



NEWS & NOTES

January
2024

Monthly newsletter from President Linda Toews

I hope that everyone had a joyous holiday season and good start to the 2024 year.

The weather is certainly a switch from what it was like at the end of December. Instead of the unseasonably warm weather we had at that time, we've now just gone through a bone-chilling polar vortex which claimed all the Western provinces. Where I live in central Alberta, we had temperatures of down to -48 – BEFORE the wind-chill! -- -55 and more with it. It's not the first time we've had really cold weather and for longer periods, but it doesn't usually go this far down the thermometer. For those of you like me, who also still farm, it wasn't exactly a joy going out to feed the livestock. And it's not like you can just stay inside and wait till the weather warms up. They all have to be looked after. No doubt some of you who no longer do those outside chores have less than fond memories of when you did have to do so. The one good thing is that we have received quite a bit of snow. We got a dump of about 8 inches, and then continual snow until this morning, I hear that it has snowed even more in southern Alberta, an area hard hit by the droughts we have been experiencing, and more is expected, so that is good news. Let's hope we get the moisture we need throughout the province and that the earlier predictions of drought and another high-fire season do not come about.

AWI News

Education / Convenorships

We are still looking for feedback from members on what convenorships you think hold most relevance to you today. Please email me at lindat4awi@gmail.com and let me know your thoughts. First and foremost, AWI is an educational institution and we want to provide you with information on topics that have meaning for you.

Home & Country

Home & Country is our primary source of communication to members and other organisations. We try to bring you the news from branches all over Alberta and nationally. We strive to make our publication as informative as possible and to bring you items of interest but it is always a challenge to know what appeals to our members. Please drop me and/or the office a brief note as to what things are of interest to you and what sort of articles you would like to read.

Reminder - Secretary's Reports go to Marilyn Wattenbarger

I am pleased to still receive them if you would like to include me as I feel very much in touch with each of you when I read them. If you are able to send by email, it is less costly, and easier to send to your district director at the same time. Marilyn's email is marilyn_wattenbarger@hotmail.com; mine is lindat4awi@gmail.com.

Memberships and Dues

Dues and the other required payments to AWI need to be sent in by January 15. Thank you to all the branches who have got their payments sent in on time. If you haven't got them in, please contact Bernadette at the office and arrange to do so as soon as possible. Getting them in on time helps us to get the dues AWI must pay, like FWIC, paid on time too, and helps us plan for the coming year.

It looks like we have some new members this year, so welcome to all new members and congratulations to those branches whose memberships have grown. Do share with us what attracted your new members so we can share it with other branches.

Those of you, who are Associate Members, please remember to send in your forms and dues. And if your branch is resting this year, consider taking out an Associate Membership so you can still be involved and participate in AWI.

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News Around the Province



Agricultural drought assistance

Because of the drought situation in the Province, the Alberta government has invested \$933 million to expand and modernize irrigation in the province and is investigating the feasibility of a large-scale irrigation project in east-central Alberta. There is a drought command team, which is working on a drought emergency plan. Meetings with communities, farmers, ranchers, businesses and others to prepare for potential ongoing drought conditions continue. Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) offers programs such as Moisture Deficiency Insurance (MDI) on native, improved, bush or community pasture (\$326.5 million paid out in 2023). Extreme temperatures are now included. Producers can enroll in MDI until February 28.



Province-wide in-person engagement sessions with health care workers and Albertans to help shape the future of health care.

Albertans can register for one of the upcoming in-person engagement sessions, which start on Jan. 23 and continue through April. The sessions are an opportunity for open conversations about challenges, solutions and innovations to help build a stronger health care system. Health care workers and members of the public are encouraged to register online for an in-person session in their area. Further engagement plans will be announced. There will also be engagement with Indigenous leaders and other key health care partners. Regularly updated information about new and ongoing engagement sessions is available on the government's online [Shape the Way - Refocusing Tab](#) page. Register to attend a session on the same page.

Quick facts

- More than 40 in-person engagement sessions from Jan. 23 through April 2024.
- Six virtual town halls have been held so far, with about 10,000 participants.
- More than 16,000 health care workers and Albertans have provided feedback through online engagement tools so far.
- For more information, go to [Refocusing health care in Alberta](#)



Take this opportunity to be involved in Alberta's health care system.

A new senior's lodge review panel will find ways to make the most of existing seniors lodge spaces and help seniors age in their communities.

To improve the Seniors Lodge Program system's efficiency and sustainability into the future, Alberta's government is launching a seniors lodge review panels which will look to make the most of existing spaces and help ensure seniors can age in their community.

The Seniors Lodge Program supports 10,850 lodge units in 149 lodges across Alberta. The program provides services to residents, including meals, laundry, housekeeping and recreational programming. The review will provide an opportunity to smooth transitions between lodges and continuing care homes to ensure the needs of seniors will be met when they need to access more care.

The government-led panel will be co-chaired by MLA for Leduc-Beaumont Brandon Lundy and president of the Alberta Seniors and Community Housing Association (ASCHA) Arlene Adamson and is made up of municipal representatives, social housing and seniors' organizations.

Panel members appointed by Minister Nixon are:

- Brandon Lundy, MLA for Leduc-Beaumont, co-chair
- Arlene Adamson, president, Alberta Seniors and Community Housing Association (ASCHA), co-chair
- Stacey Stilling, chief administrative officer, Mountain View Seniors Housing
- Lauren Ingalls, chief administrative officer, Westwinds Communities

- Marlys Jordan, chief administrative officer, Calgary Heritage Housing
- Paul McLaughlin, president, Rural Municipalities Alberta
- Tyler Gandam, president, Alberta Municipalities
- Robin James, vice-president south region, ASCHA
- Shane Gauthier, chief executive officer, Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary
- Jennifer McCue, chief administrative officer, Bethany Care Society
- Miriam Elhaghuagi, manager of Healthy Aging Alberta, United Way of Calgary and Area

Alberta’s government has launched two new grant programs to support community-driven diversity, inclusivity and anti-racism initiatives.

The Alberta government has separated the Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Grant program into two new programs, an Ethnocultural Grant program and an Anti-Racism Grant program in order to better support diversity, inclusion and multicultural efforts. Both grant programs are currently open for applications. The new grant programs help eligible organizations create programming specific to the issues and concerns of their communities.

- The Ethnocultural Grant program supports community initiatives that promote Alberta’s multicultural diversity and foster inclusivity, including supporting Indigenous community organizations in celebrating and sharing their rich historical heritage.
- The Anti-Racism Grant program is designed to increase awareness of racism, its impact and the challenges faced by racialized groups, and to support community-driven anti-racism initiatives.

Quick facts

- Budget 2023 allocated \$8 million over three years for the Ethnocultural Grant program and \$1.5 million over three years for the Anti-Racism Grant program.
- The Ethnocultural Grant program has two streams:
 - Stream 1 is for projects that create opportunities for intercultural connections with ethnocultural and Indigenous groups (funding up to \$50,000).
 - Stream 2 is for projects that create opportunities to celebrate diversity (funding up to \$15,000).
- The Anti-Racism Grant operates two streams with specific program objectives:
 - Stream 1 is for projects that promote awareness of racism and the impacts of racism faced by Indigenous and racialized groups. Projects aligning with at least one outcome in either program objective of educating Albertans on the impacts of racism or enabling community organizations to develop their ability to support anti-racism projects are eligible for up to \$5,000 in funding.
 - Stream 2 supports community organization anti-racism projects. Projects aligning with at least one outcome in both program objectives of educating Albertans on the impacts of racism or enabling community organizations to develop their ability to support anti-racism projects are eligible for up to \$10,000 in funding.

Related information

- [Anti-Racism Grant](#)
- [Ethnocultural Grant](#)

FWIC News

FWIC Triennial Convention, Sept 17, 18 & 19, 2024 in Truro, Nova Scotia

The theme is “Sailing into the future with a recipe for success!” Mark your calendars if you think you might like to attend. Early bird registration is \$375 and is now open until April 30. From May 1 to July 15, registration will be \$425. Rooms at the Inn on Price begin at \$164 plus 15% tax. More information will be forthcoming.

WI Day 2024 – February 19 – 5pm MST

FWIC will be celebrating the anniversary of 127 years of WI on February 19 at 5pm MST. Part of the program will be on growing branches across Canada. AWI will be taking part in the celebrations and discussions. Please join us by registering ahead of time at registrations@fwic.ca.





ACWW News

Sixteen Days Against Gender-based Violence

AWI participated in this international campaign to call out and speak up on gender-based violence. Hopefully some of you were able to share these to bring awareness.

Winter Afternoon Tea with World President Magdie de Kock

I attended the Winter Afternoon Tea with ACWW World President Magdie de Kock. It was quite interesting and she shared a special tart recipe of Herzogies, named after former South African Prime Minister J.B.M. Herzogg. They looked delicious.

