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# Plain & Valley

Februar 2026 • Volume 19 Number 2

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Some of last year's burgers, including the Windsor Classic Burger, above left, the Red Barn's 9 Yards Burger, middle, and Blueberry Kitchen's Kind Of A Big "Dill" Pickle Burger, right.

## Moosomin area Burger Week planned for March 2-8

Eleven restaurants participating from Moosomin, Rocanville, Wapella, Fleming, & Maryfield

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Eleven restaurants in the Moosomin area will be participating in Burger Week this year, which will run from March 2-8, giving people seven days to try the tasty burger creations on offer from local restaurants.

Restaurants from five different communities—Moosomin, Rocanville, Wapella, Fleming and Maryfield—are all involved in Burger Week this year.

The participating restaurants include the Red Barn, Cork & Bone, Witch's Brew, Dairy Queen, Skout Brewing, Trendz, Marcantile, and the Nutrien Sportsplex in Moosomin, Blueberry Kitchen in Rocanville, the Fleming Windsor Bar & Grill in Fleming, Wendy's Place in Wapella, and the Arlington Hotel in Maryfield.

Burger stamp cards will be handed out at each of the participating restaurants. People can get their card stamped at each restaurant they dine at. When they get their card stamped at five different restaurants they can leave the card at that restaurant and start a new card or bring their completed card to the World-Spectator office in Moosomin for a chance to win \$500 in Moosomin

Bucks.

People will also get a chance to vote on their favorite burger. A certificate will be given out to the winning restaurant.

"Everyone loves burger week and we can't wait to see what our local restaurants come up with for their burgers this year," says Kevin Weedmark with the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce. "Not only do the businesses have fun doing it, customers look forward to it every year, and it's great for the local economy, with the participating restaurants selling hundreds of burgers each year."

This marks the sixth year for Burger Week. Last year's winning burger was the Fleming Windsor's "Windsor Classic Burger."

"I think it's just a really good thing. It gets people out and gets everybody a little bit excited about something different at a time of the year when everybody typically stays inside and kind of avoids going out," says Myrna Dingman with the Fleming Windsor Bar & Grill.

"It's a quiet time of year. So I think it's perfect for everybody. It's perfect for the businesses too, because it's a

really slow time of the year for most of us."

Dingman says Burger Week really makes a difference. "We sell three times what we normally would at least. It's a pretty huge difference to us," she says.

She says the Fleming Windsor puts a lot of thought into what their burger will be each year, and starts working on ideas about two months in advance.

"Around Christmas, we kind of start tampering with things and looking at different ideas," she says. "We watch cooking videos, and we'll try different things and tweak them a little bit."

Dingman said last week her burger was still a secret, but she's looking forward to how people react to it.

"I'm excited about this year's burger," she says. "I think it's a different flavor. It will have our fresh ground beef, and this year, we are making our buns in house every day. So that's something new for us. We just started that a few months ago, making all our buns fresh every day."

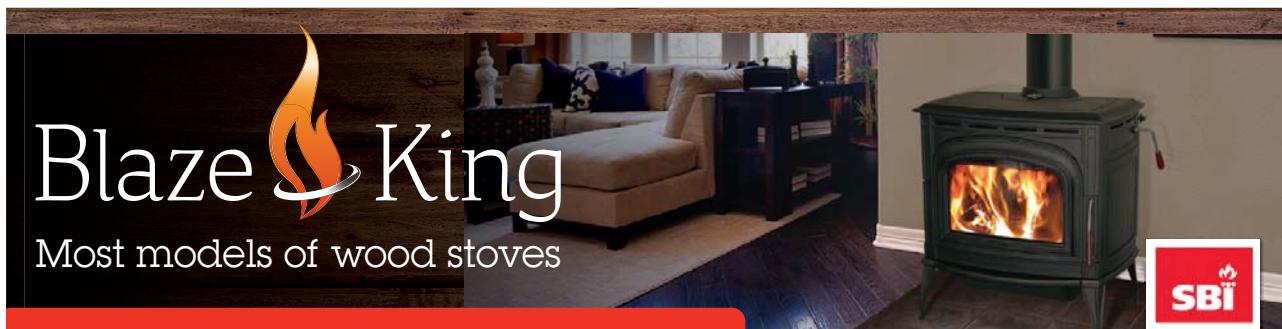
She says customers always look forward to Burger Week.

*Continued on page 13*

  
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**On Monday, February 16**

## Winter Wonderland coming up on Family Day Monday



Some moments from last year's Winter Wonderland. Each year the park board hosts different events at the lake so that people can enjoy the park in the winter.



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BY NICOLE TAYLOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Winter Wonderland at Moosomin Regional Park is coming up next Monday, February 16 on the Family Day Monday. People will get a chance to experience Moosomin Regional Park in the winter.

"There will be sleigh rides, hot dogs, hot chocolate, and a ski-doo derby," says Kyle Jeannot with the Moosomin Regional Park board.

"I think the biggest thing right now is having activities out there for people to do and come and enjoy the day and experience the park in the winter."

Events will take place by the marina, in the same place they were held last year.

Jeannot says about 150 people came out for the event last year, but says it was also a very cold and windy day last year, and he hopes the weather is better this year.

He says there are still a lot of people who don't know how nice Moosomin Regional Park is, and that's why they host a winter event, to get people out to the park, and then potentially have them come back in the summer months.

"I think it is almost like a hidden gem, it's not to far off the highway if you are travelling by to stop in. It's nice and quiet and peaceful, it's not too busy. You can go there with your family, it's a place for the kids and you are not always worried about there. There is the lake, there are basketball and tennis courts. There are lots of little things there to offer, it's really nice."

"The main purpose our Winter Wonderland event is to get people into the park and show them what Moosomin Regional Park can provide, and then at the end of the day hopefully they enjoy it in the winter and then book a campsite in the future. It's to trying to get them out there so that they have fun in the winter and show them how much fun they can have. They can see what the park has to offer, and maybe come out in the summer time and experience it then as well."

He says there are still a lot of people who don't know how nice Moosomin Regional Park is.

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# Moosomin hosting Regional Invitational Figure Skating Competition this weekend

Skating club expects 150 skaters and 500 people in town

BY DONNIE MATICHUK

Moosomin will be busy this weekend with the Moosomin Skating Club hosting a Regional Invitational Figure Skating Competition this Saturday, February 14 and Sunday, February 15.

"We are hosting the Region 1 and Region 6 competition," says Chelsea Doane of the Moosomin Skating Club. "Region 1 is kind of the southeast corner of the province and Region 6 is Parkland, so it's like Melville-Yorkton area. We do have skaters coming from as far as Saskatoon and even Virden, so there will be about 150 skaters from over 20 different communities competing, with roughly 25 coaches. Our home club has 17 girls competing."

The event will have nine judges in attendance throughout the weekend to watch and critique skaters, as well as three data specialists from Skate Saskatchewan to calculate the results of events. These specialists conducted the draws and schedules for the weekend. The competition committee has members from the Moosomin Skating Club Board, as well as parent volunteers.

"Without the help of volunteers, there is no way we would be able to put on a competition like this," Doane said.

"In the region, everybody like takes turns hosting if they want to. So if you want to host, you put in a bid to host at the start of the year, and then they choose which community it's going to host. I believe the last time we hosted was seven years ago in 2019. This year it was kind of back around to where maybe it was our turn, so we threw our name in and we got it. We just wanted to take our turn."

"It's a lot of work to put something like this on. I don't know how many volunteer hours it took just to put this together, but it's definitely a lot of work, if you were to do it every year. I think it's important for each community to take their turn, just so nobody gets burnt out."

The weekend will see many different events for all ages and levels of skaters.

"We are doing a number of different events. There are Artistic events, there are Creative Improv events, there are Elements, Free Skate, and Dance. We also have a Showcase event, and there will be Team Element events as well. We did offer Special Olympics events, however we didn't have anyone sign up for those. Some of it only goes up to Starskate Level 4, and then some of it goes up all the way to the Gold level. Anyone from the new Starskate level all the way up can come and do an event, or more than one event."



Some of the Moosomin Skating Club skaters during the club's holiday showcase before Christmas. The club expects 150 skaters in town for the Regional Invitational Competition this weekend.

We will be posting our schedule soon on our social media on Facebook and Instagram."

There will also be a vendor market set up in the Convention Centre next door to the rink where fans can go during the weekend.

"There are 22 vendors. I know there's a lot of makers coming with homemade goods. We have someone bringing honey in, some people bringing food items to sell. So there should be a lot of different things to check out," said Doane.

Doane noted that most of the skaters and families will probably be staying overnight in town, and that it should bring a significant boost to the local economy for the weekend.

"With 150 skaters, and everyone bringing at least one parent, I would say there will be probably close to 500 extra people in town."

She said that the weekend was all about exposure and giving young skaters experience.

"I think it's a great way to get the young skaters into it more. They're just starting out into Starskate, which is

the more competitive part of figure skating, and coming to something like this is really exciting, and they kind of get to see what it's all about. They get to see what they're able to do when they go to these kinds of events, and hopefully it will get them inspired to do more competitions in the future."

The competition committee is doing everything it can to get the word out about the event, and hopes lots of people come watch the skaters.

"We've been posting on our Facebook and our Instagram pages, and the Moosomin Bulletin Board, and running full page ads in the World-Spectator. We're going to put posters up around town, that kind of thing. It would be awesome if we could get people to come down and check out all the talent from our corner of the province and beyond, and there will be lots to do there. The rink kitchen is going to have some specials for us, and with the vendors in MCC, it will be a little bit of something for everyone."

Events run from 9 am to 8 pm on Saturday, and from 9 am to 3:30 pm on Sunday. Entry is free, and there will be a silver collection at the door.



#### 1996 - Young Entrepreneur Takes Over

As of January 1, of this year one of the local businesses changed. Today's Electronics, the electronic sales and service store which was started in 1993 by Bill McCaskell was bought by Murray Aulie the Service Manager at Today's Electronics.

Aulie is no stranger to the electronic sales or service field. After finishing high school in Maryfield, Murray went on to SIAST at Moose Jaw and received his Electronics Service Technician certificate. During that time he worked for B&E Electronics out of Oxbow and later in Estevan.

Aulie started with Today's Electronics when it opened and feels he knows the business well. "I have been doing this for years now" States Aulie, "and it has been great to see how things have grown and I am looking forward to the future".

Aulie plans to continue selling and servicing computers, satellite dishes, cellular phones and other business and consumer electronics. If you are interested in talking to this new business owner you can reach him by calling 452-6309 for Murray at Today's Electronics. (excerpt taken from The Optimist)



As of January 1 of 2026, Murray Aulie has officially owned and operated Today's Furniture & Electronics for 30 years. Aulie was only 22 years old when took over the business. I think it's safe to say that it has grown and flourished since.

When Aulie first took over he was on the main floor of the old Optimist buildings here in Redvers, with 1,000 sq ft of space, and was a simple electronics and repair dealer. He has since rebranded and expanded his business. He moved to a couple other buildings on Main Street before finding his permanent spot at 27 Railway Ave in 2014.

Now being Today's Enterprises and upgrading to a 9,000 sq ft space, he has filled his show room with a variety electronics, furniture, home decor, grills, mattresses, children's toys and more! Today's has everything you could need to make your house feel like home!

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# Scotties champion Val Sweeting proud of her Maryfield curling roots

BY ASHLEY BOCHER

Val Sweeting grew up in Maryfield and started curling at the Maryfield rink at a young age before her family moved to Alberta years later. She has competed in 10 Scotties Tournaments of Hearts as team Alberta and team Manitoba.

Sweeting and her team won the Scotties Curling Championship on February 1 and are gearing up to represent Canada at the World Women's Curling Championships in Calgary from March 14-22.

Sweeting recalls her first memory of curling—at a school-wide bonspiel when she was younger.

"I grew up on a farm between Maryfield and Fairlight. I started curling in Maryfield. My earliest curling memory is the school-wide bonspiel we would do back when I was in Grade 1," she says.

"My parents played recreationally so I was always at the rink watching them until I started playing more consistently around Grade 4. Barb Swallow got a team together with two of her daughters and then there were five of us who played together until I moved away in Grade 8. My mom had transferred from Sask Wheat Pool to another grain terminal, but I did stay with curling. I remembered one of the first questions I asked my parents when we moved was 'What about my curling team?' and Vegreville is a much bigger town, so we didn't really think anything of it, but when we got there, we quickly discovered that curling wasn't really popular amongst kids my age—they were into other sports."

"So, my sister and I joined with two other people from Lamont, and we curled out there for a year. After that, my sister was graduating from high school, so I found a team in Edmonton about an hour away and my parents drove me into the city all of the time for practices and games, and I just kept at it from there."



Val Sweeting, at left, with son Jaxen Nott and Marcia and Ross Sweeting after winning the Scotties Tournament of Hearts on Feb. 1.

## Team Canada in Scotties this year

Sweeting explains her team represented Team Canada at the Scotties as default due to the timing of the Olympics.

"I've been to 10 Scotties now in total. My first one was in 2010 and we made it there by winning the Alberta Women's Provincials. I am the youngest skip to have won

Alberta Provincials. It seems so long ago now thinking back to my first Scotties. I won a few more provincials after that with two in Alberta and one in Manitoba."

"Then, some of the Scotties we won we then returned as Team Canada so we would qualify some years that way, but now there are also some pre-qualification spots available, so you accumulate points throughout the season and then the top three at the end of the season earn a spot in the Scotties the following year. So, this year

"I've always thought of Maryfield as home and remember those roots"

—Val Sweeting



Val Sweeting with Rachel Big Eagle of Maryfield, who was competing as part of team Saskatchewan at the Scotties this year.

was a bit different for us because we had one of the prequalification spots based on our points last year, so we knew we were going to the Scotties for sure, either way, but then when Holman won the Canadian Curling trials in November, they could no longer participate in the Scotties this year because of the timing of the tournament and the Olympics.

*Continued on Page 18*



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# Arcola's 64-team Celebration Bonspiel is filled

BY STEPHANIE ZOER

Arcola is a busy community, and it's about to get busier with a 64-team bonspiel in celebration of the club's 125th anniversary. The event is to take place from March 25-29, 2026.

It is not an easy task to put together such a large bonspiel, and the planning began in September of 2024. A special committee was created that held monthly meetings and now the event is just around the corner.

Warren Neuman is the chairman of the event. They have 20 volunteers right now, but many more are needed throughout the days of the bonspiel.

This is not an ordinary bonspiel; it is called the "Cody Grimes Memorial Bonspiel." Cody was a beloved member of the Arcola community that was very active in sports, always volunteered and he left a lasting impact on the community. Cody and his brother Micky Grimes where in partnership with Eagle Ridge Oilfield Services Ltd. Micky is the main sponsor of the bonspiel. The committee is honoured and proud to celebrate Cody with this special event.

The bonspiel is held in March as this is when most other curling clubs have finished their season. This way the club could use equipment from other clubs, such as Carlyle with an extra five sets of stones, or Alameda with bumpers and scoreboards.

A week prior to the starting date, professional ice maker Jason Reddekopp from Spiritwood will come and make the ice. It will be his job to ensure the ice is perfect, something he has done for many

years. He will be making ice in the skating rink as well.

There will be eight sheets of ice, three in the curling rink and five in the arena. They will have two kitchens on the go—one with traditional rink food and the other with more homemade options. They are looking for donations of homemade food for the kitchen and volunteers to help.

Friday night, March 27 is the opening ceremony. This event is open to everyone who wishes to attend. Southeast Butcher Block will be preparing the meat for the meal, but the rest will be taken care of by the committee. The Leftovers from Oxbow will entertain the crowd for the evening.

With 64 teams attending, the competition it is going to be tough, as everyone aims to get a piece of the \$10,000 in cash prizes that are up for grabs. Merchandise prizes through raffle draws will also be part of the winnings.

"It is going to be a bonspiel to remember," said Neuman.

The final touches are being put into place with the bonspiel only weeks away. The proceeds raised will support the Arcola Prairie Place Complex. This will help to secure the future of curling and recreation in the community and surrounding areas.

It has taken the organizing committee, volunteers, local businesses, and the community to keep the heart of curling alive for many years to come.

It is also a way for the memory of Cody Grimes to continue to inspire the community as they reflect on his dedication to the town, the sport, and his many years as a volunteer.

## SaskPower begins formal process to evaluate large nuclear technologies

The Government of Saskatchewan and SaskPower today announced plans to formally evaluate large nuclear reactor technologies for use in Saskatchewan. The technology selection process will take place in parallel with SaskPower's existing nuclear small modular reactor (SMR) project.

"Our Energy Security Strategy sets out a pathway to nuclear power generation from both SMRs and large nuclear reactors, using Saskatchewan uranium," Minister Responsible for SaskPower Jeremy Harrison said. "Together with expanded intertie capacity, nuclear power will make Saskatchewan an export powerhouse and safeguard Saskatchewan's energy security far into the future."

Nuclear power generation has provided safe and reliable, non-emitting electricity in Canada for more than 60 years. It offers a solution to reliably and securely meet Saskatchewan's growing electricity demand in the coming decades.

"SaskPower will leverage partnerships with experienced nuclear operators, and will continue to engage with Indigenous Rightsholders, Saskatchewan's communities and businesses as we consider the potential deployment of large nuclear reactors,"

SaskPower President and CEO Rupen Pandya said. "Potentially bringing a large reactor online will take at least 15 to 20 years, which is why we need to start this process now."

Significant additional regulatory, siting and en-

gagement work are needed before any construction can begin on a new nuclear project. SaskPower's current SMR project continues to progress and a site for the province's first SMR build near Estevan is anticipated later this year.



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Arcola's Curling Rink is located behind the Community Prairie Place Complex on Balmoral Street, and it will be filled with action for the 64-team bonspiel in March.

Stephanie Zoer photo



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# Stoughton man saves his mom from death during a moose attack

BY STEPHANIE ZOER

January 22, 2026, seemed to be an ordinary day although it was bitterly cold outside with wind chills of -48. Shawn Tuffnell from Stoughton often stayed at his mom's, Angie Tuffnell's acreage near Bienfait if the weather was unruly. He worked in Alameda and this cut his travel time considerably in bad weather.

Angie had been outside a few times that morning having a smoke. At 7:25 a.m. Shawn asked her to start his vehicle as he got ready for work. She did not mind and headed outside to start the vehicle and have a cigarette. She usually had one in the garage, but Shawn's car was outside.

As she ventured outside, she heard a noise, and before she could even get to Shawn's car or turn around and run to the house, a bull moose went on the attack, smashing her to the concrete pad. He loomed over her with his ears pinned back. Angie began to scream.

Shawn thought he heard a noise from his mom and went outside to see what the commotion was and saw the moose over his mom.

Wearing only a t-shirt and in his underwear, he ran outside. He took three steps to the moose and punched it in the lips. This did nothing and only made the bull aggressive. He grabbed a shovel and hit it with the force of a baseball bat swinging at it twice in the head.

"I was hoping this would bring the bull off of my mom, as I was afraid it was going to kill her," said Shawn.

The moose came towards him and Shawn began backing up towards the door of the house. At this time, he tripped, but so did the moose, but he was halfway through the door.

"My adrenaline was pumping and I did not even feel the cold," said Shawn. Shawn began yelling at Angie's boyfriend Dave Alexander to get the gun. Dave was still in bed but by now he could hear the all the noise.

By this time Shawn had grabbed the bull around the neck.

"They have very large heads and since it could not stomp on me it tried biting me," he said. The moose continued to look back at Angie. Shawn had told his mom to lie still and not make any noise.

Shawn said he tried to poke the bull in the eyes, as he felt if the moose could not see, it was a better chance for all of them, especially his mom who still lay on the concrete in the freezing cold.

The moose backed away from Shawn attempting to get back to Angie and this is when Shawn was able to shoot the animal in the eye. This still did not deter the animal, and Shawn would need to shoot the moose multiple times and even had a chance to reload the gun and fire some more rounds into the bull before it dropped to the ground. As the animal fell, Shawn needed to grab it, as it fell towards his mom, missing her face by only a few inches.

Shawn is a volunteer firefighter for the Stoughton Tecumseh Department. He checked his mom over to make sure that her injuries were not life-threatening. They took her to St. Joseph's hospital in Estevan where she was evaluated.

The moose had stomped on the calf of her leg which



Angie Tuffnell and her son Shawn Tuffnell are thankful to be alive after a moose attacked Angie.

was ripped open requiring several layers of stitches. Her ankle was bruised, along with her elbow, hip and ribs and she had a goose egg on her head. Many other bruises were felt later on in the day.

Shawn also had a three-inch goose egg on his head and a broken rib. He figured this happened when he fell backwards into the house. The whole attack went on for about three minutes.

Upon observation of the moose, Shawn said it was quite thin and it must have been laying around the corner of the house. The yard light had recently broken, so the moose was most likely not afraid to come close to the dark area.

Conservation Officers were called about the incident, and rabies testing was performed on the animal. They came back negative, but further testing was done. At this time, the family has opted to take rabies shots to be



After the attack, Angie Tuffnell was taken to St. Joseph's hospital in Estevan due to injuries from the moose.

on the safe side.

"Mom is very overwhelmed with what happened," said Shawn, whose mom is still very shaken up about the incident.

When the attack was happening they both felt that the outcome was not going to be good.

Shawn suggests that people be aware of their surroundings. If your yard light breaks, get it replaced right away. When it is really cold, a wild animal may lay by a dryer vent, as it produces warm air, and never attempt to confront a wild animal. If a person sees a moose close by, run the other way.

Shawn is grateful that his mom survived, and he is very thankful for Dave who was able to get him the gun.

"Without Dave in the house getting the gun, I feel the outcome would have been much more tragic," he said.

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# The Kindest Community is a title that Arcola hopes to win

BY STEPHANIE ZOER  
2025 was the inaugural year of the Coca Cola program that recognizes and rewards communities that stand out for their brightness and kindness. Last year Jarvis, Ontario, won the \$50,000 prize. This contest is Canada wide from coast to coast.

A few months ago, Scott Tessier, the Mayor of Arcola was drinking a Coca Cola and noticed the contest on the side of the can. He looked up the information and thought to himself, "I think Arcola can have a chance to win this, if these other small communities have a chance."

Tessier said that the communities coming up in the contest were all small towns, either the same size or smaller than Arcola. All Tessier had to do was write a 100-word essay on a person from the town that has done a kind act. He said that this was an easy task for him as one person stood out.

He had one volunteer in mind who has taken the time with his extraordinary dedication to the Disc Golf Course. This person is Eugene Brown. Tessier said that Brown spends endless hours at the course watering hundreds of young, planted trees, making sure they have not tipped over and are protected. "His kindness shows in every sapling he saves after a wind-storm and every hour he spends helping our club build something lasting for this community," Tessier said.



The Town of Arcola is in the top ten Kindest Community contest across Canada.

"He goes out several times a week and sometimes daily, walking the fairways with a water tank, hand tools, and a calm determination," said Tessier.

The Disc Golf Course is a major gathering place for families, kids and players of all ages, and Brown's efforts are shaping its future. "Many of these trees will not reach full size for decades, and he knows that

he may never see them to maturity, but he keeps going," said Tessier.

Brown wants the next generation to have a beautiful, shaded, welcoming place to play," said Tessier. "Eugene's work is more than maintenance; it is a gift. His selfless care is the definition of quiet, lasting kindness."

Tessier created a page on Facebook titled "Life In Arcola" with the help of

his wife and sister. It was here that he posted about the contest, so other people could write their own essays about the town and get Arcola on the list.

Going about his daily business, Tessier forgot about the contest until he was contacted by the Evan Bray Show. He was asked if he knew who the win-

ner was, as Arcola had reached the top ten.

Tessier was surprised to hear that his town had reached the top ten. Although they have been told that it was to be announced on January 18 which town had won, when Tessier checked a decision had not been made or it was not posted.

In the final ten, there are three towns from British Columbia, one from Quebec, two from Alberta, one from Newfoundland and Labrador, two from Ontario and one from Saskatchewan. The wait is on to see whether Arcola will be picked as number one and the winner of the \$100,000 prize.

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# FINANCIAL PLANNING



## Starting early—am I too young for an RRSP?



After your monthly bills are paid and essential expenses are covered, the extra cash that is left over probably doesn't spark thoughts of retirement savings. But starting early, even with small amounts, can give your savings time to grow, and give you more freedom in the future.

If you are new to investments, a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) is a government-registered account designed to help people save for retirement. However, it is more than just a retirement investment. Read on to learn more about RRSPs and why they should be on your radar sooner rather than later.

### When can you start?

There is no minimum age requirement to open a RRSP, but there are two conditions that must be met. First, you must be earning income, whether from employment or business. Your income is what the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) uses to calculate your contribution room for your RRSP. Your contribution room represents the maximum amount you can contribute to your RRSP for the year, and because it is based on your annual income, it can change year to year. The simplest way to find your current contribution limit is to log on to your Canada Revenue Agency online account.

The second condition is that you must be over 18 to contribute more than \$2,000 a year. You can contribute to your RRSP right up until December 31st of the year you turn 71.

With the basics covered, let's explore why starting early is one of the smartest financial decisions you can make.

### Contributing to your RRSP

When it comes to contributing to your RRSP, there is no minimum contribution requirement. You decide how much you can afford to contribute and when, whether by pay period, monthly or annually. While your income may be lower when you are younger, your expenses are also

often lower. You may not have a mortgage yet, and you could still be living at home, which can make this an ideal time to start contributing and building a foundation for your future.

### Compound interest

Compound interest helps your RRSP grow faster over time than a regular savings account, as you are earning interest on your interest. This means that you earn interest not only on the money you put in, but also on the interest your savings have already earned.

For example, if you contribute \$100 to an account with a 5% annual interest rate, you will have \$105 at the end of the year. In the next year, you will earn interest on the \$105 plus any additional contributions you make. It is like a snowball rolling down a hill, growing bigger over time. The earlier you start contributing to your RRSP, the more time it has to grow.

### More than just retirement

Your RRSP can be used to help you purchase your first home or fund your education. Through the CRA's Home Buyers Plan, you can withdraw a portion of your RRSP to put toward a down payment on your first home. Similarly, the Lifelong Learning Plan allows you to withdraw funds from your RRSP to pay for education for yourself or your spouse. With both of these programs, you will need to repay the funds that have been withdrawn from your RRSP over a period of up to 15 years to avoid paying tax on them.

### Tax deductions

When you contribute to your RRSP, you will receive a tax deduction that reduces your taxable income. For example, if you earn \$100,000 that year, and you contribute \$10,000 to your RRSP, your taxable income will be \$90,000.

At tax time, this deduction could mean the difference between paying, receiving a refund, or breaking even. If you want to contribute for tax purposes but do not have

the extra money, you could take out an RRSP loan. By borrowing an amount close to your expected tax refund, you can use the refund to quickly pay down the loan. In effect, you're directing your money toward your own savings instead of sending it to the government in taxes.

In addition to the tax deduction, any money that is inside your RRSP grows on a tax-deferred basis. This means interest can compound over time without being taxed each year. You will be taxed when you withdraw funds from your RRSP, typically in retirement. However, most people are in a lower tax bracket after they stop working, which means the tax on withdrawals is often lower than the tax they would have paid on that income during their working years.

### Building good habits

Another great reason to start early is to develop strong financial habits that will stick with you as you grow older. Establishing a routine of contributing even a moderate amount, such as \$20 a pay period, adds consistency and structure to your finances. As your career progresses and your income grows, you can increase your contributions and investments, giving you greater financial stability for the years to come.

Once you start working, the earlier you open an RRSP, the better, but the main thing is to start. Take small—but easy steps today to build a brighter future. Connect with one of our Sunrise team members and let's get started.

By Krista Powell - Communications & Content Co-ordinator, Sunrise Credit Union

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Financial wellbeing is about steady progress. Whether it's a little or a lot, every contribution to an RRSP makes a difference.



# FINANCIAL PLANNING



## TFSA vs RRSP: Which is best for me?

The best investment for you is going to depend on your individual financial situation and goals. Remember: With a TFSA, you pay tax on money you've earned before you make a contribution, and with an RRSP you get a tax refund now on money you contribute, but will have to pay tax later, when you withdraw money from the plan. This difference, along with your income, your investment timeline, and other factors will all contribute to making the right decision for your investment dollars. You may find that you can use both vehicles simultaneously.

- Income & Tax Bracket** – A general rule is that the higher your income (and higher tax bracket you are in) the more beneficial a RRSP is as you are able to deduct RRSP contributions from your taxable income. If you will be in the same or a similar tax bracket when you are retired as you are in now then a TFSA, and its lifelong tax free bene-



fits, is probably the better choice.

- Time Horizon** – Are you investing for the short term? Or are you investing for the long term? If you are saving for the short term than a TFSA provides you with more flexibility as you are able to withdraw funds from your TFSA tax free, where as in a RRSP any withdrawal is taxable (unless used for a first time home purchase). If you are saving for the long term then both a TFSA and RRSP have benefits and it will come down to other factors such as your income & tax bracket on which plan is most beneficial to you.

- What are you Saving for?** – Is this money going to be used for a down payment on a home? Retirement Savings? Emergency Fund? Knowing what you are saving your money is the first step and will help determine whether a TFSA or a RRSP is the right choice for you.

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### Sunday

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10:00 am to 12:00 pm - Family Swim  
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm - Public Swim  
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm - Open Rental Spots

### Monday

7:30 am to 8:30 am - Lane Swim  
9:30 am to 10:30 am - Aquafit  
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm - Open Fitness Swim  
1:30 pm to 3:00 pm - Family Swim  
3:30 pm to 6:30 pm - Open Rental Spots  
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm - Lane Swim

### Tuesday

6:30 am to 8:30 am - Lane Swim  
9:00 am to 10:30 am - Family Swim  
11:00 am to 12:00 pm - Aquaflex  
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm - Parent & Tot Swim  
3:30 pm to 5:30 pm - Open Rental Spot  
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm - Family Swim  
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Aquafit

### Wednesday

6:30 am to 7:15 am - Early Bird Aquafit  
7:30 am to 9:30 am - Lane Swim  
9:30 am to 10:30 am - Aquafit  
11:00 am to 12:00 pm - Senior Swim  
1:30 pm to 3:00 pm - Family Swim  
3:30 pm to 6:30 pm - Public Swim  
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Lane Swim

### Thursday

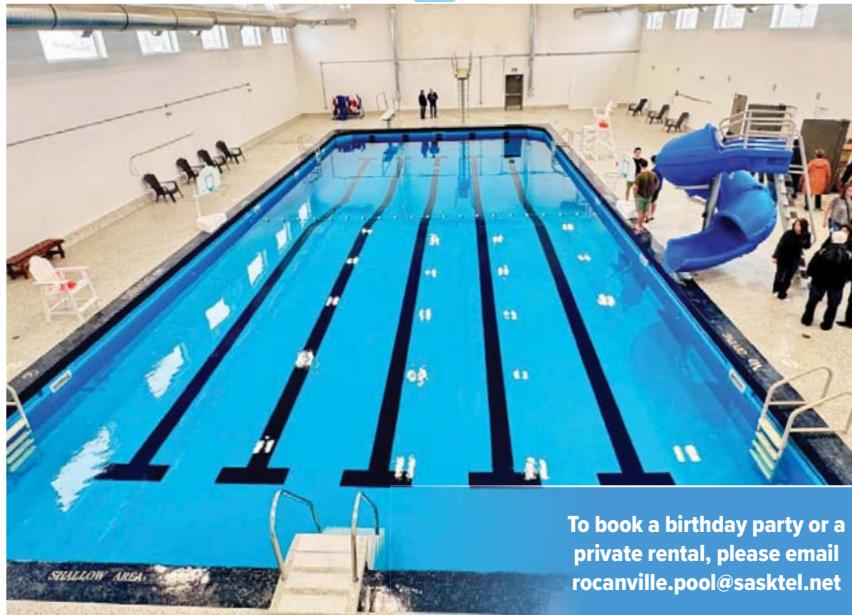
6:30 am to 8:30 am - Lane Swim  
9:00 am to 10:30 am - Family Swim  
11:00 am to 12:00 pm - Senior Aquaflex  
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm - Parent & Tot Swim  
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm - Public Swim  
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Aquafit

### Friday

6:30 am to 7:15 am - Early Bird Aquafit  
7:30 am to 9:30 am - Lane Swim  
9:30 am to 10:30 am - Aqua Zumba  
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm - Open Fitness Swim  
1:30 pm to 3:00 pm - Family Swim  
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm - Public Swim  
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm - Open Rental Spots

### Saturday

9:00 am to 12:00 pm - Public Swim  
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm - Lane Swim  
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm - Open for Rentals  
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm - Open for Rentals  
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Public Swim



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# Moosomin area Burger Week planned for March 2-8

Continued from front

"I think they get excited about it—and not just about our burger. I think they're just excited about the whole thing in general, about going to the different businesses and getting one from each business and trying them all out, and getting to see different people doing the same thing. It's a big social thing for everybody."

"Burger Week is a great way for us to celebrate what we love most—good food made with quality Canadian ingredients—while being part of something that brings the whole community together," says Morgan Kerr with Moosomin Dairy Queen. "Supporting Canadian agriculture is important to us, and Burger Week gives us a fun, approachable way to highlight that commitment."

"Burger Week has a very positive impact. It brings in new customers who might not have tried us otherwise, and it gives our regulars something exciting to look forward to. The increased traffic and visibility during the week—and even after—make it well worth the effort."

Kerr says she gets a lot of comments on Burger Week each year.

"The reaction is huge. Customers start asking about our Burger Week entry well

before the week begins, and during the event there's a lot of excitement, sharing on social media, and word-of-mouth buzz. It definitely creates a sense of anticipation and energy in the restaurant."

"A lot of thought and testing goes into our burger. From brainstorming the concept to sourcing ingredients and perfecting the flavours, it's a collaborative process that takes time. We want the burger to be creative, memorable, and something we're truly proud to put our name on."

What does Kerr enjoy most about Burger Week?

"Honestly, it's the excitement," she says. "Seeing customers enjoy the burger, hearing their feedback, and being part of a larger celebration of local food is incredibly rewarding. It's fast-paced and intense, but it's also one of the most fun weeks of the year for our team."

"It has become an annual event, and it's something that the town and the whole area look forward to, and I like being a part of something that people get excited about," says Jarrod Slugoski at Cork and Bone.

"It gives us time to play and come up with a really nice burger for people to enjoy."

Slugoski says last year's burger was so

popular that he put it on the menu. "When you sell 500 burgers, you put it on the menu!" he says.

What kind of impact does burger week have on his business each year?

"It definitely brings in a lot of people that maybe have never been here before. I've learned that it gets people in the door to check out what's going on in here."

"People get very excited about it. They come in and they order take out for their staff as well. It's a well-established event that we do in Moosomin and people look forward to it, and they get to take part

in the event itself. So I think that's pretty cool. When we do this, it's not just something off the menu. So I think that's what gets people excited, that there's a lot of new things to try that week."

"I like the excitement that people have about it. People get really excited about it. I mean, it's fun. The World-Spectator and Chamber makes it fun by doing the stamp cards and making it so that there's a reward at the end of the tunnel for trying all these burgers in town. And I think that game aspect of it really intrigues people, too."

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[Mike Lizzii]



Kathy Cecchin, who grew up in Welwyn, is the proud owner of Desperate Man, the 2021 Horse of the Year. He has recently retired from the track.

## Desperate Man, 2021 Canadian Horse of the Year, has retired from the track

BY STEPHANIE ZOER

When Kathy Cecchin talks about her standardbred gelding, Desperate Man (Slick), she beams with pride over what this horse has accomplished in his career.

Kathy Cecchin was raised in the village of Welwyn north of Moosomin. When Cecchin was in her 20s she moved to Arthur, Ontario and she now has a ranch outside of this town.

Cecchin and her husband John own standardbred horses. In 2019 they purchased a yearling named Desperate Man from the Lexington Selected Yearling sale form the Winbak Farm consignment. They wanted his bloodlines and paid \$20,000 for the young horse. He was trained by Cecchin and to this day is the only horse she has trained, and she is proud of how Slick turned out.

In 2021 Slick won the Pepsi North America Cup, a prestigious race, driven by Trevor Henry. He beat future hall of famer Bulldog Hanover and two-time Dan Patch Award winner, Perfect Sting. This was going to be the beginning of a great career for the young horse. He was then named 2021 Canadian Horse of the Year.

Slick had 89 races as a pacer, and won 33 of them, placed second in 15 races and came in third for 13 of them. But

last September he began to show some discomfort in his walk. He was placed on stall rest right away.

After having his ankle joint x-rayed, they felt he may have taken a bad step, as nothing showed in the x-rays. The discomfort continued with Slick. "He just was not himself," said Cecchin. They figured maybe he was tired and needed some time off.

Slick was in New York and Cecchin had not seen him for two years. They brought the now seven-year-old gelding home to Arthur, Ontario. "We could not take the chance on racing him and Slick getting hurt," she said.

Dr. Melissa McKee did further testing, and another series of x-rays called floor scopes were performed, and it was at this time they showed a chip on his ankle that did not appear on the earlier x-rays. According to McKee this chip was causing a great deal of pain in the horse. It also showed that the ankle joint also had significant changes.

In order to remove the chip, surgery was needed and this was performed on January 5, 2026, which was done by Dr. Orlaith Cleary at the King Animal Hospital in New Market. Three small incisions were done, two for cameras and one to remove the chip. The surgery itself was

not long, but it was a very delicate procedure. The chip was found immediately and removed.

It was also noted that during the surgery, Slick's cartilage had deteriorated 40 per cent. This was not caused by an injury, it was basic wear and tear on his legs. Slick is not a small horse; he is 17 hands tall and weighs 1352 pounds. Most standardbred horses are around 1,000 pounds.

He is now on the road to recovery. It will require 12 weeks of complete stall rest, only leaving his stall to be cleaned. After this, he may be hand walked for a short period and gradually this will be increased. The overall recuperation time is eight months.

"He is such a positive horse, and he looks great," said Cecchin. "But his racing days are over, and he will live like royalty on the farm until his last day."

Slick has earned nearly \$2.4 million in his career.

"He is a superstar," said Cecchin. "He deserves a life without pain and to be pampered."

Slick, once healed, will enjoy green grass, a warm barn on cool days, and being loved for the rest of his life during his retirement from the track.

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**Rachel Big Eagle grew up in Maryfield and recently competed at third Scotties**

## **Maryfield curler represents Saskatchewan at Scotties**

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Rachel (Erikson) Big Eagle of Maryfield represented team Saskatchewan at the Scotties in Mississauga, Ontario from January 23 to February 1. She grew up on her family farm by Maryfield and credits her love for the sport to the volunteers involved in the town's curling community.

"I am from Maryfield. I was born and raised there. I was involved in curling at a very young age," she says. "We have a very driven community around curling in Maryfield and I believe that is what motivated me to curl. I started at a young age and then began curling competitively. I stuck with it all throughout university and then graduated, got a job, and still continue to curl."

Big Eagle played against Scotties Champion Val Sweeting, another successful curler from Maryfield.

"I have been to the Scotties before. I was there in 2021 and 2022. Those were during Covid years, so it was a very different experience. I was a fifth player as well, so



Rachel Big Eagle of Maryfield curling at the Scotties.

I was primarily on the bench. I did play a few games, but this time was a completely different experience. You're on the ice every day and that is a grind. It is a lot of games, and it is physically and mentally tough and to have the crowd there—I was lucky enough to have lots of family and friends come out to support me—that was super special.

"Playing against Val, I've gotten to know her through the curling world. Our paths have crossed a few times, but it is really neat to see someone with similar roots as me doing as great as she is. She is a very successful curler and it is really neat that we share that beginning point of Maryfield."

### **Vibrant curling community in Maryfield**

Big Eagle says she enjoys returning to Maryfield to practice in her home curling rink.

*Continued on page 25 ↗*



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Above, a few photos from my visit with students in Whitewood Monday. Below, the Foran copper mine near Creighton.



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A few photos from the Champions for Change Gala in Saskatoon



## Maintaining a strong, safe, secure Saskatchewan

### Three steps forward for Saskatchewan

So many announcements lately are further steps on our road to keeping Saskatchewan strong, safe and secure.

Look at three recent announcements:

- An absolutely massive alumina find near Tisdale has the potential to be developed into an industry on the scale of the potash and uranium industries in Saskatchewan.
- The company developing a copper mine near Creighton will become part of a larger Canadian company. That copper mine should start producing this year. Both the alumina and copper developments complement expansions in the potash and uranium industries.
- And on top of our work on Small Modular Reactors (350 megawatts), our government announced recently we are investigating also developing a full size nuclear reactor (one gigawatt), which makes so much sense since Saskatchewan is the Western world's main producer of Uranium and Saskatchewan-based Cameco owns Westinghouse, the main developer of nuclear reactors in the Western world, which is part of a \$80 billion plan to develop more reactors over the next few years.

Each of these is one more step in keeping Saskatchewan strong, safe and secure.

### Thor project

Huge news for Saskatchewan! Canadian Energy Metals Corp. announced the results of its Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA), which outlines the scale, quality, and potential economic viability of Canada's first major domestic alumina resource. It supports CEM's Thor Project as a discovery of possible global significance.

"This PEA confirms that the Thor Project is a possible game changer for North America's aluminum supply chain," said Christopher Hopkins, President & Chief Executive Officer, CEM. "In our world, anything that moves products, transmits power or stores energy uses aluminum. We have established a world-leading, secure source of alumina right here in Saskatchewan. Our next focus is to engineer a demonstration facility while moving Thor towards commercialization."

The Thor Project has the potential to create an entirely new processing and value-added industry for Saskatchewan and North America. The construction and operations could support high-paying jobs, royalty and tax revenues, and spur regional economic growth for decades.

Premier Scott Moe said it so well: "The Thor Project discovery pairs our province's pro-mining investment policies with a substantial geological advantage. We're excited about the prospect of a new alumina industry setting up shop in our province, where people are ready for more jobs and investment from around the world."

### Eldorado, Foran join forces

Foran is the company developing a massive copper mine near Creighton, Saskatchewan. Eldorado Gold Cor-

### Report from the Legislature

KEVIN WEEDMARK  
MLA for Moosomin-Montmartre



poration and Foran Mining Corporation have entered into an agreement whereby Eldorado will acquire Foran, which is developing a major copper mine in Saskatchewan. The McIvenna Bay project in Saskatchewan is on budget and on schedule for commercial production in mid-2026. The company will remain headquartered in Canada.

Premier Scott Moe pointed out how important the announcement is. "This proposed transaction reinforces Saskatchewan's position as a leading destination for responsible resource development," the Premier said. "McIvenna Bay is a high-quality project that will deliver jobs, investment, and long-term economic benefits for the province. A combination with Eldorado would further strengthen the project's development pathway and underscore Canada's role in supplying critical minerals to both domestic and global markets."

George Burns, Chief Executive Officer of Eldorado, commented, "This combination creates a stronger gold and copper growth company. With Skouries and McIvenna Bay scheduled to come online in 2026, the combined business is positioned for a step-change in production, cash flow, and global relevance. Increasing our exposure to Canada, through an asset in Saskatchewan, consistently recognized as one of the world's most attractive mining jurisdictions, strengthens our portfolio."

### SaskPower announcement

Big news for the future of our province as the Government of Saskatchewan and SaskPower announced plans to formally evaluate large nuclear reactor technologies for use in Saskatchewan. The technology selection process will take place alongside SaskPower's existing nuclear small modular reactor (SMR) project.

"Our Energy Security Strategy sets out a pathway to nuclear power generation from both SMRs and large nuclear reactors, using Saskatchewan uranium," Minister Responsible for SaskPower Jeremy Harrison said. "Together with expanded intertie capacity, nuclear power will make Saskatchewan an export powerhouse and safeguard Sas-

katchewan's energy security far into the future."

"SaskPower will leverage partnerships with experienced nuclear operators, and will continue to engage with Indigenous Rightsholders, Saskatchewan's communities and businesses as we consider the potential deployment of large nuclear reactors," SaskPower President and CEO Rupen Pandya said. "Potentially bringing a large reactor online will take at least 15 to 20 years, which is why we need to start this process now."

SaskPower's current SMR project continues to progress and a site for the province's first SMR build near Estevan is anticipated later this year.

Exploring options for nuclear power is part of building a strong, safe, secure Saskatchewan.

### Champions For Change gala

It was a privilege and an honor to speak on behalf of our government to the hundreds of people gathered at the Champions For Change gala in Saskatoon Saturday night. I met so many people, learned a lot and made some new friends.

Congratulations to the award winners recognized at the event! Every time I attend an event like this, I end up being invited to a couple more events by people I meet there, so there are more and more opportunities to meet people and learn from them!

### Whitewood School visit

I had such a great time speaking to the Grade 4 class at Whitewood School Monday! The kids had such great questions, and I could tell they learned a lot when we did a little trivia quiz at the end! I gave each of the students a book about the Legislature, a Saskatchewan flag pin, and a cookie made by Nav at Island Bakehaus (look them up on Instagram)!

It was great to meet with these future leaders!

### Meetings, meetings, meetings . . .

Every week includes a lot of meetings for me. Last week a few important meetings were on my agenda. I took one on behalf of our government with Neighborhood Pharmacies Canada. This is the national association that represents pharmacy businesses. We discussed the scope of practice of pharmacists. Saskatchewan has one of the largest scopes of practice for pharmacists in Canada.

I sit on the Government Operations Committee and we had a very interesting meeting Tuesday and made a few important recommendations to cabinet.

### Reach out

I'm here for you, and my constituency office is your first point of contact if you have an issue. If you need to contact us call 306-435-4005, email office@kevinweedmark.ca, or drop into the office at 622 Main Street in Moosomin.

# Val Sweeting proud of her Maryfield curling roots

*Continued from page 6*

"So that is how we represented Team Canada this year at the Scotties because Team Canada defaults to the team that lost in the finals the year before."

"I know that a lot of people were saying we didn't earn the right to be Team Canada this year because we didn't win last year, and I do sincerely think it is unfortunate that the Scotties conflict with the Olympics and that Team Holman couldn't be there. They have been such a dominant team especially in the last couple of seasons, so the timing of everything is really unfortunate."

"If there was going to be a backup Team Canada, I do think that our team has earned that, because if it hasn't been Team Holman, it has been us representing Team Canada. It is always an honour to wear the Maple Leaf and we definitely know it was under different circumstances this year, but it was still such an honour to wear it at the Scotties. We started the week off good and then lost a few quite badly, so it was hard at times to regroup, but I am really proud of doing that, coming out and having a good Sunday game and giving ourselves a chance."

## Looking forward to worlds

Sweeting says she is looking forward to a short break before getting ready for worlds in March.

"We have a few weeks to prepare for the world championship which is really nice. Usually, it is only about a two-week turnaround, but this year we have a bit more time because of the Olympics. I am looking forward to getting some downtime and then also to begin preparing for worlds. My team is based out of Manitoba so I will probably go there at some point in February to practice with them. We look forward to representing Canada at the worlds, and the fact that it is in Canada this year in Calgary, it is very exciting to have the home crowd on our side and in my home province. I am very excited."

## Future goals

Sweeting still has personal goals she would like to achieve in her sport.

"There are still some things on my list that I would love to accomplish. Winning a world championship would be at the forefront right now because we have an opportunity to do that. Completing a career grand slam and winning Olympic gold would also be on my list, but I know even if I didn't curl another day from today, I am grateful for the career I've had, and the opportunities curling has provided to me. I am proud of what I have been able to do to date and I am proud of the teams that I have been on along the way as well."

## Growing up in curling

Sweeting reflects on her past curling experiences and what motivated her to compete at the Scotties from a young age.

"I know when I started curling, I thought it was fun and something I enjoyed doing, and in a small town anywhere, you have to play most sports in order for there to even be a team, so I played a lot of sports growing up like volleyball, basketball, badminton, curling, ball, and when I moved to Vegreville it was eye-opening because there were more people so not everyone played every sport because a lot of the seasons would overlap with each other. I wanted to play volleyball, but I also wanted to curl, and they often conflicted with each other, so I had to pick one. Naturally, curling seemed to fit better and that is what I ended up doing."

"I remember it was tough at times when I moved, because curling wasn't necessarily a 'cool' thing to do, and I was gone a lot, and so you miss things. When I was 16 my team was going to the U18 provincials, and the Scotties happened to be in Red Deer that year, so my coach stopped on the way and got us tickets to one of the draws and I just remember seeing the curlers out there with their provincial gear on and the atmosphere, it just felt so different from any other curling experience I ever had."

"That was the first time I thought I would love to play in the Scotties. Watching it on TV before made me think I would love to play in it, but actually being there and being in the environment is when I knew for sure I really wanted to do it."

"We ended up winning the U18 provincials that year and going to nationals, and so we got our provincial jackets and all of the exciting things that came with that international experience. I always thought that was really cool as well, so there have been these bits of motivation along the way. Then, fast forward to 2010, about six years later after the U18 provincials I was going to my first Scotties. It is a pretty special event. It feels different than any other curling event."

## Maryfield home to many strong curlers

Sweeting credits local leaders for their dedication and initiative in creating opportunities such as curling for younger generations.

"I think it takes someone to initiate it, and in my experience that was Barb Swallow getting us together in Grade 1. I know that the Lemon family in Maryfield are also big curlers—I played with Brittany Lemon myself—so you definitely need those coaches and people to have the opportunity and then create it for others to step up and get more involved."

"I think it is junior programs and the co-ordinators who provide those opportunities for the curlers. I remember when I was in Maryfield watching the older teams be successful and go to provincials and nationals, it was motivating. I know at one point there were a few of us represented in provincials—a few from growing up had moved away from Maryfield as well—some in Manitoba,



Val Sweeting during the Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

some were still in Saskatchewan, and I was in Alberta, but all of us from Maryfield, and there was probably five or so of us each competing in provincials. I've always thought of Maryfield as home and remember those roots."

Sweeting adds curling has taught her many life lessons. "Part of it is something I have always done and then part of it is remembering the experiences and opportunities it provides. I think it is really cool to hear how it brings people together, whether that be friends and family getting together to watch a game on TV or coming to an event."

"For myself, having that confidence to go after something is important. Sometimes it works and you win, and sometimes you don't and learn. It has taught me that if you work hard and put your mind to something, anything is possible."

## Hometown crowd at worlds

Sweeting says she is looking forward to the fan atmosphere at worlds this year in Calgary.

"The first time we made it to worlds, it was cancelled because of Covid and that was really tough. The next time we played there were no fans, so it felt like we didn't really get the full world championship experience, and then we went back to Prince George, which we were super excited for, because that is where our first one was cancelled, and it was really great having the hometown crowd and feeling that was amazing."

"We are really looking forward to playing in the championship with the fans, on Canadian soil, and representing our country."

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## February oil and gas public offering raises \$7 million in revenue to close out fiscal year

The Government of Saskatchewan's latest Crown oil and natural gas public offering, held on February 3, 2026, generated \$7,009,225.76 in revenue, with most of that coming from bids in the Estevan and Swift Current areas.

This offering is the last of the 2025-26 fiscal year, and it saw 90 successful bids covering a total area of 16,911.832 hectares.

The Estevan area brought in \$3,456,833.90 for one exploration licence and 24 leases totalling 4,189.700 hectares. The Swift Current area generated \$2,101,648.51 for 24 leases totalling 5,446.066 hectares.

Cougar Creek Land Ltd. made the highest bid for an exploration licence, offering \$1,667,888.88 for an average of \$853.43 per hectare. This licence is for a 1,954.336 hectare lease north of Gainsborough in the Estevan area.

Saturn Oil & Gas Inc. had the highest bid for a lease, offering \$1,223,391.40, or an average of \$1,711.08 per hectare, for a 714.982 hectare area east of Redvers in the Estevan area.

Bidding in the Lloydminster area generated \$885,394.68, while the Kindersley area raised \$565,348.67 in revenue.

This month's Crown oil and natural gas public offering closes out the fiscal year. Through six public offerings, the Government of Saskatchewan raised \$67,256,180.34 in revenue. This represents a 29 per cent increase from the \$51,814,614.76 generated in fiscal 2024-25.

The August 2025 public offering accounts for much of this increase, due to that month's revenue total of \$24,312,738.26, the most such revenue generated in a public offering since 2014.

The first public offering for the 2026-27 fiscal year is scheduled for April 7, 2026.

Leases are offered with five-year terms and are issued to drill for and produce oil or natural gas. Exploration licences have terms of two to five years and are issued in less developed areas for exploration and production. Several factors affect public offering activity, including oil and gas prices, land availability, geological and technological constraints and various market conditions.



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# Moosomin Community Theatre part of Toronto International Film Festival circuit

**The Little Film Fest on the Prairies is showcasing Toronto International Film Festival films once a month**

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

J'aime Payne moved to Moosomin about two years ago from Toronto, along with her husband, and was eager to bring new and exciting films that are part of the Toronto Film Festival to the community.

Payne says she missed watching films that were offered in theatres in the big city and wanted to bring the opportunity to Moosomin and created The Little Film Fest on the Prairies.

"We were exploring some ways to diversify some of the offerings at the theatre. The theatre does a fantastic job of bringing in family-friendly films and big-ticket films you would typically want to see, and I was curious if there was an appetite for a different kind of film in Moosomin," she explains.

"I lived in Toronto for almost a decade and attended a lot of film festivals while I was living there, and I really enjoyed being able to go and see some films that I really couldn't find or get anywhere else like the big movie theatres—maybe they were independent films and didn't have the budget for the big theatres—and I miss that and there are lots of things I do miss about living in a city and so instead of wishing I was there to see them I decided 'Let's see how hard it is to get on the Toronto Film Festival (TIFF) circuit.'

"I didn't know much about it other than it is across Canada. The TIFF people have been fantastic. I reached out to them through email and asked what the process was for getting involved in their film circuit. They walked me through it, and they have made it very easy to get involved."

"I was in communication with the board who runs the movie theatre in town as well, and discussed with them whether or not they would be open to giving us a night at the theatre that wasn't Friday or Saturday, when they run their regular movies, and they have been extremely supportive."

## TIFF circuit expands

"Moosomin is one of five locations in all of Saskatchewan who is part of the film circuit," Payne explains.

"It is a big deal, but it also takes educating the public because maybe they aren't aware of TIFF and maybe they don't realize that it is quite special to have access to the catalogue of films that they probably wouldn't have access to otherwise."

"There is a map of all the locations across Ontario that the TIFF circuit is part of and they are really eager to open up more spots in the western provinces, but it really takes the initiative of someone local and the agreement of the participating parties to make it happen because not many people out here know about it and it is something new and exciting and different."

## When and where

Payne says the first few films have been well attended and the group is looking at feedback from the community for upcoming films.

"We sent out a survey in November to see if there was any interest in this and we had enough positive feedback to move forward. We asked in the survey what evening throughout the week worked best, and what type of films they were wanting to see."

"Some people want crowd pleasers, some like documentaries, some don't like subtitles, there are so many options because the TIFF catalogue is quite large. Then we used the info from the survey to start. It is so easy to get slowed down on a new idea by being uncertain or being scared of making the wrong choice, but I am there to see what happens. I recruited Kyla Fingas's help, and we watched a bunch of trailers and decided on the first three films without really consulting people other than the survey results. So we're showing one film a month. It typically is a Monday night right now."



The first two TIFF films shown in Moosomin as part of the Little Film Fest on the Prairies were *The Baltimorons* in December and *Eleanor the Great* in January. Below is the crowd at *The Baltimorons*.



"We showed the *Baltimorons*, a holiday rom com, the last show which was January 19 was *Eleanor the Great* which was really excellent and well-received."

"Our next film is on February 16 which is Family Day and that evening we are going to be showing a film called *The Chordal* which is 113 minutes long."

"The last Monday, January 19 after the film we did something extra special and showed the crowd five trailers and we asked them to tell us our favourite. It was awesome. It was a close contest between two films, but ultimately the group selected their March film which will be a shorter film of about 60 minutes called *We Lend A Hand—The Forgotten Story of Ontario Farmettes*."

Payne is motivated to continue showcasing TIFF films in Moosomin for the next year.

"I would like to do it as long as there's interest," she said. "Right now, I am very committed to do this once a month for a year. The TIFF team has been really sup-

portive in terms of understanding we are just launching and helping by reducing their administrative fee. We pay licensing fees to the actual production companies for licensing the films and so right now we are keeping a close eye on the budget. We are raising funds through \$5 raffles each show so far and all of the funds are just going to make sure cover our costs. Some of the raffles so far have been a handmade blanket and dainties tray by Kyla Fingas, Botox Gift Certificates from Dr. Woodside, a beautiful handmade pottery bowl donated by Terry Grant from Clayman Studios, baked goods from Devon Putland and a 'Muskmelon' gift basket that I put together. We welcome donations to our raffle."

"We are not trying to make a profit off this we just want to continue to provide this opportunity to Moosomin folks to watch great films. If and when we get a surplus of money, then we will probably reduce the ticket price."

*Continued on page 24* ↗



Plain and Valley is published by McKay Publications Ltd., Box 250, 714 Main Street, Moosomin SK S0G 3N0.

Plain and Valley is delivered to post office boxes across Southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba.

Canada Post Customer Number 2116693.  
Canada Post Contract Number 40011909.

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## Relief as canola tariffs lowered after China trip

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

There was relief among Saskatchewan producers after it was announced that Chinese tariffs were being lowered on canola. The announcement came during Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe's and Prime Minister Mark Carney's trip to China in January.

Carney said he expects China will lower tariffs on canola seed from March 1 to a combined rate of about 15 per cent—a drop from current combined tariff levels of 84 per cent. China is a \$4 billion canola seed market for Canada. In exchange, Canada will slash tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles.

"It's very welcome positive news for all canola and pea producers in the province who have been patiently waiting for some news like this, giving us some optimism going forward," said Bill Prybylski, President of APAS after the announcement.

"There has been so much uncertainty from the first announcement of the tariffs almost a year ago and the pressures that farmers have been dealing with in terms of the lower commodity prices and where are they going and how long are these tariffs in place—so to see some clarity going forward is certainly some relief."

"On the other side we do know there is still work to be done. There are still tariffs on canola oil and tariffs aren't gone completely, they have just been reduced on canola seed, so there still some work to do."

Prybylski says the impact of the tariffs on producers has been both economic and emotional.

"There are two sides to that, there is the economic impact which has been huge. It's hard to put an exact dollar figure on it because there are so many other factors that have affected the prices of our commodities. But certainly the tariffs had a big impact on those prices and they were quite significant. And the other side is just the attitude and mental wellbeing of farmers and dealing with these tariffs knowing there is nothing that we have done wrong but we are having to pay the price for all this. So there is certainly that aspect to it that will hopefully be alleviated going forward."

"Not only the tariffs from China but our input costs were pressured upward because of tariffs from other countries, particularly the United States, so certainly the talk of tariffs and trade have been top of mind for most producers. It was definitely tough on a lot of guys just trying to figure out what the effect of all these tariffs are going to be and what are our plans going forward to mitigate some of that risk that certainly was brought on because of the tariffs."

Prybylski says producers were optimistic when they heard Moe and Carney were heading to China together.

"I talked to a few folks and they were very optimistic about just the fact that the prime minister was there and that the premier was accompanying him was a good sign that there was going to be some movement and some relief from the tariffs. There was also a lot of skepticism that this was just a photo op, that maybe they would be setting the ground work for future talks, but to have some movement on the tariffs is certainly welcome news—it surprised some."

"We've been dealing with these tariffs for almost a year now so it's about time something was done."

Tracy Broughton, Executive Director with Sask Oilseeds, says they were hopeful when they saw Moe and Carney were heading to China together.

"We were quite hopeful, actually, and to be honest we were trying to temper our expectations because the relationship between Canada and China have been tenuous for the last a decade or so. It has been a year since the tariffs and there has been a lot of pressure on our farmers."

"Discussion has been moving very fast so we're hopeful, we are cautiously optimistic and we're feeling pretty

positive about the reduction in tariffs. Of course we would like it to be zero per cent, but at the same time, it's significant progress on the file and I guess the market will tell us if that's what it needed to start moving canola and the

export market a little bit more swiftly.

"It's a pretty big sense of relief for now."

Broughton says they have already seen positive market movement since the announcement.

*Continued on page 33* ↗

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# Moosomin Community Theatre part of Toronto International Film Festival circuit

## The Little Film Fest on the Prairies is showcasing Toronto International Film Festival films once a month

*Continued from page 21*

### What to expect

Payne explains the films range in genres and run time.

"The films definitely range. The previous film was a light one that started at 8:15 and was over around 10pm. I am going to be getting better at promoting the run time so that people know exactly how late the film is going to go. The March film is only a 60-minute documentary, so it can range greatly, and we will do a better job at communicating the run time so people can get home at a reasonable hour, especially on work nights.

"We took TIFF's recommendation for ticket pricing to start which is \$12 a ticket. Once we have got a little bit more money, we will look at reducing the price to make it more accessible."

The Little Film Fest on the Prairies Facebook page lists the details of each film as well as posters around town.

"With the survey we collected emails," said Payne. "We started up a Facebook page people can follow at Little Film Fest on the Prairies. We create a Facebook event, we put posters up—we are trying to put posters up almost three weeks before the film so people can have a chance to see them. We also promote it on the website I created for 'Things to do in Moosomin. ca'"

### Vibrant arts community

Payne says she has enjoyed becoming more involved in Moosomin's art community and the variety of opportunities it offers.

"I love living in Moosomin. My husband is one of the doctors in town and we have lived here since July 2024, so we are still pretty new and there is such a vibrant arts community here already. It is incredible. I am on the board for the Moosomin Visual Arts Centre, I just started helping out with the Moosomin and District Arts Council with performances going on, I just love how vibrant the community is. There are a lot of little things I miss about living in larger city centres, but I am someone who thinks 'Why can't it be here or create the things you miss' instead of wishing it was here."

"I also think I am never alone. There are probably other people who would like the films as well and there is. It is really just an effort to see if there is a desire for this sort of programming and creating this opportunity for our community to get a little taste of the city, but in Moosomin."

### Films encourage critical thinking

Payne describes the TIFF films as exciting, and unlike big-ticket films.

"They are very thought-provoking films. The subjects are not always subjects you are going to get in Disney Pixar or Marvel movies. It is not that kind of film. The stories are really thought-provoking. I think for many people who enjoy watching film, there are films that stick with them their whole lives. I want to see if there is still film being created now that is like that. By how many remakes they make of superhero movies, it seems that all the good ideas are gone, but these topics and films are amazing and important and they open discussion about things that maybe you don't typically discuss. It creates an opportunity for deeper discussion and thought. It is just an opportunity to connect, I think."

### Community support

Payne says the group was excited to see the crowds grow from the first film in December to the latest one last week.

"It all happened very quickly just through the support of the TIFF team and Kyla helping me out and the support of MADAC of course who runs the theatre. The first film was actually a little bit touch-and-go because we were so close to the delivery cut off time with the holidays coming up so it was a little bit exciting and nail-biting wondering if we were even going to get the film in time because they actually mail it to you. They mail you the film on a USB device. Turnout for the first film was great. I think we had around 35 people and we were quite happy with that with the chaos of the holidays, and we only had two weeks to promote it—that is how quick we decided to just launch."

"Then, the last film we were really happy with the turnout, we had about 48 attendees and that was obviously the largest turnout so far. It was such an amazing night because I felt the film really left you feeling a certain way, and it just felt that the space was buzzing after, and giving people an opportunity to have a say on what they would like to see next I think was a no-brainer and we will probably do that every time now."

"I am always surprised about the turnout. In a small town where there are competing events—especially with sports, kids' sports and family stuff—it is hard to know who is going to come out even when you ask for RSVPs. They don't mean much, because you can all of a sudden get hit with the flu and you aren't coming out,



but I feel like Moosomin has done such a great job of showing up, which is good because if people weren't showing up then we would probably think this isn't something sustainable."

She said she would welcome any help anyone can provide.

"If you'd like to get involved with putting this event on (putting posters up, helping promote, helping host, helping clean up, etc.) we would welcome you with open arms! Right now, our committee is Jaime Payne and Kyla Fingas. 'We have room for you!'"



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## Rachel Big Eagle grew up in Maryfield and recently competed at third Scotties

# Maryfield curler represents Saskatchewan at Scotties

*Continued from Page 15*

"We have some very dedicated curling lovers in Maryfield and they have really just taken on that role of passing it down to younger curlers. I am sure it is the same for Val, but the program I started curling in is still around and still going. It is a lot of the same people still running it honestly, and that passion of theirs just translates down the line."

"I live in Manor on a farm, but I practice in both Carlyle and Maryfield. I work on our family farm in Maryfield so I am there quite often, and they're always very accommodating and welcoming. It is always fun to practice back at home. I really enjoy going there."

She says other successful curlers in the community motivated her to pursue it competitively.

"The Scotties was always the dream for me. I think growing up it was so motivating having people from Maryfield that I knew personally do well with it and who were very successful. The Lemon girls, they had very successful junior careers and even into university, so it is neat when you know someone personally. I think it makes that dream a little less out of reach because you can picture yourself in that position. So, it has been cool to have that many people to look up to over the years."

### Curling a small world

Big Eagle says she thanks curling for the people and opportunities she has experienced.

"The people I've met during curling and crossed paths with, it is a very small world, even talking about crossing paths with Val who is a five-time Scotties Champion now. It is insane how often that happens. Just the people you get to know along the way. The curling world is so small, but it is also so supportive and welcoming, so that has been really special for me."

"I would also say I am a competitor through and through. You get to a stage like that, and you want to win. It is such a fun experience being there competing. When you get on a stage like that, it makes all of the tougher moments worth it and all the practice hours worth it because that is what you do it for, to get to that stage."

### Next steps

Big Eagle says she plans to return to the Scotties next season in hopes of representing team Saskatchewan again.

"For women's specifically my season is done. Curling keeps going, there are lots of opportunities for people who want to play mixed and mixed doubles. I am not sure what is next for me. I am going to take a break at the moment, it has been a busy season. I will keep practicing of course."

"Next year our team is unfortunately going to look a little bit different. Our skip Jolene is stepping away from curling, which is sad because she has been such a great teammate of mine for so many years, but I totally understand that is what is best for her right now. We are going to miss her, but of course that is the dream to go back to the Scotties, and I will be looking for a team I can do that with for sure."



Rachel Big Eagle and teammate Dayna Demmans curling at the Scotties as part of Team Saskatchewan.

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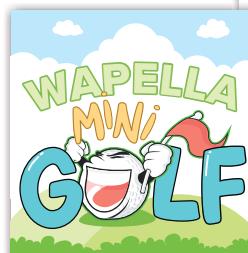
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# Weddings & Graduation



## Wedding dresses: 10 trends to watch for in 2026

Do you need wedding dress ideas? Take your inspiration from these 10 trends spotted in the latest collections by top international designers.

1. Lace galore
2. Large fabric flowers
3. Sheer details
4. Waist cut-outs revealing a hint of skin
5. Asymmetrical silhouettes
6. Ultra-soft pastels
7. Short or mid-calf puff skirts
8. Dropped waist
9. Retro bows on the shoulders or back
10. Corsets

Whether you want to follow the trends or not, remember that the most important thing is to choose a dress that makes you feel confident and beautiful. Visit specialty bridal shops in your area to find the perfect gown and accessories for your big day.



## How to choose the perfect wedding dress

### USE PROPS

In addition to your list of criteria, bring along pictures of dresses to show to the bridal store consultant. They can use the information you provide to quickly find several different gowns for you to try.

### TRY DIFFERENT STYLES

After the first fitting, you may realize that the dresses that look good in pictures aren't the right fit for your figure. Don't worry, your consultant can suggest other styles until you find the dress of your dreams.

Additionally, keep in mind that all wedding dresses need to be altered. Therefore, don't be dissuaded if a dress is too long, short or loose.

Whether you decide to buy or rent a wedding dress, choose the one that makes you feel most beautiful. For inspiration, visit your local bridal stores.



Choosing a wedding dress can be both exciting and nerve-racking. To help you create the look of your dreams, here are a few tips.

### MAKE A PLAN

Before you try on a single gown, make a list of the criteria you're looking for in a wedding dress. Do you want a certain cut, style or length? Do you want to show off your shoulders or hourglass figure? Establishing some criteria will allow you to narrow down the choices.

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- Kitchen
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- Portable projector and screen available

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# Weddings & Graduation

## 5 essential elements for planning a successful wedding



Just got engaged and ready to start planning your big day? Organizing a wedding is exciting, but it also requires you to make a lot of decisions. Here are five key things to keep in mind.

### 1. SET A BUDGET

Start by deciding how much you're willing to spend on the event. You don't need an exact figure right away, but you should try to estimate costs for essentials like the venue, cake, dresses and suits.



### 2. CHOOSE AN OFFICIANT

Depending on whether you want a civil or religious ceremony, you'll have to hire someone who is legally authorized to declare you married. This could be a priest, a notary or even a family member who obtains the proper authorization.



### 3. SEND OUT INVITATIONS

Whether you send your invitations by post or email, get them out as soon as possible. Ideally, you should do this at least four months before the wedding. This will help you confirm the number of place settings, chairs and other arrangements that need to be provided on the big day.

### 4. PLAN THE MENU

One of the keys to a successful wedding is undoubtedly serving good food. Take the time to explore your catering options. Some caterers, for example, of-

fer complete buffet menus that include vegetarian or lactose-free dishes.

### 5. BOOK AN ENTERTAINER OR MUSICIAN

Music sets the tone for the celebration. Depending on your budget and preferences, hire a DJ or live band to play appropriate music at the ceremony, cocktail hour and reception. Always ask for references from satisfied customers before booking.

Planning a wedding involves many details, but careful preparation will ensure nothing gets overlooked as you create a magical moment that reflects who you are. Hire a specialized company in your area.



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# Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

February 2026 • Page 29

## 'Trade is still about relationships' Moe talks about the trade deal with China

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER  
The Plain & Valley spoke with Premier Scott Moe on January 23 about his trip to China with Prime Minister Mark Carney in which a trade deal was brokered that will see China lower its tariffs on canola seed. China plans to lower tariffs on canola seed by March 1 to a combined rate of about 15 per cent—a drop from current combined tariff levels of 84 per cent. China is a \$4 billion canola seed market for Canada. In exchange, Canada will slash tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles. Following is the interview with the premier:

Explain the groundwork and background work that went into making this deal possible. What work, what discussions, what previous trips helped make it possible, with respect to the agreements with China?

I think first and foremost, where we got to today, which is really a restoration of agricultural trade with China. It's not really anything new. It's a restoration of where we were a year and two and three years ago. But it does show that international engagement with our trading partners in person certainly does matter, as it provides you with the relationships, and trade is still about relationships between people and the contacts, to be able to get in front of those people when things get bumpy. Now you can't always fix it right away. However you are in the right room speaking to the right people.

So I would say that point one is ongoing international engagement does certainly matter when things get bumpy, and we are very bumpy around the world today with multiple countries.

Second to that specific to working towards the agreement to restore trade—and there's some MOU's—memorandum of understandings to expand on that trade, and I'm quite excited about that as well. But it really started in September, and the change in tone and engagement started in September when I had went to China, the first premier in six years to be on the ground in China.

Kody Blois, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, went with me. We were able to have the appropriate meetings with the actual organizations in government that were involved in tariffs, and thereby would be involved in removing those tariffs, and those meetings to that point were not happening with those organizations. And so in September, it really marked a change in the tone and a change in the conversations—who was having



Scott Moe during the trade mission to China.

the conversations the people who matter, as opposed to just people.

And then that intensified over the next number of months, from September until ultimately we got to an agreement just this past week.

Kody Blois was very much the continuity in those negotiations, whether it was a minister, whether it was a prime minister meeting with President Xi on the sidelines, or Premier Li in New York. Kody very much was at the forefront of that effort.

So that is my second point. I'd say September was a pivot point using the contacts and the relationships that Saskatchewan have, and really lending that relationship to the federal government, to much of their credit. They engaged, and engaged heartily from that point on.

Last but not least, I would say—and this really is noticed—when I went to China, most recently with the Prime Minister, there was a significant delegation there. Kody Blois was there, and he was a con-

tinuum throughout the negotiations. But there was five or six federal ministers as well, and that's noticed, that relationship, that type of priority.

So it was a number of things I think that came to it, but that's a little bit of the back story and some of the history on how we got to an agreement that really restores our agricultural trade.

But there's some memorandum of understandings that I think open up some opportunities in the energy sector, in the forestry sector, and ironically, I think, in the longer term, in the manufacturing and auto sector as well.

So if I'm hearing you right, you're saying that when you go into these negotiations, having the right people there, having an actual relationship with these people really is important.

It certainly does. Our international relationship under our previous Prime Minister just was not a priority, and certainly getting to points of agreement with re-

spect to trade specifically, never seemed to be a priority.

That seems to be shifting with Prime Minister Carney, and that's a welcome shift, from my perspective, to put a priority on Canada's credibility on the international stage.

We've always believed that to be the case, and we've always engaged as a province through our parental trade offices and various missions that we had, and we're happy that we did have that relationship with China and were able to really breathe some ambition into the trade relationship and the trade agreement that we got to between Canada and China.

I've always said, it isn't going to be any provincial Premier, myself included, that stands up with President Xi or Premier Li and China, or any other international leader and says, 'listen, we have a trade agreement between a province and a nation.' That's not how it works.

Continued on page 46



# Steven Bonk M.P. Souris-Moose Mountain



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# Indian Head Research farm closing due to federal cutbacks

## Staff receive 6-month notice

BY NICOLE TAYLOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Indian Head Research Farm, which has been in existence since 1887, will be closing due to federal cutbacks.

Staff have been given six month notice.

The government has announced it wants to cut 16,000 positions, or about 4.5 per cent of the public service workforce across Canada, over the next three fiscal years.

"It's definitely not great news for our community. We are estimating about 40 people work there and have been given some different options on where they go," said Indian Head Mayor Steven Cole.

"The tree nursery we had, the PFRA, we still survived the loss of that, we got through it but it's going to effect a lot of families and a lot of employees there. I know some of them pretty well and they were born and raised and lived all their life here. Now, are they going to want to go to another community, with a few years left to retirement? It's going to be tough."

Cole says the farm is part of the town, and the area's history.

"My grandfather and my dad and myself, we all worked out there many years ago. I know in my family alone, my dad was



An aerial view of the research farm at Indian Head.

saying we had well over 100 years of my family working there. It's close to 140 years old. It has been there for quite some time. It's been a big part of our community for many years.

"I'm shocked right now. Government cuts, we all

know what happens and how it works, but nobody wants to see that leave your community.

"It has always been there, it has always been part of our history. I remember as a kid going to different functions in the corn rows and

different things like that over time. It's huge part of our community and now it's going to be closed and gone.

"They were always testing different seeds and coming up with lots of new va-

rieties of seed for growing in our area. And even when they shut the tree nursery down some of that work was moved there.

"So a big part of it is shock right now. Nobody

wants to see that happen in their community, especially something that's been there so long."

Premier Scott Moe said he doesn't feel the research farm should have been part of the federal cuts.

"I am starting to hear about some agriculture and agri food workforce reductions and number of research farms, not just in Saskatchewan, but across Western Canada," he said.

"I have not talked to my ag minister specifically about it yet, but I am going to, and likely talk with the federal ag minister and Prime Minister Carney as well."

"I know there's been the indication there's going to be a workforce reduction at the federal level because it has increased so drastically under the previous Prime Minister. But this is not a place where it was increasing under the previous Prime Minister. This is a historical research farm that has been operating in our province for literally decades and doing tremendous work when it comes to some of the developmental research or crop research or in the grasslands and ranching spaces as well."

*Continued on page 34*

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# USask researching sustainable bison grazing management

## Wasacase working on project that would bring bison herd to Kahkewistahaw

A new research project led by the University of Saskatchewan (USask) is laying the groundwork for more sustainable bison husbandry through grazing management and ecosystem enhancement techniques.

Dr. Trevor Crowe (PhD), acting dean of USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresources, is working with Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE) Director Dr. Scott Wright (PhD) and LFCE research scientist Dr. Eric van Cleef (PhD) on the project.

As van Cleef puts it, the goal of this research will be to "start from the beginning" to develop scientifically-grounded feeding, grazing, and care techniques tailored specifically for bison populations living in modern "intensive" systems—meaning grazing within fences instead of being completely free-roaming.

"The first step is to generate science-based information on how this grazing management affects forage and animal production, animal behaviour, the environment, and soil health," van Cleef said. "Then we'll have new information that could guide us to the next level, like introducing new forage species to feeding systems."

This project received support from the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), a joint provincial and federal government-funded program intended to support innovative agricultural and agri-food research throughout the province.

U of S has built a unique and robust catalogue of bioson research, due in large part to the genetic research conducted through the Integrated Omics for Sustainable Animal Agriculture and Environmental Stewardship (IntegroOmics) project led by U of S Distinguished Professor Emeritus Dr. Gregg Adams (PhD) with the Western Col-

Erinette Dr. Gregg Adams (far left) with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

The next step for researchers is to bring knowledge of best practices for raising and feeding bison to producers that are built directly from researching bison instead of building off beef cattle techniques. Due in large part to past efforts and connections built in the community, US-ask researchers have access to a bison herd they can work with to create robust research to support sustainable bison production.

As Wright puts it, bison are different than beef cattle, from their behaviour to their preferences in food.

The overall aim of the project is to build a base for sustainable bison production now and into the future. Wright included five different factors to consider when pursuing sustainability: environmental, ecological, economic, social, and cultural.

Examples of environmental and ecological impacts to consider include the kinds of plants required for the bison to be able to feed and graze, and the literal impact the hooves of bison will have on the already-existing plants and soil. In addition, Wright and van Cleef both noted that as soon as bison are brought into a paddock, their social behaviour among the herd changes, which is another consideration for safe and healthy bison production.

Economic considerations come into the overall cost-effectiveness of raising bison in paddocks. van Cleef, who has a background in economics, will also explore the impact of bison on rangeland and the direct value of having

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bison as part of a production strategy.

"We're trying to understand the impacts of moving animals to a very intensive system," van Cleef said. "Is it economically feasible or not? How can we bring Indigenous communities and groups of producers on board and show them we can do this and be sustainable? I think that's what's important."

Crowe stressed the level of importance in getting the input of Indigenous communities and listening to the cultural underpinnings of their work, noting that this project would help bridge a gap between anecdotal evidence and hard scientific evidence that could help support Indigenous knowledge and methods for bison production for today's producers.

"It is about bison, but we're thinking about plants, plant viability, rangeland soil viability, soil health. It's that relationship between the bison and their space," said Crowe.

Candace Wasacase, the former USask director of Indigenous Engagement and the current CEO of Kahkewistahaw Economic Management Corporation, has worked with bison numerous times through her career and is deeply familiar with the importance of bison to Indigenous com-

munities. A member of Kahkewistahaw First Nation, Wascase said bison are not simply animals—they are family to First Nations in Saskatchewan. And research into bison care and production helps to create knowledge for the university and community alike.

"There's a re-emergence and a renewal of the bison spirit back to our community, and I think projects like this will help the co-creation of a new knowledge base about bison, the land and all its people, First Nations and not," she said.

Wasacase is currently working on a project that would bring a bison herd to Kahkewistahaw First Nation. She is working with numerous organizations to ensure the land they've secured for the bison is appropriate and sustainable for a herd and said this kind of project could help support this kind of initiative.

"This work is absolutely critical to the mission of both

First Nations and the university," Wasacase said. "Bison are a keystone species to the province and this land. They've had a relationship with First Nations for thousands of years, and it's important we treat them as the relatives they are." The research team lauded the support of the ADF for this unique project, calling it a clear signal that the provincial government understands the importance of bison in Saskatchewan and believes in USask and the LFCE to lead this kind of work.

"To me, fundamentally, it gives industry options and answers. It allows the livestock industry in Saskatchewan to make choices based on science," Wright said.

The ADF is supported through the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (S-CAP), an investment of \$3.5 billion over five years from federal, provincial and territorial governments with the goal of supporting the agri-food and agri-product sectors across Canada. The Sustainable CAP includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5 billion commitment for programs designed by provinces and territories that is cost-shared 60 per cent by the federal government and 40 per cent by provincial/territorial governments.

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# Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan invest \$9.7 million in crop research

Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Heath MacDonald and Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture David Marit announced \$9.7 million to support crop research in Saskatchewan.

This investment includes \$7.2 million to support 39 new crop research projects through the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) and \$2.5 million through the Strategic Research Initiative (SRI) to study the long-term management of herbicide-resistant kochia and wild oats.

"Investing in agricultural research is an investment in the future," MacDonald said. "It helps address current and emerging challenges while creating new opportunities for farmers. We will continue to support agricultural research to ensure producers have the tools, knowledge, and solutions they need to succeed now and in years to come."

"Saskatchewan's position as a global leader in crop exports is built on decades of investment in research and the dedication of scientists in crop development," Marit said. "Investments in agricultural research remain key to driving economic growth."

A Government of Saskatchewan extension specialist stands in a crop research field holding a microphone, surrounded by rows of green plants and informational signs. The image includes text that reads: "Agriculture Innovation" at the top and "\$9.7 Million to Support New Crop Research Projects" at the bottom.

ADF projects are selected through an annual competitive process to identify research with the potential to help Saskatchewan's farmers remain innovative, profitable and competitive. This year's crop projects include a range of topics, including: evaluating the performance of subsurface drip irrigation; identifying new ways to build resistance to wheat stem sawfly; enhancing tolerance to drought and phosphorus deficiency in lentil crops; managing riceworm infestations in northern Saskatchewan wild rice production; and validating bale wrapping material made from straw, straw and oat hulls.

The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan work closely with industry partners on ADF projects to leverage funding to support research that aligns with industry priorities. This year, projects are supported by an additional \$3.2 million from 13 industry partners, including:

- Alberta Canola Producers Commission;
- Alberta Grains;
- Alberta Pulse Growers;
- Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan;



- Manitoba Canola Growers;
- Manitoba Crop Alliance;
- Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR);
- Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission (SaskBarley);
- Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission;

- Saskatchewan Oilseeds Development Commission (SaskOilseeds);
- Saskatchewan Pulse Growers (SPG);
- Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (SaskWheat); and
- Western Grains Research Foundation.

"Producers are constantly growing, changing and innovating farming operations to capture growing potential and maximize on-farm efficiencies," SaskWheat outgoing Board Chair Jake Leguee said. "Today's ADF and SRI funding announcement signals to us as producers that we have strong partners with government to tackle agriculture challenges and continue to unlock potential."

The SRI provides targeted funding to address complex challenges facing the agricultural sector. The 2026 SRI project, led by Dr. Shaun Sharpe at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), will accelerate development of sustainable solutions for producers to manage herbicide-resistant kochia and wild oat. The collaborative initiative involves a multidisciplinary team from AAFC, the Universities of Saskatchewan, Regina, and Manitoba, and the National Research Council. The multi-year research project represents a \$3.2 million research investment with \$2.5 million in government funding and \$730,000 from SaskWheat, SPG, SaskOilseeds, SaskBarley, RDAR and Alberta Grains.

The ADF and SRI are supported through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3.5 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food, and agribased products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities, and a \$2.5 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.



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# Relief as canola tariffs lowered after China trip

Continued from page 23

"The market this week have been responding positively already and prices seem to be strengthening. I think that's really helpful for farmers who are going to be moving canola in spring to get ready for clearing out some of those bins. I know there was a lot of pressure and concerns for farmers who haven't sold their canola and still have seed in the bin. This is the time of the year when farmers start planning for the upcoming crop year and they're going to be having to pay for some of the inputs that they'll be needing for the new crop year, so cash flow becomes really important in January."

"The tariffs were causing a lot of discomfort. Uncertainty always does. And a lot of farmers I know, they have experienced dealing with weather-uncertainty and they know that's out of everyone's control. I think this one is very political in nature. That always brings a lot of emotions and there was an inability for people to have any direct impact on the issue and so that causes a lot of stress and anxiety."

While Broughton is happy to see tariffs lowered, she's even more hopeful for a tariff free environment at some point.

"We would like to see a tariff free environment—zero tariffs. It would be great to have some sort of bilateral trade deal. We would like to see open access to any export market that brings or that would like to buy our farmers' canola."

Broughton says she was impressed by Moe and Carney's leadership on the issue.

"I'd like to call out the fact that we are very happy to see a strong relationship between our provincial government and the federal government. Premier Scott Moe has shown a lot of leadership on this file and advocated very

hard for canola farmers and we're very appreciative of that leadership and we're also very thankful for the priority that Prime Minister Mark Carney has put in our sector. It is a \$43 billion industry and very important to the Canadian economy, and sometimes in agriculture, we don't always feel recognized by the federal government and so I think this demonstrates that they do see the importance that agriculture provides to the economy. I was just looking it up the other day and it's seven per cent of the national GDP, so it's very important industry."

Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark said Saskatchewan has pushed hard to promote trade, and the lower tariffs are a win for the province.

"Our Saskatchewan government has always promoted trade," he says. "We have a network of trade offices around the world, we have done many, many trade missions around the world and laying that ground work and doing that hard work ends up with results like this. This didn't just happen, this is the second time the premier has been in China recently (Moe visited China in September). I know that the hard work the Saskatchewan government has done on the trade file has led to results like these."

"It's thanks to the leadership of Scott Moe and the government of Saskatchewan that this is a win for all of Canada and we've seen this consistently that this province leads the way on trade and there's a reason for that. First of all on the canola issue, it's vital to this province. If you drive around our area the province in the summer, those yellow canola fields define the landscape in the summer. It's of vital, vital importance and that's why the premier and our government have made it a priority for us is to

work on these tariffs, and that's why there's been a lot of work behind the scenes and a previous trip by the premier to China, so there's been a big focus on that."

"But overall, our area of the province, and our province as a whole, is focused on trade. Look at our industries around here, our manufacturers, places like IJACK, they ship items all around the world. Our agriculture sector, it ships its products all around the world. Our energy sector, much of our energy is produced for export. And our mining—potash—mining, those products are produced here and go around the world."

"So we are a province that's defined by trade. As a matter of fact, Saskatchewan had the second largest exports per capita in all of Canada last year. That tells you how dependent we are on trade and why trade has been a focus of this government and why Scott Moe has made it a particular focus."

"The opposition NDP has criticized us for having trade offices. They said that they would close those offices. The opposition NDP has criticized trade missions—rade missions that result in things like a much better deal for canola producers. They have criticized those missions very often as junkets or as unnecessary."

"But that hard work, laying the ground work, setting up those offices, doing the hard work—that leads to successes like this. This is a win for Saskatchewan, this is a win for Canada, this is a win for trade and the economy."

"I just want to commend premier Scott Moe on his leadership on this issue. He is not only leading Saskatchewan but he has provided leadership that has benefited the entire country in this case."




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# Indian Head Research farm closing due to federal cutbacks

Continued from page 30

"So this is bothersome that this is a place where the federal government is trying to reduce their public workforce. I think there's a number of other places that they could look to save more money than they will here."

"And I would point to one, and that is the gun grab that they're doing. If they remove that flawed program, that would save you far more money than what is trying or attempted to be saved by closing these research farms or the workforce reduction that is happening there."

Milton Dyck, the President of the Agriculture Union which is a component of the Public Service Alliance of Canada which represents the employees at the research farm, says there was no need to include Agriculture Canada as part of the federal cuts.

"I think it's a blow to agriculture research within Canada, within Saskatchewan. It's also a blow to the town of Indian Head, because in 2012 they lost a tree nursery there for the for the prairie farm rehabilitation administration that had over 70 employees with Ag Canada, and now they're losing another 30 or so employees from the town," he says.

"So the town has lost basically its biggest employer over the last 15 years. Indian Head, incidentally, was one of the first research centers. It was one of the first five agriculture research centers in Canada, and it was created in 1887, back when Saskatchewan was the Northwest Territories.

"Research is based on a lot of having different soils, different areas to do crop testing, and as we lose more and more centers to do our crop testing, this lessens our ability to create good genetic varieties, because we're losing the areas that we normally plant in."

"I do not think the staff are getting a lot of options. When the time comes—they still do not know quite when, but it's coming—they will just lose their jobs and positions."

"We knew there was going to be cuts because the government had said they were going to be cutting, of course, but when Mark Carney was talking and when the Treasury Board has been talking about the Civil Service increasing by 30 per cent over the last 10 years, Agriculture Canada has actually dropped by 10 per cent of employees."

"So we're already short staffed. We were already short staffed, and now we're even shorter because the department has already lost a lot of employees for research, and now we're losing more."

"So it's a blanket cut that has been asked of all departments, but when your department has already fallen in



An historical photo of the research farm at Indian Head.

numbers, how do you continue to cut it?"

Dyck says the union will be pushing back on the cuts to the research farm.

"As a union we're going to be pushing back. But this is something that's just come out. In the last day, we found out where the cuts are and which stations they've cut, and they've cut five stations across the country, and they're also trying to cut a lot of corporate staff. You always try and cut, say the administration staff, or the back of the house staff, but yet they're vital and I just don't know how, when we're already short staffed, how we're going to continue to be viable."

We knew the cuts were coming, but it's always shocking to people when

they're told out of the blue. They had no idea in these positions that was the meeting they were going to, to then be told that their jobs were going."

Dyck says he suspects the research farm will be closed by the summer.

"I would suspect that it is six months, but it might be different for different groups, even at the station, because they will have facility staff that might be there longer to shut down everything before the final closure. But I would say there's not going to be another year of work. They're not going to be doing anything this summer, is what I would think."

## LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property located in the Municipality of Brenda-Waskada and described below will be received by:

**Meighen Haddad LLP**  
P.O. Box 485, 102 N. Railway Ave.,  
Deloraine, MB, R0M 0M0  
Attention: Warren G. Barber, K.C.

### PROPERTY:

**NW 1/4 14-3-24WPM comprising 160 acres more or less\***

\* all acreages taken from the most recent Manitoba Property Assessment Reports.

### CONDITIONS OF TENDER

1. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the seller.
2. Tenders must be received at or before **11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2026** at the offices of Meighen Haddad LLP, at the address set out above, Attn: Warren G. Barber.
3. Tenders must be accompanied by a **\$5,000.00** deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unacceptable bids will be refunded.
4. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering the terms and conditions of sale.
2. In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender must be paid within thirty (30) days from the date of notification of acceptance or evidence provided that the purchase funds will be available under conditions acceptable to the vendor. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid in the set time limit the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as penalty.
3. Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
4. All mines and minerals will be reserved from any transfer.
5. Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing **January 1, 2026**.
6. Successful bidders will be responsible to pay G.S.T. or to provide a Declaration and Undertaking to self-assess if registered for G.S.T.
7. Each of the vendor and purchaser will be responsible for their own legal fees and disbursements relating to the sale.

**Meighen Haddad LLP**

LAW FIRM

18:3c

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**Meighen Haddad LLP**  
P.O. Box 485, 102 N. Railway Ave.,  
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Attention: Warren G. Barber, K.C.

### PROPERTY:

**Parcel One: Part NW 1/4 17-4-25 WPM comprising 87.18 acres more or less\***

**Parcel Two: Part SW 1/4 17-4-25 WPM comprising 80.01 acres more or less\***

**Parcel Three: SE 1/4 18-4-25 WPM comprising 160 acres more or less\***

**Parcel Four: NE 1/4 31-3-25 WPM comprising 156.29 acres more or less\***

\* all acreages taken from the most recent Manitoba Property Assessment Reports.

### CONDITIONS OF TENDER

1. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the seller.
2. Tenders must be received at or before 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at the offices of Meighen Haddad LLP, at the address set out above, Attn: Warren G. Barber.
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For further information or an appointment to view,  
contact Gerald Lewis at 204-522-5550.

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17:1c

# Nights in Rodanthe...or elsewhere

The story isn't remotely like mine and to be honest, I am not overly big on romantic dramas and I especially have an aversion to Hallmark Christmas movies. I do however have this vague memory of the 2008 movie, "Nights in Rodanthe." Not so much the details, but the feelings that the story invoked. One evening before Christmas as we were setting up for our annual Christmas supper, our pastor and his wife were joking about Hallmark Christmas movies to some differing opinions like his: "Ewwww," and hers: "Oh yes, love them." Since the story in every one of those Hallmark movies is basically the same, my guess is it's more about the warm feelings than the actual storyline.

Why does this particular thought have any place in a humorous farm column you might ask? Well, I'm getting there. Do you know how sometimes out of nowhere come these warm, fuzzy feelings when you think about a place, a person, a moment in time? Sometimes when I am cleaning or baking or whatever, I remember a particular place, just for an instant, and it just brings a smile to my face. Or sometimes it might be a special moment with someone that just fills me with warmth. When I hit the treeline going north or east, I am filled with this warmth that reminds me of my childhood home. When I see my baby cousin at a wedding or family get-together, I cry; he hugs me and asks what's wrong. But nothing's wrong – in fact, everything is just right, it's just that a multitude of feelings and wonderful memories sometimes overtake me when I see him.

As for the "Nights in Rodanthe" moment that hit me yesterday, it was a fleeting thought from last harvest that literally came to me with the same feeling I had when I thought of this movie. I was sitting in my comfy chair in the RV on the farm, awaiting hubby's return from a late night spent combining. In he comes, dirty and tired with the dirtiest old ball cap atop his messed-up hair complete with a bit of a goose egg on the top of his forehead from hitting his head on some piece of metal while doing repairs that day. The dust fills the air around him as he pulls off his bunny hug and then he says, "I'm going to make myself something to eat. Anything you'd like me to make you?"

I didn't even want anything to eat that night but I said sure. It's 11 p.m. and he's been up since before 5:00 that morning and the food choices in the RV are limited to fried eggs and leftover warmed-up noodle-hamburger casserole that we had likely eaten three times in a row already but with a smile (these aren't always that prevalent in harvest) and his chef's hat on (okay, well his chef-like heart), he got us something to snack on. And that's the "Nights in Rodanthe" moment in my world minus Richard Gere and the seaside village of Rodanthe, North Carolina.

And of course, that particular thought led me to the next. I'll call it, "Days in the R.M. of Willowdale." We were moving two combines across the #9 highway, hubby in one, I in the other. Hubby went ahead, up the ditch and onto the highway and down the other ditch. And I, dutifully following, went up the ditch and onto the highway at which time I thought, "No way am I going down that ditch. My header will hit the dirt and what if it breaks off or worse, makes me roll this unit over, tossing me out and squashing me? My kids will miss me. Who will cook for them? Hubby will be a mess. Nope, there's no way I am going down that embankment. There is no way I can do this." Keep in mind my combine at this point is essentially blocking the entire highway off. Hubby is stopped ahead, standing on the deck of his combine waving me ahead. And waving. And waving. I finally took the plunge and inched the combine down the ditch, header as high as

**The Lighter Side of Life...**  
**DOWN ON THE FARM**  
by donna beutler  
FREELANCE PHOTO/JOURNALIST  
dl\_beutler@yahoo.ca



it would go. Was that my heart pounding or the header hitting dirt? Whichever it was, I was now safely down the other side. Hubby is still standing on the deck of his combine giving me with a big thumbs up before getting back in the cab of his machine and driving into the field. Ah yes, those few and far between "Rodanthe" moments down on the farm!

All this is to say, little moments of warm memories speak of those people and places that impact us even in what may seem like 'unremarkable' moments. And it's these moments that aren't ever forgotten.

With Christmas behind me, the decorations put away and the family room restored, I tackled painting bedrooms and bathrooms and organizing storage rooms and linen closets. It's amazing what one can accomplish when one procrastinates doing the things you don't want to do long enough. Nevertheless, the day came when there were no more walls to paint or closets to empty and re-organize. There were no more excuses to be made and no reason not to, I pulled out my computer and got to work. And yes, in case you are wondering, the year-end financials are finally wrapped up.

During this first part of January, I was tackling another hurdle, all while attempting to maintain a happy façade. That root canal I postponed last year because I was no longer experiencing any problems had to be resurrected. And let me tell you, those 10 days I had to wait were the longest 10 days ever! I literally rocked back and forth with my head in my hands for days on end until at last, the penicillin kicked in and gave me a breather. I have to tell you, if I had a choice, I would do two hip replacements all over again instead of the hav-

ing a tooth ache like I had. Between Boost and strawberry milkshakes that were my form of sustenance for an entire week you will never guess what I craved more than anything? A hot dog. I don't even like hot dogs at the best of times but guess what my first 'real' meal was? Yup, complete with relish and ketchup!!

As I write this, we are in the dead of winter at the moment. It's cold. The wind tends to add an extra 10 degrees of coldness to even the coldest of days and those combine moments are nothing but a distant memory. Hubby has been hauling grain and together we have a daily ritual that sees us head out to the farm in the late afternoon to feed the farm cats, one of which is 'my' special cat, who happens to have half a dozen friends who love when we show up with supper for them.

When we are at the farm we will usually see the twins out doing something at the farm but last week, with one of the boys down with a nasty cold, it was just one of them out and about, looking a bit forlorn without his primary buddy. Today, after having left the table set and food in the oven for the "Lunch Bunch" (a group of seven or eight teens) as I lunched with a friend, I returned home to see the table cleared except for one clean plate and cup in the spot where the twin who hasn't been sick always sits and I thought, "Oh, another one down in that household." And so goes the season of sickness, passing from one person to another but fingers are crossed here that it misses me!

And here's hoping it misses you as well! As we enter calving season and potential cold snaps and windy days and who knows what kind of nasty weather, here's hoping you winter well out here in rural Saskatchewan and we'll see you again when it's just a bit closer to spring than it is right now! Iquately say how much we appreciate your support of our paper? To those who enjoy the light-hearted look at life down on the farm in this column, we appreciate that too. There isn't a column that goes by that someone doesn't say how much they can relate to these columns or how well they've 'gotten to know' the twins or how they have been able to have a laugh over some funny thing that's been said or done "down on the farm." Here's hoping life down on your farm or wherever you call home is full of stories to remember. Have a wonderful Christmas season everyone. See you all next year!!

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## LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Four (4) Quarters located in the R.M. of Silverwood No. 123 and legally described as:

SE 32-13-02 W/2 - Surface Parcel #107732213 – 90 cultivated acres  
SW 32-13-02 W/2 - Surface Parcel #107732224 – 128 cultivated acres  
NW 29-13-02 W/2 - Surface Parcel #107732145 – 124 cultivated acres  
NE 29-13-02 W/2 - Surface Parcel #107732156 – 120 cultivated acres

\*Cultivated acres taken from SAMA field sheets.

No usable buildings or other improvements located on any of the quarters.

Current owner will need access to remove some personal items after spring thaw.

No surface / windmill leases; no mineral rights included.

Prospective Buyers are advised to conduct their own due diligence on the land.

### Terms and Conditions:

- Land Free and Clear of all Encumbrances other than utility or other encumbrances not affecting marketability.
- Possession 30 days following acceptance of winning bid or unless otherwise mutually agreed. Balance of tender amount to be paid on or before possession.
- Interest at 5.0% on any amount not paid at possession.
- Seller has paid taxes to Dec. 31, 2025. Buyer responsible for land taxes from and after January 1, 2026.
- Buyer pays Land Titles transfer fees, seller provides Transfer Authorizations to transfer to buyer.
- Bids may be submitted on individual quarters or as a package for all 4 quarters.
- All Tenders must be in writing and include bid deposit of 5% of bid price by way of bank draft or certified cheque ONLY payable to "Trobert Gilliss Law Firm – Trust".

### HIGHEST OR ANY BID NOT NECESSARILY ACCEPTED.

Inquiries relative to land to Stewart Dayle at 306.435.9124 or James Trobert at 306.634.2616. Tenders must be submitted on or before FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in a sealed envelope marked "DAYLE LAND TENDER", c/o Trobert Gilliss Law Firm, #1339 4th Street, Estevan, Saskatchewan, S4A 0X1. Tenders will not be accepted by email.



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# Strong showing of Sask finalists at National Indigenous Tourism Awards

Indigenous tourism operators will be representing Saskatchewan on a national stage at the 2026 Indigenous Tourism Awards in Edmonton, Alberta. This year marks the highest number of finalists for the province since 2018 with four finalists, announced by the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC) on January 20:

- Pêmiska Tourism, Exceptional Cultural Experience Award;
- Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Indigenous Destination Development Award;
- Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Outstanding Staff Person Award (Breanna Tait); and
- Dakota Dunes Resort, New Operator or Business that Launched a New Experience.

"The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the importance of the Indigenous tourism industry in the province and how it creates meaningful economic opportunities for Indigenous entrepreneurs and communities," Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan Alana Ross said. "With growing demand from domestic and international travellers, these experiences contribute to Saskatchewan's visitor economy. This number of finalists speaks to the strength of Indigenous attractions and how they contribute to the success of the province's tourism industry."

"The Indigenous tourism industry offers an array of authentic cultural experiences across the province that promote education and support reconciliation," Tourism Saskatchewan CEO Jonathan Potts said. "Our organization extends heartfelt congratulations to these deserving finalists who are proudly representing our province."

The Indigenous Tourism Awards are presented annually by ITAC to recognize the best in the industry. Nominees must be majority Indigenous-owned or operated.



The awards will be presented on the final night of the International Indigenous Tourism Conference held in Edmonton, Alberta on February 19, 2026.

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## VIRDEN 2026 SALE SCHEDULE

### CLIP & SAVE!

#### - FEBRUARY 2026 -

18	Wednesday	Regular Sale (Feeder Cattle, Cows/Bulls) .....	9 a.m.
		Bred Cow & Heifer Sale .....	2 p.m.
25	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale .....	10 a.m.

#### - MARCH 2026 -

4	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale .....	10 a.m.
11	Wednesday	Regular Sale (Feeder Cattle, Cows/Bulls) .....	9 a.m.
13	Friday	Malchuk, Gardham & Guests Bull Sale .....	1 p.m.
		Select Bred Cow & Heifer Sale to follow	
14	Saturday	Sheep/Goat .....	1 p.m.
		Tack, Small Animals, Cattle, Pigs, Horses .....	5 p.m.
18	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale .....	10 a.m.
25	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale .....	10 a.m.
27	Friday	Bred Cow & Heifer Sale .....	1 p.m.

#### - APRIL 2026 -

1	Wednesday	Regular Sale (Feeder Cattle, Cows/Bulls) .....	9 a.m.
4	Saturday	Transcon Virden Bull Sale .....	
8	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale .....	10 a.m.
15	Wednesday	Regular Sale (Feeder Cattle, Cows/Bulls) .....	9 a.m.
17	Friday	Cow/Calf pair & Bred Cow & Heifer Sale .....	1 p.m.
18	Saturday	Sheep/Goat .....	1 p.m.
		Tack, Small Animals, Cattle, Pigs, Horses .....	5 p.m.
22	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale .....	10 a.m.
29	Wednesday	Regular Sale (Feeder Cattle, Cows/Bulls) .....	9 a.m.
		Cow/Calf pair & Bred Cow & Heifer Sale .....	2 p.m.



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**HLS.CA**



# GUIDE TO EDUCATION 2026



**Canadian Mennonite University**

## Whole-person education, for your whole life

At CMU, education is more than acquiring knowledge—it's about building practical skills and cultivating wisdom. Intellectual growth is woven together with hands-on experience, spiritual reflection, moral courage, and emotional insight. Students are challenged to ask not only what they want to do, but who they want to become. This holistic approach extends across every academic program at CMU from business to music, biology to education, social work to communications, and beyond.

It prepares CMU students to tackle today's most pressing issues.

At CMU, ideas are explored in community; that's what sets the learning experience apart. As a small university with average class size of 18 students, students engage daily directly with classmates and professors with perspectives, and practice the art of dialogue—with humility, curiosity, and respect—in ways that are not done elsewhere.

That same spirit extends beyond the classroom—and now, CMU is taking that commitment even further. CMU is now

offering free double-occupancy dormitory housing to every first-year undergraduate student, starting Fall 2026. Student data is clear: students who live and learn together thrive academically. And by lifting the cost of first-year housing, CMU gives every new student a financial head start that strengthens their path forward.

Because whole person learning includes connecting knowledge with practice, work-integrated learning placements link academic learning with practical application for every student. The first of its kind in Canada, CMU's WIL network today spans 50 countries and six continents. CMU sets every student up for their first job or next academic pursuit and prepares them for success throughout their entire career.

CMU holds a high bar for academic excellence, offering seven different degrees and 29 majors, combining rigorous standards with strong student supports and a network of invaluable connections rooted in community.

Guided by a mission that integrates

intellect and spirit, character and competence, career and the common good, CMU prepares graduates to engage the world with clarity, generosity, and resilience.

They step forward ready to engage the world—attentive to the needs of others and grounded in a deep commitment to hope.



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Business • Education  
Music • Music Therapy

**FREE DORM**

**CMU**  
Expect more.



# GUIDE TO EDUCATION 2026

**Suncrest College**

## Why more students are choosing Suncrest College and graduating debt-free

Students across Saskatchewan are discovering what makes Suncrest College the smart choice for post-secondary education: quality programs, personalized support, and significant savings.

With the rising cost of living, reducing student debt has never been more important. At Suncrest College, students can save thousands of dollars compared to relocating to larger centers like Regina or Saskatoon. Many graduates have completed diplomas and degrees with zero student debt, thanks to lower living costs and perks such as free parking, free tutorials, and reduced student fees.

The biggest advantage? Flexibility. Students who stay local often keep their part-time jobs, maintain strong employer relationships, and benefit from family support. Alumna Tori Danylko is a perfect example.

"As soon as I knew my midterm and finals schedule, I let my employer know, and they accommodated," said Danylko. "Living at home made it easier to balance work and school."

Tori graduated from the Business Diploma program debt-free and was hired full-time at Suncrest College as a student recruiter. "For me, it's easy to promote the college because of the great experience I had."

Another success story is Maisy Wheeler, who completed all four years of her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree through the University of Saskatchewan at Suncrest College. She graduated in the top 5% of her program province-wide without a single dollar of debt.

"Staying at Suncrest made sense," said Wheeler. "I planned to work in my home community, and with scholarships from both Suncrest and the U of S, it was the best decision I could have made."

Suncrest College isn't just a smart choice. It's the right choice for your future. Save money, stay connected, and graduate with confidence.



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ME**





# GUIDE TO EDUCATION 2026

## Dumont Technical Institute (DTI)

# Providing quality education, training, and services to Saskatchewan's Métis

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) is the adult education and skills training entity of Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Established in 1992, DTI provides quality education, training opportunities, and services to Saskatchewan's Métis.

With the philosophy "Learners Come First," DTI has been instrumental in helping reshape the lives of Métis individuals and communities. DTI continues to prioritize Adult Basic Education, Health, Industry/Trades, and Business training.

DTI is proud of its partnerships and direct links to employers that help Métis learners obtain solid employment. DTI has made giant strides over the years to help meet the needs of Métis learners through curriculum enhancement and Métis-specific programming; working co-operatively with other institutions and agencies to improve Métis participation and success in the education system; and ultimately developing a skilled Métis workforce that will meet local, regional, and national labour market needs.

### Student Services include:

- Academic support
- Tutoring and guidance
- Culturally re-affirming environment
- Links to employment
- Liaison with sponsoring agencies such as: GDI Train-

ing & Employment, Education & Training Incentive (ETI), and Student Financial Assistance

-Referrals for student assistance

-Career counseling

### 2026-2027 Course Offerings:

#### ÎLE-À-LA-CROSSE

- Adult Basic Education
- Practical Nursing

#### LA LOCHE

- Adult Basic Education

#### MEADOW LAKE

- Mental Health & Wellness

#### ONLINE

- Adult Basic Education (Level 4)
- Continuing Care Assistant
- This program is online with required in-person components
- Early Childhood Education (Level 2)
- This program is online with required in-person components
- Early Childhood Education (Level 3)
- This program is online with required in-person components

#### PRINCE ALBERT

- Adult Basic Education
- Heavy Equipment Truck & Transport Technician
- Practical Nursing
- Continuing Care Assistant
- Primary Care Paramedic

#### REGINA

- Adult Basic Education
- Continuing Care Assistant
- Office Administration
- Practical Nursing

#### SASKATOON

- Adult Basic Education
- Continuing Care Assistant
- Practical Nursing
- Business Certificate (Online/Hybrid)

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1(877) 488-6888



# GUIDE TO EDUCATION 2026



## St. Thomas More College More for you

St. Thomas More College (STM) provides students with an intimate scholarly setting situated within the larger University of Saskatchewan (U.Sask) campus. With a combination of smaller class sizes, award-winning faculty, social activities, additional scholarship and bursary opportunities, and a cafeteria, STM offers more to students' University experience.

STM, in partnership with U.Sask's College of Arts and Science, provides students with over 220 additional credit classes in the humanities and social sciences to select from, many unique to the campus. Any U.Sask student may take STM courses, with credit counting toward their U.Sask degrees. STM offers courses in the following 19 subject areas: Anthropology; Archaeology; Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies; Catholic Studies; Economics; English;

French; Hebrew; History; Interdisciplinary Studies; Latin; Literature; Philosophy; Political Studies; Psychology; Religious Studies; Sociology; Spanish; and Ukrainian. STM also now offers five certificate programs distinct to campus.

Two extensive additions and renewal to the College include additional classroom space incorporating the latest technology; dedicated student study and lounge space; faculty research space; newly renovated library, and a large natural light Atrium for studying and gathering with friends.

STM is also recognized for its Community Service-learning opportunities, youth groups, a student governing body within the College, and access to student advising and College ministry support.

To see a full listing of classes taught and programs co-ordinated by STM, please visit [stmcollege.ca](http://stmcollege.ca)



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 **stmcollege.ca** **1-800-667-2019**



# GUIDE TO EDUCATION 2026

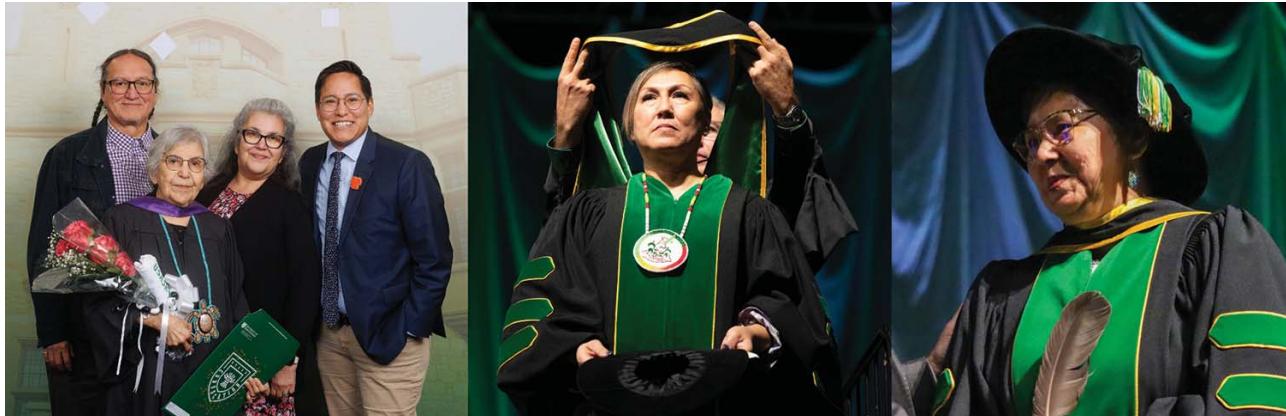


Photo: USask

**Above from left:** Louise Fraser, Dr. Kim Fraser-Saddleback and family (left), Dr. Shawn Sanderson (middle), and Dr. Valerie Harper (right).

## University of Saskatchewan

### Mother-daughter duos complete prestigious USask degrees

**Trailblazing quartet from Mistawasis Nêhiyawak Cree First Nation continues to inspire**

BY CONNOR JAY

At the age of 87, Louise Fraser earned her Bachelor of Education through the University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Education's Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP), while her daughter, Dr. Kim Fraser-Saddleback (EdD), earned a Doctor of Education through the college's Department of Educational Administration. Dr. Valerie Harper (EdD) and her daughter, Dr. Shawn Sanderson (EdD), also completed their degrees alongside Fraser-Saddleback.

Fraser—whose nêhiyaw (Cree) name, wihkaskwa iskwêw, means “Sweetgrass Woman”—was taken from her family and sent to an Indian residential school in Manitoba around the age of eight. She can now pursue her dream of preserving and teaching the Cree language to children and youth.

“The Cree language—Plains Cree ‘Y’ dialect—was all I heard before I went to residential school,” said Fraser. “Cree was spoken in my home, and that was all I knew. When I went to residential school, I wasn’t allowed to speak my language anymore.”

As much as Fraser was learning and growing, she was

also leaving a lasting impression on the ITEP community. Arlene Bear, associate director of ITEP, always enjoyed the office chats with Fraser to share their past experiences.

“I saw growth in her from the beginning to now,” said Bear. “When she shared her stories, I learned more about her education and the language. She’s so wonderful to be with and to work with.”

Fraser-Saddleback credits her mother for instilling the importance of education and resiliency in colonial spaces.

“Valerie and I—who are cousins—are just one step away from the residential school experience because our moms went to residential school,” she said. “They showed us how to survive and be resilient within a colonial educational sphere.”

For Harper, the journey from high school dropout to earning a doctorate alongside her daughter made the experience especially meaningful.

“It meant a lot to me to have Shawn in the cohort with me. I was beaming with pride when we started together,” she said.

Sanderson always admired her mother’s impact in education and leadership. The opportunity to work alongside

her in a professional setting was remarkable.

“She’s an outstanding leader in education,” said Sanderson. “She has dedicated her life to nurturing young minds and inspiring those around her with a passion for learning and teaching. She has not only shaped my values, but also left a profound impact on countless learners.”

Dr. Paul Newton (PhD), head of the Department of Educational Administration, said the success of Mistawasis educators is not a case of luck. He recognizes how much effort the community has put into promoting education at all levels.

“Mistawasis has done a lot of great work around education in their community,” he said. “You can see evidence of that in the number of high-level scholars and leaders who have come out of that community.”

Now, with their USask degrees, they can lead and encourage the next Mistawasis generation.

“We’re challenging perceptions that Indigenous people can’t do certain things or can’t be leaders in education,” Fraser-Saddleback said. “That’s one of the powerful and meaningful parts for our community and for our family.”



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grad.usask.ca/education

# GUIDE TO EDUCATION 2026



## Olds College

### Rooted in tradition. Built for the future.

Located in the heart of Alberta, Olds College of Agriculture & Technology has been shaping the future of agriculture for more than a century. Olds College is where hands-on learning meets real-world impact — preparing students not just for jobs, but for long, meaningful careers in the ever-evolving agricultural sector.

Setting Olds College apart is its commitment to applied education. Students learn concepts in classrooms, labs, fields and shops, then put them into practice through fieldwork, work-integrated learning and industry partnerships. Students have access to a 3,300 acre Smart Farm, modern shops, state-of-the-art facilities and instructors who bring industry experience into every lesson. Olds College graduates leave as adaptable, highly employable, capable and confident individuals.

Offering a wide range of programs across agriculture, business, animal health, horticulture, land and environment, trades and technology, Olds College helps students take their passions and turn them into real-world career opportunities. Whether students are coming straight from high school, transferring from another institution or returning to school to upskill, Olds College provides pathways that align with industry demand.

The Agriculture Management program is a strong example of how the College's education continues to evolve.



Designed for future leaders and innovators, the program blends production knowledge with essential business

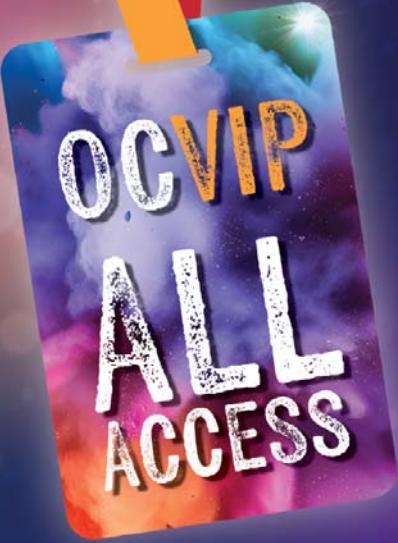
fundamentals — all within an agricultural context. Graduates are well prepared for careers in farm management, agri-business operations, sales, consulting or entrepreneurship — with the skills needed to adapt.

Designed for those drawn to machinery, technology and problem-solving, the Agriculture & Heavy Equipment program offers hands-on training with the same equipment used in today's industry. Students build strong technical skills in diagnostics, repair, and maintenance of agricultural and heavy equipment.

Learning takes place in fully equipped shops, supported by instructors with deep industry experience. The program emphasizes skill development and emerging technology. Additionally, with the current renovations taking place to the W.J. Elliot Trades Building, soon Olds College will be home to one of the largest Trades School buildings in the country — expanding opportunities for students to learn even further.

Small class sizes mean students are supported individually and encouraged to succeed, both in the classroom and as they set off on a career path. Beyond the classroom, the College offers a vibrant campus community, residence options and student supports.

At Olds College, tradition and innovation work side by side. To learn more or apply, visit [oldscollege.ca](http://oldscollege.ca).



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# GUIDE TO EDUCATION 2026

Minot State University

## Hanelt has a personal connection to her major

Brooklyn Hanelt's journey toward her major began with a personal connection



Brooklyn Hanelt's journey toward her major began with a personal connection.

"What inspired me to choose my major was having gone to a speech-language pathologist when I was a child," the Minot State senior said. "I wanted to do something that I understood and had previous experiences with, understanding what it was like to have unfortunate circumstances as a younger kid, and sometimes getting bullied for the way I spoke. Getting help and being able to help another child and understand what it felt like was the main reason why I applied for my program."

That passion grew after she arrived on campus.

"When I started college, I discovered what audiology was, and I just fell in love with the idea of audiology," she said.

Music played a big role in that decision.

"Music has been a very big thing in my life. It's just kind of always been my way of getting through things," she said. "I've always been known as the jukebox in my family—anything music is just like a really big on who I am."

Outside the classroom, Hanelt spent all four years involved in residence life, growing from a resident assistant to a residence hall director. She said the best part has always been the people.

"What has been the most rewarding part of serving as a resident hall director is definitely being able to connect with the residents," she said. "I have definitely made a lot of good connections with residents and actually contact them during the summertime."

As an international student from Canada, she found a sense of belonging through campus involvement.

"Because I am international and heavily involved in the international club, I've met lots of different nationalities and lots of different people," she said. "It really has shaped my college experience because I've learned lots about different cultures." Those friendships carried her through long breaks and made Minot feel at home.

Balancing responsibilities wasn't al-

ways easy, especially with the unpredictability of housing work. But strong support from her team made the difference.

"You never really know what's going to happen and when it's going to happen, so sometimes that can be a little stressful," she said. "My bosses are really supportive. They were willing to reach out to my professors. And just double-checking on how I was doing."

Leadership opportunities shaped her confidence and communication skills.

"Taking leadership 101 with Jim (MSU's) Looyenga Leadership Center director Jim Sturm) was the best," she said. "It's allowed me to grow personally, how to deal with multiple different personalities, and how to make a team mesh. It helps me address more about the communication styles to use and how to help mediate multiple different people."

Hanelt encourages students to consider becoming an RA to think about their goals.

"I would consider looking at their ability to work with other people. Their dedication would be a big one," she said. "If it aligns with, like, even just a small section of what an RA does, I think it'd be a great thing for them to consider."

Reflecting on her time at MSU, she said it's the people who made it special.

"I would say I'm most proud of accomplishing my academic goals," she said. "But equal, on par with my academic goals, is friendships. I think that's the biggest thing that college gives you. I've definitely met so many people and made friends from all over the world who have graduated and left, and I'm still in contact with them."

"I think that's the biggest thing that I'm proud of."

### About Minot State University

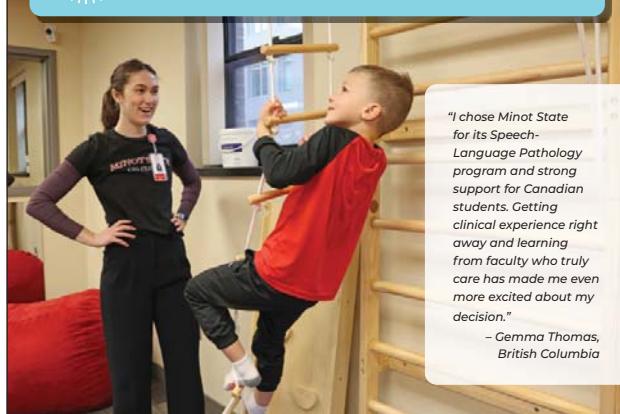
Minot State University is a public university dedicated to excellence in education, scholarship, and community engagement achieved through rigorous academic experiences, active learning environments, commitment to public service, and a vibrant campus life.



### Minot State's Speech-Language Pathology program is North Dakota's:

- **FIRST** – Launched in 1970
- **LARGEST** – The most students and graduates
- **BEST** – 100% of recent graduates are employed

 Canadian students pay the same affordable tuition rate as students from North Dakota!



"I chose Minot State for its Speech-Language Pathology program and strong support for Canadian students. Getting clinical experience right away and learning from faculty who truly care has made me even more excited about my decision."

– Gemma Thomas, British Columbia

Learn more at [minotstateu.edu/cd](http://minotstateu.edu/cd)



»»» Be seen. Be heard. Be you.



# GUIDE TO EDUCATION 2026

## Medicine Hat College

# Start your path at Medicine Hat College

Medicine Hat College (MHC) is more than a place to learn, it's a community where you can build skills, confidence, and connections. Located in sunny Southeast Alberta, MHC offers a wide range of programs to help you prepare for the career you want.

Here, learning goes beyond the classroom. With hands-on experiences and supportive instructors, you'll turn your goals into real opportunities. Whether you're working toward a certificate, diploma, degree, university transfer, or apprenticeship, MHC has a path that fits your future.

### Business Programs:

#### Turn Ambition into Action

Through the School of Business, you gain real-world experience with projects, case studies, and mentorship from industry professionals. Programs include Business Administration diploma with majors in Accounting, Financial Services, Marketing, and Management, as well as specialty options like Sport & Event Marketing and Management and Service Dog & Canine Management Studies.

### Arts, Science & Education: Where Creativity Thrives

If creativity and innovation inspire you, the School of Arts, Science & Education offers programs such as the Bachelor of Applied Art & Design, Environmental Biology & Reclamation Technology, Kinesiology, and Sustainable Innovation. Education pathways include Early Childhood Education and a collaborative Bachelor of Education, with university transfer options available.

### Health & Community Services: Making a Difference

The Yuill School of Health & Community Services prepares you for careers that change lives. With simulation labs, clinical placements, and small classes, you graduate ready to serve with confidence. Programs include Practical Nursing, Paramedic, Pharmacy Technician, Child & Youth Care Counselling, Addictions Counselling, and more.

### Trades & Technology: Building Futures

For those who prefer hands-on work or technical problem-solving, the School of Trades & Technology offers training in Automotive Service, Carpentry, Electrical, Welding, and other trades. Technology programs include Computer Aided Drawing & Design, Engineering Design and Architectural Technology, Information Technology, and Power Engineering Technology.

### Support That Sets You Up for Success

From application to graduation, MHC strives to offer students exceptional services and a personalized approach that builds confidence and trust. Small class sizes mean more one-on-one instruction and stronger connections with faculty, ensuring you get the attention you need to succeed.



Academic advising and coaching, writing support, personal counselling, accessibility services, tutoring, and career services are all available to you. Plus, the fitness centre and Indigenous gathering space provide opportunities for health, wellness, and cultural growth.

### Life in Medicine Hat

Live the ultimate college experience in a city that blends big-city amenities with small-town charm. Choose on-campus residence for independence, convenience, and affordability—just steps from your classes and campus resources. Prefer more flexibility? Off-campus accommodations give you freedom while keeping you connected to the MHC community. Build friendships, join activities, and create memories that last a lifetime.

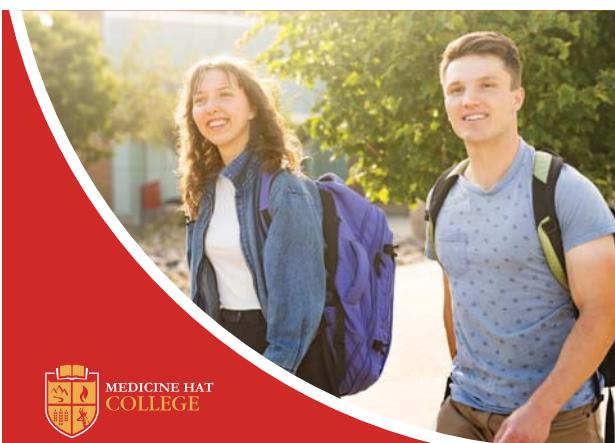
Beyond campus, explore Medicine Hat's extensive trails, parks, and golf courses, or escape to Cypress Hills and the Canadian Badlands. Enjoy a vibrant arts scene, festivals, and unique local coffee shops, and retail stores, all in a welcoming, sunny community.

### Start Your Journey Today

Prospective students can book an advising appointment or campus tour online at:

[www.mhc.ab.ca/advising](http://www.mhc.ab.ca/advising), email [info@mhc.ab.ca](mailto:info@mhc.ab.ca), or call 1-866-282-8394

Explore programs and apply today at [www.mhc.ab.ca](http://www.mhc.ab.ca)



## Your path. Your way.

With small class sizes and a variety of support services, Medicine Hat College gives you a personal, one-on-one student experience in an engaging campus community.

Choose from over 40 certificate, diploma, degree, trades, and university transfer programs.



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Moe and Carney during the trade mission to China.

## 'Trade is still about relationships'

# Moe talks about the trade deal with China

**Continued from page 29**  
 They're always between nations and nations, and so we need that ambition and that priority from the federal government. We haven't had it for a decade, and I was pleased to see the results of it and the prioritization of it by Prime Minister Carney.

**What were your expectations going into this trip? Were you fairly confident, then, going on this mission that China would agree to lower tariffs based on some of the groundwork that was laid previously?**

I knew we were close, and I'm always hopeful, however, I'm always cautious as negotiations literally do happen, and this isn't this isn't any different than other times we've had to work with tariffs, or monetary tariffs, or non-financial tariffs, with countries like China and India and others. The negotiations happen literally to the very last minute.

And so I knew we were close, because we've been part of the conversation and discussions all along. But I was pleased in where it ended, where it restores, with the exception of pork, largely restores our agricultural trade with China, beef coming on a few days later.

I'm also pleased because it does set out two other things I think that are important, and not politically attractive or anything, but very, very important with respect to doing business with China. I mentioned the memorandum of understanding—that's going to open up some opportunities for future trade, as I said, in the energy, the forestry and possibly even the EV sector, the manufacturing sector.

Second to that—this was relevant to the agricultural situation and the lack of agricultural trade that was happening—often when you have an agreement with a country and there's a trade dispute—a boat of canola in the harbour that is not getting the proper stamp of approval for some reason. You have dispute boards or dispute entities that are put together so that that individual company can call someone and they'll work through whatever that dispute was.

Those entities were not

in place, which made it incredibly risky, in addition to the tariffs, to be doing any business with China. All of those dispute mechanisms and those dispute boards are put back in place, which is critical for us to actually start to ship canola and canola meal to China again.

So this is a significant deal in the substance of it and the operation of it in order for canola to actually flow.

What does that mean at the farm gate back here in Saskatchewan? I know because I talked to a number of farmers and they've been sitting on the canola and it's still in their bins. Now it's our hope that Canola is going to flow not only to the markets that it goes to, but in significant amounts to China. And I would hope that there's a little bit of upward pressure on the price as well.

**You have talked about how this is a really good deal. What makes it such a good deal?**

Well, we've had between \$3 billion and \$4 billion in canola products that traditionally will flow the last number of years to China. And they weren't being exported. They were sitting in farmer's bins.

And so now farmers are going to be able to sell that canola. I think any ag producer across the province can pencil out how much canola they have in their bins, and they can be assured that they're going to be able to sell it this year, hopefully at a price that'll bring in some profits.

That's why it's a good deal—we were not selling canola to China, that canola was sitting in bins across the province and across Canada. And now that canola is going to flow.

And I would step two to that—second point to that is it's going to provide some degree of price certainty and volume certainty for the new crop. I talked to a couple producers once I got home, and they were already starting to pencil out the profit or lack of profit for next year. And they said, this is going to help in determining what they're going to see next year.

**What sense did you get from China when you were there? Do you think there will be a better rela-**

**tionship in the long-term moving forward?**

I don't know that I would speak too much to the long-term relationship with China. We've had as a province trade disputes about every five years with China, whether it's actual tariffs this time, which were quite broad and quite deep and quite steep, or whether it's phytosanitary standards and non-tariff barriers that we run into.

Dealing with China and India and countries such as that, we're no stranger to working through those challenges. However, this one was larger and much broader, and much more impactful.

But I would say this. I saw the tone start to change in September, when we were there, from where it has been for a number of years, and I saw a significant tone change when I was there last week, when we were able to come to agreement on restoring agricultural trade.

So that's a positive. As far as long-term certainty in the trade world, you just watch or listen to the news every night, and I don't think there's any such thing in today's world. It's every country for themselves, relying on the relationships that we have in Saskatchewan. That means 160 countries around the world that we deal with, with China being our second largest trading partner.

It really is an uncertain time, and that's why I'm pleased to see a federal government starting to prioritize their international credibility of our nation in Canada. That is going to be entirely helpful in getting to more agreements like we just did here with China.

Saskatchewan is such a trade-dependent province? In the new dynamics of international relations, do you think there'll be a lot more trade skirmishes like this, where you have a country putting on a tariff, another country putting on a separate tariff in retaliation, and then you need to come to a deal, and then sometimes you're back at square one, right where you started before the skirmish happened. Is that going to become more common in this new world?

Possibly, I think trade agreements, and how trade is structured, is fundamentally changed for the foreseeable future. What we used to do is come together as two countries, or three or four or five countries, work on a trade deal for as many sectors as we possibly could, and at the end of that two or three year negotiation, all countries would sign on the bottom line, and you would have a trade pack, whether that was the free trade agreement we had in North America or NAFTA, or USMCA.

Those types of agreements I think, are very much going to be in the minority if they happen at all. Moving forward, trade agreements are going to be much more like what you saw happen in China this

past week, where it's two countries, a couple of sectors—in this case, the agricultural sector, seafood sector—and maybe some memorandum of understandings or some notional intents on where we're going to work together on moving forward.

So they're going to be smaller, they're going to be sector specific, often, and between maybe two, possibly three or four countries, but not these large, multinational, or multi-sector trade deals that we've had in the past.

It would be nice to think we'd get back to that at some point in time, but I don't see it in the foreseeable future.

So you're going to see a lot of activity and a lot of engagement by countries with one another,

wherever that might be. I think they'll take every opportunity to do that and I think we've seen that from Prime Minister Carney over the course of the past week.

And I think Saskatchewan, with the priority that we have put on international engagement and our provincial trade offices and standing shoulder with industries here that are creating value in markets around the world, is really going to serve us as well as we could be served in what is certainly a different trade environment as far as the trade is going to look like moving forward.

It would be nice to think we'd get back to that at some point in time, but I don't see it in the foreseeable future.

So Saskatchewan is well poised. Canada is repositioning their efforts. And so I like our chances.

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# APAS, Agriculture Union decry federal cuts to research sites

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) said last week they were concerned about Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) decision to close seven research sites in Canada as part of federal cutbacks, including the Indian Head Research Farm, which has been in operation since 1887, as well as the facility located at Scott, Saskatchewan.

The government is eliminating 665 positions across Canada.

"These closures eliminate critical public research infrastructure that has been foundational for Canadian farmers' competitiveness for decades and contradict AAFC's stated mission to 'drive innovation' and 'create conditions for long-term profitability,'" said APAS in a statement. "This critical public research infrastructure embodies a public good that delivers widespread benefits to the public."

"To claim these cuts are aligned with a 'core mandate' of innovation misleads the agricultural sector," said APAS President Bill Prybylski. "Closing these sites is the opposite of progress. You cannot claim global leadership in sustainable agriculture while bulldozing the very farms and labs required for discovery and adaptation. It's like eating the goose that lays the golden eggs—sacrificing a steady, long-term benefit for a single, short-term gain."

APAS said the facilities at Indian Head and Scott provide producers with essential agronomic data tailored to local growing conditions. Additionally, the Lacombe Research and Development Centre in Alberta, a leading hub for forage and meat science, and the facility at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, are also affected.

"The federal government is trading long-term benefits for a short-term rounding error in budget savings," said Prybylski. "You cannot be a world leader in sustainable agriculture while eliminating the research

needed for sustainability and adaptation. This will create an innovation vacuum that the private sector isn't stepping in to fill. By the time producers feel the full impact of these decisions, it will be too late to reverse the damage."

APAS says it is troubled by the timing of the cuts.

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) places significant emphasis on adaptation and resiliency as core objectives, yet these closures directly undermine those goals. Farmers are being asked to adopt climate-smart practices that require targeted research support—research that will no longer exist if these facilities are shut down.

In response, APAS is urging the federal government and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food to release an immediate impact assessment outlining how it plans to achieve its innovation and adaptation goals considering these widespread closures. Producers deserve transparency about how these research reductions will affect them—and answers."

The World-Spectator reached out to AAFC and received the following statement.

"Like other federal departments, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has identified savings over three years while remaining focused on its core mandate. At this point, we can confirm that AAFC's workforce will be reduced by approximately 665 positions and that notices to the 1,043 affected employees were issued on January 22.

"As part of this process, AAFC will close three research and development centres—Guelph, Ontario, Quebec City, and Lacombe, Alberta—and four satellite research farms—Napan, Nova Scotia, Scott, Saskatchewan, Indian Head, Saskatchewan, and Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

"AAFC will remain Canada's largest agricultural research organization, with 17 research centres nationwide and research farmland in every province. There are no imminent site closures, and any wind-down of scientific operations would follow a careful decision process that could take up to 12 months. As such, it is too early to determine and share details on final work-force impacts."

The Agriculture Union also released a statement last week denouncing the cuts.

"The Agriculture Union unequivocally denounces the recent job cuts at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, impacting roughly 1,043 people across the country," they said in a statement. "Our union represents 2,500 employees at AAFC, all of whom are essential to the health and resilience of our agricultural sector. 494 of our members are affected by this round of cuts. Our AAFC members are the backbone of Canadian agriculture research. They assist farmers by mitigating the impacts of climate change and drought, performing groundbreaking research, and keeping our food production industries competitive on a global scale."

"These cuts will sabotage important gains we've made in agricultural research and set research on Canadian food products back by decades," says Milton Dyck,

National President of the Agriculture Union. "We have been warning the federal government for months about cutting an already-decimated department. There is simply no more room to cut."

The Agriculture Union says that while overall the federal service has grown by 30 per cent in recent years, the same has not been true for AAFC. They say staffing numbers at AAFC have decreased by 14 per cent between 2012 and 2025.

"The cuts to AAFC include the shutting down of seven research farms and centres: the Napan Research Farm in Nova Scotia, the Quebec Research and Development Centre in Quebec City, the Guelph Research and Development Centre in Ontario, the Portage la Prairie Research Farm in Manitoba, the Scott Research Farm and Indian Head Research Farm in Saskatchewan, and the Lacombe Research and Development Centre in Alberta. Indian Head and Napan were two of the five original research farms established by the Canadian government in 1887," said the Agriculture Union in a statement. "Shutting down these centres represents the loss of over a century of knowledge and expertise. The research centres slated for closure were responsible for breakthrough discoveries in sustainable beef production, crop sustainability, food safety and nutrition, and no-till farming."

"The way the employer communicated these cuts to our members and to the union was shocking and abrupt. Our members are feeling," says Dyck. "The union learned about the cuts of research centres at the same time as our members, and we had no advance notice about the details of the cuts. AAFC has an obligation to consult with the union throughout this whole process. These cuts at AAFC damage research into the fast-changing needs of the agriculture sector, whether it be changing environmental conditions, development of new varieties of agriculture products safe from disease, or food safety. While our partner

## Governments announce satellite based insurance available under 2026 Crop Insurance Program

Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Heath MacDonald and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit have announced enhanced business risk management support for the livestock sector.

For 2026, Satellite Forage Insurance is replacing the Forage Rainfall Insurance Program (FRIP). FRIP is no longer available and all existing FRIP customers will be automatically enrolled in Satellite Forage Insurance.

"We continue to look for innovative ways to support producers as they face ongoing unpredictable moisture conditions," MacDonald said. "This program is a great example of how governments are using new and more localized data in business risk management program decision making."

"Agriculture is essential to Saskatchewan," Marit said. "We are proud to stand behind our producers with further development."

opment of forage programs. Satellite Forage Insurance reflects our commitment to supporting Saskatchewan's producers with insurance that is relevant, responsive and accurate."

Satellite Forage Insurance provides coverage when there is a shortage of soil moisture. It uses satellite-based technology to measure soil moisture, an important factor in forage production. Claims and premiums are now localized at the township level where the insured hay or pasture is located. High, medium and low coverage levels are available, varying by soil zone. There are two monthly weighting options available for producers to tailor their coverage.

Working in partnership with producers and industry helps to ensure risk management is available to producers when challenging growing conditions arise.

"Saskatchewan's producers face tremen-

dous variability when it comes to weather and growing conditions," SARM President Bill Huber said. "The introduction of Satellite Forage Insurance is another important step in providing tools that better reflect what is happening on the ground. By expanding and modernizing forage coverage, we are strengthening risk management options that help producers remain resilient and sustainable in the face of change."

"We are pleased a new and improved forage insurance program is going to be available for the 2026 growing season, as a result of the collaborative work initiated through our AgriRisk Initiatives project," Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) President Jeff Yorga said. "We are expecting this program to eliminate long standing issues with basis risk. By measuring conditions at the local level, payments will be more reflective of conditions

on the ground and be more responsive when there is a production shortfall."

"SCA appreciates the governments' risk mitigation programs," SCA Chair Chad Ross said. "While SCIC has made improvements to FRIP throughout the years, the reliance on weather stations was challenging for producers to ensure they selected the right one. Moving to a program that uses satellite provides a more localized focus for producers and may result in a more accurate and responsive program."

Today's announcement provides producers with timely information to plan for their upcoming year. Producer information packages will be available in mid to late February and will include coverage options and premiums. Producers with questions can contact their local SCIC office.

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## Mount Royal University

# More than a degree

Choosing a university is about more than selecting a program. It's about stepping into a new chapter—one filled with possibility, discovery and growth. It's a time to explore ideas, try new things and begin shaping who you want to become. For students who want to feel known, supported and challenged, Mount Royal University in Calgary is where potential comes to life.

At MRU, learning feels personal. With an average class size of just 30 students, professors know their students by name, questions are encouraged and conversation is part of the experience. Students aren't passive listeners—they're active participants. That kind of engagement builds confidence and helps students uncover what truly excites them.

### Learn by doing

A defining feature of MRU is its emphasis on applied learning. More than 70 per cent of programs include practical learning opportunities such as labs, fieldwork, research projects, internships and co-op placements. Students gain meaningful experience while learning how knowledge translates beyond the classroom. The results speak for themselves: 91% of MRU graduates find employment within six months of graduating.\*

Biology honours alumna Emily Kingdon is one example. After completing her Bachelor of Science at MRU, she is now pursuing a master's degree at the University of Alberta, where she studies Giardia, a parasite that affects millions of people worldwide. By analyzing data, her work contributes to research aimed at improving treatment options for diseases in developing countries.

As a student, Kingdon worked closely with MRU professor Dr. Elisabeth Richardson, PhD. She presented her research at a graduate-level conference and received recognition for her work—experiences she credits to small classes and di-



Students study, meet and pass through the Riddell Library & Learning Centre, the academic heart of campus and daily life.

rect access to mentorship. "I wasn't just one student in a crowd," Kingdon says.

### Education that solves real problems

Hands-on learning at MRU isn't limited to the sciences. Across disciplines, students develop practical skills they carry with them long after graduation. In Calgary's vibrant food and hospitality scene, MRU alumni are shaping the spaces where people gather. Interior design graduates Sarah Ward, Amanda Hamilton and Landon Anholt create restaurants and lounges that are thoughtful, functional and inviting.

Their work reflects the problem-solving mindset developed during their education—balancing lighting, acoustics,

movement and materials to shape how a space feels and functions. From energetic tapas bars to tucked-away cocktail lounges, their designs demonstrate how skills first learned in the classroom can translate to lasting impact in the community.

Whether studying parasites or designing hospitality spaces, MRU students build expertise that prepares them to turn learning into impact beyond campus. Through hands-on projects, mentorship and experiential learning, they develop curiosity, resilience and confidence—skills they go on to apply in their careers and communities.

### A place to belong

University is also about community. At MRU, students find a welcoming campus where they can be themselves and form

lasting connections. With more than 75 student-run clubs, varsity and intramural sports, and modern facilities, there are countless ways to get involved. On-campus housing keeps students close to classes, activities and one another, all within a safe and supportive environment.

Support extends well beyond academics. MRU offers advising, tutoring, career services and research support, along with wellness resources including mental health counselling and financial guidance. Students are supported not just as learners, but as individuals—every step of the way.

### Opportunity starts here

Starting university is both exciting and uncertain. At MRU, students experience the best of both worlds: a close-knit, supportive campus in the heart of a major Canadian city. Calgary's energetic, entrepreneurial and culturally rich environment offers opportunities across business, arts, technology and innovation. Students can build networks, gain experience and explore their interests while they study.

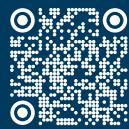
Kingdon's journey shows what's possible. After graduating, she will continue parts of her research at the University of Bern in Switzerland—an opportunity that began with access to labs, mentors and encouragement at MRU. The same is true for MRU's Interior Design graduates, whose work now shapes Calgary's dining culture. These paths start in the classroom but extend far beyond it.

Choosing MRU is about more than earning a credential. Graduates leave with confidence, adaptability and curiosity—prepared to build meaningful careers and contribute to their communities.

\*Source: Graduate follow-up survey 2022

# EVERY DAY IS A NEW ADVENTURE

University is a time to explore what's possible. At Mount Royal University in Calgary, students are known, supported and encouraged to learn by doing. Small classes and hands-on programs create a close-knit campus within a vibrant city. Discover where this path leads.





# GUIDE TO EDUCATION 2026

## Brandon University

### Pre-professional programs expand options at BU



Student success stories at Brandon University don't always end when graduates cross the stage to receive their degrees.

While many students start and complete their post-secondary education at BU, others use the university as a launching point to specialized studies at other institutions through one of 19 pre-professional programs. Combined with BU's full range of 19 undergraduate, six graduate and four certificate programs, opportunities abound.

"We offer the best of both worlds," said Katie Whelpton, BU's Dean of Students. "A lot of students have everything they need here to prepare for rewarding careers, while many find our friendly, supportive environment to be an ideal place to start their journeys."

Pre-professional programs vary from one to four years, and academic advisors at BU ensure students have all pre-requisites needed to pursue their dream programs. Agricultural and Food Science, Law, Medicine, Pharmacy and Social Work are a few examples of available pre-professional programs.

Brody Burr graduated from BU with a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Sociology, and is now in law school at the University of Saskatchewan.

"One of the benefits for me was how I was able to make connections," Burr said. "Most of my friends at law school went to big universities, and they can hardly believe that I had third- and fourth-year classes at BU with eight or 10 students."

Burr found plenty of ways to get involved on the BU campus, as a Student Senate Representative and as President of the BU Politics Society. He even got the thrill of serving as public address announcer for the national champion Bobcats men's volleyball team.

He was also part of BU's Co-operative Education Program, which connects students in Arts and Science programs with summer jobs related to their field of study. Burr worked at Epp Law Office, gaining invaluable experience, and he has plans to return next summer.

"Getting into law school was stressful but added to that is the pressure of finding summer work in the field," Burr said. "That's a process I didn't have to worry about thanks to Cora (Dupuis, program Coordinator) and the Co-op program."

While most of BU's 3,500 students study in Brandon, the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing program is also offered in Winnipeg.

Available and free supports include aca-

demic assistance, career counselling, accessibility services, mental health and wellness, and a transition program that helps new Indigenous students thrive through mentorship and cultural support.

To learn more about Brandon University, take a virtual tour, or set up an in-person visit to BrandonU.ca/Future-Students



## College Mathieu

# Bilingual education that prepares students for the front lines of health care

As Saskatchewan continues to face health-care staffing shortages, particularly in rural and long-term care settings, the importance of training and retaining skilled health professionals has never been clearer. In the heart of the province's Francophone community, Collège Mathieu is playing a growing role in helping meet that need.

Located in Gravelbourg, Collège Mathieu offers a bilingual Licensed Practical Nursing program that prepares students for careers on the front lines of health care. Delivered in partnership with Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the program combines classroom learning with hands-on clinical experience, ensuring graduates are equipped with practical, job-ready skills.

One of the program's defining features is its bilingual delivery. Approximately 60 per cent of instruction is offered in French and 40 per cent in English, reflecting the college's commitment to Francophone education while preparing graduates to work confidently in Saskatchewan's largely English-speaking health system. This bilingual approach helps address a long-standing gap in health care: access to services in both of Canada's official languages. For Francophone patients and families, the ability to communicate in their first language can make a meaningful difference in comfort, understanding, and quality of care.

Students in the Licensed Practical Nursing program receive training in essential skills such as patient care, monitoring vital signs, administering

medications under supervision, and working as part of a multidisciplinary health-care team. Graduates are prepared to work in hospitals, long-term care homes, clinics, and community health settings—areas where staffing pressures continue to be felt across the province.

To help make health-care education more accessible, Collège Mathieu also offers financial supports, including scholarships of up to \$4,500 for eligible students. These incentives reduce financial barriers and encourage more individuals to pursue careers in health care at a time when demand for trained professionals remains high.

Beyond practical nursing, the college offers additional health-related programs, including training for health-care aides and rehabilitation assistants. Together, these programs contribute to building a stronger, more flexible health-care workforce while reinforcing the importance of French-language education and services in Saskatchewan.

As the province looks for long-term solutions to ongoing health-care challenges, institutions like Collège Mathieu demonstrate how local training, practical education, and bilingual programming can play an important role. By preparing graduates who are both skilled and linguistically equipped to serve diverse communities, the college continues to support not only Saskatchewan's health system, but the vitality of its Francophone population as well.

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# GUIDE TO EDUCATION 2026



**Sask Polytechnic**

## Hands-on learning and paid co-ops power success in Sask Polytech's Electrical Engineering Technology program

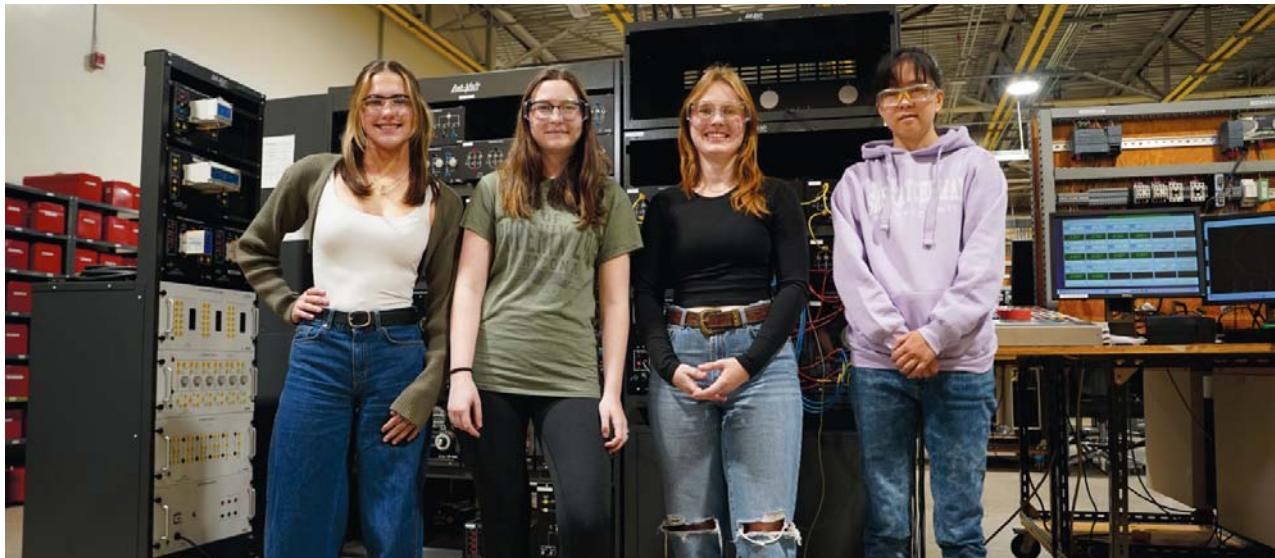


Photo provided by Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

Supportive instructors, paid co-ops and practical training are features of Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Electrical Engineering Technology program helping students build skills and confidence in a growing technical field.

"We engage in a variety of community outreach activities to attract students, including hands-on workshops and partnerships with local schools and organizations," says Babith Varghese, Electrical Engineering Technology program head. "Workshops provide a basic introduction to the lab and equipment and can help make prospective students more comfortable with the learning environment."

Students say they value Sask Polytech's small classes, hands-on learning, approachable instructors and paid co-operative education work terms.

For Ella Kessler-Holderness, the decision to enrol was rooted in family. "My dad and step dad are both engineers," she says. "They taught me to love math and I wanted to follow in their footsteps."

After a gap year working in reception at a vet clinic, she's now thriving in her first semester. "The labs are really interesting. It's like a puzzle you put together," she says.

That sense of support is echoed by Runhe Wang. She spent a year upgrading math and science through the Adult Education program at Sask Polytech's Saskatoon campus before applying.

"I wanted something with strong technical skills and good long-term career opportunities," she says. "The lab work is amazing. We build circuits, measure voltage and current and troubleshoot to-

gether."

Like her classmates, Tamika Ehrmantraut loves the hands-on approach. "The labs teach me the most because I'm a hands-on learner. It's rigorous but so worth it."

Both Ehrmantraut and Abby Allen joined the program after a year of university. They were drawn to Sask Polytech for its smaller classes and easier access to instructors. "The big class sizes at university were off-putting and I could never reach out to my teachers," says Ehrmantraut. "At Sask Polytech, the instructors know our names and are always around to answer questions."

Allen agrees. "I enjoy how hands-on the program is. In the first week, we were in the lab building circuits. I'd absolutely recommend this program to anyone considering it."

Varghese says that co-operative education is a major selling point of the program for all students. "During co-ops, students have the opportunity to earn competitive wages, and after graduation, many secure well-paying positions."

Kessler-Holderness says that co-op education sold her on the program: "Getting work experience while still studying is amazing and made me want to apply."

When asked about advice for other students applying to the program, Kessler-Holderness says, "If you are interested in puzzles and putting stuff together, this program is for you."

Learn more at

[saskpolytech.ca](http://saskpolytech.ca)

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ELEGANT LEATHER INT  
DIESEL



**2017 Ford Escape SE**  
STOCK# 65020A

**\$21,900**  
\$124/wk OAC

129,800 KMS  
HEATED SEATS  
FUEL EFFICIENT



**2023 Ford F-150 Lariat**  
STOCK# 57260A

**\$69,900**  
\$269/wk OAC

47,000 KMS  
FX4 PKG  
TWIN PNL MOONROOF



**2016 Ford Escape Titanium**  
STOCK# 55212B

**\$19,900**  
\$135/wk OAC

143,000 KMS  
PANORAMA ROOF  
NAVIGATION



**2019 Ford Explorer Limited**  
STOCK# 55255A

**\$27,900**  
\$119/wk OAC

174,000 KMS  
HTD 2ND ROW SEATS  
REMOTE START



**2022 Ford Expedition Limited**  
STOCK# 67038B

**\$70,900**  
\$272/wk OAC

56,000 KMS  
STEALTH EDITION  
7 PASSENGERS



**2020 Ford Escape SE**  
STOCK# 67037

**\$25,900**  
\$114/wk OAC

34,300 KMS  
LOW KMS  
ONE OWNER



**2023 RAM 2500 Bighorn**  
STOCK# 57258B

**\$57,900**  
\$224/wk OAC

28,500 KMS  
6.4L V8 HEMI  
HD SUSPENSION



**2006 Ford F-150**  
STOCK# 57190B

**\$14,999**  
As Traded

216,000 KMS  
5.4L V8  
CUSTOM ADD-ONS



**2021 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited**  
STOCK# 57248A

**\$39,900**  
\$171/wk OAC

87,000 KMS  
SAHARA EDITION  
AUXILIARY SWITCHES



**2024 Ford Bronco Sport Outer Banks**  
STOCK# 55206A

**\$37,900**  
\$150/wk OAC

35,000 KMS  
REMOTE START  
HEATED SEATS



**2018 Ford F-150 XLT**  
STOCK# 57224A

**\$34,900**  
\$168/wk OAC

115,800 KMS  
SPORT PKG  
TOW PKG



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MOOSOMIN REGIONAL PARK

EASTERN CANADA VS WESTERN CANADA

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