

EDMONTON JOURNAL

EU VACCINE EXPORT THREAT  
Canada's supply safe, PM says **NP1**



SOAK UP THE WARMTH  
Thai chef shares recipes **A9**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

ESTABLISHED 1903

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Province still investigating variant case: Hinshaw **A3**

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Oilers end road trip with 6-4 loss to Jets **NP10**

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Milanovich's departure the latest hit in tough year for EE **NP10**

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Grocers battle second wave of COVID **NP7**



GREG SOUTHAM

Pedestrians are surrounded by hoar frost during a walk near Gold Bar Park Monday. The chilly temperatures are expected to persist through the end of the week. **NP5**

Province sitting on \$675M in federal COVID funding

Alberta leaves many transfers, grants unused, new report shows

LISA JOHNSON

Alberta is sitting on the most unspent federal emergency COVID-19 funds, according to a new study from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

The Tuesday report tracked whether the federal or provincial government picked up the tab for COVID-19 measures in 2020, showing there is more than \$675 million in federal money still on the table for essential worker wage top-ups, job training in hard-hit sectors, rapid housing initiatives, long-term care supports and help

for early childhood educators.

Almost every province is sitting on unspent federal money, with a total of \$374 billion earmarked in spending between the federal and provincial governments.

However, Alberta left the most federal transfers untouched and grants not accessed, with Ontario close behind at just more than \$660 million. Alberta received the most, on a per-capita basis, from the federal government, while spending among the least based on provincial gross domestic product (GDP).

That is largely because, as first

published by the Alberta Federation of Labour in November, Alberta didn't access the full federal amount available for the low wage essential worker top-up. Of the \$348 million available to Alberta in particular, the province only accessed \$12 million, leaving \$335.8 million unspent.

David MacDonald, the author of the report, said on the wage top-up, Alberta was an outlier.

MacDonald said once you adjust for each province's capacity to spend, or GDP, B.C. is spending three times as much as Alberta.

"The federal government was a huge help in Alberta. Alberta received far more federal money on a per-capita basis than any other province," said MacDonald.

SEE FUNDS ON **A4**

Union voices concerns over regional transit system

DUSTIN COOK

Edmonton's transit union is sounding the alarm over the proposed regional transit system, citing concerns about job loss and bargaining rights.

Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 569 president Steve Bradshaw said the union is circulating a petition with its members calling for a seat at the table during discussions, as well as protection for jobs and the collective agreement.

If these three demands can't be met, Bradshaw said, the union will be in outright opposition to the proposal.

SEE TRANSIT ON **A4**



LUCKY STARS 50/50

LAST YEAR'S PAYOUT WAS OVER

\$2,800,000

STARS LOTTERY

FINAL DEADLINE MARCH 18, 2021 starslottery.ca

Draw: April 1, 2021. LUCKY STARS 50/50 Licence #565664. Tickets must be purchased in Alberta. Must be 18+ to purchase.