

## Leask examines future of hardware store



**The future of the municipally-owned Leask Community Hardware Store is currently in doubt.**

Six years after the Village of Leask made the decision to save the local hardware store by purchasing the business, the future for the venture is looking grim.

The mood at the Leask Community Hall on Monday evening was equally grim, as the current council for the Village of Leask held a public meeting to share recent findings of its investigation into the current state of the hardware store.

None of the current council was in office when the decision to operate the hardware store as an Ace Hardware franchise was made at the end of 2015. Of those currently on council, the longest

serving member is Valerie Priestley, who was elected at the end of 2020.

The rest, including Mayor John Priestley and councillors Charles Smith, Zach Waldner, and Eugene Verbonac, have only been serving since 2021 or later, a time when the Leask Community Hardware Store, and in particular the management of the business, was already a source of great concern and turmoil in the community.

In recent weeks, it has fallen to council, and the Leask Community Hardware Store Board's only member, Ernie Letendre, to find answers to ratepayers' con-

cerns and crunch the true numbers for the business. Those answers and numbers, presented by Mayor Priestley on Monday evening, paint a dire picture of the hardware store.

With the help of an accountant, council discovered the hardware store's bank balance was cut nearly in half from July 2021 to July 2022, dropping to \$41,853.86 from \$81,115.34. This marks an average monthly loss of \$3,174.93, with only three months showing a profit, and the business's bank account has since dropped to \$36,666.39 as of Sept. 30.

Looking at the period of Jan. 1, 2022,

to Sept. 30, 2022, the hardware store reported net sales of \$64,754.65 against expenses of \$82,801.29, a loss of \$18,046.64

While the business has a term deposit of \$54,608.56, this can't be accessed, as per the stipulations of being an Ace Hardware franchisee.

Though profitability is likely to be a key factor in determining the fate of the hardware store, the accountant commissioned by council found more concerning numbers in the business' books, pointing to serious shortcomings in the management of the store over the past three years.

*Continued on page 2*

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# Leask examines future of hardware store

## Continued from 1

The books showed that neither PST nor GST had been filed since 2020, income tax returns for 2019, 2020, and 2021 had yet to be completed, and employee contribution remittances, including CPP and EI, hadn't been submitted for 2022, leaving the business with \$64,441.19 in outstanding expenses and penalties (including the accountant's services).

The investigation also showed that previous councils have, over the years, injected \$700,000 into the store.

"Our council is very reluctant to take money from the village coffers, but we passed a motion to pay the outstanding PST, GST, employee remittances, and accountant costs to date to bring the accounts up to date," Mayor Priestley said.

"We opted to pay these outstanding amounts and leave the bank balance in the store, so the store can continue to operate for the time being. But a decision has to be made," he added.

With the store currently listed for sale at a price of \$279,900, excluding the store's inventory, Mayor Priestley said the decision the community faces is whether to keep the store operating, either until after the typically profitable holiday season or indefinitely, or to shut the doors for good.

Priestley said the public's opinion could be gauged through a plebiscite, if necessary, but cautioned this would cost about the same as running a municipal election. Instead, he put the question to the 50 or so people who attended the meeting. In an informal show of hands, most voted in favour of closing the store (though opinion was divided on whether it should be closed immediately, or after the holidays).

Following the presentation by council, the floor was opened to questions. When one of the first questions was about the hardware store's inventory, it fell to the current manager, Irina Coates, to explain the current quagmire the store is in.

"From what I've seen, the last time the inventory's been done properly and counted, not by a professional but by locals, was in 2020," she said. "Our store is a mess. I'm working to get it to where we know what we have in stock. There



**Council for the Village of Leask held a public meeting Monday evening to discuss the future of the Leask Community Hardware Store. From left to right: Councillor Zach Waldner, Administrator Yvette Hamel, Mayor John Priestley, Councillors Charles Smith, Valerie Priestley, and Eugene Verbonac, and hardware store board member Ernie Letendre.**

are a lot of conveniently missing Milwaukee tools that are in our system, but we don't have them. They're gone."

Coates noted that she and three part-time employees have worked to get the store's negative on-hand, reducing the list to 15 pages from 23 pages. She also said they desperately need more help to keep the store running well.

Mayor Priestley agreed that a formal inventory needs to be compiled, and raised further eyebrows when he added that a former administrator, whom he refused to name, was found to have committed fraud with a purchase order from the hardware store. While the Village was reimbursed for this malfeasance, Priestley said the RCMP advised against pursuing criminal charges and council chose not to incur the expense of hiring a lawyer.

When asked about the possibility of keeping the store open, Mayor Priestley said there's always hope, especially if a family were to buy the business and choose to run it. Otherwise, he said keeping the store open would likely re-

quire a levy to be imposed on ratepayers.

While Leask Community Hardware Store board member Ernie Letendre wasn't optimistic about the business' prospects, one resident said she wouldn't support the idea of raising taxes on residents.

"If we're putting money into something that doesn't look like it's going to survive, and it means us as citizens paying more taxes and nothing else changing... I'm not okay with that," she said, citing concerns about grass cutting and street maintenance in the village.

"I'd rather see the infrastructure [improved]. We had to shutdown the school because water lines are breaking, and we can't have kids at school without working water."

While tensions did flare at times throughout Monday evening's meeting, most in attendance were pleased to see the work council has done to provide long-overdue answers to concerns about the hardware store.

The future of the business, however, remains shrouded in doubt until the community and council make a decision.

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**NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT OF POLL**  
**The Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 Municipal Election 2022**

Public Notice is hereby given that:

Real Diehl was nominated for the office of Division 2 Councillor and is the only candidate;

Joan Sanftleben was nominated for the office of Division 4 Councillor and is the only candidate;

Matthew McNeice was nominated for the office of Division 5 Councillor and is the only candidate;

Clarke Gossen was nominated for the office of Division 6 Councillor and is the only candidate;

Therefore, no voting will take place on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Dated at Leask this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

Riannon Nelson  
Returning Officer

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555**

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the RM of Big River No. 555 intends to adopt a bylaw to amend Bylaw 1/16, known as the Official Community Plan.

**INTENT**  
To amend the Official Community Plan by removing Section 8, Concept Plans.

**REASON**  
The reason for the amendment is Council does not consider the section to be relevant in the administration of the Official Community Plan.

**PUBLIC INSPECTION**  
Any person may inspect the bylaw at the RM Office on any judicial day between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Copies are available at a cost of \$1.00.

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
Council will hold a public hearing on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in the Big River Community Centre at 606 First Street North, Big River, SK at 10:30 am. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at Big River this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

Michael Yuzik  
Rural Municipal Administrator

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# Report outlines costs of federal policies in Sask.

The environmental policies of the Liberal federal government could cost Saskatchewan up to \$111 billion by 2035.

That's the key takeaway from a report commissioned by the Ministry of Finance and released by Premier Scott Moe last week.

Titled "Drawing the Line: Defending Saskatchewan's Economic Autonomy," the report examines the direct compliance costs of nine federal environmental policies, including the carbon tax, for households and the agriculture, transport, and upstream oil and gas sectors.

Per the report, the agriculture sector will be hit the hardest, losing out on \$32.6 billion, followed by households at a loss of \$24.5 billion. Meanwhile, the costs to the transport and upstream oil and gas sectors are pegged at \$19.8 billion and \$15.5 billion, respectively.

The ministry's cost analysis does not include the impact of the federal government's proposed Clean Electricity Stan-

dard, which it says requires the "elimination of conventional fossil fuel produced electricity in Saskatchewan by 2035."

It also does not factor in any revenue or economic benefits that might be generated by pursuing alternative energy industries, or the potential costs of failing to transition to renewable energy sources. Nor does it factor in federal dollars that have been committed to help the province's resources sector, including a recent tax cut for carbon capture and storage and a \$3.8 billion investment in the Critical Minerals Strategy, and the carbon tax money the federal government returns to people via income tax rebates.

Premier Moe said the economic situation in the province has been "exacerbated" in recent years by the current federal government's continued interference in the province's jurisdiction over natural resources under the guise of federal environmental regulation.

"It's time to defend and assert Saskatchewan's economic autonomy by 'drawing the line,' taking a number of steps including the introduction of provincial legislation to clarify and protect Saskatchewan's constitutional rights," he said.

In addition to highlighting the economic harms of federal policies, the report also serves as a platform from which the provincial government will push for further autonomy for the province. With this in mind, it outlines potential actions that could be taken moving forward.

Aside from the provincial legislation Premier Moe mentioned, those actions could include pursuing greater autonomy over immigration and tax collection, improving recognition of the contributions the province's industries make to sustainable growth, and legal action "to maintain control of electricity, fertilizer emission/use targets and oil and gas emissions/production."

"This cannot continue," Premier Moe said.

"We have so much potential in Saskatchewan to grow and prosper. A strong Saskatchewan means a strong Canada, but we cannot allow continued federal intrusion into our exclusive constitutional right to develop our natural resources and grow our economy. We will defend and protect Saskatchewan jobs and our economic future."

Moe said more details on his government's plan of action will be outlined in the Speech from the Throne on Thursday, Oct. 26.

While noting that it is Premier Moe's job to stand up to the federal government, Sask. NDP Leader Carla Beck called the Drawing the Line report a distraction from the real issues Saskatchewan residents are facing in the here and now.

"Scott Moe's Drawing the Line report falls far short of what's needed, and is a distraction from his failures on healthcare, jobs, and affordability. The Sask. Party would rather talk about any other time in our

province's history than defend their failed record of nearly a decade of unbalanced budgets, the tripling of our debt, and collapsing our once nation-leading healthcare system," Beck said.

"Scott Moe isn't presenting this report to protect the jobs of Saskatchewan people, but to distract to protect his own."

Some, including the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations,

criticized the report for failing to mention Indigenous resource rights, while others challenged the numbers the Ministry of Finance arrived at.

Others, still, have called into question the constitutional changes the province would be seeking. Such changes are not simple, requiring approval from the federal government and seven provinces that represent 50 per cent of Canada's population.

## R.M. OF LEASK NO. 464 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 2/20, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

### INTENT

The proposed bylaw will rezone the land from Resort Commercial (RC) to Lakeshore District (LD).

### AFFECTED LAND

The affected lands are Lot 4C and 4D, Block 3, Plan 84B13418 as shown within the bold dashed line on the following map.

### REASON

The reason for the amendment is to allow for the zoning change from Resort Commercial (RC) to Lakeshore District (LD).

### PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the municipal office between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at cost.



### PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on November 10, 2022, at 9:15 a.m. at the Leask Municipal Office to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing (or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing).

Issued at Rural Municipality of Leask No 464 this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

Riannon Nelson  
Administrator

## R.M. OF LEASK NO. 464 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 2/20, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

### INTENT

The proposed bylaw will rezone the land from Agricultural Resource District (AR) to Lakeshore District 2 (LD2).

### AFFECTED LAND

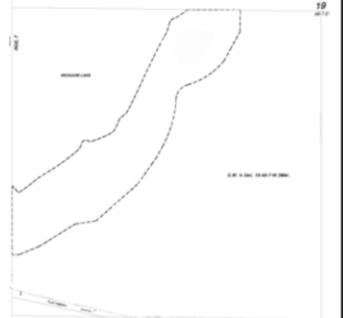
The affected land is a portion of SW 19-48-07 W3 as shown within the bold dashed line on the following map.

### REASON

The reason for the amendment is to allow for the development under Lakeshore District 2 (LD2).

### PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the municipal office between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at cost.



### PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on November 10, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. at the Leask Municipal Office to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing (or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing).

Issued at Rural Municipality of Leask No 464 this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

Riannon Nelson  
Administrator

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## Sask. Party magic act can't distract from its failures

The key to being successful in politics lies in mastering the art of diversion.

Taking a beating in the polls? Remind the electorate how much worse they had it under the other guy, even if the other guy hasn't been in power for 15 years.

About to introduce a policy you know the electorate isn't going to like? Point the finger at forces beyond your control (say the federal government, for instance).

Politics, then, is like magic without the, well, magic. A bit of sleight of hand, as the government of the day stuffs its sleeves with the surprise tax hike it plans to slip into the deck while the electorate is none the wiser.

Or, in the case of the Sask. Party government, it's a blatantly obvious distraction like the report it released last week titled, "Drawing the Line: Defending Saskatchewan's Economic Autonomy."

The report highlights the harms nine federal policies, all relating to the environment and climate change, will do to Saskatchewan between now and 2035, pegging the damage to the economy and households at \$111.3 billion.

"It is time to defend and assert Saskatchewan's economic autonomy by 'drawing the line,' taking a number of steps including the introduction of provincial legislation to clarify and protect Saskatchewan's constitutional rights," Premier Scott Moe said.

In addition to the above provincial legislation, other potential courses of action for the Sask. Party government include pursuing greater autonomy over immigration and taxation, improving recognition of the province's contributions to sustainable growth, and legal action "to maintain control of electricity, fertilizer emission/use targets and oil and gas emissions/production."

In releasing the report, the Sask. Party government uses as proof of its righteousness the Alberta Supreme Court's ruling against the federal government's Impact Assessment Act earlier this year.

The fate of the Act, which would allow federal regulators to consider the effects of major construction projects — like



JORDAN  
TWISS  
~  
News Editor

pipelines — on a range of environmental and social issues, is now in the hands of Canada's Supreme Court.

As most Saskatchewan residents likely recall, the Sask. Party government's last Supreme Court showing over the federal carbon tax didn't go in its favour, costing taxpayers "hundreds of thousands of dollars" (in the words of then-Attorney General Don Morgan).

Barring a seismic shift in thinking among the federal Supreme Court justices, who affirmed the carbon tax in a 6-3 ruling last year, odds are that any future lawsuit will end in a similar waste of taxpayer money, at a time when most taxpayers can't afford to part with it.

Whether or not the analysis in the government's Drawing the Line report is wholly accurate, it is most certainly not complete.

For starters, the cost analysis conveniently leaves out any revenue or economic benefits that might be generated by pursuing alternative energy industries, and federal dollars that have been committed to help the province's resources sector, including a recent tax cut for carbon capture and storage and a \$3.8 billion investment in the Critical Minerals Strategy.

The report also fails to factor in the carbon tax money the federal government returns to people via income tax rebates, and doesn't explore the potential costs of the government failing to transition to renewable energy sources.

Looking beyond just the environment, the report excludes all the ways the federal government "intrudes on provincial jurisdiction" to the benefit of the province, whether it be for housing, child-care, or healthcare.

These omissions aren't accidents. These factors are excluded because they don't support the Sask. Party's narrative of a province being relentlessly bullied and victimized by a tyrannical federal government.

Had the Sask. Party been looking to have a fulsome and honest discussion about the impact federal policies have on



the province, it might also have analyzed the ways in which it is making life more difficult for the people of Saskatchewan.

As soaring resource revenues helped this government turn a deficit into a \$1 billion surplus, it decided to raise Saskatchewan and SaskEnergy rates.

This year, monthly gas and power bills will increase by about \$17. With 421,155 households in the province, that's more than \$7 million coming out of taxpayers' pockets each month. Stretch this out to 2035, and factor in planned rate increases over the next couple of years, and that total climbs well above \$1 billion.

And let's not forget the PST expansion in the budget this past spring. The expansion, which was pared back slightly in the government's Affordability Plan, was intended to pay for a \$21 million initiative to reduce surgical wait times in the wake of the pandemic.

However, the federal government has provided the province with more than \$60 million for the same initiative (with zero acknowledgement from the province), and those PST increases will remain long after the initiative's goals have been achieved, relieving taxpayers of more of their hard-earned money.

The total costs to taxpayers of these Sask. Party cost-of-living increases pale in comparison the \$24.5 billion the fed-

eral government's environmental policies are expected to cost Saskatchewan households between now and 2035. But they are not insignificant — particularly for seniors, or those who are earning the lowest minimum wage in the country.

If the Sask. Party was genuinely interested in protecting the people of this province, it would look inward at the harms its own policies are doing and adjust them accordingly.

Doing this would be hard, especially when it's so tantalizingly simple to continually accuse Ottawa of attacking Saskatchewan's economy and people, or grandstand about "autonomy" and "constitutional rights".

But it would be to everyone's benefit. What doesn't benefit the people of Saskatchewan, now or in the future, is empty bluster that will go nowhere and likely squander more taxpayer dollars.

The Sask. Party doesn't have the power to change the constitution through provincial legislation. Such changes would require approval from the federal government, and seven provinces that represent 50 per cent of Canada's population.

The Sask. Party knows all this. Like a magician, it's banking on us taking the bait, so it can distract us from its own dismal record.

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## Yes, payroll taxes are taxes. No, Trudeau shouldn't raise them

**By Franco Terrazano**  
CTF Director

Political pundits are twisting themselves into pretzels arguing mandatory Canada Pension Plan and Employment Insurance payments are not a tax.

They're missing the point: the government is taking too much money from Canadians.

If you make \$65,000 this year, then the federal government is taking nearly \$4,500 directly from your pay through CPP and EI taxes. Every employer must also cough up an extra \$4,800. That's more than \$9,200 that a working mom could've used to buy baby formula, ground beef, or pay for dental bills, but instead her and her employer have to fork it over to the feds.

The total payroll tax bill increased by \$818 this year for each middle-class worker. In fact, payroll taxes increased

three times since the beginning of the pandemic.

And over the decade, the total annual payroll tax paid for each middle-class worker has increased by \$2,435. The annual CPP tax alone increased by nearly 50 per cent. Can workers expect to retire 50 per cent earlier? Did seniors' pension cheques increase by 50 per cent? Don't count on it.

There's no debate that the government is taking more money from workers through higher CPP and EI payments.

But should CPP and EI payments be considered taxes?

Yes.

If something looks like a duck, waddles like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it's a duck. Likewise, if it takes money from you like a tax, funds government spending like a tax, and even the government admits it's

a tax, then it's a tax.

Unlike fees, payroll taxes are mandatory. You can choose whether you want to purchase insurance from Manulife, a sandwich from Subway, or a ticket from Via Rail. The taxman doesn't give you a choice when it comes to your CPP and EI payments.

Payroll taxes also don't directly pay for your service. You pay \$160 at a government passport office for the service of renewing your passport. That's a fee. But that's not what happens with CPP payments.

"There's an assumption that the money one pays into the CPP is going to fund their own personal retirement," explain Charles Lammam and Hugh MacIntyre of the Fraser Institute. "[But] most of the contributions you make today fund someone else's retirement."

The money that comes off your pay cheque largely funds today's retirees.

When you retire, you won't be spending your money. Your cheques will be coming from future generations. And you'll be counting on future politicians to keep the fund healthy and delivering those cheques.

But there is no legal requirement for a future government to provide pension benefits. And if you pass away early, your CPP benefits aren't fully transferred to your family.

That means you don't truly own the money you're forced to pay into the CPP.

Let's review. The government forces you to pay for CPP and EI. The government then redistributes much of that money to other people. That's the definition of a tax.

Even the federal government

admits CPP and EI payments are taxes.

If you type "what taxes you pay" into Google, the first result is a government website that lists the various taxes Canadians pay. Just below income taxes, sales taxes, property taxes and tariffs are CPP and EI payroll taxes. The Tax Court of Canada deals with appeals to EI or CPP decisions. As a member of Parliament, Justin Trudeau described rising EI payments as "a direct payroll tax increase."

It's a good bet most Canadians aren't too concerned whether deductions from their paystubs are described as a contribution, levy, fee, or tax. Canadians are concerned that their pay isn't keeping up with the rising cost of living. Politicians should focus on the real concern and stop eating away at Canadians' pay with higher payroll taxes.

## Leoville student makes large Terry Fox donation

A local student more than did his part to help in the fight against cancer, donating \$700 to the Terry Fox Foundation during Leoville Central School's annual Terry Fox Run.

Kegan Hoffman, a Grade 7 student at the school, spent the summer working for farmers and doing chores in the community, whether it be hauling hay bales, feeding livestock, or working in the pasture.

While he enjoys the

farm work and working with animals, Kegan says he didn't think of what he might do with the money he was making until August, when he learned that one of his aunts had cancer.

Having already lost his great grandpa to bone cancer, and his grandma to breast cancer, Kegan knew he had to put the fruits of his labour toward something bigger than himself.

Initially, Kegan expected he would have \$500 to

donate to the Terry Fox Foundation — still nothing to sneeze at. However, when the time to make the big donation rolled around, Kegan found an extra \$200 in bills and chose to add those extra dollars to his donation (without telling his mom).

When asked why he wanted to make such a large donation to the Terry Fox Foundation, Kegan's answer was itself a question.

Why not?

"It could have been \$700 that saves someone's life, maybe," Kegan said, noting that making the donation felt personally rewarding. "It's just — why not? Why not? It's just money. I can work it back any time."



Kegan Hoffman, a Grade 7 student at Leoville Central School.

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**Hon. Jeremy Harrison**  
MLA for Meadow Lake  
jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

**Hon. Scott Moe, Premier**  
MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook  
scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net

# Parkland Elks open season at 1-3

Following a dismal 2021-2022 hockey season, the Parkland Elks entered the 2022-2023 campaign with nowhere to go but up.

Under new head coach Sheldon Moe, the team kicked off its regular season on the road last Tuesday, fighting its way to a 3-2 loss against the Saskatoon Riverkings. Returning to the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre for their home opener Friday night, the team found itself in a battle against the Warman Wildcats.

## Elks (1) vs Wildcats (5)

Friday evening's match-up started with gritty, sloppy play as both teams felt each other out, but it was the Wildcats who found their rhythm first and nearly found the back of the net in the opening minutes. A few minutes later, Warman tallied for real, as Markus Thompson slipped the puck past Elks netminder Hunter Nakonechny. Drew Anderson assisted on the goal.

The Wildcats put themselves in the driver's seat with a 2-0 lead, when Hudson Thiessen pounced on an Elks turnover and tucked it around Nakonechny's pad, and nearly pushed the score 3-0 on a beautiful stretch pass. Meanwhile, the Elks continued to hang on for dear life.

The teams traded off penalties in the late minutes of the period, but it was the Elks who got on the board thanks to a beautiful backdoor setup to Bronson Parker. Corvan Stewart and Brody



Elks forward Kendon Skalicky tries to bang home a loose puck in front of the Warman Wildcats' goal.

Anderson assisted on the goal.

With the goal in the dying seconds of the frame, the Elks were lucky to escape the period down by a margin of just 2-1.

Given a brief 5-on-3 advantage in the opening of the second period, the Elks failed to get a shot on goal, much less tie the game. Though the power play generated a few scoring chances on the next Elks power play, the man advantage ended the same.

Meanwhile, the Wildcats continued to exert pressure, coming close to pushing the score to 3-1 on a power play. And given a full two minutes of a 5-on-3, the Elks again failed to score.

Instead, it was the Wildcats who ended the scoring drought with 17 seconds left on the clock. Devon Johannesson was able to tap home a puck Nakonechny couldn't corral, earning assists

for Kaden Burgess and Trey Markus.

After dominating much of the third period, the Wildcats put a stamp on their victory with two more goals after the midway point of the frame. Coltyn Blanchard netted the first, on assists from Trey Markus and Carter Bergen, while Lukas Viden put the score at 5-1 on a helper from Davyn Mason.

## Elks (3) vs Kings (0)

In a complete reversal from their home opener, the Elks came out strong in their Saturday night home game against the West Central Wheat Kings. The power play was most impressive of all, scoring all three Elks goals as the team blanked the Kings 3-0.

Another key part of this victory was the Elks' ability to keep the Kings from firing shots on

goalie Keegen Dansereau, as the Kings tallied just 15 shots on goal throughout 60 minutes of action.

Brody Anderson started the power play scoring for the Elks, assisted by Jake Boettcher and Corvan Stewart. Later in the first frame, it was Kendon Skalicky who found the back of the net, with helpers from Tavis Galloway and Kaiden Couture.

From here, it would be 48 minutes before the Elks' next and final goal was scored. This one came from Luke Evans, on assists from Skalicky and Anderson.

## Elks (1) @ Wildcats (6)

Wrapping up a busy opening week of hockey, the Elks travelled to Warman on Sunday for a rematch against the Warman Wildcats. Instead of redemption, The Elks lost by a larger margin of 6-1, after falling behind 2-0 in the first frame.

Kaiden Couture provided the lone offensive highlight of the game for the Elks, scoring in the dying minutes of the game to dash the Wildcats' hopes of earning a shutout. Bronson Parker and Cody Morash assisted on the lone Elks goal.

On the Wildcats' scorecard, Trey Markus led the way with a hat trick and one assist, Markus Thompson scored two goals, and Jake Kessler tallied one. As for assists, Coltyn Blanchard and Carter Bergen each had two, while Davyn Mason, Kaden Burgess, Drew Anderson, Devon Johannesson, and Raiden Clayton earned one apiece.

The Elks return to action on home ice this weekend, with a Friday night game against the Saskatoon Icehawks, and a Saturday evening showdown with the Saskatoon Screaming Eagles.



Elks defenceman Tavis Galloway can only look on as the Wildcats score another goal in a 5-1 victory.

## Spiritwood holds 2022 Fall Walk/Run

The 2022 Annual Fall Walk/Run event was held at the Spiritwood Golf Course during the sunny day of Oct. 8, allowing participants to get out, get some exercise, and enjoy the fall colours.

Organizer Heather Beauchesne, in coordination with Bevra Fee and the Northern Lakes Economic

Development, stressed how successful the event was.

"The Fall walk/Run has been going on for three years, since 2020, and it has been surprising how each year our number of participants keeps adding up. It was another excellent turn out this year," Beauchesne said.

Almost 40 people registered and participated in the Walk/Run which consisted of different age groups who were ready to either walk or run five to 10 kilometres around the Spiritwood Golf Course.

At the end of the event, participants were greeted by picnic blankets. Prizes from the local artisan boutique were also handed out to a few lucky participants.

The first runners who were able to run the 10 kilometres were Angie Gaboury, Taylor Olson, and Leland Benson. Meanwhile, the first walker to reach

the finish line was Lucinda Smolinski. Another prize, for the oldest participant, was handed out to Donell Wingerter.

This walk and run event is the fall version of the winter snowshoe event hosted in Spiritwood.

In creating the event, Beauchesne says that she was inspired by walks in Waskesiu, which made her realize that Spiritwood has a lot of beautiful places to go for a walk or run, enjoy nature, and spend time with others. This plays perfectly into one of Beauchesne's main goals, which is to provide a healthy family gathering and activity for the community.

Looking forward to next year, Beauchesne says that as the number of participants continues to climb, the organizers will be looking to partner with some local businesses in town and introduce more creative activities or games during the walk.



Participants during the 2022 Fall Walk/Run in Spiritwood.

# AGRICULTURE

October 20, 2022

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald 7

## Making crops out of weeds

When is a weed not a weed?

Well in answering that question I am reminded of something my grandfather used to say; 'a rose is just a weed if it's in the potato patch'.

The truth of his wisdom is that it often depends how one looks at things just how we assign importance.

Typically, a rose is a welcome sight in a garden, but not if it interferes with how one tends the spuds in his example.

We of course are quite a particular species when it comes to how we view things.

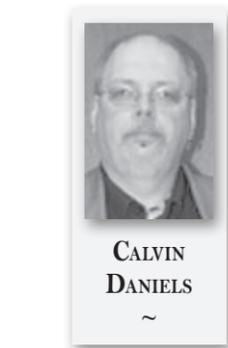
Just drive down a residential city street and

you find that we typically view front yards as postage stamp-sized areas of close-cropped grass with the deepest green colour. These little patches are coveted to the point we regularly dedicate our water resources to them, and are ready to spread fertilizer or attack any weed with a chemical every Saturday morning.

Why do we seem to collectively see that patch of rarely tread upon grass as urban perfection?

It's probably just an ingrained viewpoint, although a few do stray to a yard of concrete and rocks, and an even smaller number see the patch of land as

valuable to grow food, or at



CALVIN DANIELS

least pretty flowers.

Some even venture to a wilder, more natural yard-scape. Although whether such efforts are happily viewed by neighbours, or even allowed under municipally ordinances, may depend on where you live.

When it comes to plants, the line between wanted and weed often depends

on who draws that line.

For example, take stinkweed as an example.

When I was a wee lad more than a half century ago, stinkweed was a much-hated plant on the farm. At the time, Dad still milked a couple of cows and sold cream to the local creamery, and no one wanted cream from a cow if they have lunched on stinkweed.

Nor, do you really want the eggs from hens who dined on the weed either.

Meanwhile, in a grain crop, any other plant is just a competitor for moisture, nutrients, and growing space, so they are not welcome.

But wait, maybe stink-

weed can have a place on a farm too. At least a recent story at [www.producer.com](http://www.producer.com) suggests a future crop may emerge out of research based on the weed.

The story relates: "American scientists want to transform stinkweed into a cold-tolerant, short-season oilseed similar to camelina."

The research is based on a crop called domestic pennycress, or formally, *Thlaspi arvense*, which is a sort of look-alike cousin of stinkweed but instead could be a new cover crop and oilseed.

"John Sedbrook is a professor of genetics at Illinois State University and one of the researchers working to

turn this weed into a crop. In some ways it echoes the development of its plant relative, canola," notes the story.

While the entire story is interesting in what researchers have done, what is perhaps most intriguing is that Sedbrook and his colleagues have been able to use "plant-breeding tools such as CRISPR gene editing to modify pennycress." In that effort, a weed has become a potential farm crop.

The result of the process leaves a most interesting question; what other 'weeds' might be genetically tweaked to become viable crops in the years ahead?

## Using pregnancy testing as a management tool

**By Megan Roger, BSA, Livestock and Feed Extension Specialist, Moose Jaw**

Reproductive efficiency is a key component of profitability and pregnancy testing is a great tool to aid in monitoring the status in your herd. This annual practice can assist in making management decisions and monitoring reproductive performance. Some may choose not to pregnancy test due to their lack of facilities or the cost of pregnancy checking, but there are economic gains that can be realized if used.

The price of overwinter feeding an open cow greatly outweighs the vet cost of pregnancy checking. In areas of the province with limited feed resources or limited feed

of good quality, reducing the herd and only feeding those productive animals will help stretch these resources. Selling open cows in the fall also reduces overhead costs and aids in cash flow. If you have adequate feed supplies, you could hold onto the cull cows and sell in the spring where prices have shown to be consistently higher. Adding weight onto open cows will add to the price advantage in the spring.

Being able to confidently identify these nonpregnant cows early will aid with culling decisions. Not only will pregnancy testing identify open cows early, but it can also help determine the length of your calving season and give you the opportunity to cull late calvers that will not fit within your program. In addition, it provides the

opportunity to group cattle according to their stage in pregnancy to feed them more efficiently over the coming winter months.

Pregnancy testing can help indicate if there are nutritional issues with the pasture or feed, bull fertility issues or disease concerns if a group of cows have lower conception rates. Dependent on the type of pregnancy testing that is used (most common being ultrasound or rectal palpation), your vet can also determine if there are infertility issues, cystic ovaries or infections present. Determining these issues early on can help detect infertile cows to cull rather than continue to feed them with the thought of trying to breed them in the spring. Vets may also be able to indicate which cows are pregnant with twins which

will help you be more prepared at calving time.

The benefits of pregnancy testing tend to outweigh the cons. It is a great management tool for evaluating reproductive performance of your herd and helping to determine where to allocate your feed resources. Cash flow, feed resources and market factors can all aid in determining if pregnancy testing will benefit your operation. Beef Cattle Research Council provides a calculator on their website that can aid in decision making around pregnancy checking. For more information on livestock topics, contact your local livestock and feed extension specialist or the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

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To consign cattle or for on-farm appraisals please contact Brent, Blair or Brody

Wed., Oct. 26, 2022

Regular Sale 10:00 a.m.

Presorted Internet Calf Sale (Angus Influence) 12:00 p.m.

Wed., Nov. 2, 2022

Regular Sale 10:00 a.m.

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Producers wishing to market cattle prior to sale day please contact the office 306-236-3411 for delivery.

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Mon., Oct. 24, 2022

Regular Sale 8:30 a.m.; Presort Sale 11:00 a.m.

Mon., Oct. 31, 2022

Regular Sale 8:30 a.m.; Presort Sale 11:00 a.m.

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# Shellbrook Royal Purple readies for Purple Thursday

Shellbrook Royal Purple Lodge members Leola Skrupski and Elaine Perkins presented Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson with a t-shirt ahead of Purple Thursday on Oct. 20.

For Purple Thursday, Canadian Royal Purple Lodges across Canada are filling care bags to deliver to Women's Shelters, in recognition of the reality that approximately 80 per cent of domestic violence victims suffer from Brain Injury.

The Shellbrook and Prince Albert Royal Purple Lodges will deliver about 40 care bags as part of Purple Thursday.

Going forward, Purple Thursday will be held on the third Thursday of October each year and will see lodges visit local shelters to deliver care bags.



The Shellbrook and Prince Albert Royal Purple Lodges will be handing out 40 care bags for Purple Thursday.



Shellbrook Royal Purple members Leola Skrupski and Elaine Perkins present a t-shirt to Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson.

# Canwood Legion hosts musical afternoon

In September, the Canwood Royal Canadian Legion members proudly presented a Sunday afternoon of music and singing.

The audience enjoyed performances by the Leslie and Dianna Schutte family from Canwood, and Stephanie Rose from Debden. Each performer played their own set, and after an intermission with complimentary coffee and dainties, they ended the afternoon with a grand finale. For this, all of the musi-

cians gathered on stage and wrapped up the show with a rendition of Josh Turner's "Long Black Train".

This afternoon gave area residents a chance to see all the hall improvements made in 2021 and 2022, some of which include new flooring throughout, updated electrical, bathroom renovations, and painting. The work will continue this fall, when new metal will be installed on the exterior walls.



The Canwood Legion Hall was bustling, when the Canwood Legion hosted a musical afternoon.



The family of Leslie and Dianna Schutte perform at a musical afternoon put on by the Canwood Legion.

## PRAISE & WORSHIP

Regular services, Sunday school and special services will be listed.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br/>Zion - Canwood<br/>Sunday School,<br/>Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.<br/>St. John's - Shellbrook<br/>Sunday School,<br/>Live-stream worship<br/>service on Facebook,<br/>Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.<br/>Rev. Emmanuel Aristide</p> <p><b>PENTECOSTAL CHURCH</b><br/>Parkside<br/>10:30 a.m. Worship<br/>306-747-3572<br/>Shellbrook<br/>Adult Study<br/>9:30 a.m.<br/>Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship<br/>Pastor David Bodvarson<br/>306-747-7235<br/>Canwood<br/>Summer: 10 a.m. - Worship<br/>Pastor Bob Wrench<br/>306-468-2138<br/>Leask Gospel Tabernacle<br/>Sunday 11 a.m.<br/>306-466-2296</p> <p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b><br/>Mistawasis<br/>Sunday worship<br/>11:00 a.m.<br/>Rev. Katherine Bretzlauff</p> | <p><b>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN</b><br/>Parkside<br/>11 a.m. - Worship</p> <p><b>ANGLICAN CHURCH</b><br/>Leask - All Saint's<br/>Sunday Service - 9 a.m.<br/>St. Andrew's - Shellbrook<br/>Sunday, 11 a.m. Service<br/>Canwood - Christ Church<br/>Sunday, 2 p.m. - Service<br/>Rev. Wendell Brock<br/>306-460-7696<br/>H.C. Service with Rev.<br/>Brock - 1st Sunday of the<br/>month</p> <p><b>MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH</b><br/>Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel<br/>109 Railway Ave. W.<br/>Blaine Lake<br/>306-497-3316<br/>Sunday, 10:30 a.m.<br/>Worship</p> <p><b>EVANGELICAL FREE</b><br/>Big River<br/>11:00 a.m. - Worship<br/>Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.<br/>Summer: 10:30 a.m. - 12<br/>306-469-2258<br/>Youth Nite: Fridays<br/>Mont Nebo<br/>Sun. Worship - 11:00 a.m.<br/>(10:30 a.m. June - August)<br/>306-468-2525</p> | <p><b>UNITED CHURCH</b><br/>Big River<br/>Sundays<br/>10 a.m. - Worship<br/>at Anglican Church<br/>Rev. Dave Whalley<br/>306-747-2804</p> <p><b>CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br/>Debden<br/>Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.<br/>Fr. Mariusz Zajac<br/>Big River - Sacred Heart<br/>Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass<br/>Whitefish<br/>Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.<br/>Victoire<br/>Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.<br/>Fr. Mariusz Zajac<br/>St. Agatha's - Shellbrook<br/>Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.<br/>St. Henry's - Leask<br/>Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.<br/>Mistawasis<br/>1st &amp; 3rd Sundays 1:30 p.m.<br/>Fr. Tuan Doan</p> <p><b>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</b><br/>407-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook<br/>Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath School<br/>Sat., 11:00 am -Worship<br/>Broadcast on<br/>VOAR 92.1 FM<br/>Pastor Liviu Tilihoi<br/>306-747-3398</p> |
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## PRAISE & WORSHIP

Regular services, Sunday school and special services will be listed.

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| <p><b>PARTNERS IN FAITH</b><br/>Lutheran/United/<br/>Christchurch Anglican,<br/>137-2nd St. W.<br/>Spiritwood<br/>Worship 11:00 a.m.<br/>Rev. Sarah Urano</p> <p><b>UNITED /ANGLICAN</b><br/>Worship Services<br/>Glaslyn<br/>Time is on the sign<br/>Rev. Kun Kim<br/>Rev. Don Skinner</p> <p><b>CATHOLIC SUNDAY</b><br/>Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.<br/>Leoville - 9:30 a.m.<br/>Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m.<br/>Chitek Lake - Closed for<br/>the Season<br/>Everyone Welcome<br/>SATURDAY<br/>Medstead - 6 p.m.<br/>Father Ramel Macapala</p> <p><b>COWBOY CHURCH</b><br/>Spiritwood<br/>Every Wednesday Night<br/>7 pm<br/>Spiritwood Legion Hall<br/>Pastor Rick Martin</p> | <p><b>LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH</b><br/>(Corner of 1st Ave. and 4th<br/>St., Spiritwood)<br/>Sun., 11 am - Worship<br/>Service &amp; Sunday School<br/>Pastor Michael Kluthe<br/>306-883-2380</p> <p><b>FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH</b><br/>Glenbush<br/>Worship - 11:00 am</p> <p><b>BETHEL</b><br/>Medstead<br/>1st Sunday, 10 am -<br/>Worship<br/>Pastor David Jensen<br/>3rd Sunday - 10 am<br/>Worship<br/>Pastor David Jensen</p> <p><b>MENNONITE BRETHREN</b><br/>Glenbush<br/>10:00 am - Sunday School<br/>Worship 10:50 am</p> | <p><b>Gideons International of Canada</b><br/>Battlefords Camp<br/>Phone Art Martynes<br/>(306) 389-4633</p> <p><b>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</b><br/>407 - 2nd Ave .E,<br/>Shellbrook<br/>Sat., 9:45 am -<br/>Sabbath School<br/>Sat., 11:00 am - Worship<br/>Broadcast on<br/>VOAR 92.1 FM<br/>Pastor Liviu Tilihoi<br/>306-747-3398</p> <p><b>BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL</b><br/>11 am Worship Service</p> <p><b>PARTNERS IN WORSHIP</b><br/>Shell Lake<br/>Worship Services<br/>Sunday 9:00 a.m.<br/>Pastor Sarah Urano<br/>306-841-7333</p> |
|---|--|---|

# Minutes of a Spiritwood Town Council meeting

*(Where necessary, the following minutes may have been edited for clarity or brevity)*

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Spiritwood was held in the Council Chambers at the Spiritwood Town Office, 212 Main Street, on Sept. 13, 2022, at 7 p.m.

In attendance were,

Councillor Jim Bedi, Councillor Brad Nemish, Councillor Bryan Wingerter, Councillor Ragnar Latus, Councillor George Pretli, and Acting Administrator Brenda Beaulac.

Absent: Mayor Gary von Holwede, and Councillor Kiera Andres.

A quorum being present, Deputy Mayor Jim

Bedi called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m.

Latus: That the agenda be adopted as presented to form part of the minutes. Carried

Pretli: That the minutes of the Aug. 23, 2022, council meeting be adopted as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the correspondence be filed

as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve the Accounts for Ratification, Payments #963-1005, Cheques #32212-32215 in the amount of \$229,083.75. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve the following accounts for payment, Cheque No. 32216-32243 in the amount of \$49,513.53. Carried

Nemish: That we approve the following accounts for payment, Cheque No. 32244-32245 in the amount of \$275,614.59. Carried

Pretli: That the Bank Reconciliations for the month of August 2022 be filed as presented. Carried

Nemish: That the Financial Statement for the month of August 2022 be approved as presented. Carried

Latus: That the verbal reports be accepted as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve the development permit for 225 1st Street West pending the approval of compliance to the Town of Spiritwood Zoning Bylaw and the

building permit pending authorization from the Building Inspector. Carried

Latus: That we approve TC Tomanek Landscape quote for \$2,800 for tree removal at 225 1st Street West, pending confirmation of property owner's compliant Development and Building permit applications. Carried

Wingerter: That we deny the request for the Town of Spiritwood to participate in the Rick Reddekopp of Re/Max's fridge magnet advertising campaign. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve the December 2022/January 2023 Holiday Office Hours as follows:

- Dec. 23, 2022 - Closed
- Dec 26, 2022 - Closed
- Jan. 2, 2023 - Closed

And furthermore, we approve that between Jan. 3 to 6, 2023, the office will closed to public for Year End Processing. Carried

Wingerter: That we donate the Civic Center rental fees requested

by the Spiritwood Lions Club for the Seniors Appreciation Supper on Nov. 12, 2022, and Mayor von Holwede will attend and bring greetings as the town council representative. Carried

Pretli: That we allow Community Kitchen Group to use the Civic Center kitchen in 2022 & 2023 once a month at no charge, with the understanding that they clean up after each use. Carried

Wingerter: It is resolved, that Council support the application for the SGI Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant Program with a traffic safety project #PSE-JUL-2022-03 of the Sidewalk Adjacent to Highway 3 Safety Initiative. Carried

The Council meeting did not proceed to in Camera as per Section 23 of the Local Authority Freedom of Information.

Wingerter: That this meeting be adjourned at 7:39 p.m. and that the next meeting of Spiritwood Town Council be held at 7 p.m. on Sept. 27, 2022.

## Province, Ahtahkakoop partner on Saskatoon Urgent Care Centre

The Government of Saskatchewan and Ahtahkakoop Cree Developments (ACD) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to advance a new approach in the development of a new Urgent Care Centre in Saskatoon. This Urgent Care Centre will offer Saskatoon residents an alternative to emergency departments for illnesses and injuries that are not life threatening, as well as mental health supports.

"Today is an exciting day for the government, for our partners at Ahtahkakoop, and for the residents of Saskatoon who are looking forward to this new urgent care centre," Health Minister Paul Merriman said. "Urgent care centres are innovative facilities that will help us meet our province's evolving health needs, and this partnership is an innovative approach to delivering care."

Under the MOU, the government and ACD will identify suitable potential locations, develop design requirements for the facility, and develop potential economic models and project costs. It is anticipated that the facility would be built and owned by ACD and leased to the Saskatchewan Health Authority who would staff and operate it.

"The Saskatchewan Health Authority is excited to work with partners to progress this important project that will offer patients an alternative location to get the right level of care for urgent, but non-life-threatening health concerns which require same day treatment, rather than going to the emergency department," Saskatchewan

Health Authority Interim Chief Operating Officer Derek Miller said.

The MOU is a first step in formalizing the partnership. The MOU expires Dec. 31, 2022, and may be extended for up to 12 months. As the project planning progresses, subsequent partnership agreements may be negotiated between government and ACD.

"On behalf of the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation I am very proud to enter into this partnership with the province of Saskatchewan on the new Urgent Care Centre in Saskatoon," Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation Chief Larry Ahenakew said. "Today's announcement is historic and paves a path forward to improved access to urgent care, new supports for mental health and wellness and opportunities for training and employment for indigenous and non-indigenous citizens of Saskatchewan."

When complete, the UCC will provide enhanced access for Saskatoon residents to quality patient care for an illness or injury that requires urgent attention and will be available 24 hours, seven days a week. The centre will offer 24-hour/seven-days-a-week access and is also expected to lower wait times for health care issues requiring urgent medical attention.

The Saskatoon Urgent Care Centre is one of two centres announced as part of the government's \$7.5 billion capital plan to stimulate the province's economic recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Regina urgent care centre is currently under construction.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**SPIRITWOOD:** Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 9 am - 5 pm; Wednesday 9 am - 5 pm; Friday 9 am - 5 pm  
**LEOVILLE:** Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 3 pm  
**SHELL LAKE:** Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm; Wednesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm

**BLAINE LAKE:** Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11 am - 6 pm; Friday 11 am - 5 pm; Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.

**BIG RIVER:** Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11:30 am - 4:30 pm; Thursday 11:30 am - 4:30 pm. Phone # 306-469-2152

**CANWOOD:** Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Tuesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 4 pm; Friday 12 pm - 5 pm. Kids Club is Fridays 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Crafter's Choice is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

**DEBDEN:** Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10 am - 3 pm; Wednesday 3 pm - 7 pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

**LEASK:** Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Friday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Saturday 1 pm - 4 pm

**MARCELIN:** Wapiti Library - Tuesday 2 pm - 7 pm; Thursday 2 pm - 8 pm; Saturday 9 am - 2 pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.

**SHELLBROOK:** Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Monday 2 pm - 6 pm; Tuesday 12 pm - 8 pm; Wednesday 2 pm - 8 pm; Thursday 12 pm - 6 pm; Friday 9 am - 4 pm.

**CANWOOD:** Canwood & District Bus Assoc. Annual Craft & Home-Based Business Sale - Saturday, November 5, Canwood Elks Community Centre, 10am - 3pm. Come & do your Christmas shopping from the wide variety of crafts, etc. Lunch served • Free Admission

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# Hoback named to Conservative shadow cabinet

As new Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre takes over the reins of the party and the mantle of opposing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal federal government, a local MP has been tapped to serve in his shadow cabinet.



Prince Albert MP Randy Hoback

No stranger to such appointments over the course of his 14 years as an MP, Prince Albert MP Randy Hoback will serve as advisor to the Leader on Canada/US Relations, and Associate Shadow Minister for International Trade.

"Facilitating the relationship between our two legislative branches will continue to benefit Canadians," Hoback said in a statement following the appointment, calling it an honour.

The post is a familiar one for Hoback. Under former leader Erin O'Toole, Hoback was the Shadow Minister for International Trade and Supply Chain Resilience. He also held the International Trade critic position in Andrew Scheer's Shadow Cabinet.

All told, Poilievre tapped 71

of the party's MPs to play roles as shadow ministers or associate critics on varying portfolios, including his former leadership rivals Scott Aitchison and Leslyn Lewis. Aitchison will serve as Shadow Minister for Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, while Lewis was named critic for infrastructure and communities.

Poilievre's list of cabinet appointments was also notable for the names that weren't on it. British Columbia MP Ed Fast, who backed Jean Charest in the leadership contest, and Alberta MP Michelle Rempel Garner, who supported Patrick Brown before his disqualification and has been one of the party's strongest "moderate" voices, both failed to make the cut.

## Witchekan Lake FN COVID centre destroyed by fire

Anne Thomas, Chief of the Witchekan Lake First Nation, is sounding the alarm after the community's COVID centre was destroyed by a fire.

"This stems from the growing meth abuse in our community," Chief Thomas said.

The building, which was used to house community members who needed to quarantine

after testing positive for COVID-19, went up in flames the night of Oct. 5.

Thomas says the fire is one of a series that have occurred over this year, destroying 10 homes and buildings within the community. Fortunately, she adds, there haven't been any serious injuries or fatalities in any of the fires.



The Witchekan Lake FN COVID Centre goes up in flames on the night of Oct. 5, 2022.

## Minutes of an R.M. of Leask meeting

(Where necessary, the following minutes may have been edited for clarity or brevity)

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 held in the Leask Community Hall on Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022.

Council Meeting was called to order by Reeve Craig Hamilton at 8:57 a.m.

Present were Acting Reeve Craig Hamilton, Administrator Riannon Nelson and the following Council members: Real Diehl - Division No. 2, Gordon Stieb - Division No. 3, Joan Sanftleben - Division 4, and Clarke Gossen - Division No. 6.

Vacant: Division 5

Absent: Keith Junk - Division No. 1

Gossen: That the minutes of the July 13, 2022, Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented. Carried

Diehl: That Council Indemnity be approved for payment as presented. Carried

Stieb: That we approve the payments as listed on the attached "List of Accounts for Approval" for a total of \$660,316.16, Council Indemnity for August, Payroll Direct Deposit for Pay Periods 14 & 15 for 2022. Carried

Sanftleben: That we receive the Bank Reconciliation for July 2022. Carried

Gossen: That we approve the Statement of Financial Activities for July

2022. Carried

Diehl: That Bylaw 10-2021 attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes, being a bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 to close and sell a portion of undeveloped road allowance, now be read the first time. Carried

Stieb: That Bylaw 10-2021 attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes, being a bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 to close and sell a portion of undeveloped road allowance, be read the second time. Carried

Sanftleben: That we agree to give third reading of Bylaw 10-2021 at this meeting. Carried

Gossen: That Bylaw 10-2021 attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes, being a bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 to close and sell a portion of undeveloped road allowance, now be read the third time and adopted. Carried

Diehl: That we accept the attached agreements for sale of land from Calvin and Anita Rinas, Valerie Wonderham and Myron Schmalz. We authorize the administrator to contact Meridian Survey to complete the purchased road allowance process. Carried

Stieb: That Bylaw 03-2022 attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes being a bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 to amend the Zoning Bylaw, now

be read the second time. Carried

Sanftleben: That Bylaw 03-2022 attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes, being a bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 to amend the Zoning Bylaw, now be read the third time and adopted. Carried

Gossen: That Bylaw 04-2022 attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes, being a bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 to amend the Zoning Bylaw, now be read the first time. Carried

Councillor Gossen declared a pecuniary interest and left the Council chambers at 10:37 a.m.

Stieb: That we approve the well house replacement of the Duncans Beach Cabin Association well house on the existing utility easement. Council acknowledges the encroachment of approximately 1 metre. Carried

Councillor Gossen returned to Council chambers at 10:39 a.m.

Sanftleben: That as per the request from the lot owners we allow the consolidation of Lot 9 and 10, Block 6, Plan 78B17990. Carried

Gossen: That Bylaw 05-2022 attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes, being a bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 to amend the Zoning Bylaw, now be read the first time. Carried

Superintendent Martin arrived at the meeting at

10:58 a.m.

Stieb: That the administrator report be accepted as presented. Carried

Sanftleben: That we agree to hire Redberry Reno's to replace and install the fence along the South side of SW 27-48-07 W3 at the approximate cost of \$6,000. Carried

Superintendent Martin left the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Diehl: That we advertise for our current vacancy on the maintenance crew and for the position of Superintendent of Public Works. Carried

Superintendent Martin returned to the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Stieb: That we adopt the Farming of Municipal Road Allowance Policy as presented and attached to these minutes. Carried

Sanftleben: That we notify Prairie Spirit School Division that the proposed bus route includes a road that is not an all-weather access road and we are unable to accommodate the bus driver request. Carried

Gossen: That we purchase a 2014 Renn cross dump belly dump trailer in the amount of \$50,000 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Diehl: That we accept Superintendent of Public Works John Martin's written and verbal reports as presented. Carried

Stieb: That we accept Superintendent John Martin's letter of resignation dated Aug. 12. Carried

Superintendent Martin left the meeting for the day at 1:40 p.m.

Sanftleben: That in the matter of the Mistawasis TLE Land Selection, File 839.004 with regard to the SE 32-48-05 W3 and SW 32-48-05 W3: the road allowances are developed; and the municipality does wish to retain the road allowance located on the west side of the SW 32-48-05 W3. Carried

Gossen: That we approve the Dock Placement request by Brennan Campbell to place a dock adjacent to the Public Walkway between Lot 4D and Lot 5, Block 3, Plan 84B13418. Carried

Delegation: Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Chief

Kelly Wolfe, Councillor Carol Lafond and Councillor Curtis Lafond at 2:10 p.m. - 2:33 p.m.

Diehl: That we give John Martin a cash bonus of \$500 as a thank you for years of service. Carried

Stieb: That the Landfill Attendant vehicle allowance of \$30 per day is year-round. Carried

Sanftleben: That we authorize the administrator to attend the RMAA Community Planning Workshop in Prince Albert, SK, Oct. 19, 2022. Carried

Gossen: That the correspondence be received and filed. Carried

Diehl: That this meeting be adjourned at 2:40 p.m.



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## Dodgers should roll to championship

*Disclaimer: This column was submitted a few days in advance, and the writer was obviously not expecting the untimely demise of the Los Angeles Dodgers. However, the Dodgers' elimination does keep the writer's perfect sports prediction record of 0-455 intact. In future, we'll leave such prognostications to professional psychics, seers, or Kreskin.*

Major League Baseball regulations and television commitments require a long series of playoffs to determine a World Series champion, but really, don't we already know that the Los Angeles Dodgers are 2022's best team?

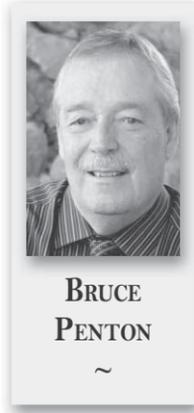
Canadian fans were hoping for a long playoff run by the wild-card-losing Toronto Blue Jays, but envisioning a Blue Jays' Series win was akin to a squirrel staking a claim to being the king of the jungle.

The Dodgers are having a historically terrific season, finishing the regular 162-game schedule with 111 victories against only 51 losses — a .685 win-

ning percentage. Even more remarkable was their runs for/against record, an MLB-leading +334. The Yankees were second-best, about 150 runs behind.

Larry, Curly, Moe, or any Stooge for that matter, could manage this group of all-stars, but the job goes to Dave Roberts, who has a plethora of talent to beat opponents into submission. If he needs a pitcher, he's got four solid starters from which to choose, including Julio Urias (17-7), Tyler Anderson (15-5), Tony Gonsolin (16-1) and future Hall of Famer Clayton Kershaw (11-3). The aforementioned quartet all had earned-run averages under 2.60 and if by chance the starters get in trouble, a bullpen to dream of is ready to pick up the slack.

Offensively, power hitting Freddie Freeman joined the Dodgers as a free agent this year. It was like Las Vegas getting another billion-dollar casino or Bill Gates winning the Powerball Lottery. The Dodgers were already a juggernaut without Freeman; with



BRUCE  
PENTON

him, it was unfair. It was a steamroller winning a street fight with a caterpillar, a bolt of lightning emerging victorious over a lone tree in a barren field. The former Brave and 2020 NL Most Valuable Player was second in batting average (.325), banded 21 home runs, drove in 109, and led the NL in doubles with 47. And if Freeman had an off-night, Roberts could look to Mookie Betts (35 homers), Will Smith (24), Max Muncy (21) or Trea Turner (20) for offence.

While it would be a stunner if the Dodgers failed to advance to the World Series, the American League is much more competitive. The Hous-

ton Astros won the most games, but Aaron Judge and his record-breaking 62 home runs has perhaps made 2022 the Year of the Yankees.

A Dodgers-Yankees World Series would be the first between those two teams since 1981, but they have a storied history of Fall Classic battles (1978, 1977, 1963, 1956, 1955, 1953, 1952, 1949, 1947, 1941). Judge, a free agent after this year, might use the series to showcase his talents to the Dodgers. Even Larry, Curly and Moe wouldn't have trouble finding a spot for him in the Dodgers' lineup next year.

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Clean and jerk' is: a) a composite of two weightlifting movements; b) how baseball hard-liners view the AL and NL season home run record-holders."

• Montreal columnist Michael Farber, on Twitter: "My wife is en route to a shelter with plans to adopt a cat. My list of suggested names: Clawed Julien, Nikolai Tabbybun, Al Iafate Cat, Nathan MacKitten. Guessing I'll

be outvoted."

• The Beaverton, on Twitter: "Who is faster? Connor McDavid or sponsors fleeing Hockey Canada?"

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Not one touchdown was scored in an ugly 12-9 game the Colts won over Denver. How bad was the game? If this game was a Kardashian it would be Robert. If this game was customer service it would be the DMV."

• Kaseberg again: "Aaron Judge set the non-stereoid home run record with his 62nd home run. It is the greatest moment for someone called Judge since O.J. Simpson was sentenced to prison."

• Headline at theonion.com: "Tom Brady urges Rob Gronkowski to join him for his last year of marriage"

• Steve Simmons of Sunmedia.com: "The next time you see an executive from Hockey Canada, he or she might be sitting on the sidewalk outside a restaurant, begging for spare change."

• Eagles centre Jason Kelce, via Twitter, on the

fan who ran onto the field with a pink smoke bomb on MNF: "These gender reveals sure are getting outa hand."

• Janice Hough of left-coastportsbabe.com, on the MNF interloper filing a police report against Bobby Wagner, the Broncos player who flattened him: "Uh, so maybe the guy's defence against a trespass charge is insanity?"

• Bob Molinaro of pilot online.com (Hamp-ton, Va.): "At long last, the NFL is ditching the Pro Bowl, though I'm not clear why a skills challenge is more watch worthy than a faux football game. But in honour of Tom Brady, let's hope we get to see quarterbacks compete in a Microsoft Tablet spiking contest."

• Nick Canepa of The San Diego Union-Tribune, on Bucs QB Tom Brady's smashing tantrum: "Brady broke two tablets vs. the Saints, tying the cherished 3,500-year-old world record set by Moses."

Care to comment? Email [brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca](mailto:brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca)

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Very little.

## GOOD NEWS

### SOMETIMES IT TAKES AWHILE BEFORE YOU CAN DANCE BEFORE THE LORD

I have a friend from the other side of the country. He likes to say Saskatchewan people dance inside.

In studying King David's life, I read that David danced before the Lord. Yet, before he got to that place, David went through a lot. King David sure had a passion for God. He desired to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. In the Old Testament the Ark of the Covenant spoke of the glory and presence of the Lord.

I find it interesting that even though King David knew lots about God's way, he missed it here. He got the Ark of the Covenant placed on a new oxcart. One thing King David learnt that day was that in order to get the blessings we have to do things God's way. Reading the Bible, the Ark of the Covenant was to be carried by the Levites, not an ox driven cart.

Things didn't go well the first time, so King David some three months later tried it a second time. It is a great thing to not give up. King David returned with the Levites and the same amount of resolve, and began to move the Ark of the Covenant towards Jerusalem.

I knew that King David was a war-

rior and a worshipper. I didn't know the full extent until I read that King David called together and supported thousands of singers so that there would be continuous worship before the Lord. That worship lasted for some 33 years. One year for each year Jesus would walk the earth.

The second attempt to move the Ark of the Covenant went well. As King David went towards Jerusalem with the procession, we read in 2 Samuel 6:13 "The Ark of the Lord had gone 6 paces that David sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep."

I never read the Scripture this way before, but some see it this way: that sacrifices took place every six paces. That would mean it would take 30,000 paces to cover the distance. That would mean the procession would have stopped 3,500 times to make sacrifices.

If that is the case maybe, the preacher is right who wrote, "No wonder David was dancing with all his might when they finally made it through the gates."

Sometimes it takes awhile before one can dance before the Lord.

A fellow traveller,  
Pastor D. Bodvarson,  
SPA

## A celebration of pumpkins

By Jill Thomson

In Saskatchewan, October could well be known as the month of the pumpkin, because of the 2 celebrations that both use pumpkins. In early October, on the Thanksgiving holiday, many families celebrate by eating a special meal together, and pumpkin pie is often a favourite dessert. On October 31, we celebrate Halloween, and pumpkins are on display, carved so that a light can be inserted into the hollow pumpkin, to illuminate the carved design.

Many grocery stores have large bins of pumpkins for sale, some of which are now supplied by local growers. There are also "pumpkin patches" where you can select and buy pumpkins that are either pre-picked, or you can go out into the field to select your own. I visited a patch a few weeks ago and it was a very happy place, with small children, and adults, enjoying being able to choose "their own" pumpkin.

It is not difficult to grow your own pumpkins as long as there is room in

your garden for a plant that likes to ramble, climbing any obstacles in its path. The seed can be sown directly into the soil once the soil temperature is at least 15°C. However, the plants do need at least 110 days to grow to maturity and it is better to start seeds indoors not more than 3 weeks before the danger of frost has passed. The young plants can then be transplanted. It is important to remember, however, that vine crops do not like to be transplanted so disturb the pumpkins roots as little as possible when transplanting. Pumpkins like a fertile soil, so well-rotted compost or manure should be incorporated before planting, and plants should be watered well during the growing season. They also like a sunny location, and we plant ours beside a corn row, as they will grow through or along the row. They will also climb up a frame, or wire, but then you need to provide a sling, or other support, for the developing fruit.

Pumpkins can grow very large, and heavy, depending on the variety you choose. Some gardeners like to grow huge varieties, with competitions to see whose is the largest. The world record weight in 2021 was 1226.1kg. That would make a lot of pies! Some people have grown them big enough to act as boats when they are hollowed out, and in 2021 a man from Nebraska paddled 38 miles down the Missouri, in a 384 kg pumpkin, to challenge the previous record of 25.5 miles.

Typically, we grow mid-sized pumpkins that are large enough to be carved at Halloween, but can still be carried by a strong adult. This year our 'Big Moon' plants produced big pumpkins suitable for carving, and 'Spirit' hybrid cultivar was good for pies. We do also cook the flesh of the carved pumpkins to feed to our dogs: this is an excellent addition to



A pumpkin carved by the Thomson family. Is this scary?

Photo Credit: Jill Thomson.

## OBITUARY

### Derryk Kyle Franson



Derryk Kyle Franson was born April 19, 2000, in Prince Albert, SK and passed away September 18, 2022, in the Spiritwood, SK district at 22 years of age. Derryk lived life to the fullest. He was full of light, laughter, and had an excitement for life. He brought so much joy to the people around him. Derryk enjoyed curling, hunting, archery, farming, quad-ding, fishing, mud bogging, but most of all he loved going skidooing in the mountains. He was a wonderful loving, caring son/brother and a special friend to so many.

Derryk will be missed so very deeply by his family and friends.

Derryk is lovingly remembered by parents: Doug and Gail Franson, his brother: Dyllan Franson (Taylor Olson), grandparents: Norman and Doris Colley, his aunts and uncles: Allen Colley (Joanne Rubisch), Gordon and Leanne Franson, Phyllis Mayoh, Jane and Les Christiansen, Linda Franson, Harvey and Dianne Franson, Chrystal Colley, special friends: Ron and Liz Schneider also numerous cousins and countless friends.

He is predeceased by his grandparents: Francis and Elsie Franson, his uncles: Keith Franson and Gary Mayoh.

The funeral service was held on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 2:00 pm at the Spiritwood Civic Centre with Pastor Rick Martin officiating. Music ministry was provided by Charles

and Claire Schira, the eulogy was given by Shirley Lehoullier and Derryk's good friends Craig Thompson, Olivia Parker, Dalton Harasym shared memories. Honorary pallbearers were considered "All relatives and friends who shared in Derryk's life". Pallbearers were Dyllan Franson, Craig Thompson, Dalton Harasym, Olivia Parker, and Clayton Patton.

Derryk's final resting place is in the Spiritwood Cemetery.

Friends so wishing may make donations to the Spiritwood Fire Department in Memory of Derryk Franson as tokens of remembrance.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit [www.beaulacfuneralhome.com](http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com). Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, R. Mark Muir Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

their diet and helps bulk-up a meal for any dog on a diet.

The tradition of carving pumpkins is connected to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, which marked the end of summer and beginning of the New Year in ancient Britain and Ireland. On that day the souls of those who had died would pass to the Otherworld, and other souls might return to visit their homes. In Ireland, people began to carve turnips into frightening faces, to scare away a particularly bothersome soul called Stingy Jack. The Irish folk who immigrated to the USA began to carve faces into pumpkins, which were readily available, unlike turnips. As the trend is now to make Halloween less frightening, and more a fun time for children, the carvings are not intended to be scary but are rather a display of the skill of the carver!

Pumpkin plants are native to North America, and have been farmed by indigenous people for over 9,000 years. Pumpkins ripen in the fall and were

used for feasts at that time. Early recipes mention roasting a hollowed pumpkin filled with milk, spices and honey, over an open fire. Native Americans gave settlers gifts of pumpkins and demonstrated how to cook them. It is likely that cooking pies using a sweet pumpkin filling would have been developed by settlers preparing Thanksgiving meals. There are many variations on the pie, my favourite is a pumpkin cheesecake. It has been estimated that about 50 million pumpkin pies are consumed for Thanksgiving every year in the USA.

Enjoy pumpkins this month; admire their glowing orange colours, the scrumptious desserts produced for Thanksgiving, and the elaborate carvings on display at Halloween.

Jill Thomson is a plant disease specialist (retired) who enjoys gardening with her family in Saskatoon.

This column is provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Perennial Society (SPS; [saskperennial@hotmail.com](mailto:saskperennial@hotmail.com)).



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#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the estate of Stanley Nickel, late of Leask, in the Province of Saskatchewan, deceased. All claims against the above estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before November 10, 2022.

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# Partnership to improve safety in Indigenous communities

**By: Michael Oleksyn,  
Local Journalism  
Initiative Reporter,  
Prince Albert Daily  
Herald**

On Monday, the Government of Saskatchewan, the Government of Canada and the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) signed an agreement to explore new, community-oriented ways to deliver police services and improve safety in First Nations communities.

The signing took place at the 2022 Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) Annual Assembly at the Prince Albert Exhibition Centre.

PAGC Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte was joined by Corrections, Policing and Public Safety Minister Christine Tell, and Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety, for the announcement of the new collaborative working relationship. Vice Chief Joseph Tsannie of PAGC was one of the chief architects of the letter of intent.

"We have been working on the community policing initiative since 2018," Tsannie told those in attendance. "We have come a long way. We are ready today to sign that letter of intent between the parties, between Canada, the province and the Prince Albert Grand Council on behalf of our First Nations communities."

The letter of intent calls for the PAGC to pursue a community-oriented public safety model for policing that will provide service to all 12 members nations (including the Sturgeon Lake First Nation), and 28 communities.

"It's a huge undertaking and we have got the initiatives, the mandate from our leadership to look at alternative ways in terms of creating a safe community for our community members and our children," Tsannie said.

Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte said the consultation process is the first step in creating safer communities. As part of the process, they'll draw on recom-

mendations from the PAGC's National Symposium on First Nations Policing and Justice that identified the need to decolonize policing, courts, and corrections in order to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, as well as the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

"What we are signing here is to work toward self-administered policing, to have our own police officers in our communities, to have that opportunity for the young people," Hardlotte said in his speech. "This is the work we can only achieve it if we work together and we work in our communities."

Ministers Tell and Mendicino, and Grand Chief Hardlotte signed a Letter of Intent between the three parties, officially establishing the PAGC Public Safety Implementation Team. This team will advance work on Indigenous-led public safety plans that are tailored to the needs of each community. It will begin engaging residents in early winter. The findings will help design and determine costs for a feasibility study under the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program.

"The vision of this letter of intent is to put in place the building blocks and the foundation to get to that moment," Mendicino said. "I cannot emphasize enough that it's not just about policing or in law enforcement. I spent about a decade on the front lines of law enforcement, Minister Tell has extensive experience in law enforcement. We need to look at ways to prevent crime from occurring in the first place."

"The work that is being done by my team at Public Safety Canada, Minister Tell's team here in Saskatchewan and PAGC will result in a vision of empowering Indigenous communities to put forward those programs and services and police services which they are prepared to do. That is the



**Left to Right: Minister Christine Tell, Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte and Minister of Public Safety Marco Mendicino pose after signing the letter of intent on Monday at the Prince Albert Exhibition Centre.**  
*Photo Credit: Michael Oleksyn/Daily Herald.*

whole purpose of commencing this letter of intent and signing it and, like I said inside the general assembly, to 'walk the talk,' he added.

The First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP) is a contribution program created in 1991 that provides funding to support professional, dedicated and responsive policing services.

Under the FNIPP, eligible costs are shared with provinces and territories in accordance with a 52 per cent federal and 48 per cent provincial/territorial cost-share ratio.

First steps have also been taken toward developing a comprehensive approach to community safety planning for PAGC communities. Public Safety Canada's Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative supports Indigenous communities in the development of a community safety plan specific to their unique circumstances.

Minister Christine Tell said the mass stabbing in James Smith Cree Nation and Weldon showed the need for a community-oriented policing approach.

"The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the value of community oriented policing for First Nations and Indigenous communities," she said in her speech. "Indeed, the tragic events at James Smith Cree Nation in early September have highlighted more than ever that this is an area that needs to be addressed by all levels of government."

"Collaboration, cooperation and respect are all imperative as we move forward with this strategy," she added. "We know there is more work to be done, but big changes happen with small steps."

The establishment of the

PAGC Public Safety Implementation Team is part of a larger implementation strategy to address policing for First Nation communities in Saskatchewan.

Speakers at the signing included Tsannie, Hardlotte, Tell, Mendicino, James Smith Cree Nation Chief Wally Burns and FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron.

Burns spoke from his heart after meeting with Mendicino at James Smith Monday morning. He was happy with the results, and pleased to see the signing of a new letter of intent, but added that process was still a painful one.

"Today was a good day on dialogue, dealing with the trauma, with our people, asking them and requesting them how they feel," Burns said. "This morning was very hard. A lot of them broke down and to me this shouldn't have happened to anybody or any nation."

"I am very honoured to have Minister Marco and also discussions that we had on James Smith with the family members on how we can cope and move forward. Moving forward is another tool in regards to working together and finding solutions to making sure we help our membership to heal."

Burns also appreciates what the letter of intent can do.

"We need our own policing, our own training," he explained. "Where do we start? You can plant that seed in the education part with our youth and telling them this is what we need."

Discussions about what this new community-oriented policing strategy will look like are to begin right away. Burns said representatives from James Smith will travel to Calgary next week to meet with the Siksika Nation to discuss their Indigenous policing model.

Tsannie said the engagement over the winter will ensure the design of the possible police forces will come from the grassroots.

"There is no one model," he said. "We have 28 communities and we have unique challenges with each of our First Nations communities. What happens in Fond Du Lac might not be the same down here so we have to adjust to the needs that we have in our communities."

Mendicino said that there is no timeline for introducing legislation to make Indigenous policing an essential service, but said they want to do it as soon as possible because the situation is so urgent.

Tsannie sees that legislation as another important step, but said it can't be rushed.

"That is going to be huge and we need to make sure that we are part of that legislation so that we can all be accountable," he explained. "It can't be drafted up by the Federal Government or the province it has to be together. The RCMP services that we have in our communities we are not getting rid of. The RCMP will always be there. They will be our partner—a true meaningful partner—in the spirit of reconciliation."

Saskatchewan and Canada are committed to community-oriented public safety and policing and working in the spirit of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through renewed relationships based on respect, co-operation and partnerships.

The Federal Budget 2021 provided \$861 million over five years, beginning in 2021–22, and \$145 million ongoing, to support culturally responsive policing and community safety services in Indigenous communities.

#1 REASON FOR READING

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Source: News Media Canada