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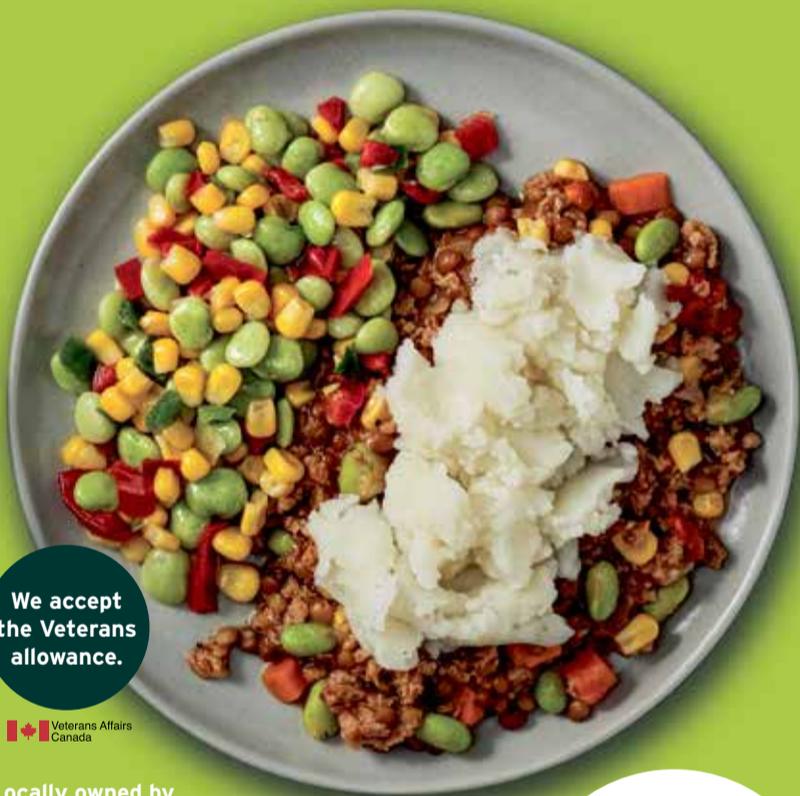
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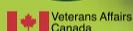
Vol. 14 - Issue 35 | Wednesday, September 17, 2025

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Street Hockey with Wolverines

Every year, the Whitecourt Wolverines grab their sticks and head out into the community to play good old-fashioned street hockey. They play with kids of varying ages and abilities, meet their fans and have fun together as a team. Win, win, win! Pictured is Sparrow Crescent bustling with activity.

By Serena Lapointe

On Sunday, September 7, members of the Whitecourt Wolverines took to the community's streets to take part in one of the team's favourite off-ice activities, street hockey! But it wasn't just regular old street hockey; it was the team's yearly event where families could request a time slot to have some Wolverines pop by to play with their kids and their friends.

From 11 am until 3 pm, members of the team ventured out to the different booked locations to hit the pavement with local kids. Korie Larsen was one of the morning spots,

inviting players to join her 14-year-old son, Kaden and his friends to play in front of their home on Skagg's Crossing. "My son is a diehard hockey fan. I know his day is made," smiled Larsen.

It's the first year for Larsen to take part in the event, and she said it's easy to support the team when they are part of the community. "They are around the community and in the schools, and they do things like this in their spare time. They are out here having fun with the kids, and it's great."

continued on page 3



Fun in net.



Racing against a Wolverine.



Patrick Carew

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PUBLIC NOTICE

WHITECOURT POWER LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

In accordance with the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, Whitecourt Power Limited Partnership, by its General Partner Whitecourt Power Ltd is applying to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA) for a renewal of their EPEA approval to construct, operate and decommission a power plant with a nominal generating capacity of 28 MW. The plant uses a biomass cogeneration turbine-generator. The process consists of incineration of wood waste, and occasionally sludge, to superheat steam. The superheated steam then drives a turbine-generator to generate power sent to the electrical grid. The legal land description is the East half of Section 04 Township 060 Range 12 West of the 5th Meridian (approximately 2 km NW of Whitecourt on Highway 43).

A directly affected person may provide input into certain regulatory decisions, as allowed by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (section 73). Specifically, any person who is directly affected by this application may submit a written statement of concern within 30 days of the date of this notice to:

Environment and Protected Areas Regulatory Assurance Section Approvals Unit
5th Floor, South Petroleum Plaza 9915 - 108 ST
EDMONTON, AB T5K 2G8
Email: epa.epeaapplications@gov.ab.ca

The written statement of concern should include the following information to be assured it can be considered:

- The application number 0020-291.
- Describe concerns that are relevant to matters regulated by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.
- Explain how the filer of the concern will be directly affected by the activities proposed in the application.
- Provide the legal land location of the land owned or used by the filer where the concerns described are believed to be applicable
- State the distance between the land owned or used by the filer and the site in the application.
- Contact information including the full name and mailing address of the filer. Please provide a telephone number and/or email address for ease of contact.

Environment and Protected Areas will review each written statement of concern, seek more information if needed, and concerns that are relevant to the application and for which the Director has delegated authority to address in the decision on the application, will be considered in the technical review of the application. The Public Notice of this application will also be posted on the Department's website at <https://avw.alberta.ca/PublicNoticesViewer.aspx>.

Statements of concern submitted regarding this application are public records which are accessible by the public and the applicant. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board.

Copies of the application and additional information can be obtained from:

Whitecourt Power Limited Partnership
Attention: Leonard Sanche
PO BOX 1888 WHITECOURT, AB T7S 1P6
Telephone: 780-731-6000 ext 6046 Email: lsanche@capstoneinfra.com



Kaden Leidl had fun playing with the Wolverines.



Happy Wolverine.



Sock feet, and a big smile.



The Sparrow Crescent Crew.

continued from page 1

Also, at the Larsen's house that morning was Brandy Schmidt. Her family hosted the Wolverines at their home later that same day but wanted to join Kaden for his game too. Even though the Schmidt's have been billets for five years, this is their first year hosting the Street Hockey event.

"We just moved into town from living in the county, so we've never been able to do it ourselves, so we always had to go to other people's houses. This year, my son wanted to do it at our house, so this is our first year hosting it."

She said the decision to start billeting was made on a whim and is now just part of who they are as a family. "We decided we wanted to do it with our son. He's more of an only child, so he enjoys having the company of the boys, and he's a hockey kid, so he likes to have them around."

It's been an awesome experience. We build relationships with them, and they continue outside of hockey and through the summers."

She encourages other families to give it a try, too. "You can do it temporarily or full-time through the season. Sometimes they are super shy and quiet, and sometimes they are super outgoing."

You don't know what you're going to get, but they are all awesome," chuckled Schmidt.

Wolverine Jalen Bianchet was one of eight players hanging out on the road at Larsen's house.

"It's nice to be out here with the kids and see some of the local Whitecourt talent.



Skagg's Crossing.



Lunchbreak for pizza at the West's home.

They are always full of energy and fun to be around. It's an awesome event to be part of. I think a lot of kids look up to us in a way. It's important for us to show ourselves and be good role models for them. And we get to do what we do, play hockey."

Bianchet was recently named the captain of this year's team after fulfilling the role of assistant captain last season. He said he's feeling great about the season. "We've got a great group of young guys, and I think our returners look great, too. I think we have a strong team. I'm excited."

When asked what he hopes to share with the team this year as captain, Bianchet said experience. "Coming in three years ago, I never thought I would be captain. It's definitely an honour. The main thing I remember learning from the captain in my rookie year

was the knowledge he had in junior hockey, so giving my experience and knowledge to the younger guys is something I am hoping to do."

Bianchet also said he hopes to see lots of faces in the stands. "Whitecourt hockey is exciting. I think we play a style of hockey that is very intriguing to fans and that we are hard to play against, because we're physical. The atmosphere in Whitecourt has been great over the last three years I've been here. If you haven't been out to a Whitecourt game yet, we hope to see you out this season."

Just down the road from the action on Skagg's Crossing, another game was underway at 3 Sparrow Crescent, the West's home. "We've got kids and children everywhere, and really good young men playing hockey with them. It's awesome," said Angela West. It was her fami-

ly's second year taking part in the event.

"These little kids really look up to these older kids that are playing hockey, and it's nice to see them involved in events like this. It's nice seeing them on the street together. My kids have a really great group of young men to look up to. These boys are great hockey players, and our kids think they are going to be just like them one day, and I hope they are," she smiled.

Halfway through their game time, West brought out a platter of pizza, inviting everyone to grab a slice. "Nobody is happy when they are hungry. I believe in feeding the kids," said West, as she made sure everyone got something to eat. She said seeing the Wolverines be involved in the community gives everyone a boost. "I think children thrive when they see other children (and young adults) succeed."

MEMBERS AT LARGE REQUIRED

Applications are being sought from individuals residing in Woodlands County to serve as members-at-large on the following boards:

- Agriculture Services Board – 1 vacancy**
- Economic Development Committee - 2 vacancies**
- Municipal Planning Commission - 2 vacancies**
- Community Services Committee – 3 vacancies, 1 youth vacancy (1-year term)**
- Subdivision and Development Appeal Board – 2 vacancies**
- Pride Valley Aggregate Oversight Steering Committee – 1 vacancy**

Positions above are held for a **two-year period** from November 1, 2025 to October 31, 2027, (unless otherwise noted).

Applications can be made online at <https://woodlands.civicweb.net/Portal/BoardApplication/> until 4:30 pm on Wednesday, October 22, 2025.

Any questions or concerns please contact julie.lalonde@woodlands.ab.ca

BECOME INVOLVED IN THE DECISIONS THAT AFFECT YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY!

LOCAL JURISDICTION: NOMINATION DAY:

WOODLANDS COUNTY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

Notice is hereby given that Nomination Day is Monday, September 22, 2025, and that nominations for the election of candidates for the following offices will be received at the locations of the local jurisdiction office set out below by Bylaw 620/24, within the period beginning on January 1, 2025 and ending at 12:00 noon on Nomination Day.

Office(s)	Number of Vacancies	Electoral Division Number
Councillor, Anselmo	1	1
Councillor, Whitecourt West	1	2
Councillor, Whitecourt Central	1	3
Councillor, Whitecourt East	1	4
Councillor, Blue Ridge	1	5
Councillor, Goose Lake/ Freeman River	1	6
Councillor, Fort Assiniboine/ Timeu	1	7

Woodlands County, Municipal Office #1 Woodlands Lane Whitecourt, Alberta

Woodlands County, Regional Office Highway 33 Fort Assiniboine, Alberta

Location(s) of Local Jurisdiction Office:

DATED at the Town of Whitecourt, in the Province of Alberta, this 26th day of August 2025.

Tracy Mindus, Returning Officer



DAVE KUSCH
 Councillor for Anselmo
 Division 1
 dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-778-9337



JOHN BURROWS
 Councillor for Whitecourt West
 Division 2
 john.burrows@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-726-4747



ALAN DEANE
 Councillor for Whitecourt Central
 Division 3
 alan.deane@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-778-0894



JEREMY WILHELM
 Councillor for Whitecourt East
 Division 4
 jeremy.wilhelm@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-778-6594



BRUCE PRESTIDGE
 Councillor for Blue Ridge
 Division 5
 bruce.prestidge@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-779-3917



PETER KUELKEN
 Councillor for Goose Lake/ Freeman River
 Division 6
 peter.kuelken@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-294-2425



DEVIN WILLIAMS
 Councillor for Fort Assiniboine/ Timeu
 Division 7
 devin.williams@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-305-1825



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Alberta teachers set October 6 strike deadline amid stalled negotiations

By Haylee Winger

Teachers across Alberta have set a potential strike date of October 6 amid ongoing contract negotiations that have yet to reach a resolution. The Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) says the decision was made to give families time to prepare for possible disruptions in the school schedule.

ATA President Jason Schilling emphasized the urgency of the situation at a recent press briefing, noting that educators are ready to proceed with job action unless progress is made at the bargaining table. He explained that while discussions are ongoing, the deadline for a decision is fast approaching.

Details regarding the structure or scale of the strike have not yet been confirmed, as developments continue to change daily. Teachers had already voted in favor of strike action back in June, and under provincial law, they can legally begin striking any time before or on October 7.

Negotiations between the ATA and the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) resumed in August but soon broke down again. Teachers are pushing for higher wages and increased support to help manage larger class sizes and increasingly complex classroom environments. In response, the provincial government has proposed a 12% wage increase spread over four years and committed to hiring 3,000 new teachers during that time.

Premier Danielle Smith has raised concerns about the financial impact of further wage increases, suggesting that it could limit the government's ability to hire additional educators or education assistants. The ATA has not made its specific wage request



**Notice of Nomination Day
Local Authorities Election Act (Section 26)**

LOCAL JURISDICTION: the Northern Gateway School Division, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Notice is hereby given that Nomination Day is September 22, 2025 and that nominations for the election of candidates for the following offices will be received at the location of the local jurisdiction office set out below within the period beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending at 12:00 noon on Nomination Day.

Office(s)	Number of Vacancies	Ward or Electoral Division Number
School Board Trustee	1	Ward 1, Electoral Subdivision 1
School Board Trustee	1	Ward 1, Electoral Subdivision 2
School Board Trustee	2	Ward 1, Electoral Subdivision 3
School Board Trustee	2	Ward 2
School Board Trustee	1	Ward 3, Electoral Subdivision 1
School Board Trustee	2	Ward 3, Electoral Subdivision 2

Location (Address) of Local Jurisdiction Office(s):

- NGPS Division Office, 4816 - 49 Ave, Whitecourt, AB
- Onoway Elementary School, 5108 Lac Ste. Anne Trail North, Onoway, AB
- Elmer Elson Elementary School, 4215 - 46 Ave, Mayerthorpe, AB
- Fox Creek School, 501 - 8th Street, Fox Creek, AB
- Hillside Jr/Sr High School, 4701 - 52 Ave, Valleyview, AB

DATED at the Town of Whitecourt, in the Province of Alberta, this 27 day of August, 2025.

Original Signed

Returning Officer



PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

CROSSWORDS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13							14			15		
16					17					18		
19				20					21			
			22				23			24		
25	26	27		28			29			30		
31			32		33		34				35	
36				37		38			39		40	
	41				42			43		44		
			45				46		47		48	
49	50		51			52				53		
54		55				56				57	58	59
60					61					62		
63					64				65			
66					67				68			

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

- Fairly large
- Barrels per day (abbr.)
- Cover the entirety of
- Leafy appetizer
- Showy ornament
- Norse personification of old age
- Athletes
- Closes tightly
- Attack via hurling items
- Where the reserves stand
- Sword
- Begat
- Damage another's reputation
- Northeast
- Turf
- For each
- Hours (Spanish)
- Western state
- One who offers help
- Flanks

CLUES DOWN

- Vipers
- Ancient city in Syria
- Slog
- Emits coherent radiation
- "Pollock" actor Harris
- Bleated
- Monetary units of Afghanistan
- Tooth doctor
- One who takes apart
- Commoner
- Beat poet Ginsberg
- Cave deposit material
- Home energy backup
- Begets
- Face part
- Frocks
- Hill or rocky peak
- Giving the impression of dishonesty
- About ear

- Of the Isle of Man
- Derived unit of force (abbr.)
- Plate for Eucharist
- Male parents
- Popular grilled food
- Vaccine developer
- Not conforming
- Polite address for women
- 1970 U.S. environmental law
- Astronomical period of 18 years
- One who fights the government
- Center for Excellence in Education
- Watches discreetly
- An electrically charged atom
- Hymn
- Arabic given name
- Popular pie nut
- City in Zambia
- Species of cherry
- John ___, British writer
- Be next to
- Make angry
- Give birth to a lamb or kid
- Unhappy

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



This week sharpens your focus with daily routines and well-being, Aries. It's an excellent time to streamline your schedule, tackle neglected tasks and prioritize self-care.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Creativity and joy are themes for you this week, Taurus. Engage in hobbies, spend time with loved ones and embrace fun pursuits. Your artistic side may be especially inspired.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Your home and family life take center stage right now, Gemini. You might be focused on domestic projects, redecorating or spending quality time with the people you love.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Communication is key this week, Cancer. Expect a busy social calendar. Important conversations and new learning opportunities also may pop up. Your words carry weight.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



Leo, financial matters are center stage this week. This is a good time to review your budget, look for new income or make sensible investments. Your practical instincts are strong.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



This week is all about you, Virgo, especially if your birthday falls during these days. Focus on personal goals and self-improvement. Set strong intentions for the year ahead.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



It is time for rest and introspection, Libra. You might feel a need to retreat and recharge your batteries in the days to come. Pay attention to what your body is telling you.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Social connections and networking are driving you right now, Scorpio. Spend time with friends or host a party so others can stop by and mingle. You also can join group events.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Sagittarius, your career and public image are in focus this week. Opportunities for advancement or recognition could arise. Be professional and show off your leadership.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Expand your horizons, Capricorn. This is a great week for learning, planning travel or exploring new hobbies. Try to step outside of your comfort zone as much as possible.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Aquarius, someone is bound to say something meaningful to you if you keep an open ear to all conversation around you. Speak less and listen more for the time being.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Personal and professional relationships are your priority this week, Pisces. It's important to compromise and seek harmony in all you do.

FALL IS HERE

WORD SEARCH

K	Z	U	D	B	C	W	I	M	K	P	U	O	O	T	H	V	Y	E	L
T	Z	W	G	O	U	R	D	S	E	G	A	I	L	O	F	B	L	D	R
C	H	L	R	B	O	M	W	S	R	D	A	G	E	N	G	H	Y	N	A
H	O	E	A	A	E	F	P	U	E	Y	R	Y	E	Z	A	M	E	P	K
N	O	R	A	U	T	U	M	N	B	W	T	A	N	P	Z	O	Y	L	E
W	T	A	N	C	I	N	N	A	M	O	N	H	H	B	R	Z	P	L	N
K	W	D	G	U	N	U	O	G	E	E	E	A	H	C	R	I	S	P	L
K	R	Y	V	W	C	W	P	W	T	B	L	Y	Y	T	R	L	A	A	N
M	P	T	P	O	G	O	P	S	P	A	N	D	F	D	T	O	V	I	T
W	E	V	K	R	C	N	P	T	E	M	R	E	T	O	S	I	N	C	F
C	R	W	L	C	C	T	M	I	S	K	H	T	M	N	T	A	H	F	U
W	I	M	U	E	I	Z	S	L	A	S	C	U	R	S	N	I	D	W	M
Z	F	V	V	R	D	E	T	M	W	E	H	O	E	E	L	G	A	I	A
H	N	T	H	A	E	G	M	E	U	Y	C	F	Z	L	L	C	I	A	P
L	O	E	U	C	R	N	A	B	D	A	H	B	Y	A	M	P	F	U	P
R	B	E	E	S	O	T	K	P	F	F	U	D	S	I	K	E	A	R	L
L	L	E	A	V	E	S	O	F	K	D	B	H	E	I	K	W	E	M	E
P	P	S	V	R	N	I	K	P	M	U	P	C	A	E	R	V	O	K	K
M	E	C	I	P	S	F	A	W	F	L	H	T	S	D	C	D	Z	S	F
O	S	U	N	S	E	T	S	P	R	B	Y	U	T	S	E	V	R	A	H

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ACORNS
- APPLE
- AUTUMN

- BONFIRE
- CHILLY
- CIDER
- CINNAMON

- CORNUCOPIA
- CRISP
- FESTIVAL
- FOLIAGE

- GOURDS
- HARVEST
- LEAVES
- MAPLE

- MAZE
- ORCHARD
- PUMPKIN
- RAKE

- SCARECROW
- SEPTEMBER
- SPICE
- SUNSET
- SWEATER

Keeping pace: How natural gas infrastructure shapes Alberta's next chapter

By Carol Kamel, ATB ECONOMICS

From AI data centres to aviation, Alberta is experiencing a diverse wave of growth.

But great growth necessitates great planning. Without careful attention to the accompanying energy infrastructure necessary to support this expansion, Alberta risks bottlenecking its own potential. Which leads to today's Twenty-Four topic: the Yellowhead Pipeline Project.

For readers unfamiliar with the project, the proposed \$2.8 billion Yellowhead Pipeline is a 230-km natural gas transmission pipeline from the Peers region in west-central Alberta to Fort Saskatchewan.

Expected to be operational by the fourth quarter of 2027, the pipeline will have a capacity of over one billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d).

ATCO Energy Systems estimates that building the pipeline will support around 2,000 jobs during construction and enable over \$20 billion in downstream investment.

The project's purpose is straightforward: add capacity to Alberta's natural gas system and address the growing need for reliable energy. As of August 2025, the project has completed the first of two major regulatory steps required by the Alberta Utilities Commission.

While that answers what the Yellowhead pipeline is, it's time to dig into what "problem" this project is attempting to solve.

It comes down to the growing demand for natural gas, especially for generating electricity. As we've noted before, the amount of electricity being requested for various projects far

surpasses the current capacity of Alberta's grid. The Alberta Electric System Operator's (AESO) connection request dashboard reports 265 projects requesting grid connection, totaling around 24.1 gigawatts (GW), more than the province's grid capacity of 23.2 GW. Much of the interest is tied to AI data centres, which require massive amounts of reliable power. This translates into a need for more natural gas and reliable transmission to fuel electricity production.

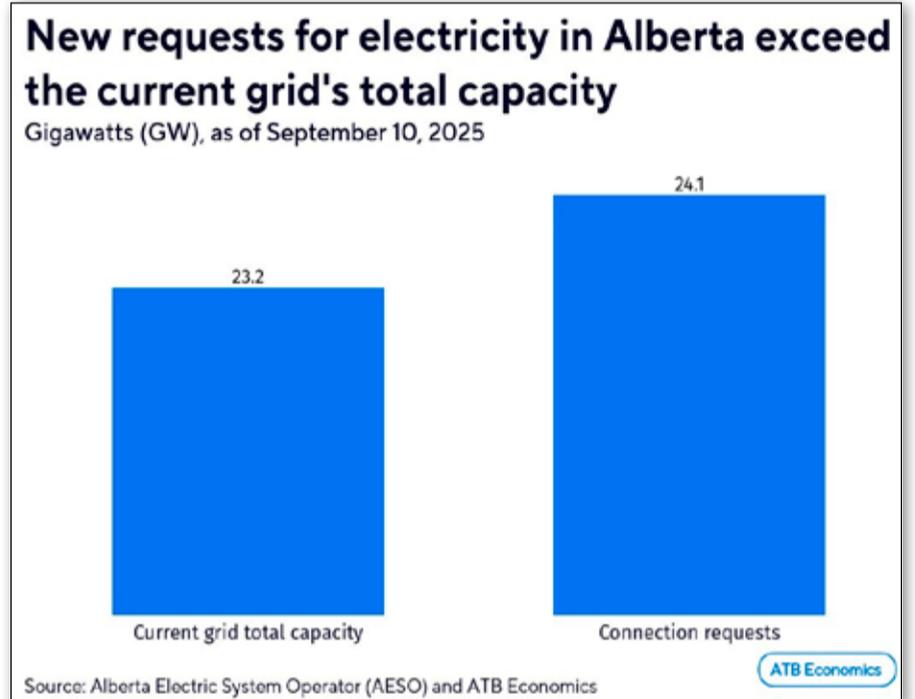
The story doesn't stop at digital infrastructure. As seen in our most recent outlook, there are several major projects proposed or underway that rely on secure, high-volume natural gas supply to operate reliably. Most notably, Dow's Path2Zero (currently paused), Air Product's net-zero hy-

drogen complex, and multiple carbon capture projects. Without added pipeline capacity, these developments could find themselves competing for limited supply and unable to achieve their goals. The Yellowhead Project also speaks to Alberta's on-

going natural gas price volatility. AECO, the province's natural gas price benchmark, often trades at a discount to the United States' benchmark, Henry Hub. Yellowhead potentially provides some upside in this regard with additional capacity along-

side LNG soaking up supply and ramping up exports.

Alberta's growth potential is real. But without projects to expand Alberta's energy infrastructure, such as Yellowhead, the risk of bottlenecks are just as real.



A look at the local weather		Wed., Sept. 17	Thu., Sept. 18	Fri., Sept. 19	Sat., Sept. 20	Sun., Sept. 21
P.O.P.		40%	60%	40%	30%	10%
High		21°C	17°C	19°C	18°C	17°C
Low		11°C	9°C	9°C	8°C	8°C
Wind		E 11 km/h	NW 21 km/h	NE 12 km/h	S 7 km/h	S 6 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow		-	1-3mm	-	-	-

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The Press
www.whitecourtpress.com

Call Valerie Winger at 780.706.1858 or email wctpress@gmail.com

Whitecourt Town Council updates

The 2025 Whitecourt Career & Education Expo/Job Fair is scheduled for September 26 at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre. Students from throughout the region will attend to learn about local career and education options, and job seekers will have the chance to meet with various business and industry representatives. For details on the event visit www.whitecourt.ca/business/expo2025

Whitecourt Town Council has approved the purchase of a new Dial-A-Bus from Crestline Coach Ltd. at a cost of \$288,989.77 plus GST. Whitecourt Town Council has awarded a three-year term contract for audit services to Metrix Group LLP for \$128,500 plus GST.

The Oaths of Office Ceremony for the new Whitecourt Town Council is scheduled for 10:00am on Saturday, October 25. Council Orientation dates have also been scheduled to provide a comprehensive briefing for all new elected officials on municipal operations, policies and procedures.

The Town of Whitecourt will be hosting an appreciation reception for Council Committee Members on November 18, 2025.

Council has approved a request from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 44 to use the Allan & Jean Millar Centre to host a Remembrance Day service.

Council has approved street closures on September 30 for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation procession through the downtown area. The Whitecourt Indigenous Friends Society is hosting activities in honour of the day, and details can be found on the Society's Facebook page.

The 2026 Council Planning Session has been scheduled for January 22-24, 2026.

continued from page 5

public, stating that they will not discuss figures in the media.

Finance Minister Nate Horner responded to the strike deadline announcement by noting that giving a month's notice could add stress and uncertainty for families. Meanwhile, TEBA has been authorized to im-

plement a lockout if necessary.

ATA leadership criticized the possibility of a lockout, arguing it would contradict the government's stated support for public education.

The Alberta Teachers' Association currently represents around 51,000 teachers throughout the province. In preparation for a possible work stoppage,

school divisions have begun notifying families that all classes, extracurriculars, and field trips may be suspended if a strike occurs.

One school district superintendent clarified that while school boards do not participate in bargaining, they are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to communicate updates as needed.

Many parents have expressed concern about how a strike could affect childcare arrangements and daily schedules. Some have said they're unsure how they would manage if schools were to close. Students have also shared worries that missing instructional time could impact their academic performance.

Community orga-

nizations are already making contingency plans to assist families. A major childcare provider has announced it will offer full-day licensed care with extended hours in the event of school closures, giving priority to children already enrolled in part-time programs. Local science centres are also looking into offering

day camps, with more information to be released soon.

Even without strike pay, ATA members have expressed strong determination to proceed if necessary, stating that more decisive action is needed. As of now, it is still uncertain whether the strike would involve a complete shutdown or begin in phases.

PUBLIC NOTICE

www.whitecourt.ca | facebook.com/TownofWhitecourt | 780-778-2273



NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application 25-062: NW26-59-12-W5 – Temporary Use – Natural Resource Extraction: Log Storage, Log Scaling, And Bridge Laydown – Approved with Conditions.

Application 25-098: 14 McLeod Drive, Lot 16, Block 15, Plan 2935MC – Discretionary Use – Home Occupation, Family Day Home – Approved with Conditions.

Application 25-116: 4104 Kepler Street, Lot 7, Block 23, Plan 8021724 – Discretionary Use – Commercial School, Industrial – Approved with Conditions.

Date of Decision: September 11, 2025

Appeal Closes at 4:00pm: October 2, 2025

An Appeal of the above decision(s) may be made by submitting a written appeal and appeal fee (\$310) to the Office of the Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, Town of Whitecourt Administration Building, Box 509, Whitecourt, Alberta, T7S 1N6 prior to 4:00pm on the above noted date. Any person(s) affected by the said proposal(s), has the right to appeal prior to the above date.

National Coaches Appreciation Week - September 15-21, 2025

Whitecourt Town Council encourages the citizens of Whitecourt to recognize September 15-21, 2025 as National Coaches Appreciation Week. Coaches provide a positive impact to athletes throughout our community and residents are encouraged to thank the coach that has helped them in life or to perform at their best. Sport is the biggest volunteer segment in Canada and those volunteers are a crucial part of building a healthy, active, community.

#thankcoachWCT

FORM 3

NOTICE OF NOMINATION DAY

Local Authorities Election Act (Section 26)

LOCAL JURISDICTION: TOWN OF WHITECOURT, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Notice is hereby given that Nomination Day is **September 22, 2025**, and that nominations for the election of candidates for the following offices will be received at the Whitecourt Town Office within the period beginning on January 1, 2025 and ending at 12:00 noon on Nomination Day.

Office(s)	Number of Vacancies
Mayor	1
Councillor	6

Location of Whitecourt Town Office:
5004 52 Avenue
WHITECOURT, Alberta

DATED at the Town of Whitecourt, in the Province of Alberta, this 25 day of August, 2025.

Marlene Kellier-Pinchbeck
Returning Officer

Whitecourt Launches 2026 Budget Consultation

Let us know where you would like to see your tax dollars invested for the 2026 budget.

Town Council encourages you to share your thoughts on projects and plans at the 2026 Budget Public Input Session. The session is scheduled during the Regular Meeting of Council at 4:00 p.m.

Monday, September 22 at 4:00 p.m.
Forest Interpretive Centre – Council Chambers
3002 – 33 Street, Whitecourt

Community members that are unable to attend the Public Input session are encouraged to submit written comments. Complete the online form on our website, call the Office, or submit an email to the following address by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, September 17:

Town of Whitecourt
Box 509, 5004 52 Avenue
Whitecourt AB T7S 1N6
780-778-2273 ext. 227
administration@whitecourt.ca

All comments received regarding the 2026 Budget will be considered by Council during budget deliberations.

Rail Safety Week - September 15-21, 2025

Whitecourt Town Council encourages the citizens of Whitecourt to recognize September 15 – 21, 2025 as Rail Safety Week. We encourage all residents to practice safe behaviour around tracks and trains to eliminate injuries and fatalities. For more information on rail safety, please go to www.operationlifesaver.ca.

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SCHOOL NEWS



Pat Hardy School photos



Teachers in Whitecourt were treated to back-to-school goodie bags courtesy of Whitecourt Stationary as a gesture of support ahead of the new academic year.



Central School photo

Students in 5-Merick at Central School proudly display their completed cereal box puzzle. The class worked together using teamwork, problem-solving, and determination to complete the challenge.

Exploring at Huestis



Working as a team to find the answer.



Measuring the width and height of a tree.



A trio taking a break.



Learning in the wilderness.



Follow the leader.

A group of homeschool families visited the E.S. Huestis Demonstration Forest, roughly five kilometres north of the Eagle River Casino on Hwy 32 on Friday, joining Inside Education for a midday exploration field trip of the area. They started the morning by walking through the trail system at Huestis, learning about different trees, animals and plants. After a break for lunch, the families broke off into groups working on different projects together, including guessing animals from clues, figuring out which products are made from which trees and measuring trees, both width and height. The explorers also stumbled onto a few wild blueberry and cranberry patches as they walked along the forest path.

Library Hours:
 Mon-Fri 10am-8pm
 Sat 12pm-4pm
 Sun Closed

SEPTEMBER 2025



EVENT CALENDER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8 Adult Book Club 2:00-3:00	9	10 Story Time 10:30-11:30	11 CLOSED for staff training	12	13	
14	15	16 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	17 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	18 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	19 Soapstone Carving 5:30-7:30	20 Family Movie: Moana 2 1:00	
21	22 Tween & Teen Night 6:00-7:30	23 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	24 Story Time 10:30-11:30 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	25 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	26 Crib Night 6:00-7:30	27 Family Movie: ET 1:00	
28	29 French Homework Help 4:00-5:00	30 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	All Afterschool Programs: Free, Drop-In at the Library, Designed for all school ages.			Back To School Scavenger Hunt 	

NOTE: For more Library information check our Facebook page, or call (780) 778-2900

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Idea

The Press

Grab your weekly copy of The Press at the following locations:

A new Dial-a-Bus is coming next year



The Town's current bus is a rear lift which isn't as user-friendly. (Picture courtesy of Town of Whitecourt)

instead of three, getting on and off the bus is trickier. "Currently, we have a rear lift unit, and that's been troublesome with dealing with the ramp," he explained. The goal of the replacement chosen is to be reliable and accessible for residents who use it, ensuring it meets the needs of the community, is user-friendly and "ensures long-term operational efficiency," stated the agenda.

Councillor Braden Lanctot asked if the recommended model would be a better fit for winter use over the current unit. "Is this a pretty big upgrade from that?" Hadfield said yes. "Because it's a low-floor unit, it will provide us with easier access to bus stops. This provides better service because we can actually lower the bus and the ramp extends, allowing better access for customers to get on and off the bus," responded Hadfield.

Although no bus images were provided at the meeting, pictures from Arboc's website (www.arbocsv.com) give an example of the Ford chassis Arboc model (pictured), stating that the low-floor has spring suspension and "provides a 39" entranceway featuring a bi-fold ramp with a gentle slope that is easy to ascend independently, even for those using mobility devices."

Whitecourt Town Council members voted unanimously to approve the purchase. The new bus will arrive and will be put into service sometime next year.

The new Dial-a-Bus will be a front lift with a low floor.

By Serena Lapointe

Whitecourt's Dial-a-Bus service will get a revamp next year as the ten-year lifecycle of the current bus comes to an end. However, the process of getting a new paratransit vehicle can be lengthy, which is why the conversation started earlier this year with the Town of Whitecourt putting out a call for bids from bus dealerships, seeking the best price for a new unit.

During last week's Regular Meeting of Whitecourt Town Council, Drew Hadfield, Director of Infrastructure Services, presented the bids and walked the elected officials through the recommendation from his team. One company responded to the bid request, Crestline Coach Ltd, providing two options to the Town. The

first was a 2026 Arboc Spirit of Freedom on a Chevrolet G4500 chassis for \$264,453.15 plus tax. The second was a 2026 Star Trans Senator II, also on the Chevy G4500 chassis, with a pre-tax price of just under \$200,000.

"The two units, one is a rear lift, and the other has a front lift with a lower floor. Our staff had the opportunity to go and view a similar unit in Grande Prairie and came back with the recommendation to look at a little bit of a different floor configuration for the unit," explained Hadfield. The Star Trans Senator is the rear lift of the two. It was mentioned in the agenda package that, based on previous experience with a similar lift, the administration anticipated issues would creep up, including increased

maintenance needs and potentially mechanical concerns, should they stick with a rear lift option.

The decision to switch the chassis from a Chevrolet G4500 to a Ford E450 opened up space inside the bus, allowing for more people at once. "It would allow for three wheelchair placements as well as twelve passengers, with the wheelchairs in place, which provides a better service for our community," said Hadfield.

The changed configuration increased the cost, but also the service to customers. The Arboc Spirit of Freedom on a Ford E450 chassis cost \$288,989.77 plus tax. The agenda package stated that, though the other two configurations were lower in cost in the short term, the long-term costs might have been higher. "While the Star Trans Senator II offers a lower initial cost, its rear lift design presents a higher risk

of mechanical failures, which could lead to increased downtime and maintenance expenses, ultimately negating the initial cost savings. The Arboc Spirit of Freedom, despite its higher upfront cost, is considered a more sustainable and reliable investment for the Town's paratransit services," read the agenda.

Deputy Mayor Derek Schlosser asked what the Town currently has for seating on the bus.

Hadfield said that though the current bus holds four wheelchairs,



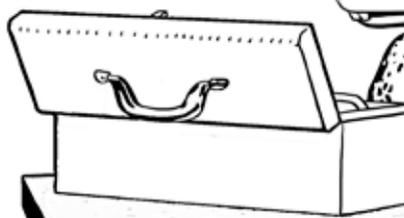
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Putting a face on suicide



Chad Brown

Age 25

Every 40 seconds somewhere around the world someone dies by suicide, that's 99 people every 66 minutes. Every day, that's almost 100 people in the United States alone, and over 2160 worldwide. Putting a Face on Suicide (PAFOS) is a suicide awareness project that creates posters and videos to pay tribute to those we have lost to suicide with dignity and respect. PAFOS humanizes the daunting statistics; lovingly replacing numbers with faces.

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Past Wolverines enjoying NHL Rookie Camps



Former Wolverine Ben Charette, pictured making a big save, attended the Penguins Development Camp in July.



Two former Whitecourt Wolverines are on the ice alongside fellow rookies, testing their abilities for two NHL teams. Former Wolverine netminder Connor Ungar is at the Edmonton Oilers Rookie Camp, and Caleb McDonald is down in Buffalo for the Columbus Blue Jackets' Rookie Camp. Both attended their team's development camp earlier this summer. Other Wolverines who attended NHL Development Camps earlier this summer include Ben Charette (Penguins), Aiden Long (Kings) and Teydon Trembecky (Jets). McDonald, pictured celebrating with his Wolverine teammates following a goal, is on the ice in Buffalo.

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INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC TRUSTEE?

There are two vacant Trustee positions for the Whitecourt Ward.

The deadline for nominations is September 22nd, 2025 at noon. Please note that nominations must be submitted in person to Returning Officer, Bryan Turner, at the Board Office in Whitecourt (4204 Kepler St.)

Nomination packages are available at the Living Waters Board Office or online at the Living Waters website.

FORM 3

Notice of Nomination Day

Local Authorities Election Act (Section 26)

LOCAL JURISDICTION: Living Waters Catholic School Division, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Notice is hereby given that Nomination Day is September 22, 2025 and that nominations for the election of candidates for the following offices will be received at the location of the local jurisdiction office set out below within the period beginning on January 1, 2025 and ending at 12:00 noon on Nomination Day.

Table with 3 columns: Office(s), Number of Vacancies, Ward or Electoral Division Number (If Applicable). Row 1: Separate School Trustee, 2, 3.

Location (Address) of Local Jurisdiction Office:

4204 Kepler Street, Whitecourt, AB

DATED at the Town of Whitecourt, in the Province of Alberta, this 25 day of August, 20 25.

Returning Officer signature

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Money Matters: One Canadian Dollar = 0.72 US Dollar at an exchange rate of 0.7211 (using nominal rate). Dollar Values as of September 17, 2025

HELP WANTED: Tim Hortons in Whitecourt is looking to fill the following positions: Food Service Attendant, Food Service Supervisor. SHIFT INCENTIVE FOR OVERNIGHTS. Please apply in person at the restaurant. Tim Hortons logo and address: 4331-52 Ave Unit 1 Whitecourt, AB | 4216 Elko Drive Whitecourt, AB

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- Fridays 7:30pm at the Whitecourt Baptist Church in person only.

ZOOM ID: **818 413 483** PASSWORD: **gratitude**



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CANCER & WELLNESS SOCIETY

Providing timely and easily accessible financial support for Whitecourt patients and their families who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

This can include help with parking costs for hospital visits, living expenses and unforeseen medical expenses.

Applications can be made through the Drs at both Whitecourt Medical Clinics or (office hours, can leave a message): **Kim Nendsa** (President of Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society) **780-778-0932** **Aimee Grierson** **780-262-0222** <https://wctcancerwellness.com/>

Whitecourt and Mayerthorpe Legions are presenting a **Joint Legion Golf Tournament**, 23 of August at the Mayerthorpe Golf Course. Cost is **\$60.00** per golfer. Shotgun start at 10 a.m. No Legion membership required.

For more information and to sign-up, contact **Steve** at swilsona@telus.net or **Doris** at williams_d60@hotmail.com.



Support group on Tuesdays 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, September 16 – December 2, Crossroads Community Church, 4719 44 Avenue Mayerthorpe, Pre-registration is required

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The Whitecourt Food Bank is operated by the Town of Whitecourt Food Bank Coordinator and dependent on volunteers to operate. The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food from individuals and organizations. Local grocery stores drop off baked goods including bread and pastries weekly. Other corporations and schools schedule food drives throughout the year.

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Child Support Program:

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Preventative Education:

Provides Workshops, Information and Awareness to Schools, Community Organizations, Agencies and Businesses



Family Resource & Crisis Centre

www.whitecourtshester.ca

Whitecourt Alcoholics Anonymous Group



Meetings are three times each week

- Monday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Wednesday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Friday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Located at the United Church Basement on Legion Street (formerly 5201 - 50 Street)

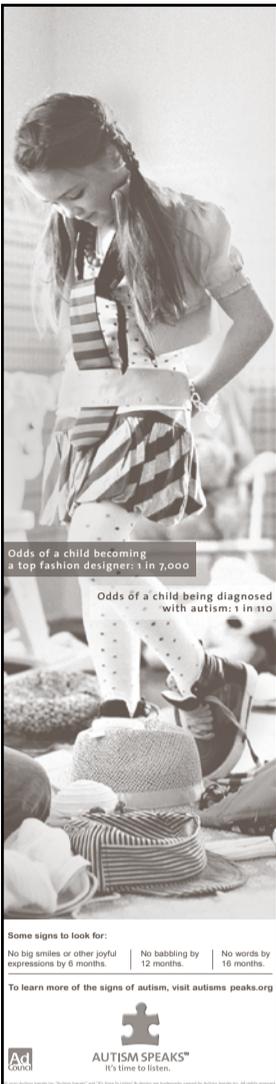
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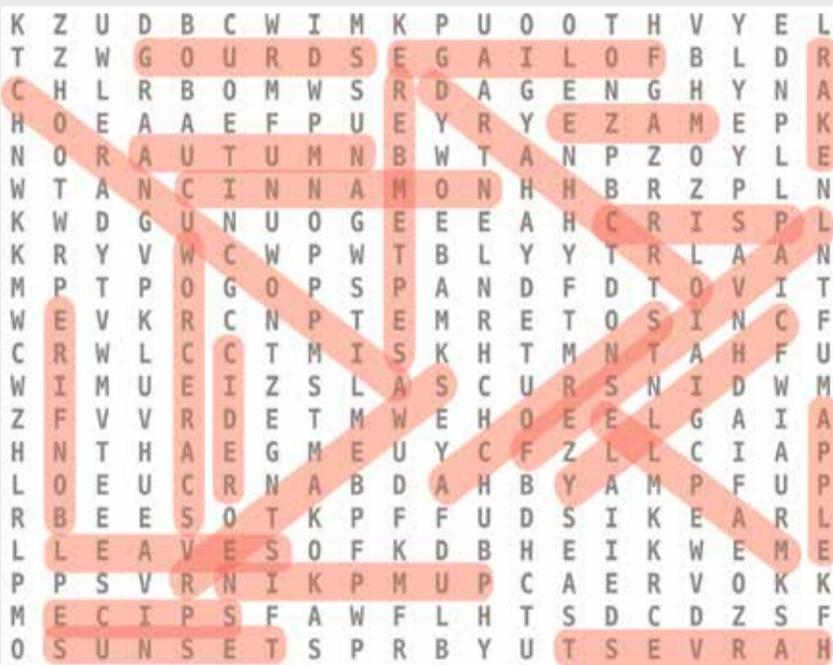
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Letter to the Editor policy

The Press welcomes readers to write letters to the Editor. A maximum of 300 words is preferred but not necessary. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. Please email letters to wctpress@gmail.com.



PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

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The Press

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