record will be broken.

The next update of respiratory illness data is January 29, so was not in time for this issue. Posted online late last week was "The January 27 update to the respiratory virus dashboard is delayed due to a technical issue. The next planned update will occur on January 29."

Has Northern Alberta been visited by aliens from other planets?

Last issue, we carried an article by Carole Haswell, a professor of Astrophysics at The Open University, about efforts by earthlings to find anywhere in the known universe where there might be other forms of life.

Ms. Haswell says currently scientists have developed methods to test for water and gases on at least 6,000 exoplanets (a planet not in Earth's own solar system), but planets orbiting suns much further away.

But many past and present humans on this planet firmly believe that there are creatures out there because they have visited earth in their spaceships or in other manners of travel.

In the next few issues, The Fever will explore some of the stories from the past that have generated beliefs or some would say evidence of visitors to earth.

And what could be better than to start with a local experience some Wabasca people say they had 47 years ago. And we hope they will identify themselves and tell us more!

The National UFO Reporting Center is an American organization founded in 1974 and has gathered over 180,000 UF0 reports over its first 50 years of operations.

Here is one such report that was sent from Wabasca in July 2004, although the actual incident, according to the filed report, occurred the night of October 7, 1979. The report contained over 1000 words so this issue we will only get it started. We are hopeful that since no names are published with the reports that the Wabasca residents who know more about this incident will contact us in confidence to discuss it - wabascafever@shaw.ca or 780-554-7280.

NUFORC UFO Sighting
Occurred: 1979-10-07 20:00 Local
Reported: 2004-07-05 10:39 Pacific
Duration: unsure(missing time)
No. of observers: 50
Location: Wabasca, AB, Canada
Shape: Disk
Characteristics: Lights on object, Emitted beams, Electrical or magnetic effects

Craft hovered right above us,intense sounds, bright lights/beams shining from the mid section of the craft, and felt magnetic field.

On October 7, 1979, 4 of us had a UFO encounter with a saucer-shaped craft. I was 7 years old, my brother was 6 and my baby brother was 9 months old. My 14 year old cousin was babysitting us while my mother was out for the evening.

We lived off the lake in Wabasca, AB, Canada. It was dark outside and I recall seeing many colorful lights hitting the inside of the trailer walls. I found that quite odd because from the direction of the lights, there was no street lights – just the lake and part of my grandmother's property. This was a very secluded town, no street lights or airport.

I remember walking over to the window, at the same time I can hear a strange high/low noise. It was getting louder and louder. As I looked outside I couldn't see the stars. I saw a huge black circular craft hovering right above us, approximately 30 feet off the ground – tree top level. The size of the craft covered my granmother's house and our trailer and most of her land. As I looked up and saw the underside of the craft, I recall it being black on the under side--and the colors shining outward were coming from the edges of the craft. My cousin screamed. We all panicked and screamed and cried.

I recall the intense noise, it was ear piercing; nothing I did would block the sound that was hurting my ears. My brother recalls vividly the trailer shaking violently. He said that this is what scared him the most. He recalls things falling off the table and shelves.

I recall my cousin running back and forth, and hearing my baby brother crying hard in his walker. I tried to block the sound with a pillow from the couch. The next thing I recall is my cousin screaming for my brother. I looked around for him and he was gone. The trailer door was open. I looked outside again and saw him standing right under it inbetween my grandmother's home and our trailer. He looked frozen.

My cousin was screaming his name; he didn't hear her. The next thing I remember is sitting on the couch looking out the window--! this time the craft was hovering above the lake.

Check the February 5 issue of The Fever for the continuation!

Weapons and other items seized from five Swan Hills residents arrested for a criminal operation selling stolen road and all-terrain vehicles. RCMP photograph

After an investigation that lasted months, RCMP on January 22, broke up a crime ring in Swan Hills that was selling various stolen vehicles, all terrain vehicles and at least one Harley Davidison motorcycle.

Five people were arrested, and seized were three firearms, one of them prohibited, a crossbow and ammunition, along with an estimated 10 grams of methamphetamine.

Police say that the group was involved in "the alteration of vehicle identification numbers, and the fraudulent trafficking of stolen vehicles to unsuspecting victims."

Arrested and charged were five residents of Swan Hills: Luke Gates, age 33, (three counts of fraud, trafficking in property, two counts of forgery and other charges); Valerie Koyle, 32, (two counts of fraud, two counts of tampering with vehicle identification numbers, possessing a forged document and other crimes); and Vernon Schubinski, 63, four counts of possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000 and three counts of altering, or removing a vehicle identification number. Fever Page 8

Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com

Annimills LLC © 2026 V4

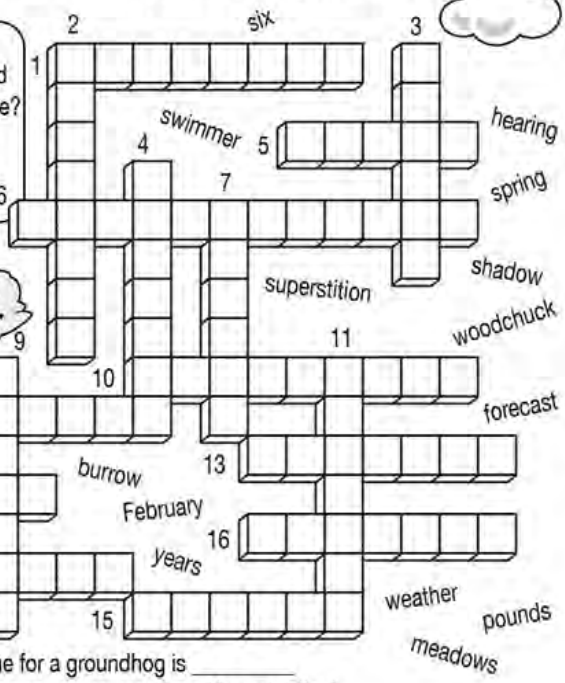
Have everyone in your family predict whether Groundhogs will or will not see their shadows on Groundhog Day!

Groundhog Adventures

Forecasts & Football

On February 2nd, all eyes will be on Punxsutawney Phil, the famous groundhog who predicts whether spring and warmer weather will come soon, or if winter and the cold weather will stay longer.

How does he do this? Well, legend holds that when a groundhog pokes out of his hole, if the sun is shining, he will see his shadow, be frightened and dive back into his burrow to wait out six more weeks of winter. But, if he sees clouds when he comes out of his hole, he will not be afraid, will *venture* out – and we will know that spring is near!



Read the clues to fill in the puzzle:

1. On February 2nd, Phil, the famous groundhog (and other groundhogs in other places) will be watched for his weather _____ – a "prediction" about what kind of weather to expect
2. the second month of the year
3. a tunnel dug underground
4. groundhogs can be found in the woods, fields and _____
5. a groundhog usually lives to be 6 to 8 _____ old
6. belief in magic, luck and chance
7. the dark area formed when light is blocked
8. a groundhog usually weighs about 12 _____
9. the groundhog is the only animal with its own national _____
10. another name for a groundhog is _____
11. a groundhog can see very well, and has excellent _____
12. number of weeks winter will continue if Phil is "frightened" by his shadow
13. hot, cold, rain, wind, etc. What it looks and feels like outside!
14. a groundhog is an herbivore, which means it only eats _____
15. season of warmer weather following winter
16. a groundhog is an excellent _____

Have super Super Bowl fun!

Adventures and Excitement!

Have you had any exciting adventures lately? Many people are adventurous. They like new and unusual experiences. A few people even like to do things that are very bold or full of risks. These people like danger and thrills.

I love new adventures but I think that we should leave the dangerous, bold acts to the characters in movies and books!

Did you know that some of the ideas for adventure stories are based on real people's lives?

The author, Daniel Defoe got the idea for his famous book, ***Robinson Crusoe***, from the adventures of a real sailor. The sailor, named Alexander Selkirk, was marooned on an island in the Pacific Ocean in 1704 after an argument with his captain. He lived there alone for more than four years until he was rescued in 1709.

The adventures of Robinson Crusoe are filled with sea voyages, storms, shipwrecks and pirates! One day, after being marooned on the island (with only a dog for a friend), Crusoe saw a large footprint in the sand. Later, he saw about 30 cannibals around a fire ready to kill two men. What do you think he did? Was he ever rescued? ***You'll have to read the book to find out!***

Find and circle these words in the sand below!

rescue, happening, footprint, adventure, sea, sailor, shipwrecked, cannibals, exciting, experiences, marooned, island, Robinson Crusoe, raft, storm, new, tide, waves, captain, dog

E D T Q C A N N I B A L S Q Y
X H S H I P W R E C K E D U O S A
C B I Y G I R Z X O S J A R I E F V
I P T P X O O M I W S T O R M A V
T B Z M L Z S M A R O O N E D O B
I Z C I H A P P E N I N G D J O W
N T A F F U W A V E S W N C K A Y
G S Q K W E X P E R I E N C E S V

V U E R E S C U E Z C
X Q I B T K Q I S L A N D T I D E A L
U B G F D R O B I N S O N C R U S O E B
V I A M O N H F F O O T P R I N T M E R
I V R W G G R E B S A D H E N S U R E T Y
B C A P T A I N W R W Y V Q R C U G L E
U N I G O N W E R A D V E N T U R E

Watch for Newspaper Fun in most issues of the Fever along with various mazes and puzzles. Solutions on Focus Page 7

Opposition Leader Nenshi outraged by Premier Smith talk, actions on Alberta separation, other issues

Naheed Nenshi, Leader of Official Opposition of Alberta, January 27 remarks with Irfan Sabir, Shadow Minister of Justice:

"For months, the premier and this UCP government have been attacking the rule of law, lawyers, and judges when things don't go their way. They have removed the rights of lawyers to govern themselves; they have raided the funds of the Alberta Law Foundation causing all staff to quit, and they have complained endlessly about 'unelected judges' using the language of the extreme far right.

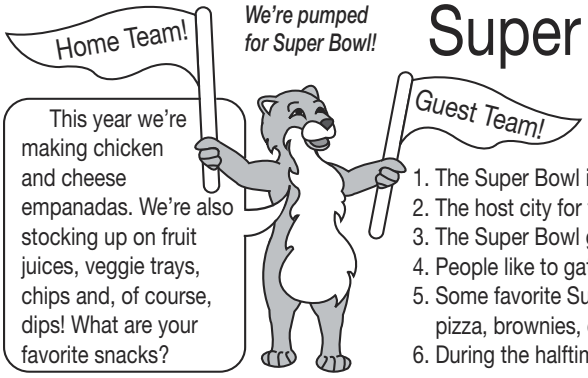
"Every Albertan should be concerned about this. The rule of law is fundamental to a functioning society, and the cheap attacks, directly from the 'Trump playbook' do not reflect Albertan or Canadian values. In Canada, the rule of law is critical and should be free of political interference.

"Today's unprecedented statement from the three chief justices of Alberta shows just how far this irresponsible and anti-democracy premier and her Justice Minister have gone to interfere and create mistrust in our justice system.

"The government needs to stop its provocative statements and its attacks on the judicial system and the rule of law. They need to commit to repealing their legislation, including; immunity for the Justice Minster from professional oversight and discipline, changes interfering in lawyers and other regulated professionals' ability to self-govern, and actions that undermine the independence of the officers of the legislature and judiciary."

Additional Opposition Leader statement on Page 4

Super Bowl Excitement!



Read each statement about the Super Bowl championship football game. **Circle the letter "T" if you think it is true. If you think it is false, circle the letter "F."**

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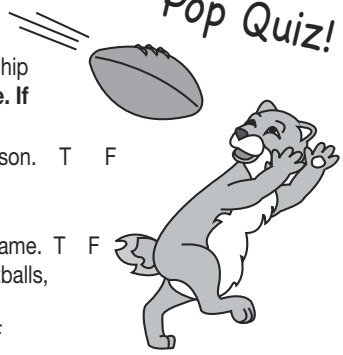

Answers on Focus Page 4

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BIGSTONE HEALTH COMMISSION
Employment Opportunity

Program Support Driver

Permanent Full-Time
Monday to Friday – 7 hours/day
Wabasca, Alberta

Bigstone Community Wellness. is seeking an experienced, highly motivated, and dependable **Program Support Driver** to join our talented team. 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 enjoy working for a supportive multidisciplinary team.

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.

Key Responsibilities:

- Transport clients to appointments at the Community Wellness Office, programs and outreach events in BCN Communities (Hosted by Community Wellness and BHC)
- Assisting BCW & BHC in transportation related services to mobile health services
- Provide exceptional customer service to our clients
- Must follow all transportation safety rules and regulations
- Must clean vehicle daily and report any problems with vehicle as necessary
- Must ensure vehicle is always equipped with emergency aid
- Must take direction from Reception as to coordination of scheduled appointments
- Filling out and handing in daily logbooks, inspection reports and trip sheets
- Assisting clients and Elders in and out of vehicle safely and securely
- Assisting clients and Elders with wheelchairs, walkers, etc.
- Other duties as required

Qualifications:

- High School Education
- MUST HAVE – Valid Class 1, 2 or 4 Driver's license
- Able to speak and understand the Cree language is an asset
- Standard First Aid/CPR (current)
- Must be willing to participate in professional development

Benefits:

✓ Competitive Salary
✓ Paid Vacation & Sick Time
✓ Employer Matching Registered Pension Plan
✓ Extended Health, Dental & Vision Plan

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

ALL applications MUST include: Cover Letter, Resume & 3 Work Related References, Current 5-Year Drivers Abstract, Criminal Record Check/Vulnerable Sector Check and 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 I Email to: bhcresumes@bigstonehealth.ca
Closing Date for this Employment Opportunity will be: **Until a suitable candidate is found.**

POSTED ON January 16, 2026

Applicants are thanked in advance for their interest, 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

Non-profit charity groups and events are invited to contact The Fever for arranging advertising of their events
wabascafever@shaw.ca 780-474-8929

Global events need Albertans to pay attention to UCP actions

Naheed Nenshi, Leader of the Official Opposition of Alberta, issued the following statement on January 26:

"Recent global events—Venezuela, Greenland, NATO, new tariffs —show just how critical it is that Canadians stand together. We have entered a dangerous new phase of global politics.

"In times like these, we need nothing less than absolute clarity from our leaders. Our health-care system is in crisis, the cost of living continues to outpace inflation, and yet our Premier is busy stoking the fires of separatism with her separatist government.

"'A sovereign Alberta within a united Canada' is intentionally vague doublespeak.

"It only gives Donald Trump, the US Secretary of the Treasury, and those trying to make us the 51st state, power to escalate their threats and weaken us from within.

"It's time for the Premier to stop putting us in danger and for every MLA to make their position clear. I'm sending a letter to all MLAs, asking them to sign a pledge and be on the record: Are you on Team Canada or a separatist?

"Alberta New Democrats unequivocally denounce separatism, and unabashedly stand with Team Canada. Can the UCP say the same?

"And why does this matter? Because separatism doesn't reduce the cost of living. Separatism doesn't build hospital beds. Separatism doesn't hire teachers. Separatism scares away investment, costs us jobs, and puts us in an extremely vulnerable position.

"Albertans are proud Canadians. They always have been, and always will be. Albertans deserve a better government than the UCP that is fighting against our interests instead of prioritizing the everyday challenges people need help with here at home. If Danielle Smith and the UCP can't clearly announce they are on Team Canada, then it's time for a new government that will."

Prime Minister announces hike in GST credits

Prime Minister Mark Carnay announced on Monday a new plan for food affordability measures by boosting GST rebates on groceries and other essential items an individual or family needs.

Here are some notes from the Department of Finance Canada to explain what will be happening.

The Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit, will be indexed to inflation, and builds on the existing Goods and Services Tax (GST) Credit and provide $11.7 billion in additional support over six years by:

• providing a one-time top-up payment to be paid as early as possible this spring and no later than June 2026 (subject to Royal Assent)—equal to a 50% increase in the annual 2025-26 value of the GST Credit. This would deliver $3.1 billion in immediate assistance to individuals and families who currently get the GST Credit.

• increasing the value of the Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit by 25% for five years starting in July 2026 (subject to Royal Assent). This increase would deliver $8.6 billion in additional support over the 2026-27 to 2030-31 period, including to 500,000 new individuals and families.

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Super Bowl Excitement!

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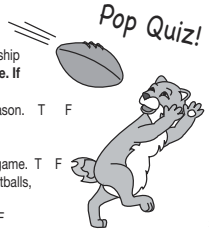

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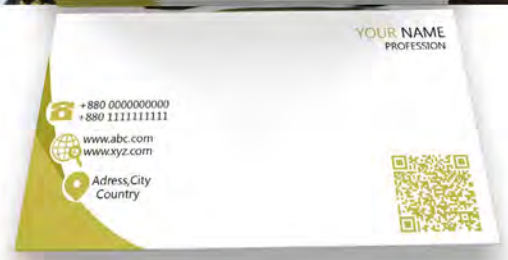

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Fatalities across Alberta is new feature

Unfortunately, death becomes a part of everyone's life before they themselves pass away, so generally newspaper readers have an interest in premature deaths – how others are meeting their ends such as in vehicle crashes, crime killings, recreational tragedies, occupational deaths, and unusual circumstances.

Shortly after 8 a.m., Grande Prairie Rural RCMP responded to a head-on crash involving three vehicles on Highway 2, south of Township Road 744. A southbound pickup crossed the center line and and hit another pick-up and then a semi-truck became involved. Despite life-saving efforts, the driver of the southbound pickup was declared deceased at the scene. The other pickup driver was taken to hospital with serious injuries. RCMP report that road conditions were extremely icy and may have been a cause of the initial collision.

A call shortly after noon on January 21 had Vermilion RCMP attend a local reseidence where they found a deceased 30-year-old man. Alberta Major Crimes Unit has taken over the investigation; results of a January 23 autopsy in Edmonton have not been released.

Outside of Alberta, but partially as a result of its Arctic cold air moving into the United States, Wednesday news on America's worst winter storms had the death toll up to at least 42. Authorities were expecting to discover more deaths once record snowfalls were cleared and rural and city homes and apartments without heat/power and facing record low temperatures, were entered.

2-bedroom apartments for Rent in Wabasca
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Call Joe @780-447-1712

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY # 17
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Permanent Full Time Early Childhood Educator
Calling Lake

The Municipal District of Opportunity is seeking to fill six permanent full-time position at the Opportunity Daycare in Calling Lake, 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 child care 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

This advertisement will remain open until suitable candidates are 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.

UNITY SERVICE AA RECOVERY

Wabasca A.A. Group
meets at No Limits Boxing Club
Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous
Meetings Fridays, 7:00 p.m.
No Limits Boxing Club, Wabasca
Further Information: 780-773-3330

How little excercise is enough to keep muscles strong as we age?

By Priya Phillips

Getting out of a chair, climbing stairs, or carrying groceries should not feel like major challenges.

Yet for many older adults, these everyday tasks become difficult due to age-related muscle loss, a condition known as sarcopenia.

Left unchecked, this gradual decline can lead to falls, hospital stays, and loss of independence.

The good news is that preventing muscle loss does not require long workouts or heavy weights.

Research from institutions such as McMaster University shows that even modest strength training can make a meaningful difference at any age.

Muscle loss often accelerates during short periods of inactivity, such as illness, injury, or hospitalization. In as little as five days of immobility, people can lose noticeable muscle strength.

While younger adults often regain that strength quickly, older adults may not fully recover. Each setback can permanently reduce mobility, creating a step-by-step decline over time.

This is why experts do encourage building a "muscle reserve."

The more muscle and strength a person has before illness or injury, the better they can withstand unavoidable setbacks.

A small loss may barely affect someone with strong muscles, but the same loss can seriously impact someone with little reserve.

Strength training plays a unique role in maintaining this reserve. Activities like walking and gardening are excellent for heart and brain health, but they do not fully replace resistance training.

Lifting weights or using resistance bands improves muscle power, which is essential for preventing falls and performing daily tasks safely.

Most importantly, heavy weights are not required.

Studies show that lighter weights, lifted 20 to 25 times per exercise until muscles feel fatigued, can still build muscle and strength. For many people, this can be done safely at home using dumbbells or resistance bands.

Perhaps most encouraging is that even one strength-training session per week can slow or reverse muscle decline. While more frequent sessions may bring faster results, the biggest difference is between doing nothing and doing something.

Starting small is far better than not starting at all.

The message is obvious: strength training is not just for athletes or for gym-goers.

It is a practical, powerful tool for maintaining independence, confidence, and quality of life.

Building muscle today is investment in staying mobile and self-reliant in the years ahead.

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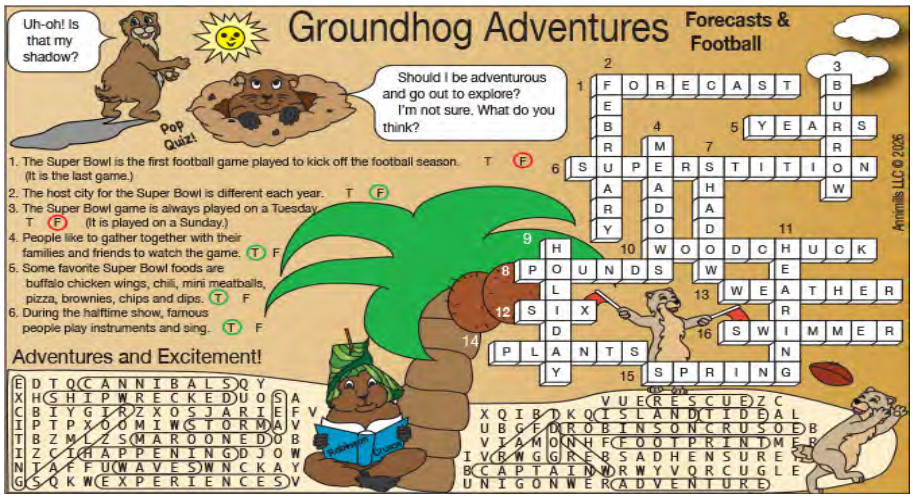

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Permanent Full Time

Child Care Supervisor – Calling Lake

The Municipal District of Opportunity is seeking to fill a Permanent Full Time Child Care Supervisor position for the Opportunity Daycare in Calling Lake, AB.

Job Summary:

Reporting to the Manager of Child Care Services, this position requires an individual who is outgoing, energetic with demonstrated child care leadership and public relations skills. This position includes both administrative functions and direct service in the daycare.

Position Outline:

- Planning and implementation of a high-quality Early Learning and Child Care services program that meets MD policy and Early learning and Childcare Regulation and Early Learning and Childcare Act. Familiar with Flight-Alberta's Curriculum Framework.
- Knowledge in Budget preparation and monitoring; grant administration and office duties
- Staff supervision, policy compliance.

Requirements:

- Child Development Supervisor certificate or equivalent * (formerly Level 3) is desired.
- Strong Supervisory and leadership skills an asset (2-3 yrs. experience)
- Valid Class 5 Drivers License; reliable transportation, a current Criminal Record Check, Child Welfare Check
- Standard First Aid

*Child Development Supervisor equivalent level of training: Alberta Permanent Teaching Certificate; Education Degree; Child and Youth Care Diploma or Degree; Early Learning and Child Care Diploma, Bachelor of Social Work degree; see www.child.alberta.ca for complete list and information.

Salary will commensurate with experience and qualifications. Please forward your resume with cover letter, a copy of your current Criminal Record Check and Child Intervention Welfare Check, and 3 work related references to:

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

This position advertisement will remain open until 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.

Supplement to Wabasca Fever

American columnist writes about how Trump's antics may forever ruin United States

By Jackie Calmes, Columnist, Los Angeles Times

Forget all of the monarchical gold doodads and childish plaques dissing Democratic presidents that now defile the White House, thanks to President Trump. Ignore his egomaniacal addition of his name on the Kennedy Center. Such travesties are easily undone once he's gone.

Alas, the same can't be said for the incalculable damage that Trump has done in just one year to the nation's precious intangibles: its character and constitutional protections at home, and its alliances and reputation globally.

Trump's is a perversely remarkable achievement in so short a time. The havoc he's brought — in lost healthcare coverage, unfunded medical research to cure diseases, crackdowns on academia, higher prices from tariffs, inflated debt, erosion of the rule of law and the tarnishing of America's credibility and leadership abroad — is worse than many, myself included, expected.

The impacts of many actions will outlast him. Some losses will be irreparable.

Americans knew what cruel coarseness Trump was capable of, knew that he promised retribution and a makeover to some backward-looking imagined American greatness devoid of diversity. But what most people didn't bank on was just how unchecked he would be by Congress or, so far, the Supreme Court — his constitutionally coequal partners, or so the founders thought.

As it happens, never has Trump's unhinged radicalism and affinity for force been so plain and threatening as it's been in this month of the first anniversary of his return to power, looking from Minnesota to Greenland and Venezuela.

He has Minneapolis under siege: Thousands of masked, armed agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement outnumber local police about 6 to 1. More than in Trump's militarization of Los Angeles, Chicago and other Democratic-run cities before, in Minneapolis Americans are seeing countless witness videos of the abuses of his "mass deportations" campaign by newly created paramilitary forces. After the killing of citizen protester Renee Good, the officer who shot her three times is going uninvestigated, let alone punished, while Trump's Department of Injustice served subpoenas on Minnesota's governor and five Democratic officials, accusing them of obstructing operations.

In his grubby grab for North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally Denmark's autonomous Greenland, after his takeover of Venezuela, Americans and the globe see Trump aspires to be emperor of the Western Hemisphere, unbound by alliances and international law.

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 the12-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 direction of 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 February 9, 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. Applicants are thanked in advance for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Health Canada Recall of Product

Here are new and/or updated Recalls and alerts:

Certain Pillsbury brand Pizza Pops recalled due to E. coli O26 (new)
Distribution: National
Audience: General public, hotels, restaurants and institutions

Roller Shade by Starlight Shutter recalled due to strangulation hazard for children (new)
Audience: General public

Gerber brand arrowroot biscuits recalled due to possible presence of pieces of soft plastic and paper (new)
Distribution: National, Online
Audience: General public

Angry Orange Stain Removers recalled due to risk of exposure to bacteria (new)
Issue: Microbial hazard
Audience: General public

Left Coast Organics brand Organic Chia Seeds recalled due to Salmonella (new)
Distribution: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan
Audience: General public

Product: ANNQUAN Brand Power Strips, Models EX-D112-05 and EX-D106-25
Issue: Fire hazard (new)
Audience: General public

Truly Tallow All-in-1 Mens Face + Body + Hair Whipped Tallow recalled due to chemical hazard (new)
Issue: Chemical hazard
Audience: General public

Nûby IcyBite™ Keys Teethers recalled due to microbial contamination (new)
Issue: Microbial hazard
Audience: General public

Thinking about buying GLP-1 drugs like Ozempic or Mounjaro? Beware of fake or unauthorized products (new) Issue: Product safety
Audience: General public