

FROM THE FRONT...

Some councillors express concern over loan payback

From Page A1

But the board also said only several hundred grandstand seats would be added, and only minor fundraising had taken place.

Councillors said Monday they wanted more information on the potential benefits and plans for the work.

Coun. Ramona Robins said she is more focused on the ability of the Stampede to pay back the loan rather than the grant.

“I really want to support this and that they got provincial funding is substantial, but the information that we’ve requested is important,” she said.

Coun. Darren Hirsch had made a point in October at citing the city’s cost for providing an interest free loan, and stated his concern about the payback plan.

“The ask is big and I think about a lot of user groups in the community and their needs,”

said Hirsch. “The pressure is mounting on municipalities in general to pick winners and losers because the pot of money is not endless.

“We all know what they contribute to the community.”

Single gas rate bylaw

City council has approved first reading toward approving a single rate for gas bylaw decision later this month.

That partly aligns with the single-rate system of billing approved for electric commodity prices but would base prices starting Jan. 1 on cost of gas purchased for resale to city customers plus a handling fee and profit margin of 7 cents per gigajoule.

That was presented at a committee of the whole meeting regarding the 2024 utility business plans, and will be dealt with at second reading on Nov. 20.

Minister says programs will ‘continue ... in an equitable way’

From Page A1

“During this inflationary moment right now, people are suffering,” said Kinew, whose NDP government was elected in Manitoba just over a month ago. “The temperatures are getting colder ... We do think there should be similar consideration given to the people of Manitoba to get us through this period of economic pain.”

In Ottawa, federal Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Dominic LeBlanc said the federal government would “continue to apply programs in an equitable way across the country,” but he said nothing about changing the carbon pricing program.

When asked about the premiers’ statement, LeBlanc pivoted to talk about heat pumps.

“We are anxious to work with all provinces to enlarge the federal program to give access to families to heat pumps that will help them reduce their heating costs,” he said. “As inter-governmental affairs minister, I am happy and ready to enlarge accessibility to all Canadians to this important program.”

Premier Danielle Smith said natural gas

should be treated like a cleaner fuel, especially when compared with coal, wood and dung.

“We should be exporting more of our cleaner fuel to reduce global emissions and not punishing our customers here at home,” she said. “It’s not our customers’ fault that the alternatives are not available to them.”

David Eby, B.C.’s NDP premier, said the discussion Monday was “grounded in our shared concerns around affordability ... and fairness.”

Eby, however, made a point of highlighting the impact of climate change by drawing attention to the fact his province has spent \$1 billion on fighting forest fires so far this year. Another \$1 billion has been devoted to flood prevention. And he reminded the closing news conference that a “heat dome” had killed hundreds of people in the province in the summer of 2021, when temperatures soared over 40 C.

“It’s just devastating in British Columbia, climate-change wise,” he said. “For us, the (provincial) carbon tax has been an effective mechanism to reduce carbon pollution since 2017, and our emissions have gone down despite a dramatic increase in population.”

Take Back Alberta has made major mark in United Conservatives

From Page A1

Parental rights are a bedrock belief in the Take Back Alberta movement, a coalition of UCP members that has gained influence within the party and its governing board, exercising clout by showing up in large numbers to speak and vote.

Delegates also voted to ban race-based post-secondary admissions, to end funding of supervised consumption sites and refusing transgendered women in women’s correctional facilities.

As a long line of cars made their way to the Calgary Stampede grounds for the convention, about 200 protesters chanting “Hands off our CPP” took up a full block right across the street.

Smith’s government has proposed Alberta leave the Canada Pension Plan on the grounds that Alberta’s young population and economy could deliver better results on its own.

Other signs carried by protesters included “Why be so mean” and “Leave Queer Kids Alone.”

Prior to the resolutions being debated, Smith told reporters her government is closely watching the pronouns-in-schools debate. She said regardless of how the resolution plays out, her caucus will consider the results but must ultimately govern in the best interests of all Albertans.

“I don’t think it matters whether you’re a straight couple or a gay couple or whether you’re a trans individual, you want to know what’s going on with your kids,” said Smith. “I don’t think it needs to be polarizing ... We have to make sure that we’re respecting the rights of parents but also making sure kids feel protected and supported, so that’s what we’re attempting to navigate.”

Political scientist Lori Williams said the resolutions will be watched carefully.

“The eyes are going to (be) on what all that portends for party unity,” Williams, with Mount Royal University in Calgary, said in an interview.

“It’s certainly not the sort of thing that most Albertans are concerned about.”

Post-mortem of Israel-Hamas war



Mansoor Ladha
Mansoor’s Musings

While the world was still dealing with first Afghanistan takeover, it was followed by Russian invasion of Ukraine; in the latest world conflict, it must face the Israel-Hamas conflict. World crisis never seem to end.

As the proverb goes, when elephants fight, it’s the grass that suffers. This proverb appropriately applies to the current Israel-Hamas war in which thousands of innocent civilians, women, and children, have been killed while the two “giants” Israel and Hamas fight.

We all feel as much empathy for the Palestinians children who have died and will die in bombardment of Gaza as we do for the Jewish children who were killed in Hamas’s attack on Israel. There has been an outpouring of support for both sides with most western nations siding with Israel, criticizing Hamas for their “barbaric” and “terrorist” attacks.

The root cause of this conflict has been in front of us for years. Palestinians have been living under Israeli occupation, with human rights violations in the West Bank and settler violence against innocent people. We are repeatedly told by Western leaders, including Canada, that Israel has a right to exist while the same leaders have chosen to neglect to mention that so does Palestine.

A country founded by homeless people — Israel — should be the last one to destroy another country based on similar situation; to indiscriminately bomb densely populated areas, cut off fuel, medical supplies, electricity, and food in the name of revenge was the unkindest cut of all.

As far as the U.S. is concerned, Israel does no wrong. United States’ top diplomat, Anthony Blinken, has been on a whirlwind tour of the Middle East, propounding revenge instead of suggesting ways to solve the issue and bring peace to the area contrary to the annals of his diplomatic file.

Hamas have been branded as terrorists, but the difference between a terrorist and a freedom fighter is purely a matter of perception. History is full of examples of terrorists who were freedom fighters opposing colonialism and foreign domination.

As Prof. John Bolt, University of St. Michael’s College, said: “When our guy kills in battle, he’s a freedom fighter; when our enemy does, he is a terrorist. Similar acts get different labels depending on who is doing the labeling. Freedom fighters usually come from oppressed or marginalized groups that have been deprived of something important, such as a homeland, and their struggle is to obtain it or gain it back.”

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) was an Irish republican paramilitary group whose goal was to remove Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom and create a republic encompassing all of Ireland. Nelson Mandela was a leader of African National Congress, a movement fighting for the rights of black people of South Africa and Jomo Kenyatta, an anti-colonial Kenyan activist and politician who became his first President led a group of freedom fighters, the Mau Mau, branded as terrorists by the British government.

Today’s terrorists become tomorrow’s freedom fighters who are applauded and honoured for their courage, determination, and valour.

The West, including Canada, has shown bias and double standard by categorizing all resistance from Palestinian as terrorism, while without any hesitation, it has supported

and applauded Ukraine’s responses to Russian attacks as defensive, brave, and heroic, neglecting a proven and documenting thousands of inhumane and illegal actions on the Palestinian people by unashamedly ignoring that Israel has been breaking international laws for years.

Palestinians are even afraid to speak in their own language at home around Israeli authorities fearing reprisals or arrests. The daily life of a Palestinian at home consists of being forced to show passports and entry permits at every armed checkpoint, not knowing when violence might erupt.

Children in Gaza live a miserable life so much so that even in times of “peace,” Gazan children are punished by the blockade. Their ambitions and freedom in life are restricted and they are never allowed to travel outside of Gaza. If any child needs complex medical care, he/she must apply to the Israeli government for a permit to travel to a hospital in Israel or the West Bank.

According to Israeli human rights NGO B’tselem, Israel denied 30 per cent of permit applications for children to leave Gaza to receive life-saving care in 2022. What international law would support cutting off food, fuel, electricity, and medical supplies to 2.1 million desperate residents?

The effect of the war on children in Gaza has been traumatic. Gazan children are developing severe trauma symptoms together with the risk of death and injury. According to psychiatrist Fadel Abu Heen, children in Gaza had “started to develop serious trauma symptoms such as convulsions, bedwetting, fear, aggressive behaviour, nervousness, and not leaving their parents’ sides.”

Netanyahu, a divisive figure, has been highly unpopular and distrusted by a majority of Israeli public because of the controversial judicial reform passed by his government. It is in Netanyahu’s interest to prolong the war which has had the effect of uniting the country, giving breathing space to Netanyahu who has blatantly refused ceasefire pleas from the international community.

The world cannot just sit back comfortably in their living rooms watching the Israel-Hamas conflict unfold on their TVs. This conflict didn’t begin on Oct. 7. This is a 75-year-old story of occupation by an apartheid regime and a superpower colonizing helpless people.

The only way out to end the current situation is to negotiate end of Israel’s occupation, and for Israel and Palestinians to live together as neighbours peacefully. It’s a difficult, if not impossible exercise, but the world must try. We shouldn’t have to wait another 75 years to end this conflict.

Mansoor Ladha is a Calgary-based journalist, travel writer and author of *Off the Cuff, A Portrait in Pluralism: Aga Khan’s Shia Ismaili Muslims and Memoirs of a Muhindi*.

Don't Quote Me

You Gotta Laugh...

Rearrange the words below to complete the quotes.

1

BACKBONE FUNNY LIFE NEED SUCCEED THINGS

"To _____ in _____, you _____ three _____: a wishbone, a _____ and a _____ bone."

— Reba McEntire (1955-) U.S. singer and actress

2

ACTIVITY BRAIN FAR HUMAN HUMOR MOST

"_____ is by _____ the _____ significant _____ of the _____."

— Edward de Bono (1933-2021) Maltese psychologist

1. "To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone."

2. "Humor is by far the most significant attribute of a human brain."

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2023-11-07

ANSWERS:

11-7

CRYPTOQUIP

Y M Y R B D O " H D A H T D M Y O W E

W D E M A A E A Z E G D U A A Z Y Z

R H A T T A D T D B D Z," Y W E G R E

R U Y W W Y A Z W E R E D U D Z E?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE E.N.T. ON STAFF IN THE KING'S COURT IS KNOWN FOR TAKING CARE OF HIS HIGHNESS' SINUSES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals P

A X Y D L B A A X R

is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three Ls, X is for the two Os, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

Conceptis

SUDOKU

数独

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

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level increases from Tuesday to Saturday.

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

Level: Beginner

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