

# Alberta highlights Indigenous roots of restorative justice as \$720K grant deadline approaches

**GEORGE LEE**  
Local Journalism Initiative

Restorative justice funding in Alberta leverages practices that are deeply rooted in the Indigenous communities of Turtle Island and their teachings, a cabinet minister emphasized on Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

“National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is an important day to recognize our history and the work that continues toward reconciliation,” Justice Minister Mickey Amery said on Wednesday, Sept. 30.

“That work carries into our justice system, where we continue to support Indigenous approaches to justice and restorative practices that communities have relied on for generations.”

Contacted by The Macleod Gazette about the Alberta Restorative Justice Grant, Amery

added: “I cannot talk about restorative justice without identifying and highlighting the important role Indigenous communities have played in developing and pioneering restorative justice in our country. We certainly use that as an example in all that we do.”

Applications close Oct. 7 for awards worth up to \$50,000 for restorative justice initiatives across the province. The grant has seen its annual dollar allocation double since its inception over two decades ago.

Valued at \$720,000 in all in 2026, the grant blends effective Indigenous-type practices into the mainstream. Restorative justice programs have been shown to reduce pressure on the regular courts and reduce recidivism, a term for the tendency towards reoffence.

Alberta has seen “time and

time again” that recidivism is “dramatically reduced when we employ restorative justice mechanisms,” said Amery, the UCP member representing Calgary-Cross.

Depending on the program, repeat offences can be half as common among those in restorative justice than they are among offenders sentenced to probation, the federal government has found.

Restorative justice emphasizes community healing and rebuilding trust, with offenders directly facing victims and others. Offenders typically redress the harms they’ve caused through community service and person-to-person actions.

Among its tools are healing circles and other meetings involving community leaders, victims and perpetrators, focused on making restitution

and building understanding.

Eligible for the grants are non-profit groups and charities, community-based coalitions or networks under an incorporated fiscal agent, municipalities and various Indigenous groups. Also eligible are youth justice groups that don’t have current funding from the ministry.

Grants can be used for wages, travel, training and administration, along with operational costs like materials, evaluations and honorariums.

Amery said the program always attracts more applications than there is funding to support, so the selection process is challenging.

“There’s a delicate balancing act in making sure that we have organizations that receive our support all across the province geographically,” he said, “but also that the organizations

reflect the deep diversity of Albertans and the marginalized communities that truly need and could benefit from restorative justice supports (of the kind) we like to offer through our partners on the ground.”

Back in 2024, recipients included the Sweetgrass Youth Alliance in Lethbridge for an Indigenous youth restorative justice program, the Town of Cochrane for managing low-risk offences, and the Tsuut’ina Stoney Corrections Society for information sessions on legislation and civil processes.

Alexander First Nation northwest of Edmonton was funded for a plan focusing on reducing community drug use and criminal activity, and the John Howard Society of Red Deer got money to address needs and barriers to transitioning from corrections to community life.

# Market Watch

|                                            |                                          |                                    |                                       |                                     |                                               |                                         |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>S&amp;P/TSX</b><br>35,502.65<br>+347.89 | <b>S&amp;P 500</b><br>7,722.72<br>+56.27 | <b>DOW</b><br>51,176.96<br>+250.40 | <b>NASDAQ</b><br>27,190.86<br>+319.27 | <b>DOLLAR</b><br>70.20¢US<br>-0.01¢ | <b>OIL per barrel</b><br>US\$91.11<br>-\$1.76 | <b>GOLD</b><br>US\$4,162.30<br>-\$40.00 |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|

# PUBLIC NOTICES



Medicine Hat

## 8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

|                        |              |                                                    |              |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Electric Outages ..... | 403.529.8260 | Water & Sewer Emergency.....                       | 403.502.8042 |
| Gas Emergency.....     | 403.529.8191 | Municipal Infrastructure Emergency Assistance..... | 403.526.2828 |

### DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED SEPTEMBER 24 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

#### RESIDENTIAL

480 HILTON CRESCENT NE - Change Of Use To Continuing Care, Limited

#### COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL/ INSTITUTIONAL

644 16 STREET SW - Change Of Use To Specialty Food Store

622 3 STREET SE - Change Of Use To Art Studio

#### HOME BUSINESS

369 ROSS GLEN DRIVE SE - Home Business Minor - Teaching.

111 20 STREET NE - Home Business Minor - Photography and Equipment. (Refused. No application fee payment / Incomplete application).

956 QUEEN STREET SE - Home Business Minor - Photography and Equipment.

403 749 8 STREET SE - Home Business Minor - Home Repair/Landscaping/Computer Services.

47 2 STREET NW - Home Business Minor - Service (Art Therapy).



**Scan code**  
to view development notices online (updated weekly)

### GAS, ELECTRIC, WIND ENERGY RATES SET FOR OCTOBER

**Medicine Hat - The City of Medicine Hat has set its October energy commodity rates.**

#### Natural Gas – all customers

The October natural gas default rate is \$1.907 per gigajoule (GJ), up from the previous month of \$1.250 per GJ.

The rate is based on the weighted average cost of the City's natural gas purchases for the month of consumption, plus \$0.07/GJ to recover transactional costs and a small rate of return, in accordance with the Gas Utility Bylaw 2489.

#### Electricity – Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial, Unmetered Services and Rental Lighting

The calculated electricity rate for October, November and December 2026 is \$0.0419/kWh which, under the Electric Utility Bylaw 2244, defaults to the minimum \$0.07000/kWh for Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial, Unmetered Services and Rental Lighting customers.

The rate is based on a 12-month, volume weighted forecast as per the ICE-NGX wholesale electricity energy market, not to exceed a maximum of 11 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) or go below a minimum rate of seven cents per kWh and is recalculated on the first business day of January, April, July, and October.

#### Electricity - Large Commercial, Industrial and Street Lighting Customers

The current default electricity rate for Large Commercial, Industrial and Street Lighting customers is \$0.12025 per kilowatt hour.

The rate is based on the average of the rates for owners whose regulated rate tariffs are approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission under section 103(2) of the Electric Utilities Act for that calendar month as posted by the Alberta Utilities Commission on its internet page under Rate of Last Resort (ROLR) Regulation.

Under the new ROLR Regulation, this fixed rate is expected to remain in place until December 31, 2026.

# Retailers face tougher search for space as construction drops to 10-year low: JLL

**TARA DESCHAMPS**  
The Canadian Press

Store owners might be having a harder time finding rental properties as the amount of retail space under construction in major Canadian markets dropped to its lowest level in a decade.

Retail construction starts amounted to 1.5 million square feet in the first half of this year, commercial real estate firm JLL said in a new report.

That was down from 2.7 million square feet a year prior and 5.3 million in the first half of 2016.

The previous low during the decade came in 2023, when retail construction starts totalled 1.9 million square feet.

JLL's senior vice-president of retail Paul Ferreira attributed the drop in starts to rising building costs, the increasing redevelopment of existing retail space, particularly in malls, and the cancellation of some residential projects that would have had stores on the ground floor.

Ferreira said these factors have left some businesses with fewer rental options.

“Retailers that want to grow are finding it more challenging today to find space than they would have five or 10 years ago,” he said Friday. “It means that they have to adapt their formats to the kind of space that is becoming available.”

Adding to the challenge are low vacancy rates across most categories of retail space.

Leasing has also declined, the company said.

That's because “first and foremost, there isn't space to move into or some of the larger blocks of space that are available have more homework to be done,” Ferreira said.

“Supply is tough to deliver ... so I think landlords who do have the supply are being much more careful in how they are merchandising the space they have and making their long-term decisions.”

Many of them have their eye on supermarkets, he said. On the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic, grocers are seen as more stable tenants because they didn't have to temporarily close like other businesses when the economy shut down.

They also drive weekly visits from customers and because they sell essential items, are resilient in the face of inflation and other economic swings.

Plus, other tenants like pharmacies, banks and personal service businesses like to be near a grocer, helping landlords with vacancies, Ferreira said.

JLL's research found that 96 per cent of new properties built since 2022 in what it calls the “daily needs” category are being anchored by grocery tenants, up from 74 per cent between 2016 and 2021.

Grocers had the third highest number of new opening announcements in the first half of this year.

Supermarkets trailed dining establishments, which made up 33 per cent of the opening announcements, and apparel and accessories retailers, which sat at 26 per cent, in JLL's analysis.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD CONTINUATION OF APPEAL #3-2026 2850 54 ST SE (PORTION OF SE ¼ SEC 16 TWP 12 RGE 5 W4M)

TAKE NOTICE THAT the following appeal will be heard by the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board at a public hearing in City Hall Council Chambers, commencing at **10:00 am on October 6, 2026.**

On August 12, 2026, Planning and Development Services approved a development permit application PLDP20260263 from Michael Weber. This Development Permit application proposes to develop a campground. An application was made under the City of Medicine Hat Land Use Bylaw 4168, which was in effect at the time of the application. The Land Use District of the subject site was Open Space District at the time of the application. The appellant is appealing the approval of this development permit.

If you wish to view any documentation with regard to this matter, you may do so by attending the City Clerk Department, 3rd Floor, City Hall between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Melissa Wagner,  
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Clerk  
580 First Street SE  
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8E6  
Phone: 403.529.8221  
e-mail: clerk@medicinehat.ca

### FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS & WATER MAIN FLUSHING

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

During these operations, there may be some discolouration in the water which is not harmful to consume and will dissipate when flushing is complete.

It is important to note that discoloured water should not be used for laundry, and that fluctuating water pressure may also be noticed.

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

# NOTICE

Please be advised the last day for water deliveries in the St. Mary River Irrigation District will be **THURSDAY October 8, 2026.**



ST. MARY RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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# 50% OFF

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