

# LANIGAN ADVISOR

Vol. 42 No. 8

Monday, February 8, 2021

Lanigan, Saskatchewan

[www.laniganadvisor.com](http://www.laniganadvisor.com)

\$1.00

## Federated Co-operatives Limited and Blair's Family of Companies form joint venture

### ■ media release

Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL) and Blair's Family of Companies (Blair's) are proud to announce they have agreed to enter into a joint venture that will continue to serve the ag retail needs of local farmers. The joint venture will own and operate Blair's seven ag retail locations in Lanigan, Nokomis, Watrous, Liberty, McLean, Lipton and Rosthern.

"Blair's is a trusted and well-respected local family business with history of serving farm customers and communities for generations, and whose values match our own. The joint venture is an opportunity for FCL to expand our presence in central and southeastern Saskatchewan, which will ultimately benefit our local Co-op member-owners and the entire Co-operative Retailing System," said Ron Healey, FCL Vice-President of Ag and Consumer Business.

For 73 years, Blair's Family of Companies has provided innovative crop input and animal nutrition products and services to local area farmers. The new joint venture will offer a broad range of crop input and animal nutrition products and services to continue to meet the business needs of local area farmers and ranchers. Blair's Texcana Logistics fertilizer terminal located near Hanley, Sask., and farming operations, including Blair's Ag Cattle Company, are not part of the joint venture.

"As a fourth-generation family business, Blair's has always strived to be innovative, adaptable and resilient in meeting the opportunities and challenges presented by the ag retail industry. A key part of our strategy to continue demonstrating value to our customers, employees and communities, has been preparing our business for the future. We believe the joint venture with FCL, which shares the same core values and long-term commitment to agriculture as us, will ensure that we continue demonstrating value to our customers, employees and communities in the future. We are stronger together and better positioned to provide our customers with the solutions they require," said Darren Blair, Blair's Chief Operating Officer.

Blair's Family of Companies management and team will continue to lead the day-to-day operations of the ag retail business.

(see back page: **VENTURE**)



With a number of ag retail locations including Lanigan (left) and Watrous (below), Blair's Family of Companies has agreed to enter into a joint venture with Federated Co-operatives Ltd. Blair's Family of Companies management and its team will continue to lead the day-to-day operations for the retail business. The venture is subject to standard closing conditions, including Competition Bureau and other regulatory clearances.

- left photo courtesy Blair's Family of Companies  
below photos by Daniel Bushman



HUMBOLDT

### Call for Nominations Co-op Board of Directors

Nomination forms are available at the Administration Office or by emailing [humboldt.coop@sasktel.net](mailto:humboldt.coop@sasktel.net).  
Nominations are due by February 26, 2021.

For more information contact the following nominating committee:  
Wayne Shidlowsky 306-682-3845 • Dale Weyland 306-682-5253  
Philip Hinz 306-682-5020

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# Faces of the COVID-19 fight: Jodie Johnson

■ *reprinted with permission from SHA*

My name is Jodie Johnson and I am a Registered Nurse and a supervisor for population and public health in central Saskatchewan.

Recently, I had the privilege of being a part of the team charged with defeating COVID-19 in our communities by providing the first dose of Pfizer vaccine in part of the province. I've been called a hero, but the following stories are the true heroes in Saskatchewan.

I met health care workers and volunteers who have been selflessly working in outbreak facilities share stories of hope and resiliency while taking selfies and crying as they receive their first immunization.

I saw a 90-year-old gentleman do a little jig as he danced up to see the nurse for his first immunization.

I had long-term care staff and residents cheering and clapping as we arrive with the vaccine, knowing that this is the beginning of the end of the outbreak in their homes.

I met a woman who came from across town, braving the wind and snowy streets with her walker to come to our clinic.

I overheard a resident say, "I've been waiting and waiting for this day and I am so happy it's finally here."

I watched as a resident FaceTimed his son while receiving his first immunization and heard his son celebrate on the other end.

As I reflect on the hundreds of "thank you for coming" messages I heard doing this work, I can't help but say thank you back.

Too often, the negative voices are loud and meant to discourage. But when I was doing this work, I couldn't hear those negative voices, because the quiet, kind and grateful majority were louder. My faith in humanity has been restored.

For those that weren't able to get an appointment yet; your time will come. Continue to watch for public service announcements, continue to wear a mask, follow public health guidelines and protect yourself and others. Know that when your time comes to roll up your sleeve, the vaccine you receive is being constantly monitored from delivery to injection.

No step or detail is missed and we are working around the clock to get a vaccine safely into arms as quickly as possible.

Stay safe and stay kind.

*Editor's note: Jodie grew up on a farm near Guernsey, graduated from Lanigan Central High School and currently resides in Watrous.*



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Watrous, Saskatchewan  
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Thank you for keeping your family, friends and community safe!



# Q and A with local MLA Donna Harpauer

■ Daniel Bushman

With substantial roles in government including being appointed as the province's finance minister and deputy premier, MLA for the Humboldt Watrous constituency Donna Harpauer has gained a considerable amount of experience since she first got into politics just over two decades ago.

Growing up on a farm near Guernsey, completing high school at Lanigan Central High School and being first elected to the Legislature in 1999, Harpauer has served in a number of roles. Asked over the years to be minister for social services, education, crown investments, and government relations, more recently she prepares and delivers provincial budgets as the finance minister while fulfilling her duties as the province's deputy premier.

Reaching out to see if Harpauer would be willing to share about her time in politics, navigating through a pandemic and what people in the province can expect for 2021, the local MLA



Humboldt Watrous MLA Donna Harpauer (above).  
- photo used with permission

graciously took some time away from her busy schedule to answer a few questions.

**How has being the province's deputy premier gone for you since you received the appointment in 2020?**

I have to say I still find it quite surprising that the premier asked me to take on that role. It has entailed a few more meetings - of course our government is not doing face to face meetings but we are doing a lot of virtual meetings - so I am partaking in more of the broader discussion meetings. Specifically the premier has asked me to sit in a lot on the economic recovery meetings from different industry people. So (previously) I would have sat in some of those but now I am sitting through the majority of those discussions which I find quite exciting and very, very interesting.

There has also been the odd time where there has been a ceremonial type of obligation. If the premier is busy then I step in as the deputy premier. That is not frequent right now of course because of the COVID restrictions but one example was when we had the swearing in of our MLAs. Our premier was (see page six: **HARPAUER**)

## RCMP Report

**Four people from Alberta charged after string of local area offences**

At 2:30 a.m. Jan. 31 Saskatoon RCMP were called to a break and enter at the Blue Horizon at the junction of Hwy. 16 and Hwy. 2. The front window had been smashed in and surveillance footage showed three individuals entering and stealing cigarettes, pop and confectionery items.

In addition to the break and enter at Blue Horizon, there was a report of people who stole a small amount of gas from a farm in the RM of Viscount. Another report indicated people had attempted to steal more gas from a farm in the RM of Usborne, south of Guernsey.

Then at around 7:30 a.m. Watrous RCMP were called to the Nokomis Pharmacy regarding an attempted break and enter. Surveillance footage showed a pickup truck pulling up and one male attempting to

pry open the door around 4:40 a.m. The male stood under the surveillance camera but unfortunately the camera was partially obscured by snow on the lens.

At around the same time Watrous RCMP received a call to Nokomis, Punnichy RCMP were called to a break and enter at a hair salon in Raymore. Later that evening Southey RCMP received a call from a stranded motorist that was stuck in a ditch off a rural grid road in the RM of Cupar. Southey officers utilized snowmobiles to get to the vehicle's location where three people were rescued. Further investigation showed the truck they were in was stolen out of Alberta. The individuals were also in possession of numerous stolen credit cards from individuals from Alberta.

Three adults and one youth from Red Deer, Alta. face numerous charges of possession of stolen property.

They are also believed to be responsible for the string of local area offences. The investigation is ongoing.

**RCMP execute cannabis search warrant in Watson**

On Jan. 18 Humboldt RCMP responded to an alarm at a non-residential building on Railway Avenue in Watson.

In the process of investigating the cause of the alarm, officers located a marijuana grow operation. With the assistance of the RCMP Prairie Region Cannabis Coordinator, Humboldt RCMP officers began investigating the grow operation and determined the marijuana was grown without a Health Canada medical licence and in contravention of the Cannabis Act.

On Jan. 30 Humboldt and Lanigan RCMP officers obtained and executed a search

warrant on the property. The search was completed with assistance from the RCMP trained Clandestine Laboratory Team and the Seized Property Management Directorate.

As a result of this investigation, 424 plants at various levels of maturity along with hydroponic equipment were located and removed from the building. The investigation is ongoing.



- photo courtesy RCMP

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WATROUS: March 20, 2021; 9 - 4 pm; \$99

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Solutions and Substitutions



— tips from Reena Nerbas

place them in a bowl. Sprinkle with lemon juice, brown sugar, white sugar, salt, nutmeg (optional) and cinnamon (according to the recipe). Leave at room temperature for one to two hours. This allows the apples time to release their juices. Strain the liquid before adding the apple mixture to the crust, let apples drain for 15 additional minutes. Continue to follow the recipe as directed.

Dear Reena, What is the best way to store apples? I store mine in a fruit basket on the counter and if one gets a bruise the rest are rotten within a few days. Linda

Dear Linda, You are right; contact with one rotten apple will spoil the entire bunch. If you are planning to store apples for an extended period of time wrap each unwashed apple individually with a piece of newspaper and store inside a box in a cool dark place such as the basement, refrigerator or your pantry. The newspaper is intended to prevent apples from contacting one another thereby protecting each apple. Bruised apples should not be stored for longer than a few days, either use them right away or make them into

Dear Reena, Whenever I bake apple pie the crust ends up with a soggy texture. What can I do to prevent a soggy crust? Mavis

Dear Mavis, Before you bake your next hot apple pie, cook the apples slowly first over low heat for 15 minutes. Add sugar to the apple slices; doing this will extract some of the juices and make the crust less soggy. Choose Granny Smith apples, they are perfect for apple pie. Another trick is to peel and cut the apples and then

apple cider, apple pie filling or applesauce. If the apples are to be eaten within a few days, store them in the fridge away from carrots and potatoes.

Dear Reena, My absolute favourite drink is tea. I have several apples in my cold storage room and I am wondering whether you have a great tip for making tea from apples? Thanks, Bernie

Dear Bernie, Absolutely, here is a simple recipe for making home-made apple tea: into a pot combine three cups of water along with one apple, cut into cubes. Some people like to add a tea bag to the mixture, but this is optional. Boil for 10 minutes. Strain the liquid into a mug and add one or two cinnamon sticks and one tablespoon honey. Another option is to use orange peels instead of apple cubes or combine both apple and orange peels with water; boil and strain.

Appleicious tips of the week  
Revive old apples by peeling and cutting them into

chunks. Soak them in cold apple cider or juice for 30 minutes in the refrigerator. Submitted by: Alex

I used to pack my child’s lunch with one apple each day, but day after day I noticed that he ate everything except the apple. I asked him why he never ate the apple and he replied that it took too long and it was difficult to eat with braces. Here is a trick that I used to make apple eating simple and faster. Use an apple corer to pull out the core, the apple will now have a hole in the centre. Slice the apple horizontally several times, into quarter inch pieces. Place the core back into the hole. This prevents the apple from browning and holds the apple pieces together. At lunch time my son would remove the core and eat each circular piece of apple with ease. Submitted by: Anna

Note: Every user assumes all risks of injury or damage resulting from the implementation of any suggestions in this column. Test all products on an inconspicuous area first.

Reena Nerbas is a popular motivational presenter for large and small groups; check out her website: reena.ca. Ask a question or share a tip at reena.ca

The Lanigan Advisor will be closed during the week of the February break. There will be a paper Feb. 15 but no paper Feb. 22.

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*Stay tuned for our totals!*

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## SUDOKU

LEVEL: BEGINNER

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## CROSSWORD

PUZZLE NO. 65

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59					60				61			

7. Abominable Snowman  
8. Nimble  
9. Shoe front  
10. Pitcher's stat  
11. Tie the knot  
20. Narrate again  
22. Gentle heat  
24. Picks  
25. Soil additive  
26. Fidgety  
27. Distantly  
28. Shoe part  
29. Make better  
31. Commit perjury  
35. Snorer  
38. Say from memory  
43. Insult  
45. "\_\_\_\_ the Woods"  
46. Stead  
48. Aware of  
49. Lion's hair  
50. Gusted  
51. Lawn material  
52. Ostrichlike bird  
53. At the center of

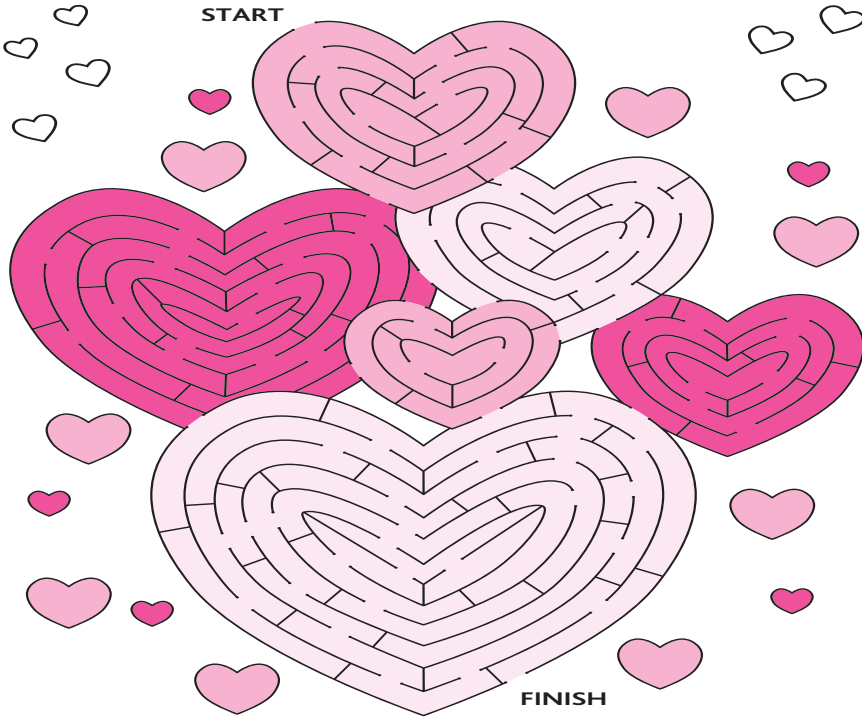
- ACROSS**  
1. Electrical units  
5. Happy  
8. Mulligan or Irish  
12. Enroll  
13. Mineral-bearing rock  
14. \_\_\_\_ over (study)  
15. Choir member  
16. Young louse  
17. Enjoy a book  
18. Back end  
19. Milk factory  
21. Pair  
23. Marry secretly  
27. Bat wood  
30. The whole amount  
32. Used a computer  
33. Opponent  
34. Elevate  
36. Label  
37. Alert  
39. Angled addition  
40. Messy place  
41. Rent again  
42. Broad-antlered deer  
44. Andean country  
47. Without feeling  
51. Large truck  
54. Puppy's bite  
55. Milky jewel  
56. Skip  
57. 20th letter  
58. Traffic barrier  
59. Guy  
60. Wilder's "\_\_\_\_ Town"  
61. Recognized

- DOWN**  
1. Cracked open  
2. Burrowing animal  
3. Flat bread  
4. Sound of contempt  
5. Venice transport  
6. Elaborate melody

**FOR ANSWERS  
TO SUDOKU AND  
CROSSWORD,  
SEE PAGE 9**

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS  
USE AMERICAN SPELLING

## Amazing maze



**Look What's Cooking by  
Laura Novecosky**

## Cheddar Cheese Oven Toast

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 tbsp. mayonnaise
- 1 tsp. very finely chopped onion
- 1 tsp. whipping cream (or milk)
- 1/4 tsp. mustard
- dash garlic powder, paprika
- 2 slices of toasted bread
- 2 slices of bacon, cooked and crumbled

### Directions:

Combine cheese, mayo, onion, cream and seasonings, mix well. Spread over toast. Place on greased or parchment lined baking sheets and sprinkle with bacon bits. Bake at 350°F for about six minutes or until the cheese is melted. Sometimes I layer thinly sliced tomato on the bread before adding the other ingredients. YUM!



(from page three: **HARPAUER**)

self-isolating because he had been in contact with someone with COVID so I had to take that role on that day in the assembly. I imagine that it will be more of a role when we don't have as many restrictions and we get back a little bit closer to normal.

I have always been on a panel that the premier has used as a sounding board and I still remain in that role. I think that it is important for all leaders not to work as an island but to have a panel of people that agree with you but more importantly some that won't agree with you on everything. That way you can hear all angles and look at something from a broader perspective.

**When you were first elected did you ever think you would be the province's finance minister and deputy premier?**

Not a chance. When I was first elected it was such a huge learning curve for me. I was in opposition at that time and every single area of responsibility, at that time the leader of the opposition and later our previous premier, and the premier now has asked me to take has always come as a surprise. Jokingly, I keep on thinking someday they will find out that I don't know as much as they think I do. I just throw everything into every role. I have enjoyed them all and they are all a learning curve. It does require a lot of reading and a lot of research but that is what I truly enjoy.

Meeting with different stakeholders in all of the different areas and roles that I have served in, it has been such a growing experience for me to be able to learn different perspectives and different challenges but also very rewarding initiatives. Extremely proactive and successful people within our province have done amazing things both with serving people that are vulnerable (like) when

I was social services minister to economic development and business when I was crown investments corporation minister. It has been pretty broad and (great to get to know) the people I have been able to meet and I have to say, it has deepened my love for the province of Saskatchewan.

**Financially with the COVID pandemic, how are things going for the province now that we have gone through 2020?**

We are definitely looking at 2021 being better than 2020; however, my concern working through the budget is when you are forming your budget projections you are constantly looking at the forecast for what revenues will be in the future. The budget of last year which we introduced in July, we were making assumptions that we wouldn't have to return to more restrictions. That has not been the case. We have had to put more restrictions in place for a short time period. That is going to change the recovery a little bit and probably push it out. I know all provinces and our country as a whole is experiencing this but I am still very, very optimistic that there is going to be a strong recovery; albeit maybe delayed by about six months from what we were projecting.

There is also going to be a lot of growth going forward. Growth is so important, not for growth itself, but that is going to help us to sustain our services in health care, education and social safety nets.

**What were some challenges and also some highlights for you this past year as finance minister and as MLA for the Humboldt Watrous constituency?**

Being re-elected during the provincial election was a highlight. It is always an honour that I still have the support and confidence of the people within the Humboldt Watrous constituency.



Growing up within the local area including graduating from Lanigan Central High School, local MLA and current deputy premier and finance

minister for Saskatchewan, Donna Harpauer recently announced that a new school will be built in Lanigan (above).  
- file photo

The challenges of course are going to be the recovery and what is the best initiatives that we can put forward as a government that is fiscally responsible but will help stimulate growth and create an environment that will bring investment to our province. Those discussions are ongoing right now as the vaccine is unrolled; albeit disappointedly slower than what we were hoping for in Canada in getting our vaccines. We know that reopening and trying to move back to normal is going to come relatively soon now and (so it becomes) what can we do to stimulate our economy in a fiscal manner.

Saskatchewan quite frankly kept businesses open on a percentage basis and we kept our businesses open through this more than the Canadian average. I think that is going to bode us very well. I believe we are now positioned to have the second lowest debt to GDP in the country and we may even move into the first position. That is going to be very important in that it means we can borrow dollars for infrastructure at a much lower interest rate.

The interest rates are low right now and so we have announced a \$2 billion infrastructure stimulus. We've also made a number of announcements for schools and other infrastructure and you are going to hear further announcements in the upcoming budget. We are doing that not only to renew our infrastructure but it will be a job creation tool that we can use to help create good paying construction jobs. As well we have seen a strengthening in our housing market as we have seen the PST tax rebate on new housing construction that has already shown our housing numbers are up. It is a good economic stimulus and we are going to be looking at other ways that we can stimulate good paying jobs.

The new school coming to Lanigan is exciting. That was where I went to school for my high school years and I was in Guernsey for my elementary years. I think that will be

exciting to unfold on a personal level as well as my professional level.

I am hoping that as we unfold infrastructure dollars in partnership with our municipalities that we can have more announcements in our local area.

**What does it mean to receive the support you have from the local area over the years?**

It is really humbling and they are great people. I am not obviously making decisions that make everybody happy but I hope they feel that I return their calls, I respond to any correspondence and that I am available. Maybe we don't always agree but I hope they feel comfortable that I am doing the best. I am very passionate about our area in the province as well as the province as a whole.

**What would you like to convey to residents of the area and province as we head into 2021?**

For 2021, it is a year of recovery and I totally understand frustration. I hear it from calls into my office in both Humboldt and the one in Regina. People are frustrated and we call it COVID fatigue and I totally understand it. I just want to encourage people that we are moving that dial.

What we need to be concerned of is the number of people in hospitals to ensure that we don't overwhelm our health care system. But as we get the vaccines out there and our numbers are coming slowly down, pretty soon we can get life back to normal and work together again. I understand the frustration but I want to thank everybody for their efforts that they have put in because it is due to people that have made this work for Saskatchewan so that we haven't had to have a total lockdown. We have done our best and it is with the effort of everybody to keep our businesses open as much as we possibly can and still keep our numbers manageable in the hospitals.

The pandemic has created a lot of frustration and I totally understand. We are going to get through this and we are going to get through this stronger than ever.

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IMPAIRED.

3

**TOM LUKIWSKI** MP  
MOOSE JAW—LAKE CENTRE—LANIGAN

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# COUNTRY CONNECTION

## Viscount

Sandra Reid • 306-227-1193

Welcome to the month of February. Monday, Feb. 2 was the first day of semester two for Viscount Central School.

Welcome also to Ferne Hebig to Viscount village office. She is from Watson and is filling in for a maternity leave.

I am so excited for this. The Viscount Recreation Board is selling progressive 50/50 tickets until Mar. 1, 2021. Draw date is Mar. 5, 2021. Now I need to go purchase mine!

The Viscount village office is changing their hours starting Feb. 15, 2021.

Best wishes to anyone who is under the weather. I hope you feel better soon.

Thank you to all who helped to make this week's Viscount news possible. Have a great week; stay warm, stay safe.

## Jansen

Louise Shannon

Get well greetings to those people recovering from various maladies. Bless you all.

Quilting continues every Monday with the ladies making four or five quilts every week.

Happy ice fishing guys. I enjoyed the fish I received.

I hope everyone has a nice

Valentine's Day. We used to have parties at school but that is impossible right now.

Happy birthday to Darlene Rucks, Brittany Krause and Erwin Krieger.

Happy anniversary to Dale and Cecilia Schroeder and Angel Liebrecht and Marlin Kulchyski.

## Plunkett

Deloris Wilson (Sutherland) • 306-944-4852

Groundhog Day has come and the groundhog did not see his shadow so that means an early spring is on the horizon.

Recently visiting in Watrous for a couple days with Gizella Toth was her daughter Margie from Regina.

We had a couple cold days so we had to really bundle up. The wind makes it feel really cold.

Did anyone go out for supper to celebrate Robbie Burns Day Jan. 25?

Feb. 1, my daughter Linda and her husband Trevor

came out for a quick visit and brought us supper and a Black Forest cake. What a lovely surprise.

Feb. 2, there were six deer in our back yard eating tree branches.

It was nice hearing from Anna May Rynne of Vancouver, B.C. She says hi to everyone.

Birthday greetings go out to anyone having a birthday this month.

I hope that the virus disappears soon. It sure is a terrible thing to get. Everyone is stay-

ing home.

Get well wishes go out to anyone ill or in the hospital. We wish them a speedy recovery.

ery.

Anyone having any news, please phone me at 306-944-4852.

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## MP Report

**Tom Lukiwski, MP**  
Moose Jaw  
Lake Centre  
Lanigan

It goes without saying that the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a steep toll on all Canadians. We have lost jobs, lost income and seen numerous small businesses shuttered. Our collective mental health and well-being has suffered as Canadians increasingly suffer "cabin fever" from pandemic restrictions.

Yet, to our credit, we have as a nation persevered. Most of us (except for a few "bad actors," as Doug Ford calls them) have rallied around the slogan "We are all in this together."

In the face of our ongoing sacrifice, it is enraging to witness the persistent incompetence of Justin Trudeau's Liberal government in managing Canada's response to the pandemic, as we have most recently seen with regards to vaccines.

Since the fall, we have all kept going, continuing to sacrifice because we believed there was a light at the end of the tunnel once vaccines were developed. Justin Trudeau vowed to us that vaccines would be widely available by the spring and that the majority of the population would be vaccinated by the fall. Once again, his promises are proving to be hollow.

Even before Pfizer announced it was cutting back shipments, Canada was falling far behind other developed countries in carrying out vaccination. While the Liberals were betting all their chips on the Chinese vaccine last spring, other countries were signing deals with AstraZeneca, Moderna, and Pfizer. Our government did not sign deals with those companies for months and Canadians are now paying the price for this failure in leadership. Many countries have vaccinated significant percentages of their population, but Canadians live under restrictions with fears of new COVID-19 variants. The way the Trudeau government has handled Canada's vaccine strategy is absolutely shameful.

As it stands now, Canada will receive precisely zero new doses of the Pfizer vaccine this week and will likely do no better next week. Other developed countries, such as Israel, have taken their case directly to the Pfizer CEO to lobby for additional doses. Prime Minister Trudeau appears too timid to do so.

We have many other questions. What happened to our supposed special relationship with the producers of the Moderna vaccine? What is the hold-up in approving Oxford-AstraZeneca, which is already in use in other countries? Why did the contract for the CanSino vaccine fall through?

Instead of doing his job or at least being honest with Canadians, Justin Trudeau is more concerned with posturing for the media and blaming the provinces for his government's failures.

The voters are seeing through this smokescreen and are getting angrier about the vaccine roll-out every day. Trudeau, with his usual arrogance, has hinted that he might call a federal election in the spring. Calling a federal election in the middle of a pandemic would be one of the most irresponsible acts of any government in history. If Justin Trudeau puts the health and safety of Canadians at risk for his own political gain, there will be a price to be paid when we go to the polls.

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# Sask. most popular baby names in 2020

## ■ media release

A list of the top 20 baby names for 2020 was released by eHealth Saskatchewan. Liam was once again the most popular name for baby boys for the 11th year in a row and Olivia was the most popular name for baby girls for the sixth year in a row. The second most popular boy name was Jack and the second most popular girl name was Emma.

There were 63 baby boys named Liam in 2020, followed by Jack, Hudson, Noah and Oliver. There were 69 baby girls named Olivia, followed by Emma, Amelia, Sophia and Emily.

Some new names debuted on the top 20 lists. Bennett tied at number 17 on the list of boy names and Aurora debuted at number 12 on the list of girl names. Maverick debuted in 2019 tied at number 19 on the boy's list, and saw a significant rise in popularity in 2020; it now sits in the eighth spot.

Several of the most popular baby boy names from 2019 did not reappear on the 2020 top 20 list, including Emmett, Logan, Ethan, Asher, Thomas and Jackson. This was also the first time in more than 10 years that the name Alexander did not make the list of top boy names. The baby girl names that did not carry over from 2019 were Chloe, Ella, Everly, Hannah, Brielle, Violet and Aria.

As of Dec. 9, 2020, 12,044 live births were registered in Saskatchewan. The final count will be completed in March. The number of live births registered in 2019 was 14,668. This does not include Saskatchewan mothers who gave birth outside of the province.

*\*Please note that these are preliminary lists created with live birth data up to Dec. 9, 2020. eHealth is still completing the birth registrations from the remainder of December 2020. The final lists will be completed in March and will be available at eHealthSask.ca under Health Data and Analytics, along with the final lists of popular baby names from previous years.*

# Support extended for small businesses in Sask.

## ■ media release

The Government of Saskatchewan announced a further extension to the Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment (SSBEP) program. The program was originally launched in April 2020, then renewed in December 2020. With this extension, businesses will be eligible for an additional payment for January 2021.

"Small and medium-sized businesses in the province continue to face challenges due to the global COVID-19 pandemic," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Our government believes support for businesses is vital, and the extension of this

program for the month of January 2021, as well as the other programs available, will help as we continue to move through this challenging period and toward economic recovery."

Business restrictions in public health orders have been expanded since the SSBEP program was renewed in December and businesses are encouraged to re-evaluate their eligibility for both the December and January payments.

The SSBEP program has provided \$5.9 million in assistance to 1,521 applicants for the December period. With the public health order extended, more businesses in the province have been impacted. This phase of the

program will accept applications for the December and/or January payment until Mar. 2, 2021.

Applicants will be eligible for up to \$5,000 per month in funding, and those who qualified for the December intake of the SSBEP will not have to re-apply for January. However, businesses will be contacted to attest that they remain eligible for the January payment.

For more information on the SSBEP program, businesses can visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/small-business-emergency-payment](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/small-business-emergency-payment), call 1-800-667-6102 or email [ssbep@gov.sk.ca](mailto:ssbep@gov.sk.ca).

Saskatchewan businesses are also reminded about other support programs

available.

The Strong Recovery Adaptation Rebate (SRAR) reimburses eligible small businesses for investments made to adapt their business to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial assistance includes a payment of up to \$5,000 for 50 percent of total eligible business-adaptation investments made by the applicant prior to Feb. 28, 2021. Eligible expenditures include establishing physical barriers or reconfiguring space to operate safely, providing services through digital tools, providing different services or products, and shifting to delivery or curb-side services. The application deadline is Mar. 31, 2021. For more information

on the SRAR, businesses can visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/strong-recovery-adaptation-rebate](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/strong-recovery-adaptation-rebate), email [srar@gov.sk.ca](mailto:srar@gov.sk.ca) or call 1-844-800-8688.

The Re-Open Saskatchewan Training Subsidy (RSTS) is currently accepting applications. This temporary training subsidy provides businesses with financial support to train employees as they adjust to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The RSTS reimburses eligible private-sector employers 100 percent of employee training costs up to a maximum of \$10,000 per business, which will help employers adapt to the impacts of the pandemic and safely align business activities with the reopening

of Saskatchewan's economy. The application deadline has been extended to Mar. 31, 2021. For more information on the RSTS, businesses can visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/training-subsidy](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/training-subsidy), call 306-964-1005 for Saskatoon and area or 306-787-4677 for Regina and area or email [cansaskjobgrant@gov.sk.ca](mailto:cansaskjobgrant@gov.sk.ca).

For more information on all of the provincial government support for business, as well as information on federal government programs, businesses can visit <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-businesses>.

Businesses that have been fined for non-compliance with public health orders will not be eligible to receive support under these programs.

# USask's VIDO begins COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials at CCfV

## ■ media release

The first volunteers have been selected for a vaccine trial of COVAC-2, a COVID-19 vaccine developed by the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask).

"We are excited to start clinical trials," said VIDO Director Dr. Volker Gerdts. "Our team has worked hard to advance the development of this vaccine to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic."

The trial was designed as a combined Phase 1/Phase 2 study. Phase 1 will vaccinate 108 healthy volunteers in a placebo-controlled study at the Canadian Center for Vaccinology (CCfV) in Halifax. Two doses will be administered to each volunteer 28 days apart.

"The goal of this trial is to help demonstrate vaccine safety in people," said CCfV principal investigator Dr. Joanne Langley. "As part of this, we will monitor the health of the volunteers for a year after their vaccination."

VIDO has worked on infectious disease vaccine projects with CCfV, the most recognized site in the country for vaccine clinical trials, for more than a decade.

COVAC-2 is the first of VIDO's two subunit vaccines to enter clinical testing. Subunit vaccines contain purified viral

proteins that are not infectious, and the technology is used in several commercially available vaccines—including for hepatitis, diphtheria, and whooping cough. This vaccine will not require ultra-cold storage temperatures as do vaccines based on synthetic messenger RNA or mRNA.

"I think where our protein vaccines will have an advantage is they will better protect against these new variants," Gerdts said.

VIDO's vaccine development efforts are financially supported by the Government of Canada through Western Economic Diversification Canada and by the Government of Saskatchewan through Innovation Saskatchewan.

"As we continue the fight against COVID-19, domestic vaccine development and production have never been more important," Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said. "VIDO is a world-class organization and our government is proud to continue to support their work as they mark this significant milestone."

Successful data from clinical trial Phases 1 to 3 are required prior to authorization for public use. Acceptable Phase 1 data will allow VIDO's vaccine to enter Phase 2 testing involving hundreds of volunteers across Canada. The goal of the Phase 2 trial would be to examine vaccine safety and the immune response the vaccine generates in people, an indicator of how

effective the vaccine could be.

VIDO's vaccine development leveraged the expertise of several international and national partners including Sepic in France and the Vaccine Formulation Institute (VFI) in Switzerland which developed Sepivac SWE™, the adjuvant in COVAC-2. An adjuvant is an ingredient that improves the immune response of a vaccine.

The vaccine antigen, developed by VIDO, was produced under good manufacturing practices (GMP) at Quebec-based Biodextris using a cell line from the National Research Council of Canada. An antigen is a molecule that triggers an immune response.

"This milestone of reaching a Phase 1 human trial is a testament to VIDO's world-renowned expertise in infectious disease research both for human and animal health," said USask Vice-President Research Dr. Baljit Singh. "USask is on the forefront of vaccine development and this is another achievement in advancing VIDO as Canada's centre for pandemic research."

With both provincial government and federal funding, VIDO is also building a manufacturing facility that could produce up to 40 million vaccine doses per year depending upon the production efficiencies of specific vaccines. Construction is expected to be completed in late 2021, with vaccine production for facility certification planned for 2022.

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Lanigan Advisor important dates

Lanign Advisor (Watrous office) will be closed Monday, Feb. 15 to Friday, Feb. 19.  
There will be a paper Monday, Feb. 15, but not Monday, Feb. 22.  
Phone 306-946-3343  
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(from front page: **VENTURE**)

The joint venture is subject to standard closing conditions, including Competition Bureau and other regulatory clearances.

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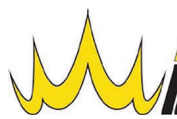
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