

FROM THE FRONT...

Building their son an early memory of a lifetime

From Page A1

“This is what we did, this is how many people showed up, random people, we didn’t even know who voted,” said Navdeep, who has been keeping screenshots to share with his son. “Just to show him when he grows, he’s not going to remember, so when he grows up, we have a story, already building a memory for him.”

Simran says despite being only three months old, her son is already full of personality and enjoys smiling to ladies he meets.

“He’s a charmer,” Simran says, describing his interactions during health appointments and visits from the family realtor. “Whenever they smile at him, he loves to smile at them. He is a charmer, but only a ladies’ man, not so much with the men.”

Whimsically, Simran says she has to remind

her son that their realtor is a married woman and “not to try your luck.”

From now until Oct. 22 Hatters can vote for their local Baby of the Year nominee online once per day for free, and can also support the Baby2Baby charity by purchasing more votes.

If Mehtab, who is currently ranked at ninth spot in votes, is able to advance to the next “semifinal” round, Hatters will be able to vote once per day from Oct. 23-29.

The final round of voting will take place from Oct. 30 to Nov. 5.

The web address to vote for Mehtab can be found at babyoftheyear.org/2026/mehtab-3157. The link can also be shared through social media.

The *News* will follow the quarter-final round and let readers know whether Mehtab advances to the next semifinal round.

Question on Senate garnering some positive attention

From Page A1

Somerville said she voted against all but one of the premier’s proposals. She voted yes to lobbying other provincial governments to garner support for abolishing the Senate.

She said the upper house was “useless” and that if abolishment wasn’t an option, she’d like to see the seats be subject to elections rather than the current appointment process handled by the prime minister.

Hashmi said he voted “no to the nine” — a slogan used by critics and third-party advertisers pushing against Smith’s referendum proposals. Hashmi said he would have considered voting yes to that but felt doing so would be a sign of support for Smith’s government.

“Is the unelected Senate bad? Yes, it sucks. It is an archaic and broken part of our Constitution,” he said. “But Danielle Smith and her government are a broken and archaic part of my day-to-day life.”

In Calgary, there was no line for voters in the afternoon at a northeast polling station.

Chris Pichette said outside the polling station that she voted for Alberta to have a binding separation referendum and that she hopes the majority of voters do the same.

Pichette said she’d like to see Alberta stop sending money to Ottawa. “We get nothing in return for it,” she said.

Another Calgary voter, Kevin Chow, decorated his face with “I Voted!” stickers in hopes that it would encourage others to cast a ballot. Chow said no country was perfect but that

everyone was trying their best to make Canada succeed.

“I’m happy for what it is,” he said.

Opposition NDP Leader Naheed Nenshi cast his vote in Calgary on Tuesday and encouraged all Albertans to vote to stay Canada and reject the premier’s other nine proposals.

Nenshi said he was concerned about voter apathy on the pro-Canada side and said motivated separatists would benefit from a low voter turnout.

“They will crawl over broken glass to vote, and I don’t want pro-Canada voters to see a long line and go, ‘Oh, we’ve got it in the bag,’” Nenshi said.

Smith’s office said the premier will vote at advance polls later this week and will vote to stay in Canada.

Michelle Gurney, a spokesperson for Elections Alberta, said the first day of advanced voting was going well, but that there were minor delays at 17 polling stations due to technology issues.

The agency said in a news release that the issues were fixed and that affected polling stations would stay open later to make up for it.

The start of advanced voting comes after Elections Alberta saw record interest in special ballots for the referendum. Roughly 658,000 Albertans requested to vote by mail.

Gurney said that as of Monday evening about 60 per cent of those ballots had been returned ahead of the Friday deadline.

-- with files from Bill Graveland

EXPLAINER:

A breakdown of the Oct. 19 referendum – Question 7

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In the lead-up to the Oct. 19 referendum, *Southern Alberta Newspapers* is sharing a series explaining and examining the first nine questions on the ballot.

Question 7:

“Do you support the Government of Alberta working with the federal government and the governments of other provinces to amend the Canadian Constitution to abolish the Senate of Canada?”

The United Conservative Party government contends that abolishing the upper house is necessary to eliminate an unelected, unaccountable body and streamline federal legislative processes.

Premier Danielle Smith and the UCP government have consistently criticized federal institutional structures, arguing the Senate fails to adequately represent Western interests, and consumes significant taxpayer resources.

Proponents argue that replacing or removing the Senate would eliminate redundant legislative oversight and ensure political power rests entirely with elected members of the House of Commons.

Critics and legal scholars however, point to steep constitutional hurdles and historical regional protections embedded within the parliamentary system.

Richard Mailey, PhD, director of the Centre for Constitutional Studies at the University of Alberta, says federal Senate seats are distributed on a regional basis, with 24 given to each of four regions, plus six for Newfoundland and one each for the Territories.

Mailey says in the early 1990s, Canadian provinces and the federal government agreed to a Senate reform package as part of a larger constitutional amendment deal that would have equalized seat shares and created an elected Senate.

However, Canadian voters ended up rejecting the package in a national referendum, with Albertans voting against it by a notably large margin.

The extra twist with Question 7, Mailey says, is that it concerns complete abolition rather than reform.

In the mid-2010s, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Senate abolition requires a higher level of consensus than less drastic reforms, specifically requiring resolutions in the House of Commons, the Senate and every single provincial legislature.

Because Senate abolition would alter the constitutional

amending process itself, unanimity is legally required across all 10 provinces.

Mailey says no constitutional amendment has ever passed using this unanimous consent procedure, making successful abolition highly challenging due to how easily negotiations can be halted by holdout legislators in a single province.

Megan Aiken, PhD, a tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Lethbridge, says the Senate was originally designed to ensure representation for smaller provinces.

“The history of the Senate is that it was really created in order to provide representation for provinces that wouldn’t be well represented in the House of Commons,” Aiken said. “The House of Commons is rep by pop, representation by population, and so there is a de facto lack of representation that would be from the Atlantic provinces.”

Aiken says achieving constitutional abolition would require an exceptionally difficult legal process under Canadian law.

Following a 2014 Supreme Court of Canada reference ruling, abolishing the Senate requires unanimous consent rather than the general 7/50 amending formula.

“The Supreme Court actually ruled that the general procedure doesn’t apply to abolishing the Senate,” Aiken said. “It’s all under the unanimity procedure, which as you can guess from the name, is not just unanimous approval from all provinces, but also the federal government, which is very crucial as well.”

Aiken says initiating broad constitutional talks often opens a Pandora’s box of competing regional demands that can stall negotiations for years.

“Even if the process were initiated, easily a decade,” Aiken said of how long such negotiations could stretch. “It is a years-long process if it ever does anything. It could just be years and years of wasted resources, negotiations, redirection away from on-the-ground issues in Alberta to what I would consider kind of pie-in-the-sky ideas.”

Given the requirement for total consensus across every province and Parliament, experts view complete abolition as practically improbable, saying Atlantic provinces would likely resist losing guaranteed parliamentary representation.

Because the ballot questions are non-binding, observers say the vote functions primarily as a political mechanism to gauge public backing for constitutional reform rather than an immediate restructuring of Parliament.

Don't Quote Me

I Need a New Computer

Rearrange the words below to complete the quotes.

1

COMPUTER HARDWARE IT PART SPILL STOPS WHEN

"_____ : the _____ of the _____ that _____ working _____ you _____ coffee on _____."

— Dave Barry (1947-) U.S. journalist and humorist

2

BLAMES COMPUTER FINALLY IF MISTAKE PERFECT UP

"They _____ came _____ with the _____ office computer. _____ it makes a _____, it _____ another _____."

— Milton Berle (1908-2002) U.S. comedian and actor

1. Rearrange the part of the computer that stops working when you spill coffee on it.

2. They finally came up with the perfect office computer. It makes a mistake, it blames another computer.

www.DontQuoteMe.com

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2026-10-14

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CRYPTOQUIP

LG L ZRWXIK TBJICBKD XB

UNRC RW ITYROLWU SIGX-ZLWU

OBSLXLYLRW, L'K ONBCRCS D

YND, "YRNOI KIJ!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A MEETING IS SUITABLE TO BE HELD AT A MOTEL, I GUESS YOU WOULD SAY IT'S INN-APPROPRIATE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals C

AXYDLBAAXR

is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three Ls, X is for the two Os, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

Conceptis

SUDOKU

数独

6	5	1	9	2	3	8	4	7
4	3	8	6	7	5	2	9	1
7	9	2	1	8	4	3	5	6
1	7	3	8	4	9	5	6	2
2	4	5	7	3	6	1	8	9
8	6	9	2	5	1	4	7	3
9	1	4	5	6	2	7	3	8
5	8	6	3	1	7	9	2	4
3	2	7	4	9	8	6	1	5

			8			9	2	
	7			4				6
	1		9					3
					5	1		
3						4	9	2
9				6				4
	5		4	7				
6		4			3	2	7	

Level: Intermediate

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level increases from Tuesday to Saturday.

Medicine Hat

NOTICE OF RECONVENED PUBLIC HEARING

At the Regular City Council Meeting on October 5, 2026, City Council passed a resolution to recess and reconvene the **Public Hearing regarding Bylaw 4890-2026 – Rezoning of 22 Sierra Green SW.** The Public Hearing was opened as scheduled and has been recessed to be reconvened on:

Date: October 19, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: City Hall

As this is a reconvened Public Hearing and not a new Public Hearing, no additional written submissions or public representations will be accepted. Council will only consider information and submissions that were received prior to the close of submissions for the original Public Hearing and any presentations that were made before the hearing was recessed.

The purpose of the reconvened hearing is to allow Council to continue and conclude the Public Hearing process that was previously commenced. All submissions received before the original hearing date remain part of the public record and will be considered by Council.

For additional information, please review the agenda package: **October 5, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Agenda Package** or contact the City Clerk department at 403-529-8221 or clerk@medicinehat.ca

www.medicinehat.ca

NEED TO REACH MILLENNIALS?

New survey results show that **nine out of ten** Millennials read newspapers weekly in print or digital formats.

83%

Adult 18+

89%

Gen Y/Millennials

87%

Gen Z

Results are sourced from a December 2022 national online research survey managed by Totum Research. Interviews were conducted with 2,755 English and French Canadians in every province, and results were weighted to be nationally representative.

Gen Y/Millennials = born 1980-1995 (age 27-42); Gen Z = born 1996-2003 (age 19-26)

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