

# Cost of keeping some civil servants home for COVID-19 could exceed \$600 million

The Canadian Press

The federal government has lost at least \$439 million so far this year in productivity through a policy that allows civil servants to stay home, with pay, during emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the country's budget watchdog said in a report released Friday.

Most of that total was a result of employees at the Canada Revenue Agency staying home, unable to work, with pay, during March 15 and May 31, said the Parliamentary Budget Office.

That department accounted for just over \$311 million in paid leave, far ahead of the second-costliest department, Correctional Services Canada, at more than \$33.8 million.

The report says the Canada Revenue Agency told the budget watchdog that limitations on work was the most common reason for taking leave, mostly related to compliance and collection activities being postponed during the pandemic.

The Public Service Alliance of

Canada, which represents the majority of federal employees, called the numbers "modest."

The PBO report was compiled at the request of Edmonton Conservative MP Kelly McCauley, who wanted to know the financial impact of the policy, known as pay code 699.

The policy allows federal employees paid leave for emergencies such as being sick with COVID-19, having to quarantine, not being able to access the technology they need to complete their work and having to care for dependants.

It does not require employee to first use up other forms of paid leave, such as vacation, family emergencies or accumulated sick leave.

"The data shows that vast majority of public service employees were able to work at full capacity while only a third were occasionally forced to use 699 leave," said PSAC national president Chris Aylward.

The PBO noted the leave amounted to about one per

cent of government salaries.

"The price of forcing layoffs and trying to rebuild the public service after the pandemic would have cost taxpayers tenfold - let alone the negative impact on our economy," Aylward said.

The PBO said 699 costs could be closer to \$623 million, government wide, because the Treasury Board Secretariat, which is responsible for the civil service, only provided information from 62 of the 88 federal public service organizations, representing about 70 per cent of government departments.

The PBO noted that it was not able to find a leave policy of a similar scope in the private sector, although some provinces have offered their employees some pay cushions.

"Many provincial governments have issued notices requiring managers to provide flexibility and allow employees to draw on future sick leave credits during the pandemic," the PBO report said.

# Iran shutdown of plane carrying Canadians 'illegal,' says Ukraine minister

The Canadian Press

A Ukraine minister says a preliminary analysis of flight recorders has revealed that Iran illegally shot down a passenger jet from his country over Tehran.

Yevhenii Yenin, Ukraine's deputy foreign minister, made the declaration in a Twitter post.

A spokeswoman for the Ukrainian embassy in Ottawa confirmed the legitimacy of the tweet but said her government had no further comment.

The declaration sheds light on what could become an opaque investigation, because Iran has become the official investigator even though its military shot down Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 on Jan. 8 shortly after it took off from Tehran.

All 176 people on board were killed, including 55 Canadian citizens and 30 permanent residents and dozens of others with connections to Canada.

Under Annex 13 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, Iran becomes the lead investigator for the crash because it was the "State of Occurrence."

That also gives Iran full con-

trol over what information is released publicly about the contents of the flight recorders.

Yenin's tweet appeared to clash with Annex 13 requirements, as it lifted the veil on what has been a long, stalled process by Canada, Britain, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Sweden - the countries that lost citizens when the plane was destroyed - to force Iran to co-operate.

"Grateful to all partners who helped bring this moment closer," Yenin tweeted, saying the black boxes were "read out and deciphered successfully. The transcript confirmed the fact of illegal interference with the plane. We are waiting for the Iranian side for the first round of talks next week."

The tweet offered no additional explanation.

Foreign Affairs Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne is publicly pressing Iran to share the flight recorders.

"That analysis now needs to be shared promptly with the international community to ensure a complete, credible and transparent flight safety investigation," Champagne tweeted.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## 8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages.....	403.529.8260
Gas Emergency.....	403.529.8191
Water & Sewer Emergency.....	403.502.8042
After Hours Special Services.....	403.526.2828



Medicine Hat  
The Gas City

### DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED JULY 16 TO JULY 22, 2020 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

#### RESIDENTIAL

<b>521C 5 AVENUE SE</b>	(Lot 1,2, Block 94, Plan 636M) PLDP20200919. Garage (Shed).
<b>341 ROSS GLEN DRIVE SW</b>	(Lot 151, Block 3, Plan 7911104) PLDP20200925. Single Detached House (Above Ground Pool).
<b>2867 15 AVENUE SE</b>	(Lot 3, Block 43, Plan 1655HS) PLDP20200928. Single Detached House (Covered Deck) and Garage.
<b>27 MCNEELY CRT SE</b>	(Lot 10, Block 4, Plan 7410139) PLDP20200989. Single Detached House (Addition).
<b>1110 30 VISCOUNT AVE SW</b>	(Lot 6, Block 4, Plan 1011691) PLDP20200990. Apartment (Enclosed Deck).
<b>270 5 STREET SW</b>	(Lot 37, Block 16, Plan 833M) PLDP20201004. Single Detached House (Above Ground Pool)
<b>24 CHINOOK DRIVE SW</b>	(Lot 20, Block 40, Plan 6280JK) PLDP20201024. Single Detached House (Covered Deck).
<b>57 CARTER CRES SE</b>	(Lot 14, Block 3, Plan 7910917) PLDP20201028. Single Detached House (Over Height Fence Variance).
<b>262 RANCHLANDS BOULEVARD NE</b>	(Lot 43, Block 13, Plan 0910426) PLDP20200015424. Multiple Unit Residential Development Including Secondary Suites and Detached Garages.



#### COMMERCIAL

<b>3806 BOX SPRINGS ROAD NW</b>	(Lot, Block, Plan) PLDP20200982. Industrial Operations (Office and Washroom Trailers).
---------------------------------	--

#### HOME OCCUPATION

<b>346 16 STREET NE</b>	(Lot 8, Block 5, Plan 1828LK) PLDP202000934. Office With Storage On Site. Mobile Food Vendor.
<b>28 SOMERSET ROAD SE</b>	(Lot 110, Block 6, Plan 1710710) PLDP20200975. Customers To Attend Site. Alternative Healing/Therapy.
<b>144 SEVEN PERSONS CRESCENT SW</b>	(Lot 44, Block 10, Plan 7711294) PLDP20200976. Office Use Only. Roofing/Siding Contractor.
<b>442 278 PARK MEADOWS DRIVE SE</b>	(Block 57, Plan 9711476) PLDP20201009. Office use only. Home Repair.
<b>453 WOODMAN AVENUE SE</b>	(Lot 12, Block 1, Plan 0112505) PLDP20201015. Office With Storage On Site. Online Sales (Crafts).
<b>970 16 STREET NE</b>	(Lot 24, Block 1, Plan 47JK) PLDP20201030. Customers To Attend Site. Sewing/Alteration/Dressmaking.
<b>965 5 STREET SE</b>	(Lot 9, Block A, Plan 23593) PLDP20201044. Office With Storage On Site. Janitorial Service.

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Officer or the Municipal Planning Commission may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within twenty-one (21) days of this publication. Notice of Appeal forms are available from the City Clerk Department, Third Floor, City Hall or on the City's website at [www.medicinehat.ca](http://www.medicinehat.ca)

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. Further information on any Development Permit may be obtained from the Planning & Development Services Department, Second Floor, City Hall during normal business hours (Telephone 403.529.8374).

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE BYLAW 4633 PLAN: 201 0123 - ROAD ALLOWANCE ADJACENT TO 901 - 13TH STREET SW

The municipal council of the City of the Medicine Hat gave First Reading on Monday, July 20, 2020 to Bylaw #4633, a road closure bylaw. The purpose of Bylaw #4633 is to close a road allowance for consolidation with the adjacent property at 901 - 13th Street SW. The intent is to allow for more onsite parking.

A Public Hearing in general accordance with the Municipal Government Act and the City's Procedure Bylaw, and consideration of the Second/Third Readings of proposed Bylaw #4633 will be held at the Esplanade Studio Theatre (401 First Street SE) on Monday, August 17, 2020, beginning at approximately 6:30 pm. This meeting will be open to the public with adjustments in place to ensure alignment with current Alberta Health requirements related to COVID-19. Seating for the public will be limited. Any person who claims to be affected by the proposed bylaw may make representation to City Council at the Public Hearing.

For further information please contact Planning & Development Services at 403.529.8374. Bylaw #4633 may be accessed via the 'Proposed Bylaws' section on the City's website at [www.medicinehat.ca](http://www.medicinehat.ca).

Anyone wishing to have a written submission concerning this proposed bylaw placed before the City Council must submit it to:

City Clerk Department, 580 First Street SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 8E6

by 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

Members of the public can view City Council meetings online at the City's YouTube account at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CityMedicineHat>.

All submissions are treated as public documents.

Dated at the City of Medicine Hat, in the Province of Alberta, this 25th day of July, 2020.

Angela Cruickshank, City Clerk  
Phone 403.529.8234  
Fax 403.529.8324  
E-mail: [clerk@medicinehat.ca](mailto:clerk@medicinehat.ca)

### ASSESSMENT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION PACKAGES

The City of Medicine Hat Tax Assessment department has mailed out Assessment Request for Information (ARFI) packages to property owners of improved non-residential and multi-family property classes.

This process of collecting property related data is the first step towards developing the 2021 assessment roll. Collecting data annually ensures the assessment roll reflects current market information.

Completing the ARFI is an important part of the tax assessment process. Assessment values are established to allow for equitable distribution of taxes. Higher response rates will increase the statistical confidence level in the resulting assessment values. It is important for property owners to retain their ability to participate in the assessment appeal process. For property owners to be eligible to appeal their 2021 assessment, they must respond completely to a ARFI by the July 31, 2020 deadline.

As always, property owners are encouraged to contact the Assessment department directly if they have questions regarding their property assessment or if they require any assistance in completing their request for information forms.

Dated this 6th day of June 2020.  
Sue Sterkenburg, AMAA  
City Assessor

### NOTICE OF FIRST READING DEBENTURE BORROWING BYLAW #4625

TAKE NOTICE that the municipal council of the City of Medicine Hat gave first reading on Monday, July 20, 2020 to Borrowing Bylaw #4625. In order to complete the project (the "Project") listed below, the City has elected to borrow monies from the Alberta Capital Finance Authority (ACFA) or another authorized financial institution by the issuance of debenture, pursuant to Section 258 of the Municipal Government Act RSA 2000 Chapter M-26.

Bylaw #	Purpose of Borrowing	Estimated Total Cost	Amount to Be Borrowed
4625	2020 Electric Generation Plant (Unit 17)	\$66,000,000	\$66,000,000

The Municipality shall repay the indebtedness of Bylaw #4625 according to the repayment structure in effect, namely semi-annual or annual equal payments of interest only or combined principal and interest installments for a period not to exceed twenty (20) years calculated at a rate not exceeding the interest rate fixed by the Alberta Capital Finance Authority or another authorized financial institution on the date of the borrowing and not to exceed ten percent (10%).

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that, unless a sufficient petition demanding a poll of the electors is received within 15 days following the date of the last publication of this Notice, the Council may pass the said borrowing bylaw as described in the Municipal Government Act, Sections 219 to 226.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that a copy of the aforesaid proposed Bylaw may be accessed via the "Proposed Bylaws" section on the City's website at [www.medicinehat.ca](http://www.medicinehat.ca).

DATED at the City of Medicine Hat, in the Province of Alberta, this 25th day of July, 2020.

Angela Cruickshank, City Clerk  
Phone: 403.529.8234  
Fax: 403.529.8324  
E-mail: [clerk@medicinehat.ca](mailto:clerk@medicinehat.ca)

### WATER MAIN FLUSHING & FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS

Environmental Utilities performs regular, routine maintenance to uphold the water quality and system infrastructure by annually flushing water mains and inspecting fire hydrants.

During these operations, there may be some discoloration in the water which is not harmful to consume and will disappear when flushing is complete. Please note that discoloured water should not be used for laundry and that fluctuating water pressure may also be noticed.

Should discoloration persist beyond three hours, turn on your cold water tap or an outside sprinkler and let the water run for several minutes until the water runs clear.

For additional information or to confirm whether crews are working in your zone, refer to the Water Flushing Programs page on the City's website at [www.medicinehat.ca/feu](http://www.medicinehat.ca/feu) or contact Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

### DEFECTIVE STREETLIGHTS Resident Alert

If you reside in the City of Medicine Hat, Redcliff or Dunmore and you notice a streetlight that is not operating properly, please notify Electric Utility at:

[www.medicinehat.ca/reportaproblem](http://www.medicinehat.ca/reportaproblem)

Or, call **403.529.8262**. If after hours, please leave a message.

Please have the following information when submitting your report:

- streetlight number
- street address or nearest house number, office or store
- nature of problem (i.e. cycling between on and off, always off etc.)
- number of lights out (single light, multiple lights, sequence of lights)

