



Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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More Joy event offers resources and hope

An event held to share mental health stories and struggles and to battle stigma

BY ASHLEY BOCHER

More Joy is hosting its sixth event this year at the Conexus Art Centre in Regina. The evening highlights entertainment, variety of mental health resources, and stories of mental health journeys. It will be held Wednesday, January 28.

Christalee Froese of Montmartre, the organizer of the event, sees the More Joy movement as a family and communal space where everyone feels welcomed and supported through friends, family, and other mental health survivors.

"This is our sixth year of More Joy Regina held at the Conexus Art Centre on January 28. It's from 6 pm to 10 pm on Bell Let's Talk day.

"Our speakers are from 7 pm to 8:15 pm. This year we have Brit Dort speaking she is a TSN Broadcaster, who has struggled with her own versions of anxiety and social anxiety. She will share her story about that and some of her coping strategies.

"Then, we are also really excited to have Dr Omosade Ogundare. She is a professor at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. She came to a More Joy event about three years ago when she was in a very dark low period and her friend just showed up at her door and told her she was coming.

"After that, she accessed some of our free counselling and we didn't find out until about six months later that she is actually a psychiatrist, and she has now turned into one of our large supporters. She credits the More Joy movement and I think it is a very cool story. That is what More Joy is all about. Rewards have come in the form of others being helped even when we didn't know we were helping others and so she is an example of that and that is what it is all about."

All about hope

Froese explains the More Joy movement and the experience it offers to the public.

"The whole idea is for people to leave with hope. Sometimes it is difficult to talk about mental health and we want people who may be suffering or know someone who is suffering to be heard and comforted. It is a great multigenerational event.

"We find that people often come with others or as groups for support and when you're sitting at a mental health event with people who are there to help you it adds this extra layer of support and when you leave that building, you're on the same page, share information, and you can have next steps.

"That is why we say it is about hope because sometimes when you're trying to help somebody it feels hopeless or when you're trying to help yourself it can feel hopeless, so we just want you to come and know there are others who have made it through it and there are people to walk you home and walk beside you throughout your mental health journey."



Christalee Froese of Montmartre, third from right, is the organizer of the More Joy event.

Creating community

Froese experienced her own mental health struggles before creating the More Joy movement and learned people need each other through these hardships.

"When I was struggling, I realized when you can't help yourself it takes a village, a community, it takes your family."

"At first, the More Joy event was about creating a community where talking about mental health is normalized because every single person has mental health. The fact that you can go and hear people talk openly about their struggles and normalize the conversation and normalize getting help—some statistics show that six out of 10 of us will have mental health issues over a lifetime.

"So when you are standing in a grocery line six out of 10 of us will go through it and another statistic is 50 per

cent of us will not get help. This is just one of those places where we are sending the message that it is okay to get help and that there always is help."

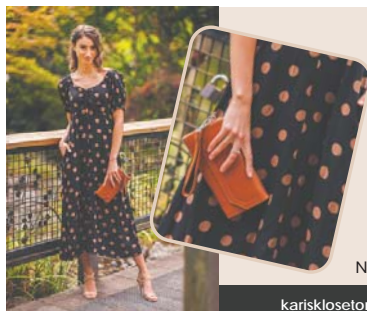
Froese is motivated to normalize speaking openly about mental health.

"One of the deceptions of depression is it tells you lies and one of the lies it tells you is you will never get better and there is no help, and it is just part of the illness. This whole idea of gathering together with friends, family, and other sufferers, it is just simply to give hope and to challenge that lie."

What to expect

A variety of booths will be placed around the venue offering mental health resources, tools, and services.

Continued on page 4



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Winter Wonderland at Moosomin Regional Park Feb 16

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE
REPORTER

People will get a chance to experience Moosomin Regional Park in the winter during the park's annual Winter Wonderland event which is planned for Monday, February 16 this year—the Monday of the Family Day weekend.

"I believe that is a free fishing weekend as well," says Kyle Jeannot with the Moosomin Regional Park board. "There will be sleigh rides, hot dogs, hot chocolate, and we are working on a ski-doo derby right now. It's all in the works and coming together, and we are hoping that the weather holds out."

"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 be by the marina, where it was last year. Everything is set up in that area. It seems to work pretty well there, so we are going to keep it there."

Jeannot predicts about 150 people came out for the event last year, but says it was also a very cold and windy day last year.

Why does the park board host the event?

"The main purpose of it is to pull 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 above the snow 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.

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



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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Kyle Jeannot at 306-434-9112



More Joy offering resources and hope to the public around mental health stigma

An event held to share mental health stories and struggles and to build hope

Continued from front

"Doors open at 6 pm and it is in the basement of the Conexus Art Centre," explains Froese. "It is a massive space, and we have booths all around the outside of it. These include being greeted by a St John Ambulance Therapy Dog, there is also a puppy room you can go to and play with the puppies from Bright Eyes Dog Rescue, we have a hands-on booth where you write on a sticky note what your joy is and we have a psychologist and some psychiatric nurses there to help you identify what Feel Good chemicals that elicits and you can put that on a wall. In the mental health space, there are many free resources, but it is sometimes just knowing about them so when you walk in that room you will see all of it. Every year I get calls with different booths so this year we have Nar-Anon so for people who suffer with narcotics addictions. We are going to have Al-Anon this year for alcoholism. We will have online therapy to provide and there are so many counsellor booths that are free in Saskatchewan that people don't simply know about."

"At 7 pm the speeches start and go for an hour and a half. We try to give you a mix of real-life stories which is Brit, and coping methods which is Dr Ogundare and some entertainment, so we also have musician JJ Voss. At the end, you can meet the speakers as well and I think that is where the magic happens, and powerful conversations are held. We hope people leave with this sense of joy and hope."

Froese says she enjoys weeks after the event when people reach out regarding resources for themselves or their loved ones.

"The night is wonderful. We have the speakers then all of the mental health booths. This year we have about 12 booths set up from the Canadian Mental Health Association with offerings of free online therapy through the U of R. It is all gratifying, but for me the gratification comes in the following week when I get emails and messages saying how the event gave



Christalee Froese of Montmartre, founder of the More Joy Movement, with Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark at the More Joy event last year.



Brit Dort, left, therapy dogs, above, and JJ Voss, below, will be part of the More Joy event this year.



them courage, or hope, or saying they got their child in therapy or asking for more contacts from different booths and that is where the magic happens. It is removing the stigma around mental health."

She says each year guest speakers tend to reach out to her with their mental health journey they would like to share at More Joy.

"They tend to find their way to us. We try to have a variety that will speak to different people, so we have had men in other years, women other times, young people, and older people. Brit as our keynote speaker brings the youthful energy to it. She is in her 20s and she will talk about

starting a career with social anxiety and what tools and coping methods she has. We are hoping it will attract a younger crowd and a crowd that is familiar with her through the Roughriders. Dr Ogundare is going to bring the wisdom of having been a psychiatrist for many years and having been through mental health issues herself. She will bring the theoretical and practical steps of what you can do next."

Making connections

Froese says the event sparks long-term bonds between individuals building a supportive community.

"The real joy for me comes from the connections we make together as a group and after when people reach out asking about contacts for different booths. So many people make so many connections and exchange resources and use these resources throughout the year, so it is not just a one-night event—you get helping tools and strategies that you take with you and I think for me that gives me the greatest joy that people are spreading it to others."

Ticket Info

Froese explains anyone can purchase tickets for the event online at MoreJoy.ca

"You can get tickets at MoreJoy.ca tickets are \$35 now and they are \$55 at the door so I recommend getting them early. You can use a credit card online. A lot of people come from out of town for this and so I want them to know our sponsor hotel is the Marriott Residence Inn and they're giving us rooms at about \$100 off and giving free rooms to all of our speakers so they are a great partner. I have found people tend to come from out of their communities because they don't want to go to a mental health event in their own community—the stigma is still there—I just want people to know that travelling to this many of us will be staying at the Marriott and we want you to feel welcomed no matter where you are from. We can all heal together."

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Screening age for breast cancer lowered to 43

Mobile Mammography unit in SE Sask next four months, with stops in Estevan, Carnduff, Carlyle, and Moosomin

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Saskatchewan women aged 43-plus are now eligible for screening mammograms without a doctor's referral, as the Saskatchewan government continues to lower the age limit for screening mammograms.

As of January 1, women aged 43 and older in Saskatchewan are eligible for screening mammograms.

The change is meant to support early detection of breast cancer, and is part of a broader plan to gradually lower the screening age to 40 within the next six months.

"By lowering the breast cancer screening age, more Saskatchewan women will be able to receive an earlier diagnosis, leading to more lives saved," Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill said.

"Our government is putting patients first by supporting these investments ensuring women get the care they need closer to home."

The eligibility change will increase the number of Saskatchewan women who can access early detection breast screening services, further supporting the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency's BreastCheck screening program.

According to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, approximately 75 per cent of breast cancers diagnosed in the province are detected in the early stages.

"We're proud to again expand BreastCheck screening eligibility," said Karen Efthimiou, Vice President of Population Health, Quality and Research at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.



The mobile mammography unit which will be in Estevan, Carnduff, Carlyle, and Moosomin over the next four months.

"This initiative emphasizes our commitment to early detection, which leads to more treatment options and improves outcomes. We're excited to invite women aged 43 and up to schedule their first screening mammogram."

"Expanding breast screening eligibility to include women 43 years and older will empower even more women to make proactive, informed decisions about the best ways to protect their health," said Bryan Witt, Vice President of Provincial Clinical and Support Services, Saskatchewan Health Authority.

"The best protection is early

detection."

Women can book an appointment without a referral from a health-care provider, as long as they are of the appropriate age at the time of booking and meet eligibility criteria:

- Have no breast symptoms, such as lumps, bloody nipple discharge or skin changes;
- Do not have breast implants;
- Are not in active followup for breast cancer; and
- Have been breast cancer-free for the last five years.

Most women are encouraged to undergo a screening mammogram every two years.

Eligible women can schedule their mammogram at one of the eight designated screening locations throughout Saskatchewan, or through the Mobile Mammography Unit, which will be at four communities in southeast Saskatchewan over the next four months.

Screening mammograms are routine examinations intended for women with no breast symptoms, while diagnostic mammograms are meant for those experiencing breast symptoms.

Women who have concerns about Breast Cancer or experience symptoms, regardless of

their age, should seek medical advice.

Mobile unit in southeast Sask

The mobile mammography unit travels throughout rural and northern Saskatchewan and runs on a two-year cycle.

Appointments for the unit can be made approximately six weeks in advance of mobile visits.

You do not need a doctor's referral to make an appointment for a screening mammogram.

Call toll-free at 1-855-584-8228 to book your appointment.

Here is where the unit will be this winter and spring:

Estevan

Ramada by Wyndham Estevan

January 5–February 20, 2026

Carnduff

Carnduff Memorial Park

February 23–March 6, 2026

Carlyle

Carlyle Curling Club

March 9–March 27, 2026

Moosomin

Canalta Hotel

March 30–April 24, 2026

Women can call 1-855-584-8228 to book a screening mammogram appointment or email ed.coordinators@saskcancer.ca for more information. Phones are answered between 8 am and 4:30 pm.

For more information on scheduling appointments, locations and operating hours, individuals can visit saskcancer.ca/BreastCheck.

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Saskatchewan

Weedmark says 2025 was a busy year

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark says 2025 has been a busy year for him. Weedmark is also the Legislative Secretary to the Ministers of Health. Following are his thoughts on the year

What were some of the highlights of 2025?

There were so many! Every time I was able to make a difference for a constituent, every time we were able as a government to move a positive policy change forward, it's always a great feeling.

One of the biggest highlights for me was the day we introduced the new compassionate intervention legislation.

When it was first mentioned in the Throne Speech we had a local woman who had come to me to ask for this type of legislation, in the hopes that it would help her son, there in the Legislature. And we had Chief Shelley Bear and Headwoman Audrey Isaac from Ochapowace First Nation there. Chief Bear had told me that she believes there are people from Ochapowace First Nation who would be alive today if we had that legislation. So it was an honor to have them there for that. Then the day the legislation was introduced we had a large group of people from Moosomin-Montmartre and from White Bear First Nation who wanted to be there to see that legislation introduced.

Another highlight was to make the announcement at Kakhewistahaw to designate the highway running through the First Nation as Chief Kakhewistahaw Way.

Another highlight was bringing the Premier to Moosomin-Montmartre. We visited three communities, including a lunch in Moosomin with a large group of people there to hear from the Premier.

Another highlight was the opening of Rocanville's indoor pool. The amount of the ICIP grant for the pool was more than doubled this year, making it more affordable for the community, and thanks to the hard work of so many people in Rocanville, that new pool is now a reality.

To see construction start on the new 90-spot daycare in Moosomin was also a highlight, to see the water treatment plant to allow Moosomin to grow was a highlight, the opening of the new pool at Kemoca Regional Park was a highlight, and there are so many more.

What were some of the things you accomplished?

There has been so much accomplished for our area in 2025. We have had a lot of highway work done in the area including work on Highways 1, 8, and 48.

In June, I was thrilled to be in Grenfell as we announced that work would get started on the new long-term care facility in that community. That is now under construction.

We have had the head of medical diagnostics out to Moosomin twice to look at the Southeast Integrated Care Centre to determine if, where, and how a CT Scanner could be accommodated in the building. He has been speaking with equipment vendors to determine options.

That's the first step in the process, so there is work being done on that.

What were some of the disappointments in 2025?

Everywhere I go across the constituency and across the province, I see people who are improving things, who are making things better, who are building up businesses, who are finding ways to make things better within our health system.

I have toured facilities like the Breast Health Centre in Regina, and heard what a difference that is making, I have seen the work on the new Long Term Care Home at Grenfell and heard from local people how excited they are for that, I was there in Yorkton when we announced that there will be a new medical residency program for doctors to finish their training here, just like we have in Moosomin that has made such a difference in that community.

And everywhere I go I hear positivity and see good things happening, so the most disappointing thing is to go into the Legislative Assembly and hear the opposition put a negative spin on absolutely everything every day.

We have challenges, yes. But we are incredibly fortunate in this province to have amazing people who are going to overcome those challenges and keep this province moving forward.

What happened in 2025 that had the most effect on your constituents?

Everything we're doing is focused on building a strong, safe, secure Saskatchewan, and that benefits everyone.

In the spring we made Saskatchewan the first Carbon Tax Free province in Canada, reduced the education property tax mill rate, and provided \$250 million in tax savings as well as introduced various affordability measures.

This fall we introduced the Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act, which aims to reduce trade barriers between provinces and help support freer trade across Canada.

Another major step was the Response to Illicit Drugs Act, designed to protect families and communities from illegal drugs and to hold those who profit from them accountable. I have heard a lot of positive comments about that.

On the last day of the fall sitting we introduced the Compassionate Intervention Act, which will require individuals whose addictions put themselves or others at risk to receive the care they need.

I had a large group from our constituency in the Legislature to see that legislation introduced.

We brought in amendments to the Saskatchewan Firearms Act which will protect gun owners from financial liability caused by federal firearm bans.



Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark on the steps of the Legislature.

All of these changes are moving Saskatchewan in the right direction

What are some of the most common things you hear from your constituents?

I hear a lot of things from my constituents every week, ranging from individual issues with municipal affairs and farm drainage to health care to education. Part of my role is connecting people with those who can work on their issues and come to a resolution.

People seem to be generally supportive of the direction we are taking the province in, but of course there are issues, whether it be health care, highways, drainage, social services, sometimes specific to communities, sometimes just affecting individuals, that need to be addressed.

What will be some of the biggest challenges for your party in 2026?


The biggest challenge I see for our government and our province next year is navigating international trade.

Saskatchewan's economy is built on exports, and we certainly see that in our region, with potash, agriculture, energy and manufacturing all focused on export markets. Saskatchewan and Alberta have by far the most exports per capita among Canadian provinces.

We see challenges in the logistics of getting our goods to market, whether it be oil flowing through pipelines, or logistical problems getting goods by rail to port, or labor stoppages causing issues.

On top of that we now have tariff and trade issues that are causing challenges.

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Navigating tariffs and trade will definitely be a challenge to overcome

What are some of the most challenging things about being an MLA?

Trying to be five places at once. I don't think a lot of people realize how busy an MLA's schedule is, and the difficult decisions that have to be made when for one evening you have two invitations to events in Saskatoon, two in Regina, one in Rocanville, one in Moosomin, one in Montmartre, and one in Indian Head. Trying to balance the need to get around the riding and meet people with my responsibilities in Regina and my role as Legislative Secretary to the Ministers of Health, which takes me right across the province, is a challenge for me. I take my role very seriously and I'm disappointed when I cannot make it to an event or a meeting because I have another more urgent meeting.

I try to do the best for my constituents while fulfilling my provincial responsibilities.

I believe communication is vitally important, so I submit a report each week to media across the riding letting people know a few highlights of where I have been and what I have done that week.

What are some of the most rewarding things about being an MLA?

All of it. Being part of the discussion on the future of this province, having the great honor of being part of the provincial government is great, but there are two answers to that, and both are about people.

Most importantly, being able to make a difference for people means a lot to me. I can't speak about the individual casework I and my constituency assistant Charlene take on for constituents because I need to protect their privacy, but in some cases we are able to make a difference for people. Charlene is excellent at talking to the various ministers' offices and getting the information to the right people to get issues solved.

And secondly, meeting amazing people across the riding and right across the province.

South of McLean, at the west end of my constituency a man named Ian Moats set up Ian's Christmas Lights and has raised \$182,000 for the mental health ward in Regina. Meeting him and touring his light display was rewarding, as was bringing him to the Legislature to give him some recognition.

There's a group that works on grief counselling and suicide prevention, Caring Hearts, that I first found out about when I went to their event for Suicide Prevention Awareness Day. I learned a lot about them, met with them and health officials, two months after first learning about them I had the honor of announcing funding for their group to expand their service across the province.

At meeting after meeting, at event after event, I meet amazing people.

I've always been optimistic about the future of Saskatchewan, and every day I'm even more optimistic because we are a province full of potential, and what will help us develop to our full potential is the resilience, resourcefulness and drive of the people of this province.

It really is an honor to represent the people of our area, and I'm going to continue working hard for them!

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Planning has started for 2026 Living Skies Come Alive fireworks competition

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
Plans are underway for the 2026 Living Skies Come Alive fireworks competition at Moosomin Regional Park on the August long weekend.

After a hiatus from 2020 to 2024, the competition was brought back in 2025, and with around 6,000 people through the gates last year, Kyle Jeannot with the Moosomin Regional Park board and fireworks committee says they considered last year's event a success. At its peak the show was bringing in 10,000 people a weekend, and he says 2025 was a good start in getting it back up to the level it once was at.

This year it will be an east vs west competition, with the Alberta fireworks crew from last year competing against a crew from Eastern Canada. Fireworks will be set off over Moosomin Lake on Saturday, August 1 and Sunday, August 2, with two different crews doing the fireworks each night, and judges voting on whose show is best.

"It will be the same thing as last year—fireworks for two days. It will be an East versus West competition and there will be bands and beer gardens on both nights as well," says Jeannot.

Jeannot says there will also be other activities at the lake that weekend, and a market both days, the same as in 2025.

He says he was pleased with how last year's event went.

"I think it went really well honestly, for coming back. Looking at the number of people that went through, it looked like it kind of did years ago when it was maybe three of four years old. It was definitely a good turnout for people and I think people really enjoyed it.

"We had around three thousand a day through the gates. It was a really good turnout. If we were to look back and see the number that came through, it's roughly the same as about three or four years in after it first got started."

Jeannot says the competition is important for the region and for the park.

"People missed it, and it's just huge for the park itself. It's a fundraiser and it brings people into the park, and it's huge for the community. The amount of people that are coming and staying in hotels, and going to the liquor or grocery store to buy drinks and food, and uptown shopping or at the restaurants. There is so much of a spin off from it that I think everybody capitalizes on it."

The event takes a lot of work, and planning for it starts months in advance.

"It takes about six months of planning," says Jeannot. "Right now we're having meetings and getting everything booked. Since last year we kind of have a good format for how everything went. So, basically it's just look back, having your schedule of what you need when and where, and just starting to book vendors and stuff like that and getting everything ready to go."

A separate committee has been formed to plan the event.

"We have three or four of us from the park board on an entertainment committee, and then we do have other volunteers that help with the fireworks, which is great because they help pick up some pieces where they can."

"Come March or April, we will start advertising for volunteers. Before we always used to get volunteers for our parking, but this year we are actually going to hire a company to do our parking. It's super hard to find volunteers for that, it's a longer shift and nobody wants to be standing out in the sun parking cars, and at the end of the day it's just easier to hire that out and get somebody in where they know that is their job for the day and that's what they are doing."

Jeannot says, aside from the competitors not much will be changing from 2025.

"Everything seemed to go pretty smooth last year and everybody seemed to enjoy it. So, I think that's our goal, try and keep

the same kind of format. Everybody was happy last year. People were coming out to see if it was going to be like it was be-

fore (2020) or if it was just a half fireworks show that was being put on. People were very impressed."



A photo of the Living Skies fireworks over Moosomin Lake by Caylor Fawcett.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

7:30 AM TO 9:00 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 3:00 PM - FAMILY SWIM
4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM - PUBLIC SWIM
7:00 PM TO 8:00 PM - AQUAFIT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

7:30 AM TO 9:00 AM - LANE SWIM
9:30 AM TO 10:30 AM - AQUAFIT
11:00 AM TO 12:00 PM - SENIOR AQUAFLEX
1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM - FAMILY SWIM
4:00 PM TO 6:30 PM - PUBLIC SWIM
6:30 PM TO 8:00 PM - LANE SWIM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM - PUBLIC SWIM
7:00 PM TO 8:00 PM - AQUAFIT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

7:30 AM TO 9:30 AM - LANE SWIM
11:00 AM TO 12:00 PM - SENIOR SWIM
1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM - FAMILY SWIM
4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM - PUBLIC SWIM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM - PUBLIC SWIM
1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM - LANE SWIM
6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM - EVENING SWIM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM - PUBLIC SWIM
1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM - LANE SWIM
6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM - EVENING SWIM

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

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
4:00 PM TO 6:30 PM - PUBLIC SWIM
6:30 PM TO 8:00 PM - LANE SWIM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

7:30 AM TO 8:30 AM - LANE SWIM
9:30 AM TO 10:30 AM - AQUAFIT
12:00 PM TO 1:00 PM - FITNESS SWIM
1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM - FAMILY SWIM
4:00 PM TO 6:30 PM - PUBLIC SWIM
6:30 PM TO 8:00 PM - LANE SWIM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

6:30 AM TO 7:15 AM - EARLY BIRD AQUAFIT
7:30 AM TO 9:00 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, JANUARY 15

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 - PARENTS & TOT AQUAFIT
4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM - PUBLIC SWIM
7:00 PM TO 8:00 PM - AQUAFIT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

6:30 AM TO 7:30 AM - EARLY BIRD AQUAFIT
7:30 AM TO 9:30 AM - LANE SWIM
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 - PUBLIC SWIM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

9:00 AM TO 10:30 AM - PUBLIC SWIM
1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM - LANE SWIM
6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM - EVENING SWIM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM - LANE SWIM
10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM - FAMILY SWIM
1:00 PM TO 6:00 PM - PUBLIC SWIM

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

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 - PUBLIC SWIM
6:30 PM TO 8:00 PM - LANE SWIM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

7:00 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 3:00 PM - FAMILY SWIM
3:30 PM TO 7:00 PM - PUBLIC SWIM
7:00 PM TO 8:00 PM - AQUAFIT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

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, JANUARY 22

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 AQUAFIT
4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM - PUBLIC SWIM
7:00 PM TO 8:00 PM - AQUAFIT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

6:30 AM TO 7:30 AM - EARLY BIRD AQUAFIT
7:30 AM TO 9:30 AM - LANE SWIM
12:00 PM TO 1:00 PM OPEN FITNESS SWIM
1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM - FAMILY SWIM
3:30 PM TO 8:30 PM - PUBLIC SWIM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

9:00 AM TO 10:30 AM - PUBLIC SWIM
1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM - LANE SWIM
2:00 PM TO 4:30 PM - FAMILY SWIM
6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM - EVENING SWIM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM - LANE SWIM
10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM - FAMILY SWIM
1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM - PUBLIC SWIM

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

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 - PUBLIC SWIM
6:30 PM TO 8:00 PM - LANE SWIM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

7:00 AM TO 8:00 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 3:00 PM - FAMILY SWIM
3:30 PM TO 7:00 PM - PUBLIC SWIM
7:00 PM TO 8:00 PM AQUAFIT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

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, JANUARY 29

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 AQUAFIT
4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM - PUBLIC SWIM
7:00 PM TO 8:00 PM - AQUAFIT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

6:30 AM TO 7:30 AM - EARLY BIRD AQUAFIT
7:30 AM TO 9:30 AM - LANE SWIM
12:00 PM TO 1:00 PM OPEN FITNESS SWIM
1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM - FAMILY SWIM
3:30 PM TO 8:30 PM - PUBLIC SWIM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM - PUBLIC SWIM
1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM - LANE SWIM
2:00 PM TO 4:30 PM - FAMILY SWIM
6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM - EVENING SWIM



UNIVERSE SATELLITE AQUATIC CENTRE



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11 commercial condo units approved for Moosomin



A rendering of the commercial condo units that will be located in Eastgate Business Park.



BY NICOLE TAYLOR

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Moosomin town council passed a motion on Wednesday, December 17 to allow for 11 commercial condo units on two lots in Eastgate Business Park, south of the Sask-Power building on Saunders Road.

Jay Hamilton with South Prairie Properties sat down with council at their meeting that night to explain the project.

He said there would be three buildings with 11 condo bays that could be used for commercial, shop, storage, or light industrial. Each unit would be individually titled like a residential condo, and the three buildings would be 5,040, 6,000, and 6,240 square feet.

Hamilton said presale of the units will start early in the new year, and construction would start in the spring of 2026, with possession taking place in the fall.

"We are going to ask for development permit approval so that can proceed with the presale of the units," he told council.

"We are going to ask for pre-approval of C2 discretionary uses to accommodate a mix of users. Everyone who falls within C2 we feel is suitable for that space. And we are going to ask for approval of a commercial condo plan allowing up to 11 units so we can proceed with this style of condo development.

"We believe the project supports local business, grows the tax base in a meaningful way, fits well within the Eastgate Business Park, and addresses a clear gap in the commercial market."

Hamilton said a condo corporation would be formed that would manage the shared responsibilities of the building. The corporation would be made up of the condo owners and would follow a bylaw put in place for the development.

The project is estimated to cost between \$2.5 and \$3.5 million.

Hamilton said the target market for buyers would be businesses like the trades, mine and oilfield service companies, or the units could be used as satellite locations for larger companies that are working in Moosomin on an intermittent basis. He said he could also see the units being used for warehouse space or for recreational use for people simply wanting shop space, or storage space for their RVs or vehicles.

"This will be low traffic use, not like a retail or restaurant space," he said. "I imagine some of these users will be intermittent or not even on site that much."

Hamilton asked council if they would approve allowing for 11 units on two lots so that he could start presale on the units.

Council approved the 11 units over two lots, and will be dealing with the development permit at their January 21 meeting.

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Dianne Martin
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Nicole MacPherson
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FROM: BERRY GOOD FARMS

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FROM: BORDERLAND CO-OP

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FROM: BOSTON PIZZA VIRDEN

Quincy Tse
Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: BRADLEY'S GM

Josh Sapara
Prize: Milwaukee Blower Kit
FROM: BUMPER TO BUMPER

Jeff Cole
Prize: Celebration Ford Swag Bag
FROM: CELEBRATION FORD

Jacqui Beckett
Prize: \$150 Gift Card
FROM: CORK & BONE BISTRO

Ed Yeo
Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: COUNTRY SQUIRE

Don Niebergall, Glen Prybylski
Prize: Two \$50 Gift Cards
FROM: DENRAY TIRE

Sheryl Stomp
Prize: Gift Basket with \$50 Gift Card
FROM: ERIN'S IDA PHARMACY

Charlotte Babyak
Prize: Platinum Detail Package
FROM: ESTERHAZY FORD

Judy Nickolauson
Prize: Yard Decoration
FROM: ESTERHAZY HOME HARDWARE

Sam Burroughs
Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: FOULLARD CARPETS

Bernadette Dupont
Prize: \$200 Gift Certificate
FROM: FOULLARD DISCOUNT

Roxane Paslawski
Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: GLASSER'S TV

Ron Greenbank
Prize: OpenMove Wireless Headphones
FROM: IDA MOOSOMIN

Melodye Dubuc
Prize: \$50 Gift Card
FROM: MOOSOMIN HOME HARDWARE

Anthony Gibson
Prize: Salton Air Fryer & Grill
FROM: VIRDEN HOME HARDWARE

Deb Driver
Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: IMZ SERVICE GARAGE

Wendy Bourgon
Prize: Purse
FROM: KARI'S KLOSET

Della Stanhope
Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: KARI'S PHARMACY

Tommy Towler, Barb Adams
Prize: Two \$50 Gift Cards
FROM: MOOSOMIN KFC

Mandy Lamontagne
Prize: Free Meal Voucher
FROM: KIPLING STOP N SHOP

Darcy Boreham
Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: KULLBERGS FURNITURE

Vickie Akins
Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: KUZINA RESTO

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Prize: Heated Jacket
FROM: MAZERGROUP

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FROM: T.J'S PIZZA

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FROM: THE WORLD-SPECTATOR

Donna Mains
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FROM: TODAY'S ENTERPRISES

Elizabeth & Alex Van Eaton
Prize: Gift Basket
FROM: TREND'S MERCANTILE

Deb Knorek
Prize: \$50 Gift Card
FROM: TRISTAR FOODS & SUBWAY

Brandon Gray
Prize: Arctic Cat Jacket
FROM: UNIVERSE SATELLITE

Nicole Madsen
Prize: Winter survival prize package valued at \$300
FROM: VALLEYVIEW CO-OP FARM & RANCH CENTRE

Jean-Marc Lemoine
Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: VIRDEN MAINLINE MOTORS

Cory Stooks
Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: VIRDEN REC

Will Elliot
Prize: Athlon Forerunner Binoculars
FROM: WOLVERINE SUPPLIES

CONEXUS ARTS CENTRE

MORE JOY REGINA with Brit Dort



EVENT SCHEDULE:

- 6 - 7 pm - Provincial Mental Health Booths
- 7 - 8:15 pm - Speeches:
 - ★ 7 pm - MLA Kevin Weedmark
 - ★ 7:10 pm - Dr. Omosade Ogundare in conversation with Christalee Froese
 - ★ 7:30 - 8 pm - TSN reporter Brit Dort
 - ★ 8:00 pm - JJ Voss, musician
- 8:15 pm - Closing dance with Rider Cheerleader Lily Kary
- 8:15 - 10pm - Provincial Mental Health Booths

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Puppy Room by Bright Eyes Dog Rescue; St. John Ambulance Therapy Dogs; Guest speakers; Interactive booths

Wed | Jan 28 | 6 - 10 p.m.

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Mental health for all



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The More Joy Movement brings together over 25 mental health professionals from psychiatrists to counsellors at 10 provincial booths offering free services!



The Moosomin Communities in Bloom Committee with their national certificate for five blooms. From left are Kathy Doane, Pansy Taylor, Lyla Smart, Zoie Ferguson, Greg Nosterud, Angela Thorn, Mike Schween, Mayor Murray Gray, Carol Fawcett, Karen Hebert, Andrew Exelby with Saskatchewan Parks and Rec who was there to present the certificate on Dec. 16, Ann Norgan, and Alice Abrahamson.

Moosomin receives certificate for five national blooms in Communities in Bloom

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
Moosomin is preparing for another season in the Communities in Bloom program following a strong showing at the national level.

Angela Thorn with Moosomin Parks and Recreation and Communities in Bloom project co-ordinator attended the Communities in Bloom symposium to represent the community.

"I had the privilege of attending the Communities in Bloom symposium in Stratford, Ontario this past October to represent Moosomin," Thorn said at the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting on December 16. "The event was filled with tours, presentations, and a wealth of information that I am eager to take forward."

Thorn said the program extends beyond beautification and plays a role in community and economic development.

"It's important to remember this initiative is more than just flowers. It significantly benefits our economy by making our town a desirable destination for visitors to stay and play."

Moosomin has committed to competing again at the national level in the upcoming season. This year Moosomin earned five blooms nationally.

"I am currently brainstorming numerous ideas for the upcoming season, as we have decided to compete once more at the national level," Thorn said. "I was delighted with our report from last year. Many attendees, judges, and other Communities in Bloom members confirmed that achieving five blooms in our first year at the national level is quite an impressive feat."

She said the community's goal is to maintain its five-bloom rating while working toward additional recognition.

"Next year we want to secure our five blooms and add a medal onto that," Thorn said. She added that residents can follow updates through the Moosomin Parks and

Recreation and Moosomin Communities in Bloom pages and are encouraged to get involved.

Andrew Exelby with Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation said Moosomin's performance in the program has been notable.

"Moosomin has done really well with the Communities in Bloom program," Exelby said. "I have been involved with you for the last couple of years since you rejoined the provincial program and have watched you grow through the provincial level and progress into the national program."

Exelby said 49 communities participated in the program across Saskatchewan this year, with Moosomin one of only two competing at the national level.

"We were in the under 5,000 population category with Athabasca, Alberta, and Capreol, Ontario," he said. "It is an incredible achievement to go from a provincial to a national program and maintain a five-bloom rating."

He said communities often see a rating drop during the transition to national competition.

"It's not uncommon to drop down to a four-bloom rating when making that leap, but Moosomin maintained its five blooms, and that is an amazing achievement," Exelby said.

He said judges highlighted the high level of community involvement in Moosomin.

"The businesses, residents, volunteers, boards, and non-profits truly have what's best for Moosomin at heart and want to see the community be successful," he said.

Exelby says the program continues to gain recognition across the country.

"Communities in Bloom has garnered a lot of attention across Canada and was mentioned in the Senate last week," he said. "It's about building a community where businesses want to be and residents want to live, creating a successful environment for future generations."

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Plans for new Carlyle school to be resubmitted to ministry by February 13

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

South East Cornerstone School Division says revised drawings and specifications for the new Pre-K to Grade 12 school in Carlyle, as well as a cost estimate, will be resubmitted to the Ministry of Education by February 13 for review.

Director of Education Keith Keating with South East Cornerstone School Division says the division went through a value rendering process for the new school in order to bring the project closer to what the ministry and Sask Builds has put forward for the budget.

"We will be looking at submitting revised drawing and specifications to Postma—the company we are working with to come up with a cost estimate—by January 23," Keating said last week.

That cost estimate will come back to the school division by February 13, and Keating says the new drawings and cost estimate will be submitted to the ministry of education by February 16.

"They take six weeks to look at it, and can either say you have to go back and do some re-drawings or we can receive approval to proceed to tender.

"If we get approval, then we can go to tender at that point by April 2. If not, then we have to go back and restart the process again.

"And if we go to tender by April 2, then we could potentially look at construction by the summer. If not, then that puts us back by a few weeks again.

"We are hopeful that we can get some earth turned on the project this year, but it depends on what those cost estimates come back at, and when we submit that to the ministry of education, what their review says.

"So the ministry and Sask Builds will take a look at that and decide whether we can proceed to tender at this point or need to go back and do some more work.

"We have to be within five per cent of the budget, which is pretty tight because it's dollars you are looking at from a couple years ago, and when you put those inflationary pieces in, it's pretty tight to meet that budget, but we are hopeful."

The town of Carlyle has committed \$2.5 million toward the new school, and capital funding for the school has been approved by the provincial government.

The town of Carlyle also received a pleasant surprise when a \$5,000 donation was made toward the new school by Theresa and Kelvin Luedtke just before Christmas.



Above and below: Floor plans for the first and second floor of the new school.

Top of page: An artist's rendering of the new school





Minister Dave Marit addressing Chamber of Commerce members in Moosomin.



Ministers Marit, Gartner speak on highway investment at Moosomin Chamber meeting

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Provincial Ministers Dave Marit and Kim Gartner were at the Chamber of Commerce meeting in Moosomin on December 16 to talk about highway investments in the Moosomin region. Marit is currently the Minister of Agriculture but was the Minister of Highways when the investments were made, and Gartner is the newly appointed Minister of Highways.

Marit said current projects reflect development occurring across the region.

"The projects that we are doing around this area probably reflect what is happening here as far as growth and opportunity," Marit said, referencing resurfacing on Highway 8 between Moosomin and Rocanville, and the development of a new truck rest stop east of Moosomin.

"This will be a 24-hour, 365-day truck stop with washroom facilities and room for a fair number of trucks to pull in, rest, and carry on," he said. "It is something we had good discussions with the industry about and something we really communicated with the community on, including the location and how we wanted to do that."

Marit said similar projects are being considered in other areas of the prov-

ince, including Kindersley and western Saskatchewan. He said preliminary discussions have taken place regarding highway co-ordination and traffic movement in and around Moosomin.

"We will absolutely be working with both the rural and urban municipalities on what is the right thing to do," Marit said. "Maybe it is moving the (truck) route around town and getting trucks off Main Street. We would never do anything without municipal support and sign-off."

Marit said the Ministry of Highways will continue working with municipalities under Highways Minister Kim Gartner.

"I can assure you that Kim will continue that role, working with munic-

ipalities on everything we do and making sure everybody is on side," he said.

Gartner said his background in municipal administration informs his approach to the role.

"My background is municipal administration, five to six years in rural administration and more than 30 years in urban administration," Gartner said. "You have a great team here in Moosomin, and it is a very progressive community. I could see that as soon as I drove in. It reminds me of my town."

Gartner also spoke about local representation.

"You have a great advocate in your representative, MLA Kevin Weedmark, and I want to thank him for all the work he has done," Gartner said.



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PRAIRIE VIEW MUNICIPALITY UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

Prairie View Municipality, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a PUBLIC HEARING at the below listed location, date, and time during which the Council will receive written or verbal representation from any persons who wish to make them in respect to the following application matter:

PRAIRIE VIEW MUNICIPALITY BY-LAW NO. 2025-08 being an AMENDMENT to the PRAIRIE VIEW MUNICIPALITY ZONING BY-LAW NO. 2018-15, as amended.

DATE & TIME: February 10, 2026, 9:00 am (0900h)

LOCATION: Prairie View Municipality Council Chambers located at 678 Main Street, Birtle, MB

PROPOSAL: To amend parts, sections, subsections, and bulk standard tables of the existing Zoning By-law 2018-15. Rezoning of Crandall and Birtle properties.

SECTIONS AFFECTED: Parts 2, 3, 4, and 6, plus

Table 3.2 - Use & Site Requirements: "AG" Agricultural General Zone

Table 3.3 - Use & Site Requirements: "GD" General Development Zone

Table 3.4 - Use & Site Requirements: "RR" Rural Residential Zone

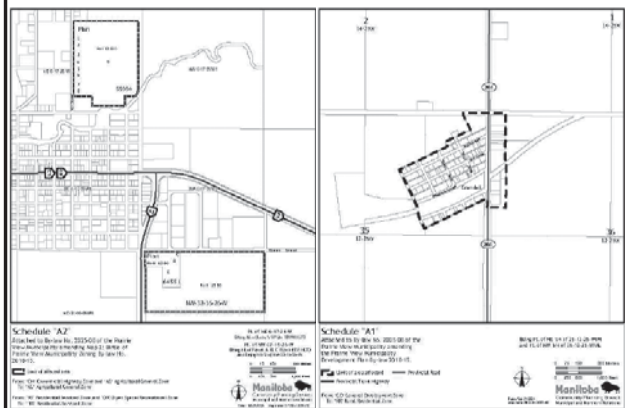
Table 3.8 - Use & Site Requirements: "CC" Commercial Central Zone

Table 3.9 - Use & Site Requirements: "CH" Commercial Highway Zone

Table 3.10 - Use & Site Requirements: "MG" Industrial General Zone

Table 3.11 - Use & Site Requirements: "I" Institutional Zone

Table 4.1 - Animal Unit Conversion Factors



Map 2: As shown in Schedule "A2"

-Birtle rolls 1350 & 1360 east of HWY 83, south of Queen Street be rezoned from dual zones of "CH" Commercial Highway Zone and "AG" Agricultural General Zone to be all "AG" Agricultural General Zone.

- Birtle roll 52580 be rezoned from dual zones of "RS" Residential Serviced Zone and "OR" Open Space / Recreational Zone to be all "RS" Residential Serviced Zone.

Map 8: As shown in Schedule "A1"

-The entire "GD" General Development Zone in Crandall between NW -35-13-25W and NW-36-13-25W be rezoned from "GD" General Development Zone to "RR" Rural Residential Zone.

The current Zoning By-Law and a copy of the amendment proposal and maps will be available for review and download on www.midwestplanning.ca.

A copy of the above amendment proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the Mid-West Planning District office during normal business hours. Copies may be made, and extracts taken there from, upon request.

Representations may be made verbally or in writing at the public hearing.

If you have any questions, please call at 1-888-919-1740 or email devofficer@midwestplanning.ca

Lisa Hamilton, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,
MID-WEST PLANNING DISTRICT

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Trade and Export Minister Warren Kaeding talks about the challenges and highlights of 2025

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Melville-Saltcoats MLA and Minister of Trade and Export Warren Kaeding talked about what kind of year 2025 was and what he's looking forward to in 2026.

What were some of the highlights of 2025?

As the Minister of Trade and Export Development I participated in a number of trade missions to South East Asia. These included stops in Vietnam, Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. These stops provided a fascinating look into the incredible trade opportunities we have in a rapidly growing and emerging market.

Trade visits into the Northern United States provided me an opportunity to meet with industry and trade representatives from some of our most important trading states within the USA. We were able to discuss a number of issues with partners that we share a strong trading relationship with.

I had the opportunity to tour a number of our mining, manufacturing and production facilities throughout the province from Estevan to Esterhazy to McArthur River. We have an incredibly diverse economic, industrial powerhouse in our province that will be providing tremendous opportunity for those in the provincial workforce and those wanting to enter it.

A most recent highlight was having Mosaic make a significant investment in our skilled trades and training space in the constituency with their investment in the Churchbridge Millright Lab and Suncrest College in their expansion of their trades center in Esterhazy. What began as a dream of local Churchbridge millright, Bob Haacke, and myself has now blossomed into a significant trades training center for our area students.

We ended up with a remarkable harvest in this area considering the early growing season issues, the lingering forest fire smoke and lower than normal in-season rainfall.

I met some incredible local and provincial entrepreneurs that were willing to take a chance on building a successful business in Saskatchewan. Their perseverance, drive and initiative was an inspiration to continue supporting business development in the province.

There are a number of significant businesses that have developed new or expanded current facilities in our area. From new buildings in Langenburg—Smith Creek Villas and Churchbridge Credit Union Langenburg Branch to the new

UFA card lock in Melville to completed municipal infrastructure projects in Esterhazy and Melville to the huge expansion of the canola plants in Yorkton to the new pea processing plant being built in Yorkton. There were a number of new small businesses that opened throughout the constituency from consulting services to interior decorating stores.

There were two new, large daycares that will be developed in Esterhazy and Melville.

What were some of the things you accomplished?

As the Minister of Trade I was able to take Saskatchewan to the world and tell our story to new audiences. We were able to diversify trade even more throughout the world (over 160 countries), reducing our dependency on two or three major markets.

I was able to meet with hundreds of provincial stakeholders listening to their issues and concerns and facilitating opportunities between them. We were able to introduce a number of programs and initiatives that supports business development including the Young Entrepreneurs' Program which benefited a number of local businesses.

I was part of the organizing committee that brought over 400 American and Canadian politicians to Saskatchewan for the Midwest Legislative Conference in July.

On a constituency level we were able to advance the planning and development of our new Integrated Health Facility in Esterhazy to the next level.

We were able to facilitate a number of stakeholder meetings that ended up with a number of positive results in and around the constituency. Nothing big, but lots of successful outcomes.

We were able to get more highway projects completed such as repaving Highway 16 from Saltcoats to Yorkton, the start of developing passing lanes on Highway 10 from Melville to Fort Qu'Appelle and a commitment by Highways to repave Highway 16 from Manitoba border to Churchbridge. We just received a commitment to resurface the #247 from the #9 to the #47. All of these are going to improve the safety of our constituents.

What were some of the



Melville-Saltcoats MLA and Minister of Trade and Export Warren Kaeding.

disappointments in 2025?

Tariff issues with our major trading partners in the United States, China and India resulted in a lot of uncertainty and hesitation for expansion in 2025.

The Blue Jays losing in game seven! I am still in mourning over the sting of defeat, however the disappointment was made up by the Riders winning the 2025 Grey Cup with local talent such as Noah Zerr contributing.

What happened in 2025 that had the most effect on your constituents?

A relatively long, open harvest provided some great crop yields and positive returns in the livestock sector.

Tariff issues with the United States, China and India increased the level of uncertainty. This resulted in many of our businesses pausing their large capital expenditure decisions.

What are some of the most common things you hear from your constituents?

Constituents are concerned with access to specialists in healthcare. They are also nervous that we are having difficulty retaining doctors, long-term.

As part of that discussion is the continued, increasing demand for access to mental health services and addictions recovery support. We are starting to see professional clinics, supporting that sector, opening in our constituency.

Constituents are generally satisfied that our East Central region has a stable

economy with ag, potash, rail, manufacturing and government sectors performing well.

We hear a lot from our businesses about their struggles in attracting skilled professionals to the various job openings in the area. A number of our office calls and visits are with local businesses that are having difficulty getting their newcomer employees approved through the federal immigration process.

I hear about the great work that my constituency assistant, Tim Ziola, is doing in getting results and solving problems for our constituents on a daily basis.

What do you want to see accomplished by the next election?

Construction of a new integrated health centre in Esterhazy.

I would like to see a full complement of skilled trades instructors populating all of our comprehensive high schools.

We need to have a health care sector that is stable and able to support the needs of a growing province.

We need to ensure our

What are some of the most challenging things about being an MLA?

My biggest challenge as an MLA is not being able to attend all of the great community events that are happening in our constituency. Often events and activities are happening on the same day on opposite ends of the constituency.

I struggle with balancing family time with the role and responsibilities of being an MLA. Events and activities that I need to attend are often on weekends and evenings, which are also the time when there are family events and grandkids' activities.

Unfortunately a negative of the job is when we are not able to achieve the outcome that a constituent is hoping for when they bring an issue forward to our office.

What are some of the most rewarding things about being an MLA?

I get to work every day with people that are committed to making the province better.

I enjoy engaging with our fascinating constituents and having them tell their story.

I enjoy talking to young people about the incredible opportunities that they are going to have available to them in the province.

I have had the opportunity to meet business leaders of the province, the country and even internationally. Everyone has a great story of success and failure to learn from.

I really enjoy positioning our province as an economic powerhouse that is going to continue to play a pivotal role in providing food, fuel, fertilizer and more to the world.



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Above left: Don VanMeer accepting the Premier's Commendation medallion on behalf of the Carlyle Fire Department.
Above Right: Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe presenting a Premier's Commendation Medallion to fire chief Brad Hutton with the Redvers Fire Department. At right is Cannington MLA Daryl Harrison.

Premier's Commendation Medallions awarded to Carlyle, Redvers fire departments

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
 LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Redvers and Carlyle Fire Departments have each received a Premier's Commendation at a ceremony in Regina on December 2 for their roles in helping to fight the wildfires in northern Saskatchewan.

Multiple members of Redvers Fire and Rescue and the Carlyle Fire Department traveled to Northern Saskatchewan to assist in fighting off a historically destructive wildfire season.

Redvers Fire Chief Brad Hutton attended the awards and accepted it on his department's behalf.

"The Premier's Commendation is for going above and beyond to protect and serve your community, and it was awarded to the whole department. There were also individual pins given to each individual that went up north to help as well," said Hutton.

"There were four of us that went up north. We took our

tanker truck, which is a 2,000 gallon pumper unit, and we were placed an hour and a half north of Prince Albert at Weyakwin. We patrolled along Highway 2 and helped protect the village of Weyakwin, and prevented fire from getting to those structures. We also went to Ramsey Bay, and the area east of Montreal Lake, and protected structures out that way.

"I was there in 2015, and then we mostly did protection of villages and sprinkler systems, but this time we did a lot more work with SPSA and other crews in the area to get in and put out fires.

"Being that we had the tanker truck, we spent a good amount of time wetting down properties and keeping ponds full for sprinkler systems, and then we were also mixing up a fire-retardant substance with water and spraying down power poles and entire structures with it." Hutton says that the work was at times intense.

"One night when we were east of Montreal Lake and

we went out after supper, we were driving on a real tight one-way road through all of the smoke and ash. It was pretty scary that night. Once we got in there we were starting to put out some of the smaller fires and wondering how we were planning to get back out. Our last resort was always jumping in the lake if it all went bad."

The experience, Hutton said, was something he's proud to have been a part of.

"There's obviously a lot of good experiences that come out of bad experiences. Numerous departments like Warman, Martensville, we worked with Lumsden quite a bit, Humbolt—as bad as a situation is you learn a lot of new faces and you work as a group and as a family. You're not just protecting the land and buildings, you're protecting each other."

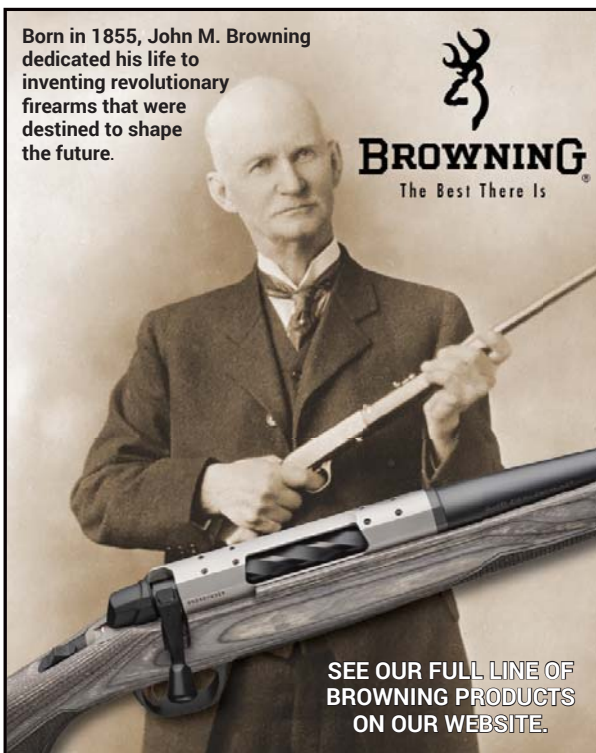
He said the decision to help up north was a tough one, but the right one in the end.

Continued on page 24

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A patient is transferred from ground ambulance to air ambulance at the Moosomin Airport

Moosomin Airport expansion making a difference

Air Ambulance regularly serving the area since new 5,000 foot paved runway was added

BY ASHLEY BOCHKE

Jeff St Onge and Schalk van der Merwe worked together in accomplishing their collective dream of establishing a new, operational airport in the Moosomin area over the past few years.

The 5,000-foot runway just northeast of town was recently paved two summers ago and has been lifechanging for the area's health care system and has had an overall positive impact on the community and surrounding area.

"It was paved about two summers ago," St Onge explained. "So, it has been open for about a year and a half and it has been going wonderful. It is exceeding our expectations."

"At the moment we are working toward shifting the airport from constructing it to operating the airport. That is our biggest focus at the moment. We are looking at the infrastructure, fuel sales, and a possible terminal building. We are doing temporary things at the moment until we come up with a plan for future operations."

Van der Merwe explains the beginning ideas for the airport. "Jeff St. Onge and myself were the ones started the initial fundraising for the airport. We originally thought that we could maybe get some lights for the old airport on the runway then things escalated from there. We talked to some other people and the project just kept becoming bigger. So, then we thought, 'Why don't we pave the runway and paint some lines on?' So many people from all over came onboard and offered their support. Both provincial and local governments supported, and the private donations started coming in and it just continued to grow from there to the success story it is today."

There was a unique funding model for the \$10.6 million Moosomin airport expansion, with the provincial government covering a quarter of the cost, Nutrien Potash covering a quarter, local governments covering a quarter, and local businesses raising a quarter.

St Onge regularly visits the airport to clear the runway for incoming flights.

"I am retired and live three miles from the airport, so I go out regularly. Pilots often phone wanting a runway condition report. So I will go out, look at it, and let them know. In the mornings, we do some clean up and clearing of the snow. I make sure it is ready for them so there is not going to be a problem. I am out there almost daily to check the runway. If the weather is beautiful, I don't have to, but some nights I also go out and do a little bit of clean up if it is blowing."

Volunteers offering help

St Onge says he has been contacted by local community members offering their time to help service the airport.

"We are also starting to get more volunteers which is amazing. Randy Fyke had let us know that he would like

"We had a situation where it was icy out and the person needing care, their only way out of the town was with Air Ambulance and it just makes you think 'Wow' it was worth everything we did. We have opened up the time as well the option to directly fly Moosomin to Edmonton for patient care, so I am just over the top and so excited with what we have available in Moosomin. It is amazing."

—Jeff St. Onge

to volunteer his time. He and I spent some time out there learning some equipment and what to look after. So, he will cover me when I am gone. Trent McMillan has also volunteered his time and has come out several times. That is another thing about the area here—neither of these guys fly. They are not pilots—they are community-minded people who just want to do their part."

Lifesaving flights

On an average of once a month, Saskatchewan Air Ambulance is landing at the Moosomin Airport for patient care in the area.

"Air Ambulance has been in 12 times at the Moosomin Airport," said Van der Merwe. "About once a month. Then, we've also had STARS in about 11 times. I think it is very important to emphasize the fact that the airport is obviously part of a tiered medical transport system because the system as a whole—Air Ambulance, STARS, road transportation—is bigger than the sum of its parts. If we didn't have road transport to get our patients to their destinations or even to get them to the aircraft or if we didn't have the option of Air Ambulance or STARS—at the end of the day people got to the care, they needed in the time it was needed. Two of our patients were flown directly to Edmonton which a year ago would have been a significant undertaking. It is really important. The airport was obviously a huge air as-

set, but our other assets are equally important."

Airport complements local health care

St Onge says that the Moosomin Airport Expansion was important to complement the local health care services.

"I had a vision of what it would be and it has been more than what my vision was," he said. "I think we have a top-notch medical team in Moosomin. When they are looking after you and it is beyond what they can do and you need more specialized doctors or equipment then we have to leave this town and the three ways to leave the town are by ground ambulance, STARS, and the Saskatchewan Air Ambulance so the only people that leave town are the ones who need medical capabilities beyond what we can offer and they cover a lot of bases already, but when a case like that comes we want to have all three options available, and the one that has surprised me and has warmed my heart the most is when Saskatchewan Air Ambulance gets a patient safely to where they need to go."

Continued on page 32 ☞



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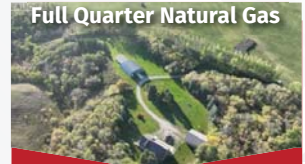
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<p>MLS# SK025647</p> <p>Hwy 1 Farm Martin RM No.122, SK 4 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 397.55 acres</p> <p>NOW \$900,000</p>	<p>MLS# SK014548</p> <p>Envy Dog House Acreage Silverwood RM No. 123, SK 4 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 2100 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$410,000</p>	<p>MLS# SK017859</p> <p>DOWN \$15,000</p> <p>Atwater 40 Acreage Fertile Belt RM No.183, SK 4 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 40 acres WAS \$245,000</p> <p>NOW \$230,000</p>	<p>MLS# SK026043</p> <p>New to Market</p> <p>217 Ellice Street Rocanville, SK 2 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 1034 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$75,000</p>	<p>MLS# SK018727</p> <p>Dubuc 100 acres farm Grayson RM No.184, SK 4 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 1300 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$399,000</p>	<p>MLS# SK026401</p> <p>317 Ivy Heights Crooked Lake, SK 4 Bedrooms 3 Bathrooms 1448 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$365,000</p>
<p>MLS# SK015766</p> <p>DOWN \$10,000</p> <p>FULL RENO DONE 215 Carlton STREET, Rocanville, SK 4 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 720 sqft WAS \$185,000</p> <p>NOW \$175,000</p>	<p>MLS# SK015710</p> <p>219 4th Avenue Whitewood, SK 5 Bedrooms 3 Bathrooms 1092 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$190,000</p>	<p>MLS# SK002876</p> <p>4 Whispering Valley Estates Round Lake, SK 3 Bedrooms 3 Bathrooms 1940 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$950,000</p>	<p>MLS# SK008779</p> <p>DOWN \$10,000</p> <p>540 Stanley Street, Esterhazy, SK 2 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 1067 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$315,000</p>	<p>MLS# SK008237</p> <p>CONDITIONALLY SOLD</p> <p>201 Margaret Court, Esterhazy, SK 3 Bedrooms 2 Bathroom 1350 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$199,000</p>	<p>MLS# SK002581</p> <p>DOWN \$10,000</p> <p>Melville Acreage Canan RM No. 214, SK 4 Bedrooms 3 Bathrooms 2928 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$525,000</p>
<p>MLS# SK002208</p> <p>Round Lake View Round Lake, SK 5 Bedrooms 3 Bathroom 1382 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$349,000</p>	<p>MLS# SK021215</p> <p>106 Carlton Street, Rocanville, SK 2 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 953 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$115,000</p>	<p>MLS# SK013200</p> <p>Lazy Dollar Ranch, Brock RM No. 64, SK 5 Bedrooms 4 Bathrooms 2188 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$1,475,000</p>	<p>MLS# SK016644</p> <p>121 Allan Avenue Churchbridge, SK 2 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 580 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$89,000</p>	<p>MLS# SK012055</p> <p>Holars Haven Acreage, Spy Hill RM No. 152, SK 5 Bedrooms 5 Bathrooms 15.09 acres</p> <p>NOW \$758,888</p>	<p>MLS# SK009523</p> <p>Jaques Farm, Preeceville RM No. 334, SK 4 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 944.71 acres</p> <p>NOW \$2,100,000</p>

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Plain & Valley

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January 2026 • Page 21

New stabilization centre opens in Ochapowace First Nation

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Wednesday, January 14, Ochapowace First Nation held the grand opening of the Wi Ci Hi So Centre. The new stabilization centre provides 18 beds for people between detox and placement in a treatment centre.

"I want to acknowledge the many volunteers, organizers, and supporters whose dedication, vision, and perseverance helped turn this centre from an idea into a reality," said MLA for Moosomin-Montmartre, Kevin Weedmark, who is also Legislative Secretary to the Ministers of Health.

"Projects like this do not happen without people who care deeply and are willing to put in the hard work to make change happen. It's heartbreaking to see there is a need for a facility like this, but it is heartwarming to see the way the community has come together to build the stabilization centre.

"It was great to see how much like a home it feels, it looked just like my house at Christmas over there this morning, with people squeezed in every corner for the opening."

"The Wi Ci Hi So Centre represents a place of healing, compassion, support, and hope. It stands as a powerful symbol of care for individuals and families who are facing some of life's most difficult challenges," said Weedmark.

"Addiction challenges affect far too many individuals and families here in Saskatchewan and across Canada. These challenges do not discriminate — they touch every community, every culture, and every generation.



A ribbon cutting was held at the new Wi Ci Hi So stabilization centre on Ochapowace First Nation Wednesday, January 14. The new centre is a place to stay for addictions patients between detox and placement in a treatment facility.

"For many, the journey can feel overwhelming and isolating, which is why access to support is so critical.

By opening the centre, you have created a safe, welcoming place where individuals will feel cared for, respected, supported, and equipped to face the future."

Weedmark said it is particularly meaningful to see that the Wi Ci Hi So Centre will incorporate traditional healing and cultural wellness as part of its model of

care.

"This approach recognizes the importance of healing the mind, body, spirit, and community together, and will provide vital support not only to patients, but also to their families as they navigate crisis and recovery," said Weedmark.

"It offers dignity, understanding, and a pathway forward grounded in culture and compassion."

Weedmark says the government is currently engaged in a procurement

process to add new treatment spaces across the entire alcohol and drug treatment continuum, including outpatient services, detox, and inpatient addiction treatment.

"Saskatchewan's commitment to add 500 new addictions treatment spaces over the next five years will more than double the total number of publicly funded addictions treatment spaces available in our province."

Continued on Page 27



Steven Bonk M.P.

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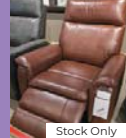


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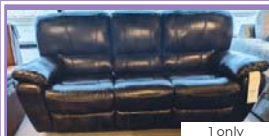
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Moe reflects on 2025, looks ahead to 2026

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Over the next few weeks we will be running interviews with provincial, federal and local leaders looking back on 2025 and looking ahead to 2026.

We spoke with Premier Scott Moe on his reflections on the year past and the year ahead.

What were some of the biggest challenges our province faced in 2025?

We have faced challenges on all fronts, whether it be international, national, or within our province here as well.

International trade relationships and trade challenges have a big impact on Saskatchewan as we export our products all over the world.

There have been tremendous challenges on the national stage across Canada, election fortunes across the country changed every which way you can imagine this past year. And certainly, within the province we generally had a good crop, in some areas not so good, and a tremendous fire challenge in some northern communities as well.

We saw a lot this past year, and thankfully we live in a place where people are resilient and we certainly look for a better year next year.

Do you feel the province adequately tackled those challenges?

There is always an opportunity for us to do more, and to look back with an eye to learning on how we can better support Saskatchewan communities and families as a government, and make strategic investments that are supportive of our communities across the province.

So there is no doubt that we can do better as a government and we always strive to do better.

We look in the rearview mirror to the extent of how do we improve on whatever we were faced with the next time we are faced with it.

What was the most unexpected thing the government had to deal with in 2025?

I think the most unexpected thing is the international trade challenges that we are having. I don't think anyone could have predicted the ferocity with which the president is changing global relations, not just with a country or two, but with many countries all at the same time, and the direct and indirect impacts that is having on what has traditionally been an ally nation, like Canada.

For a province like Saskatchewan that is very much focused on exports for our wealth and our jobs and opportunity, it certainly is having an impact on us. I think that would have been hard for anyone to predict.

What legislation are you most proud of that was brought forward this year?

There are a number. I think that the Compassionate Intervention legislation is going to be a significant piece of legislation to help individuals that may have fallen into a life living in addiction and help families, and have an avenue to support their loved ones that have fallen into that life of addictions.

So there will be much discussion about this piece of legislation as we find our way into the spring, but I think it will be yet another tool in providing that access to a recovery lifestyle that this government is intent on providing.

Trade issues have impacted our local businesses from Agriculture, to energy to mining to manufacturing. Our local industries are dependent on exports. What is the long-term solution on trade for a trade dependent province like Saskatchewan?

The ideal long-term solution is a re-implementation of some type of tri-country trade agreement like USMCA. Which was formerly NAFTA. That would be the ideal situation. As we find our way through between now and then, it would be our hope that we have as much non-tariff market access for our product as possible, whether it be the manufactured goods coming out of our province, and coming into our province as well.

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Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe at the cabinet table

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-Kevin Weedmark, MLA for Moosomin-Montmartre

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Premier's Commendation Medallions awarded to Carlyle, Redvers fire departments

Continued from page 18

"We saw that the call came out, and a few guys decided that we should go and try to help however we can. I was quite busy at the time, my Fire Chiefs' Conference was supposed to be the weekend after, so I was a bit hesitant to go at first. After I thought about it, I ended up putting my name in to SPSA. I've been on the Saskatchewan Fire Chiefs Board for four years so I know the SPSA president pretty well and he was the one spearheading this. I sent him a message and said I have myself and at least a couple other guys and a tanker truck and that we were willing to come. Little did I know that I'd be packing my bags three hours later to leave the next morning."

Hutton says that while it was his second time doing something like this, it was a first for the department.

"Three or four of us went in 2015, but not with our own equipment. We teamed up and went with a few Carlyle guys that time," he says.

In Hutton's words, the Premier's Commendation awards "caught us completely by surprise."

"First of all, you never really expect anything, we're just doing it because we want to help and it's the right thing to do. Getting the award was a real honour. Just that feeling of knowing what you're doing is helping and that someone has your back is really nice. They are also trying to plan for the future and making sure that other people will be willing to step up to the plate if something comes this way again," he said.

Hutton said that the ceremony took place at the Legislative building, and that the group of representatives from each department being awarded was invited into the Legislative assembly for the sitting.

"We were introduced in during the sitting and we were commended for bravery and service to the province."

The Premier's Commendation Medallion existed from 2012 to 2018, and was brought back early in 2025. Premier Scott Moe has said that the award is given to "those whose actions exemplify courage, responsibility and service to others."

During the awards ceremony, Premier Moe said, "Those honoured today responded decisively in moments of great need, demonstrating the strength of character and commitment that uphold the values of our province."

acter and commitment that uphold the values of our province."

Don VanMeer accepted the medallion on behalf of the Carlyle Fire Department. He says Carlyle had rotating crews that went up north, including firefighters from the surrounding towns.

"When it all started I contacted our volunteer association to see if they knew if they were looking for help or not and they confirmed back that they were," he says. "Then I got a call from Howard Jorgenson, he was looking after stuff up north from the volunteer side. We had a truck up there in 2015 and it was the same truck that could go up and he called me back about an hour later and asked if we could have that truck up there in the morning with four guys."

"And they wanted our tanker and I knew Redvers had a tanker so I called Brad (Hutton) in Redvers."

"Within 24 hours we sent both units up north."

"We had the man power and equipment and we could help out. We're fairly well looked after in this area and we have extra equipment and had guys who were trained firefighters for 15 or 20 years and I put it out to them if they wanted to go, and we sent some guys up."

"It's pretty overwhelming to be able to pull it all together and do it."

"We ended up 52 days in the north, 56 days that truck worked, and we just kept switching up guys from different departments, so we sent them up there with the truck. At times there were other departments completely running our truck."

"It was an overwhelming summer keeping it organized. We are all trained at that same level. It was pretty educational but it was good. It was good to see that volunteer association come together."

He says the Premier's Commendation was a big honor.

"It's pretty prestigious in our sense of what we do. It was nice to be noticed and even more nice for the guys that took the time from their families and went up there and took the time."

"It was pretty awesome. It was overwhelming to go into the Legislature and see all the members of the Legislature stand up and show their appreciation to the people of the volunteer association who took time to do it."

"Everybody came home, that was the main thing, and we appreciate the SPSA looking after the guys up there as well. They were feeding them and looking after them and making sure they came in at night, and making sure they got home."

Carlyle Fire Chief Ken Hewitt was one of the people who went up north. There were seven firefighters who went up north over a month and a half.

"We tried to send a four man crew at all times," he says.

"The first time, two of our guys and a truck and two from Redvers went with their tanker and that was our four man crew. We were up there for 10 days the first time and then kept switching guys out. We had two or three from Carnduff, one from Manor, one from Swift Current who were with us or running our trucks."

"For some of them it was very intense. When I was up there it was more near the tail end. The first batch got in on some pretty good fires. The first few were looking after assets homes and power poles and anything that has a cash value to it."

Why did they do it?

"It's part of the fire department, we are here to serve," says Hewitt.

"They were looking for trucks bad, they needed manpower and trucks up there. It was a good experience."

He said it was also a learning experience.

"I learned that you can throw together five different fire departments from different areas of the province and they all come together and work together as if they've worked together forever. It's amazing how people just come together that are all like minded and just hop in and go to work. No questions asked, you ask somebody else to do something and it gets done. You can tell that everyone trains to a similar level and it all works, it's quite phenomenal to see."

"I was quite happy and very proud that we got the commendation, because they don't just give those out to anybody. The department was very proud to get it."

Hewitt says if there is a wildfire season again next year, Carlyle Fire Department is ready for it.

"We've already got our name in," he says. "All we have to do is say the word and they'll start packing their bags."

Moe reflects on 2025 and looks ahead to 2026

Continued from page 23

As goods flow in, if they are tariffed they are just going to cost you more and US tariffs are costing Americans more each and every day.

So in the near term, we are going to have to likely rely on supporting our federal governments in any agreements we have, whether it be sector by sector to find our way to that broader either bi-lateral or tri-lateral agreement in North America, and then hopefully corresponding agreements in other countries around the world. Most notable among those would be China and India.

People in the Moosomin area see the need for a CT scanner here and there are needs for investment in our medical system across the province. How does the province determine where those investments go?

We work with the communities on where and when those investments look like they make sense and for example, a CT service in Moosomin may look different than what that similar service might look like and how it's offered in a place like Melfort, or Prince Albert or Saskatoon or Regina.

Some of that will depend on input from the medical community, some of it will depend on input from the locally elected community leaders, and some of it obviously has to depend on the data and that will be part of that conversation as well.

When you start having these discussions and are very active in the space in providing that service in Moosomin, there can be some opportunity I would say for the localization for that service, how it's be provided, to what level it is being provided, where and right down to who ultimately is operating and how it is operating into the future.

They can be very localized discussions and I think in Moosomin in fairness that is the case.

We did see significant investment in this area by the province this year with extensive highway work on Highways 8, 1 and 48 and the new truck stop east of Moosomin, a new long-term care facility under construction at Grenfell, a new daycare in Moosomin, and more than doubling of the ICIP funding for the new

indoor pool in Rocanville. We have the new \$10.6 million airport at Moosomin, and you were in Moosomin this summer to open the new \$13.5 million water treatment plant in Moosomin. Why has there been so much investment in the Moosomin area and in Southeast Saskatchewan.

It's a growing area and it is also an area that is generating a significant amount of export based revenue, whether it be in the mining sector, the oil and gas sector, whether it be in the agriculture sector.

I remember over the past few years having discussions on the expansion of the airport. We had discussions with respect to the fed provincial municipal infrastructure dollars that were being invested as well.

It is very much a growing area, not just in terms of people but also in terms of the economic output that is coming out of that particular area and I think that the corresponding investment has followed. The province is a partner in a number of those project and you can name many.

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Moe reflects on 2025 and looks ahead to 2026

Continued from page 24

Quite often, almost exclusively, the initiative comes from the local community, from people that are putting this initiative forward and then putting some effort behind it, whether it be local fundraising or whatever that might be. Municipal infrastructure projects are initiatives put forward by the local municipal government.

The airport project was one that was put together by a number of people who saw the benefit of connecting Moosomin to the global community by air.

When you look at the CT scanner conversation that we just had, that was a combination of people in the medical community and residents that said we need this service here and started to put forward a plan on how to acquire and operate that service into the future, so the province is often a financial partner and we get to come out for the ribbon cutting, but the true credit goes to people that live in the community for bringing the initiative forward in the first place, because without that, it just simply wouldn't happen.

We have a new MLA serving our region of the province in Moosomin-Montmartre. How does he represent the local interests in Regina?

Very Well. Kevin Weedmark is a very strong voice on all of the committees that he serves on, as well as throughout the governing caucus and on the very floor of the legislative assembly.

I think all those who know him would agree when I say that his unending and undeniable energy is infectious with others as well. As Kevin has a real ability, not only to represent his constituents, but to represent virtually all he does in a very positive way, which is very infectious among his colleagues and among other that he works with here in Regina as well.

Myself, and our caucus colleagues are very aware of the growth currently happening and the potential in the Moosomin-Montmartre riding, as well as very aware of how we are going to address some of the challenges of that growth for years into the future.

We are working on that today and the long-term care space in the daycare space and others, but there is more that needs to be done in the future and the people living in the Moosomin area can be very confident that Kevin is bringing their voice to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly.

Drugs have become a scourge across the province, what is the province doing to address the drug crisis?

First is if we can agree on the fact that the streets is the most vulnerable place for an individual to be if they have found themselves in a position where they don't have a home or unfortunately may have found themselves living a

life of addictions.

We don't want them on the street and I don't think they want to be there. It's a vulnerable place.

Let's make a recovery journey the opportunity for them. We need to provide capacity and we are doing that, building our a target of 500 recovery beds, I think about 300 of those beds are up and running as we speak. We need to get to 500 as soon as possible an likely we'll have to go beyond that.

Second is to build access points so that we can meet people wherever they are in their journey so that they have that opportunity to access one of those recovery-oriented services.

Third is we also need to keep the community safe, and drugs away from those who are unfortunately living that addictive lifestyle.

We have to keep our broader community safe for the population and everyone that lives there. We should aspire to have every community be a community where a family can go to the park after supper and not in any way feel unsafe.

The way to do that is to have enforcement and officials that have the tools to keep the people that are doing bad things away from those families.

The next steps are to follow up on the investments we have made in the enforcement space, whether it be the 100 new municipal officers, the 180 new RCMP officers or the 70 marshals.

To ensure that they have the legal tools to keep our community safe and I would say that much of what we see in the way of crime and criminal behavior in our communities are driven by people that are supporting a life of addictions.

Let's start discouraging that life of addictions, let's start taking the drugs away. It is illegal to have drugs on your person and now with the street weapons act, it is illegal to have drug paraphernalia on your person as well and starting with our police officers enforcing just those laws, not necessarily criminally charging those in possession of drugs, criminally charging those who are dealing drugs but for those that have drugs, let's just start taking drugs away.

Our aspirational goal is to have a community where a recovery lifestyle is the option that lies before you, and our aspirational goal is to have a province where drugs are not available. That might not be realistic. However, it is one goal that we are going to make every effort to find our way to—take the drugs away and provide recovery oriented system of care and an opportunity for everyone that is unfortunately living a life of addictions to find their way to a life of recovery.

What were some of the most important things you feel your government accomplished in 2025?

In 2025, I think that one of the things that has really come to light is the effort that Saskatchewan has made in the space of building our international relations. We were able to be the first province, myself the first premier, in China in six years, to bring Canada and China back to the negotiating table. To the advance the opportunities that we have to bring Canada and India to that very negotiating table.

The highest ranking trade diplomat in India over the course of the past year has been the Saskatchewan Trade Commissioner because we have been committed to building those trade relationships even when times are difficult, to ensure that we are able to help and to lead Canada back to these very negotiating tables.

We did the same in Mexico, and just recently a few weeks ago we were down in the United States meeting with a number of Presidents Trump's cabinet. As you know, Canada and the US are currently not at the negotiating table.

It was our goal and our hope that our visit would in some way precipitate Minister Leblanc and secretary Lutnick to return and start working towards either a reinvigorated USMCA agreement, or at least finding a way to negotiate away some of the current trade unrest that we have.

I think that is the most significant piece over the course of the last year is the commitment that Saskatchewan has had in the international space and how we are working to lead Canada to a better space in those negotiations.

Why is that important is probably even more impactful than the story I just told.

Without the strength of that economy we are able to make that investment in the CT scanner in Moosomin.

It's only through that strong and growing economy that is reliant on those export based industries, that we are even able to have those discussions about a new long-term care facility in Grenfell.

We have the investment dollars available because of the strength of the Saskatchewan economy.

So that's why I say it matters so much, because all of those investments that we talked about that are so important to folks that live in Grenfell and Moosomin are only possible because we are able to capture top dollars for the potash and the grain and the oil that is flowing through and being produced in your community as well.

Looking ahead to 2026, what do you want to see accomplished?

I hope that the choppy waters that we are seeing in the trade related environment are short lived, because the medium to long term view for Saskatchewan when you look at the food, fuel and fertilizer that we produce is

very strong.

The world needs it and we have it, and we are in many cases an ally, a trading partner and should be looked at as a preferred long term trading partner.

I think that if we are able to get through this tariff discussion in 2026, the North American economy will be in a better position as well as the Canadian and Saskatchewan economy.

That brings us to a very strong position in Saskatchewan with the coming on of a new mine at Jansen, the BHP mine, maybe two or three uranium mines coming on, a copper mine coming on, as well as a number of canola crush facilities that we see starting to come online.

I would hope there are some additional investment given that be the MOU signing between Alberta and the federal government, for some of the opportunities that we might be seeing more locally. I think the medium to long term opportunities for Saskatchewan are great.

I am hopeful that in 2026 we will be able to get over some of the short term, tariff related, trade related challenges that we had to endure that so we can get back to ensuring that communities like Moosomin, like Grenfell and others are able to make those investments in healthcare, make those investments in our friends and family members and community members that may have fallen into a life of addiction to ensure that Saskatchewan truly is the best place to live not only today, but the best place to live into the future.

What are some of the most challenging things about your job as premier?

I would say that each and every one of us, in whatever we do in this province have challenges each and every day, and this job would be no different.

We have difficult decisions that come to my desk and to the governments desk almost on a daily basis. It often isn't a choice between a good decision and a bad decision,

but a choice between two pretty good decisions but you only have the ability to do one.

So that part is challenging, here's the part that isn't; I have a lot of faith in the people that I get to work with each and every day, some are elected, some are not.

Whatever that decision is that particular day, I have faith that we have the people in the room that are going to have the discussions that are going to ensure that given the information we have, we are going to land at the best decision.

I have faith in that, and that gives me a lot of faith when I go out and start talking about whatever that particular decision is.

An example of that would be the introduction of the Compassionate Intervention legislation this fall that didn't just drop from the sky, that came from many, many conversations that the ministers, myself and other have had, with family members, with police officers, with the legal community with the physician community, the medical community, but also with just people myself and the people I work with know.

It's finding its way forward because of the faith that this government has, not only in one another but also in the people that we regularly talk to every day. So challenging decisions, I think it's fair to say that all of us in anything we do have challenging decisions each and every day.

I am in the very fortunate place where I just have a whole lot of faith in everybody, including Kevin Weedmark, that I get to work with each and every day, in making those decisions and I am thankful for that. I think that is something we can all think about this holiday seasonal and this Christmas season, is what exactly is it that we are thankful for in life.

What are some of the most rewarding things about your job as premier?

The people. The people I get to work with, the people I get to meet, and

ultimately the people that we represent across the province.

It doesn't mean you always agree with each and every one of them, but they and others have a reason for the beliefs that they have. We all too often being an elected represented, people say you maybe put up with a lot of things that others say about you but the fact of the matter is you get to show up at a community when that community is at its very best, when they are cutting a ribbon for a new long term care home, or a school, or an infrastructure project of some type.

The rewards are many in this position, whether you be an MLA, Minister, or the role that I serve in as well, but it's always about the people.

I said earlier about the investments into Moosomin and area, they would never happen and the province wouldn't be part of them if there weren't local people that were taking the initiative to push those projects forward and it's precisely those people that we get to meet each and every day and it makes this job certainly the most rewarding job that I've ever had the honour to have.

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Above: The Round Lake Drummers.

Right: Rural and Remote Health Minister Lori Carr, Chief Shelley Bear, and Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark



New stabilization centre opens in Ochapowace First Nation

Continued from Page 21

Ochapowace Chief Shelley Bear says the community has faced many losses as a result of mental health and addictions issues.

"This is important for us," she said. "This isn't a treatment center. It's a stabilization center. And once it's fully operational, there will be room for up to 18 people here. The idea is to give people a safe space to go once they've left detox, but before they get into treatment."

"Patients are able stay here for two weeks after they've completed a stint at detox with the hope they'll stay sober until a treatment space opens up elsewhere."

"During that time, we lose our people back into their addictions. They go home, get back into that lifestyle. So

we said we need to bring them to a place to keep them stable," said Chief Bear.

While staying at the centre, patients will have access to healthcare, therapy and spiritual care.

The community also hopes to build a new treatment centre in the future, and is in discussions with the provincial government on that.

"I just want to acknowledge the creator, acknowledge the blessings, acknowledge the prayers," said Chief Bear. "There is a lot of work that goes into it to open that door, for our ancestors to come in and hear our cries, hear our voices. I know that the people that will be there in the centre are going to need your support. We will be calling on the community of Ochapowace again in the future for help."



Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark receiving a star blanket from Ochapowace First Nation.

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Cattle outlook 2026: Is this the year when the herd size finally expands?

LEIGH ANDERSON
FCC SENIOR ECONOMIST

Tight supply pushed up cattle prices to record highs in 2025, and despite recent corrections, the market remains historically strong. Strong prices, abundant feed supplies, and falling feed costs are all boosting optimism in the industry. Yet, the question most often asked is, how long will cattle prices stay elevated and when will rebuilding of the herd occur? In this outlook, we examine where we are in the current cattle cycle, an important indicator of how long high prices might last and share our price projections along with what the sector can expect in 2026 and beyond.

The cattle cycle: herd expansion and contraction and relationship to prices

A full cattle cycle usually lasts 10 to 12 years, moving from expansion to contraction before starting over, though it can be a couple of years longer or shorter. During contraction, tight profitability leads producers to make cautious decisions and slow herd growth as more cows are culled than replaced. In expansion, improving prices and profitability encourage producers to retain heifers and grow their herds.

Predicting the timing of peaks and troughs in the cycle is difficult because these phases can vary in length depending on market trends and economic conditions. Factors like beef demand, production costs, feed availability and pasture conditions e.g. drought, play a big role. The past few cattle cycles have been made longer and were heavily influenced by North American drought conditions (e.g. 2013), and black swan events like the BSE disease over the 2003 – 2005 period.

Based upon historical cattle cycles (Figure 1), the cattle market should be nearing the end of contracting, which marks the bottom of the cycle and early stages of the expansion phase. We've already seen early signs that the Canadian herd may have stopped contracting, according to July 1, 2025, inventory numbers. However, the U.S. cow inventory is the main driver for overall cattle markets. Because the U.S. did not release July 1, 2024, data, we don't know if herd rebuilding has started south of the border. Looking at January 1st, 2025, U.S. numbers, the herd still appears to be in the contraction phase.

Continued on page 29



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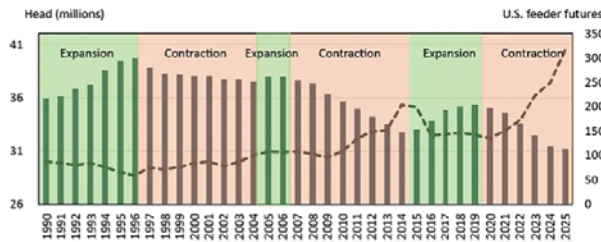
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Cattle outlook 2026

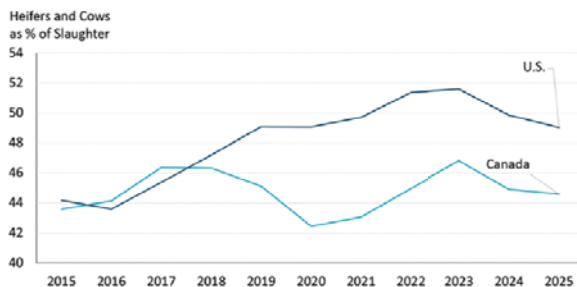
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Figure 1: North American cattle cycle - cow inventory and feeder price relationship



A leading indicator of potential rebuilding is the number of cows and heifers heading to slaughter relative to total cattle slaughtered. Combined cow and heifer slaughter rates need to decline below approximately 47% of total cattle slaughtered before the herd can grow again. While we have seen easing of the number of Canadian heifers heading to slaughter, U.S. slaughter rates through 2025 have not fallen low enough to signal herd expansion is underway (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Few signs of cattle herd expansion as U.S. heifer and cows slaughter remains elevated



Sources: Canfax, USDA, FCC Economics

This slaughter trend is critical because it directly influences cattle pricing dynamics, which are closely tied to herd inventory levels. U.S. feeder cattle futures have a strong negative relationship (-0.92 correlation) with North American cow inventory levels. In simple terms, when herd sizes go up, prices tend to go down, and vice versa. Historically, cattle prices usually peak in the first year of herd expansion. After that, prices either stay flat or decline slightly, followed by bigger drops two to three years into the expansion phase.

For example, in 2016, cattle prices dropped by 30% as cow numbers increased and the market expected plenty of future beef supply. Prices then stayed mostly flat for several years. Based on this pattern, cattle prices could remain relatively strong until at least 2027, possibly even into 2028. That said, short-term declines are possible—especially since prices have been very high recently.

For 2026, our forecasts show cattle prices easing from the elevated levels seen in 2025 but staying well above the five-year average (Table 1). Feeder cattle prices (550–850 lbs) are expected to dip in 2026 after hitting record highs in 2025 while fed steer prices are also expected to be softer but remain closer to last year's levels.

Our forecast for price declines in 2026 need to be understood in the context of how high prices climbed in 2025. It doesn't necessarily mean prices are weak—just that they're coming down from last year's peak. Recall that feeder cattle prices jumped 19% between July and October, right after the U.S. re-closed the Mexican border to cattle. Since peaking, prices have fallen 15% but are still 30% higher than 2024. There are several reasons for the recent drop in cattle prices. One is that markets expect the border might reopen for Mexican cattle imports, even though there is no official confirmation. Additionally, the U.S. recently dropped tariffs on Brazilian beef imports, though these imports remain minimal compared to overall U.S. beef supply, there will be some impact on U.S. cattle pricing. The recent news that one U.S. packing plant is closing, and another is cutting back to a single shift has caused cattle prices to decline. On top of that, concerns about softer consumer demand are weighing on prices. Feeder cattle prices represent future beef demand, while fed steer prices reflect current demand. Overall, prices are easing from 2025 peaks but remain strong compared to long-term averages, pointing to a continuation of a strong outlook for 2026.

Even with cattle prices projected to ease into 2026, abundant feed supplies will continue to support the strong profitability for cow-calf producers. Lower feed costs and a

bigger drop in feeder calf prices compared to fed steer prices suggest feedlots could see better margins next year. In 2025, high feeder calf prices squeezed feedlot profits – even though fed cattle prices hit record highs, they didn't rise as fast as feeder prices. That's why 2026 could turn out to be a better year for feedlot operations.

While prices are projected to ease a bit in 2026, a few key factors could swing them either way and give us clues if the cattle contraction phase has reached its bottom.

Trends to monitor in 2026

1. January 1st and July 1st North American herd inventory levels

There are few signs that North American cow inventories will show expansion early in 2026. Still, the U.S. and Canadian herd numbers on January 1 and July 1 will be key to seeing if an expansion phase has started and if it's continuing mid-year. The January

Table 1: Cattle prices projected to remain strong in 2026

Livestock prices	2026 forecast	2025 estimate	5-year average
Alberta fed steer \$/cwt	280	295	220
Alberta 550 lb steer \$/cwt	480	555	345
Alberta 850 lb steer \$/cwt	390	430	285
Ontario fed steer \$/cwt	280	300	220
Ontario 550 lb steer \$/cwt	435	515	320
Ontario 850 lb steer \$/cwt	370	430	285

Sources: Statistics Canada, AAFC, USDA, CanFax, CME futures, and FCC calculations

report will give the first clear signal of producer plans, especially around heifer retention and cow numbers. If rebuilding is underway, beef supply forecasts could rise and pressure our price projections outlined in Table 1.

The July report will confirm whether the trend holds. A bigger herd by mid-year would point to more beef supply by the end of 2026 and into 2027. However, if contraction continues prices could once again trend higher.

2. Re-opening of the U.S. border to imports of Mexican cattle

The potential reopening of the U.S. border to Mexican cattle imports is a key factor for feeder cattle prices and remains something to watch. If imports resume, added supply could push prices lower. If the border stays closed, feeder prices could rise.

3. Consumer demand

Another trend to monitor is consumer demand. Beef demand has held up well despite higher prices, but it remains a key watch item because changing consumer preferences and substitution to other meats have potential to affect the market.

Bottom line

The Canadian cattle sector is set for another year of strong prices and profitability, supported by tight herd numbers and solid demand. While the bottom of the contraction phase of the cattle cycle should be nearing its end, we don't anticipate major herd rebuilding in 2026. Any expansion will likely be gradual, keeping prices well supported for the next few years. Even if rebuilding begins, the North American herd remains at its lowest level in decades which will support prices. Based on past cattle cycles, prices should stay high—well above the five-year average—through 2026 and into 2027.

Daryl Harrison

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FCC report highlights productivity as key to Canada's agricultural future

Canadian farmers could see significant income gains and new opportunities if agricultural productivity growth returns to historic highs. The Farm Credit Canada (FCC) report titled Reigniting agricultural productivity in Canada, estimates that boosting productivity growth to two per cent annually could unlock \$30 billion in additional farm income, generate \$31 billion in GDP, and create nearly 23,000 jobs across the country.

Canada has long been a standout among global food producers. Over the past half-century, the agriculture industry has achieved significant productivity growth through better farm management, improved input efficiency and technological innovation. The report warns, however, that productivity growth has slowed in recent years, threatening the industry's competitiveness and

Canada's ability to meet growing national and global food demand.

"Canada's agricultural productivity growth has consistently outpaced other G7 countries for more than three decades, showing the strength and adaptability of our producers," says J.P. Gervais, executive vice-president strategy and impact at FCC. "Even so, our growth has slowed, turning that around will take continued investments to spur innovation, and smarter ways of working to help producers improve efficiency and stay competitive in a fast-changing global market."

Low business investment in agricultural research and development and lagging venture capital investment in ag tech continue to slow productivity gains and limit the commercialization of new innovations. Closing Canada's


investment gap is critical, as every dollar invested in agricultural innovation delivers long-term returns many times over.

"Canadian agriculture has the talent, ingenuity and drive to lead the world in sustainable food production," says Justine Hendricks, president and CEO at FCC. "By putting productivity and innovation at the centre of how we grow, we can strengthen our food system, support the people behind it and build a more resilient industry for today and future generations."

Productivity is about helping farmers make the most of their resources. It means using land, livestock, labour and equipment efficiently, reducing waste, improving quality, and using technology to find new ways to grow.

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FCC report highlights productivity as key to Canada's agricultural future

Continued from page 30

The report identifies three key pathways for producers to boost productivity growth:

- Improving efficiency by leveraging data and elevating management practices;
- Scaling operations through strategic investment; and,
- Accelerating innovation by adopting new technologies and approaches on the farm.

Turning those goals into action takes practical tools and real-world testing. With a single growth season each year, farmers face substantial risk in testing new production technologies or methods, and returns on these investments take a long time to be fully realized. Through Innovation Farms powered by Ag-Expert, FCC supports on-farm innovation by helping producers test and refine new practices.

FCC has committed \$2 billion by 2030 to advance ag and food innovation in Canada. Building on that commitment, FCC Capital is helping scale innovation across the entire value chain. The investment arm supports companies developing technologies and solutions that improve efficiency, productivity and sustainability, helping producers and processors adopt new tools, expand their operations and build a stronger, more competitive agriculture and food industry.

Other key report findings

• Since peaking at two per cent in the 1990s and 2000s, annual productivity growth has steadily declined, reaching 1.3 per cent in the 2010s. It is projected to be under one per cent annually, a level reminiscent of the 1970s if current trends continue.

• Boosting productivity growth to peak levels seen in past decades could increase returns to farmers by \$30 billion – \$18.5 billion for crop producers and

\$11.5 billion for animal producers –significantly improving profitability across the sector.

- Every dollar invested in agricultural research and development yields an estimated long-term return of \$10 to \$20, highlighting the strong economic value of innovation.
- Venture capital investment in ag tech businesses

remains vital for driving innovation and supporting commercialization, yet it continues to lag in Canada. In 2024, U.S. firms captured \$6.5 billion of these investments, representing 45 per cent of global deal values, while Canadian firms secured \$276 million, or about 2 per cent, highlighting a major commercialization gap.




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The new runway at Moosomin airport.

Moosomin Airport expansion making a difference

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Continued from page 19

Impact on business community

Van der Merwe explains the positive influence the airport offers for the surrounding business area.

"Another major part the airport offers is the impact the airport has on our business community in Moosomin and the surrounding area. The businesses that have multiple branches where the CEOs and owners of the companies can now come basically from anywhere in world to visit branches and then be back in a decent time during the workday. When you ask very successful entrepreneurs what their most valuable asset is, they say their time. So, the airport is offering them more of their time. It is such a time saver, and it is the same for health care. It is really about timeliness—getting people to the care they need in a timely fashion."

Daily activity

The Moosomin Airport sees aircraft every day utilizing the runway and airport.

"At least once a day the airport is being used because we have the GPS landing system, the air force will use it as practice," explains Van der Merwe. "They will practice to land with their instruments because we have the GPS landing. We see pilots on training flights that will come out here from Virden, Brandon, Regina and they don't necessarily land, but they use the airport as a practice area. That exposes the town and the area to more people."

Future upgrades

St Onge explains the committees' future stages in adding to the airport.

"What an airport should have is an RNAV which is an area navigation. It goes in the CFS (Canadian Flight Supplement) and that tells pilots how to fly in using all of their equipment such as onboard GPS, flight management systems, so we have got that in place. We have had that in place before we had pavement because there is up to a two year wait on getting that system installed. It allows pilots to fly all the way down to 447-feet and then if they can't see the runway they have to forfeit at that point. That is the level of accuracy that gives them using weather from Yorkton and surrounding areas.

"Next, we need to get an AWAS (Automated Weather Observation System) and that will give pilots local weather,

so between an RNAV and an AWAS they can come down to 250 feet, so if it is cloudy and overcast, they can bring their plane down an additional 200-feet in effort to see the runway and if they see it then they can continue to land. We do have to put that into in place because there have been times in the last year and a half where that would have been valuable and would have made a difference with a plane coming in.

"We also need to be able to sell fuel. We have a lot of people doing long distance trips and they will phone asking if we have fuel available and we do have fuel, but it is at our old site. So, the odd time somebody will have an airplane that we call a 'pavement princess' they don't leave the pavement so they can't fuel up in Moosomin because you have to go on gravel to get to it or if they want jet fuel, we don't have jet fuel available.

"The other thing we need for people is when they land, they need washrooms or a place to wait for their next flight. This year, Gary Bonkowski had a mobile trailer and loaned it to us so we have it set up and have washroom facilities there. We also need equipment to keep the runway clean. Rocky Mountain Equipment has donated the power equipment. We purchased a snow blower, and we have a skidsteer and a tractor and a small broom. We need a deicer for runway de-icing, about a 22-foot sprayer and we are just in the process of finishing that now within about a month or so. The one other thing we need after that is a runway broom. The ones they have for an airport are about 14 feet wide and they spin at a higher RPM, and you pull it at about 40km/h up and down the runway to clear it off."

Van der Merwe adds, "Over the winter months our primary goal is to make sure that we keep the airport open because of all the snow and that is always a challenge in the winter months, but we have had some great partners all around in helping us do this project. Rocky Mountain Equipment has been generous with supplying us with equipment. The RM of Moosomin has been really instrumental in helping us getting the snow off on days where there have been big snowfalls. We have been working diligently at getting the AWAS like Jeff said. We've had significant donations for the AWAS that we have posted on our Facebook page and so far, have up to \$25,000 donated to us."

Recent upgrades

Van der Merwe says they have recently added new

lighted windsocks at the airport.

"Another important improvement we've made is getting some lighted windsocks up. The lighted ones are very important for night landing and especially at this time of year. That was a huge improvement for our airport and pilots who land there. We still are in the process of getting the final electrical stuff done. There is still lots to work on to make it even better."

Exceeds expectations

Van der Merwe says the airport exceeds all expectations St Onge along with himself had in the early planning stages.

"In our wildest dreams we didn't think it would be this successful and amazing. When we started off and originally thought of a \$2 million project, but it kept growing into a \$12 million project, so this just exceeded our wildest dreams. The amount of success that we've had we could never have accomplished on our own, Jeff and I. We see how amazing this is and it is a testimony to people working together for the greater good."

Community support

The Moosomin Airport committee is overwhelmed and thankful for the continuous community support. "It never ceases to amaze me when people and organizations across the area work together, the amount of success we can create," Van der Merwe said.

You look at the airport and it has seen support across provincial and municipal borders, from the provincial government, towns, RMs, private sector investments—Nutrien Mine gave us a significant donation, Ifack a local company in town also gave us a significant donation, Air Andrew out of Virden—all of those are our big contributors. It just shows you when people get together for a cause and support it there is really no end to what you can do."

St Onge adds, "We are working hard at moving forward and putting the infrastructure in place to make it a sustainable airport. I am just so grateful for everything that ever comes to the airport. Everything that happens is needed. It is really hard for me to express how grateful I am for everything right from the volunteer time people put in, the effort, time, to the million-dollar donations, every one of them is needed and appreciated."



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Year in review with Cannington MLA Daryl Harrison

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Cannington MLA Daryl Harrison talked about what kind of year 2025 has been and what he's looking forward to in 2026. Following are his thoughts on the year:

What were some of the highlights for you in 2025?

Making life more affordable for people here in Saskatchewan is a priority. Our ability to index people's income, having them be able to keep some money in their pockets is huge. It's not something that really happens anywhere else in the country.

What were some of the things you believe you or your government accomplished this year?

I think on the agricultural side, having the Premier step up and go to China to open the door to the provincial government talking with China and working toward getting the tariff removed on canola, canola oil, and peas, as well as the duties that were a part of anti-dumping investigations. I think having the Premier step up and having some good meetings there gave the federal government the ability to have those conversations with China, and for Prime Minister Carney to have those talks face-to-face, because that's how China operates on a nation-to-nation level. We need that dialogue to happen sooner-than-later. We're looking forward to January as we've been told that there will be a state dinner between the two leaders.

What were some of the disappointments in 2025?

We'll start with the trade talks and the duties on canola, as well as the tariffs on oil. We're having disruptions with our three largest trading partners. CUSMA is coming up for review in 2026, so we're very mindful of what might change in that regard. Dealing with our three largest trading partners virtually all at the same time is a huge undertaking. I can say from our Premier, we're working hard to get that relationship justified and go back to some fair, free, open trade.

What are some things in 2025 that had the most effect on your constituents?

Being able to generate power, and being able to keep our electricity bills at one of the lowest in the country. Basically just keeping the heat and the lights on here for the people of Cannington.



Cannington MLA Daryl Harrison

What are some of the things you hear most from your constituents?

It certainly depends who you're talking to. Of course the agricultural community had some of the best crops ever grown in the area, it wasn't the same all across the province but Stats Canada predicts a record breaking crop for Cannington. Overall we are very pleased with the volume and quality, but disappointed on the prices for grains, seeds, and pulses. If you flip over to the beef producers' side, they are coming off their best year ever.

For 2026, what would you like to see accomplished?

Again, I would like to establish our trade relationships, and getting our markets back to free and fair. Particularly with our three main trading partners, but also with the 160 other countries that Saskatchewan currently has a trade relationship with. We want that in any and

all markets, but certainly with the U.S., China and India. We need those relationships because Saskatchewan is a trading province and Canada is a trading nation and we must keep that trade strong.

What do you think some of the biggest challenges will be for your party and your government in 2026?

I think that's going to be that we renew CUSMA, it's so important that we have those trade relationships for the commodities we produce. Most recently the U.S. president imposed potash tariffs. We don't want tariffs on one of our biggest products, but we need the U.S. market for that product. We have to keep up and get that CUSMA renewal completed and keep us in a strong relationship with the United States.

What do you want to see accomplished by the next election?

Keeping Saskatchewan the most affordable and best place to live in Canada is certainly a goal of mine. You might say I'm biased, but Saskatchewan is the best place to live in Canada. We've got so much going for us, especially the people of this province and how they step up. Whether it's a community project, sports, recreation, or just getting the job done. It's very important to the province and very important to me.

What are some of the most challenging things about being an MLA?

There's always calls coming in, and certainly health care and highways are two of the most urgent things. We've got to make sure that people always have access to primary care and keeping our emergency rooms on continuous operation. That's definitely a priority being a Saskatchewan MLA.

What are some of the most rewarding things about being an MLA?

It's the people. You meet so many great people as you travel around from all walks of life. It's definitely about the people. I can't say enough—people make this job worthwhile.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I wish everyone a merry Christmas and everyone a happy and prosperous 2026!

Four SE Sask teams in Senior A hockey provincials

Four hockey teams in Southeast Saskatchewan will compete in Senior A Provincial playdowns in February.

The Moosomin Rangers will take on the Round Lake Bears in Round 1 of provincials. As of press time, Games 1 and 2 of that series were set. Game 1 is set for February 7 at 7 pm at the Chief Denton George Memorial Multiplex on

Ochapowace First Nation. Game 2 is set for February 8 at 8 pm at the Mike Schwan Arena in Moosomin.

The Redvers Rockets and Langenburg Warriors will also battle it out in Senior A provincials, going head to head against each other in round 1 of playoffs. No dates were set as of press time for that series.

FARMLAND FOR TENDER

Tenders are invited for the purchase of the following farmland located in the RM of Moose Creek #33:

1. NE 36-6-2 W2M
2. NW 31-6-1 W2M
3. SE 36-6-2 W2M

Offers may be made on all of the above quarters or on individual parcels, submitted to the undersigned and accompanied by a certified cheque of five (5%) percent of the offered price on or before 3:00 p.m., February 1, 2026. Surface lease rentals existing as at closing excluded from the sale and being retained by the Vendors. The highest or any offer not necessarily accepted. The successful tenderer will have until February 28, 2026, to pay the balance of the purchase price or make necessary arrangements therefor. Transfer of the title will be subject to a verbal rental agreement that will be terminated by March 31, 2026. All inquiries can be directed to Robert Nicolay at 306-634-6334; or email: rnicolay@bridgeslaw.ca.

Mail sealed tenders marked "Tender" to:
BRIDGES & COMPANY LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
1329 Third Street
Estevan, SK S4A 0S1

Attention: Robert Nicolay, K.C.

To contact Plain & Valley
phone 306-435-2445 or email
world_spectator@sasktel.net

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:

NE ¼ 4-3-24WPM 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 5, 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



At Greek Night with Greek consul Dimitrios Skoutas and MLA Jamie Martens.



At the Labor Day Classic.



With Kara at India Night.



Announcing construction on the Grenfell long term care facility.



Announcing the designation of Chief Kahkewistahaw Way.



There were lots of parades over the summer.



With Mosaic CEO Bruce Bodine at an announcement on Mosaic's workforce investment.



With Summer and Mikka Heide at a fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House Charities.



Out in the oilfield.



Premier Scott Moe visited Moosomin-Montmartre.



With Chief Evan Taypotat at his induction as honorary colonel of the Snowbirds.



At the U of S College of Medicine White Coat ceremony.



At the White Bear First Nations 150th anniversary of entering treaty.



Above: The crowd at the Moosomin Pinoy Community Christmas party

Above left: At the Moosomin Santa parade.



Right: Christmas open house at the constituency office.

Left: I had lots of people from the riding at the Legislature for the introduction of Compassionate Intervention legislation

Right: At the announcement of funding for Caring Hearts to expand their counselling services across the province



Looking back on an incredible year in 2025

It was a busy Christmas season around the riding. On the weekend before Christmas I hosted an open house in my office Friday, I attended a huge Christmas Party with the local Filipino community on Saturday night, and took part in the Moosomin Santa Claus Parade Sunday night!

It was wonderful to meet with so many people at those three events. It was a busy weekend, and after that I took some time for family, and our celebrations with family went from Christmas Eve into the first weekend of the new year.

I hope everyone had a chance to reconnect with family and friends, recharge, and reflect on the year that was and all the potential ahead of us.

Lots of accomplishments

As we start a new year, I look back on what we accomplished in our government's first year in office and look forward to what the new year will bring.

During the fall session of the Legislature, our government introduced and passed new measures focused on keeping Saskatchewan's economy strong, our communities safe, and our future secure.

Progress continued as commitments made in the Throne Speech moved forward through several new pieces of legislation.

One of these is the Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act, which reduces trade barriers between provinces and supports freer trade across Canada.

Another major step was the Response to Illicit Drugs Act, designed to protect families and communities from illegal drugs and to hold those who profit from them accountable.

Work also advanced on laws that support vulnerable people and families. The Compassionate Intervention Act will require individuals whose addictions put themselves



or others at risk to receive the care they need. Updates were made to the Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act to ensure child support orders continue to be enforced, even when a parent moves to another province.

Amendments to the Saskatchewan Firearms Act will protect gun owners from financial liability caused by federal firearm bans. The Building Schools Faster Act requires municipalities to secure enough land so new schools can be built quickly.

Several commitments from Throne Speech have already become law. Five bills have received royal assent: The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2025; The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2025; The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2025; The Public Libraries Amendment Act, 2025; and The Cyberstalking and Coercive Control Act.

Important steps were also taken outside of legislation. A five-year extension of the Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement will keep child care affordable, provide stability for providers, support every child's learning and help families plan for a strong future.

Building on our commitment to education, we continue

to recognize the transformative role post-secondary institutions play in shaping Saskatchewan's future. A new multi-year funding agreement has been signed to support quality education and help keep tuition manageable for students.

Another critical part of building a strong future for Saskatchewan is our commitment to nuclear energy. Through the recently released Saskatchewan First Energy Security Strategy and Supply Plan, we are working to ensure our province's energy remains reliable and affordable for years to come.

Global trade challenges were another key theme this session. Saskatchewan continues to face tariffs and shifting trade relationships with India, China and the United States.

Premier Moe met with officials from all three countries including during a mission to Washington, D.C. and in discussions with India's Minister of External Affairs.

I am proud to have a Premier who strongly defends Saskatchewan's interests, expand export opportunities and help our industries compete successfully in markets across the world. We will keep working with the federal government to remove tariffs while expanding export markets in more than 160 countries.

In the coming months, your Saskatchewan Party government will continue connecting with people and businesses across the province.

It has been a productive session, and many initiatives are now moving forward.

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.

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